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21 June 2007

Chairperson and Members
REGIONAL GROWTH FORUM

NOTICE OF MEETING

I hereby give notice that a meeting of the Regional Growth Forum of the Auckland Regional Council is to be held in the Council Chamber, Ground Floor, 21 Pitt Street, Auckland, at:

1.30 PM

ON

WEDNESDAY 4 JULY 2007

An agenda for the meeting is attached.

Limited Carparking is available for Members only. Please contact ARC on 09 366 2000 extension 8113 prior to the meeting to book a carpark. Thank you.

B L Thomas
GROUP MANAGER, DEMOCRACY SERVICES

per:

Blair Doherty
COMMITTEE SECRETARY

A42

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A G E N D A

REGIONAL GROWTH FORUM

AGENDA FOR THE MEETING OF THE REGIONAL GROWTH FORUM OF THE AUCKLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL TO BE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, GROUND FLOOR, 21 PITT STREET, AUCKLAND ON WEDNESDAY 4 JULY 2007 AT 1.30 PM

I N D E X

A	PROCEDURAL	1
	A.1 MINUTES	1
B	ITEMS FOR DECISION	2
	B.1 LONG-TERM SUSTAINABILITY FRAMEWORK AND EVALUATION OF THE REGIONAL GROWTH STRATEGY	3

A43

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A G E N D A

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AGENDA FOR THE MEETING OF THE REGIONAL GROWTH FORUM OF THE AUCKLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL TO BE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, GROUND FLOOR, 21 PITT STREET, AUCKLAND ON WEDNESDAY 4 JULY 2007 AT 1.30 PM

(All reports in this Agenda are not to be construed as Council policy until adopted.)

MEMBERS:

Cr	Michael	Lee	ARC	(Chair)
Mayor Sir	Barry	Curtis	MCC	(Deputy Chair)
Mayor	John	Robertson	PDC	
Cr	Joel	Cayford	ARC	
Cr	Tony	Holman	NSCC	
Cr	Bruce	Hucker	ACC	
Mayor	John	Law	RDC	
Cr	Des	Morrison	FDC	
Cr	Carolynne	Stone	WCC	
Cr	Paul	Walbran	ARC	

OBSERVERS:

Cr	Mark	Farnsworth	NRC
Cr	Jenni	Vernon	EW
Mr	Lindsay	Gow	MfE

ALTERNATES:

Cr	Michael	Barnett	ARC
Cr	Bill	Burrill	ARC
Cr	Colleen	Brown	MCC
Cr	Christine	Caughey	ACC
Cr	Linda	Cooper	WCC
Mayor	Bob	Harvey	WCC
Cr	Penny	Hulse	WCC
Cr	Peter	Goldsmith	PDC
Cr	Daniel	Lynch	FDC
Cr	Margaret	Miles	NSCC
Cr	Christine	Rose	ARC
Cr	David	Steele	RDC

A44

A PROCEDURAL

A.1 MINUTES

Committee Secretary: 21 June 2007

That the minutes of the meeting held on 4 April 2007 be confirmed.

A45

B ITEMS FOR DECISION

- B.1 LONG-TERM SUSTAINABILITY FRAMEWORK AND EVALUATION OF THE REGIONAL GROWTH STRATEGY 3

A46

**B.1 LONG-TERM SUSTAINABILITY FRAMEWORK AND
EVALUATION OF THE REGIONAL GROWTH STRATEGY
S190-01**

Greg Hill, General Manager Policy and Planning; Ann Magee, Executive Director; Naomi Craymer, Project Manager: 15 June 2007

The report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions of section 76 and 77 of the Local Government Act 2002, having regard to section 79.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Auckland is a region blessed with inspiring natural landscapes – the harbours, coastline, volcanic cones and bush-clad ranges - are all unique treasures for creating a sustainable future. The region's infrastructure, including its ports and airport, have helped make the region New Zealand's global city and a gateway for trade, tourism and communications. Auckland has long attracted many people from many diverse cultures who come here to make this region their home – it is appropriately known as *Tamaki Makaurau* – a place desired by many.

This report presents two documents, the Long-term Sustainability Framework and the Regional Growth Strategy Evaluation Report, for the Regional Growth Forum's consideration. The culmination of this work:

- Demonstrates the region at all levels of government (central, regional and local) coming together and working collaboratively to develop a regional vision for the future;
- Creates the first sustainability framework in New Zealand that has defined what sustainability means in a uniquely Auckland/New Zealand way within a 100 year time horizon;
- Establishes for Auckland a single overarching regional strategic framework that provides a mechanism to integrate and align all other strategies and actions towards achieving a common set of integrated sustainability goals, as well as inform national policy from a regional perspective;
- Provides a strong platform for the development of "One Plan" that has emerged through the *Strengthening Auckland's Regional Governance* process as a key priority area for the region's councils as well as central government;
- Signals a major shift for growth planning in Auckland away from what came to be characterised as a narrow focus on 'accommodating growth' in the late 1990s to the new multi-dimensional sustainability approach as articulated in the two documents;
- Provides a more sophisticated approach both in terms of enriching the understanding of the dynamics of the region and its systems (ecological, connections, people), and in terms of enhancing the package of tools needed to secure the region's long-term sustainability goals;
- Completes the regional policy development processes within set time-frames to ensure that attention can now focus on the public desire for improved implementation that will assist in improving the quality of outcomes for all Aucklanders, both current and future generations.

AGENDA
WEDNESDAY 4 JULY 2007
REGIONAL GROWTH FORUM

- Demonstrates an ongoing commitment from Auckland's leadership on future growth issues and regional development – for example through smarter more innovative approaches and implementation tools, as well as continuing advocacy for a national policy approach to population growth and development;
- Signals a strong and ongoing regional commitment in Auckland to a sustainable development approach as signalled in the Local Government Act 2002.

The Long-term Sustainability Framework (Attachment 1) is the output of the START process (Sustaining the Auckland Regional Together), a collaborative project of the seven local councils, ARC and central government. The Long-term Sustainability Framework delivers a shared long-term view of what will make the Auckland region more sustainable, and a sustainability framework to help make decisions that are more integrated, prioritised and resilient.

The evaluation of the Regional Growth Strategy report (Attachment 2) is a result of the Growth Forum resolutions in May 2006 that requested an implementation focused review be undertaken, noting that given resource constraints facing councils, that the review be undertaken in an expeditious and efficient manner. This report provides an evaluation of the region's progress over the last seven years since the Regional Growth Strategy was adopted in 1999, it provides a summary of the testing of the Regional Growth Strategy against the Long-term Sustainability Framework and identifies actions to improve implementation and gaps where further policy work is required. This new thinking on sustainability, together with international experience, reinforces the importance of the core objectives of the Regional Growth Strategy – a compact urban form, improving living and working environments through quality urban design and intensification that is integrated with more accessible passenger transport, as an essential response to the goals, sustainability challenges and opportunities identified in the Long-term Sustainability Framework.

The report concludes with a series of recommendations for the Regional Growth Forum to consider:

- Recommendation that the Regional Growth Forum receives the document entitled 'Auckland Sustainability Framework' (Attachment 1).
- Recommendation from the Forum that each Council considers the Framework and report their response to the 5th September Growth Forum meeting. At this meeting it is intended that the Forum will provide its final endorsement of the Framework.
- Recommendation from the Forum that each Council formally endorse the 'Auckland Sustainability Framework' (Attachment 1) to be used as an overarching sustainability framework prior to the local body elections in October 2007. This will ensure that the Framework can be used in the next review of the Regional Land Transport Strategy and the review and development of any future regional strategies.
- Recommendation supporting the use of the 'Auckland Sustainability Framework' as the platform for the development of One Plan.
- Recommendation noting the intended alignment between the 'Auckland Sustainability Framework' (Attachment 1) and central government's policy agenda for sustainable development, economic transformation and climate change and invitation to central government to consider and use the

AGENDA
WEDNESDAY 4 JULY 2007
REGIONAL GROWTH FORUM

Framework, where applicable, in its strategy development and funding processes within the Auckland region.

- Recommendation that the Forum receives and adopts the technical report entitled 'Growing Auckland Smarter: The Auckland Region in the 21st Century' (Attachment 2). This report marks the completion of the implementation focused review of the Regional Growth Strategy. It is important to note that this report is a technical report that evaluates progress in the implementation of the Growth Strategy and is not a replacement for the Regional Growth Strategy (1999) itself.
- Recommendation that each council consider the report 'Growing Auckland Smarter: The Auckland Region in the 21st Century' (Attachment 2), particularly the proposed actions and work programme for improving implementation of the Regional Growth Strategy outlined on pages 113-117 of Attachment 2 and report their response to the Regional Growth Forum.
- Recommendations that the Auckland Sustainability Framework (Attachment 1) and the Evaluation of the Regional Growth Strategy (Attachment 2) be used in the next Review of the Regional Land Transport Strategy.
- Recommendation that officers report back on options to update the Regional Growth Strategy document taking into account the Long-term Sustainability Framework, the Evaluation of the Regional Growth Strategy, the outcomes of the Local Government (Auckland) Amendment Act 2004 process as well as any decisions relating to Strengthening Auckland's Regional Governance.
- Recommendation that officers prepare a proposal for public consultation and communication and report back to the Forum as soon as it is established following the 2007 local body elections. As part of this proposal, that officers explore opportunities for alignment with the planned public consultation for the Regional Land Transport Strategy review in early 2008.
- Recommendation that Councils report back their response to these resolutions to the meeting of the Regional Growth Forum on 5th September 2007.
- Recommendation that Central government and the Regional Councils of Waikato and Northland also be invited to respond to these resolutions at the September Regional Growth Forum meeting.

B.1.1 PURPOSE

This report provides a short explanation of the policy development process that has been used to develop the Long-term Sustainability Framework (Attachment 1) and the Evaluation of the Regional Growth Strategy (Attachment 2). The report also provides an overview and explanation of the next steps that will be required – reporting back to Councils, Implementation of the Framework, Consideration of the Regional Growth Strategy evaluation report (particularly the proposed work programme and actions) as well as future public consultation and communication. It then recommends that the Regional Growth Forum adopt the recommendations as set out in this report.

B.1.2 BACKGROUND

The Regional Growth Forum has passed a number of resolutions to shape the scope and development of the Long-term Sustainability Framework and the evaluation of the Regional Growth Strategy.

**AGENDA
WEDNESDAY 4 JULY 2007
REGIONAL GROWTH FORUM**

In May 2006 the scope of the Regional Growth Strategy review was determined by the Growth Forum as follows:

"That the Growth Forum endorses the updating and implementation focused approach to the review of the Growth Strategy within a sustainability framework, including the environment."

In July 2006 the Forum resolved in relation to the Regional Growth Strategy review proposed work programme:

"That the RGF endorses the proposed technical work programme and workshops for political engagement as set out in this report"

"That the RGF notes that this report identifies that councils are facing difficulty in resourcing the RGS review and update, because of commitments to existing processes, and that the technical work programme will need to be tailored to the availability of resources."

In December 2006 the Forum resolved in relation to the proposed Long-term Sustainability Framework for the Auckland Region:

"That the Regional Growth Forum receive a further report on 4 July 2007, outlining any proposed revisions to the Framework, priority areas for action, and proposals for implementation including the resource implications"

In April 2007 the Growth Forum resolved:

"That the Regional Growth Forum endorse the integration approach as proposed in this report including:

- *The presentation of a single report to the Regional Growth Forum on 4 July 2007;*
- *Merging of the regional political engagement process into a single process."*

This report fulfils the first part of this resolution. Members of the Regional Growth Forum and Long-term Sustainability Framework Political Reference Group have been invited to Regional Growth Forum (RGF) workshops and meetings as part of the streamlined political engagement process. Integration of substantive content has also occurred between the two processes resulting in both documents being strengthened and further enhanced.

This report also provides a response to the earlier resolutions from the Growth Forum.

B.1.3 SUMMARY OF POLICY DEVELOPMENT PROCESS FOLLOWED

Long-term Sustainability Framework

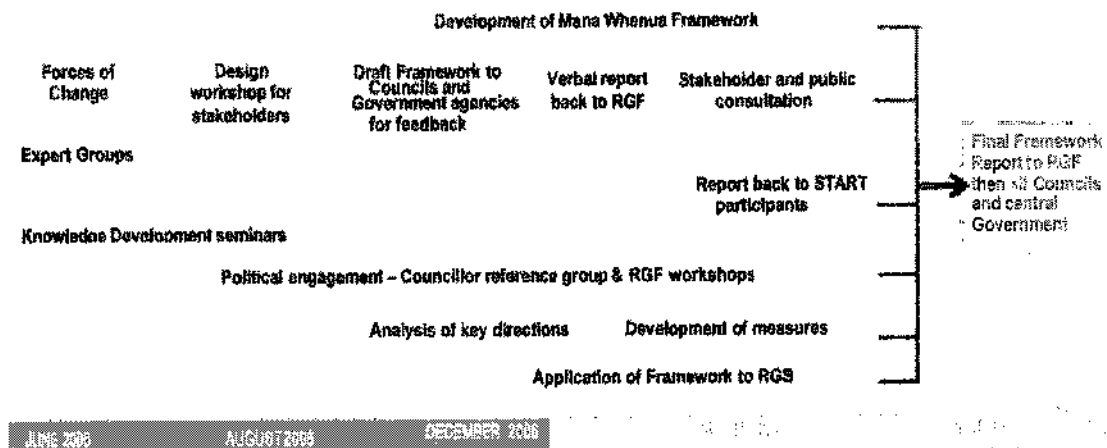
The purpose of the Long-term Sustainability Framework is two-fold:

- a) to provide a shared long-term view of what is required to make the Auckland region more sustainable; and
- b) to develop a framework and tools to help make decisions that are more integrated, prioritised and resilient.

**AGENDA
WEDNESDAY 4 JULY 2007
REGIONAL GROWTH FORUM**

The development of the Long Term Sustainability Framework (Attachment 1) was initiated by the Forum sixteen months ago in March 2006.

The process used to develop the Long-term Sustainability Framework is illustrated below in figure 1.



Political engagement and feedback from Councils

Political guidance and direction on the development of the Framework has occurred throughout the process. A Councillor Reference Group was established as a working party of the Growth Forum and has met regularly throughout the process. The Reference Group has provided a strong ongoing connection back to constituent Councils as well as providing valuable feedback as the document has been refined and further developed.

Feedback from Councils on the Draft Framework was received at the Regional Growth Forum meeting in April 2007. This feedback indicated that Councils had engaged positively with the concept of the Long-term Sustainability Framework and the ideas behind it. The Council feedback largely took the form of "constructive criticism" mostly indicating that the Councils were looking for further development of the Framework. The overall theme was that the Draft Framework needed more work, under two broad headings:

- Communication and presentation needed to be improved. There were a number of suggestions regarding look, feel and language. The Framework needed to be simpler and more accessible. It also should be more positive, assertive and relevant to the Auckland region. The relationship between the Framework and governance and existing regional strategies needed to be clarified.
- The Framework also needed to be more specific. The connection between the "forces" and the "goals and responses" was not very clear. The framework should identify high-level shifts from business as usual and prioritise what needs to be done.

**AGENDA
WEDNESDAY 4 JULY 2007
REGIONAL GROWTH FORUM**

Engagement with Maori

Mana Whenua

A process of engagement with Mana Whenua was begun last year with two regional hui. The response agreed at these hui was to run a parallel process to develop a Mana Whenua sustainability framework and to explore the potential for integration between the two Frameworks. A Mana Whenua working group was formed for this purpose. The working group has presented to two steering group workshops and to the 9 May Regional Growth Forum workshop, and has been liaising with the steering group to integrate the Frameworks. The version of the Long Term Sustainability Framework set out in Attachment 2 provides key linkage points with the Mana Whenua Framework.

Taurahere

Discussions have been held during the year with Te Ruru Korero to establish an appropriate and robust process for engaging with Taurahere area by area. Te Ruru Korero will now work with councils to set up three hui (North West, Central and Southern). The dates for these hui have not been set which means that the feedback will not be available until after the Framework has been presented to the Regional Growth Forum at the meeting today. This is understood by Te Ruru Korero and an opportunity to provide formal feedback before the September Regional Growth Forum needs to be arranged.

In addition to these processes, Councils have also engaged both Mana Whenua and wider Maori groups in their jurisdictions. In particular Manukau has engaged its Mana Whenua Forum and Treaty of Waitangi Standing Committee, Waitakere has engaged with its Taumata and Rodney has engaged with its Taumata also.

Stakeholder and Public consultation on the Draft Framework

The development of the Long-term Sustainability Framework has been informed by a two stage consultation and engagement process. In stage one of the project (March – December 2006) a number of stakeholders including Maori, NGOs, business, academics were engaged in the development of content for the Draft Framework document issued in December 2006. In stage two there has been a wider programme of stakeholder engagement and public consultation (20 February – 4 May 2006) to refine and finalise the Framework in preparation for this Growth Forum meeting. This programme included a series of 19 workshops for specific stakeholder groups attended by approximately 200 participants together with advertising seeking public input in the Herald and community newspapers and establishment of a website (www.sustainingauckland.org.nz). There was a limited public response (9 written submissions).

Overall, the consultation process indicated strong support for the concept of a Framework and a "One Plan" and most people were impressed by the level of collaboration between councils. Further key themes emerging from the consultation on the Draft Framework document (i.e. the version released in December 2006) were:

- Need to simplify language and structure of the Framework making relationships between components clearer;
- The Framework should emphasis interconnectedness and take a holistic view;

**AGENDA
WEDNESDAY 4 JULY 2007
REGIONAL GROWTH FORUM**

- Many commented on the importance of the spiritual dimension of sustainability- "people need to have meaning in their lives". The Framework should acknowledge the opportunities and challenges of differing/conflicting world views, and faiths, including "oneness" of humanity and the shared moral values of the major faiths , like social justice;
- The Draft Framework lacked a sense of urgency and that the level of change that would be required went beyond the sum of a number of small actions – that there was a need to identify big shifts in direction;
- The Framework should be positive about the future, convince and show people that things could change and how government/local government could support them in doing this. The Framework needed to be more aspirational and positive and take care to balance problems with opportunities;
- Some felt the Draft Framework had too much emphasis on economic concepts of growth and prosperity and others felt that the Draft Framework overstated the significance of the protection and restoration of natural systems which could result in an erosion of private property rights. There were some that thought people should be given more prominence and others who thought that sustainability was an understanding that we live in ecosystems and that the physical survival of the planet was the most urgent issue.
- The importance of affordable, sustainable housing and affordable public transport needed to be reflected in the Framework;
- The importance of education both in the sense of up-skilling and continual learning, and that information and education about sustainability would critical to the successful implementation of the Framework;
- The need for visionary leadership and the importance of partnership at every level.

A detailed summary of stakeholder feedback is available as part of the supporting documents for the Long-term Sustainability Framework. Clearly, many of the views expressed from stakeholders and members of the public reinforce the feedback provided earlier by Councils on the Draft Framework document.

Technical Work

A significant amount of technical work has been undertaken which underpins and supports the core components of the Framework document. This technical work has included the development of six forces papers (on Climate Change, Technology, Globalisation, Resource Availability, Demographics, World Views), seven theme papers (on Economic Transformation, Environmental Quality, Cultural Diversity and Social Cohesion, Social Development, Energy, Built Environment and Integrating Urban Form and Infrastructure). In 2007, technical work has focused on testing and refining the Framework (including testing the Regional Growth Strategy review against the Framework as outlined below), creating a Tool kit to assist with application of the Framework to strategies, plans and key decisions, together with the development of strategic responses and measures that will provide direction and focus for future efforts.

In addition an international peer review of the Framework has been undertaken by Professor Peter Newman of the Murdoch University, Western Australia. Professor Newman has reviewed the Framework in terms of its cohesiveness, content and focus as well as its consistency with international thinking on sustainability and best

**AGENDA
WEDNESDAY 4 JULY 2007
REGIONAL GROWTH FORUM**

practice. He has concluded that the current version achieves a good balance between the visionary and the specific. He has affirmed the overall approach in terms of breadth and individual goals and the core message on sustainability. Professor Newman's input has improved the structure to strengthen the links between components and sharpened the focus on core sustainability concepts. He has provided guidance on the measures as well as on the spatial implications of the Framework including the content of Goal 6 (A quality compact settlement pattern).

The Framework document provided in Attachment 2 has been revised to reflect these comments and input. In summary the proposed revisions made to the Framework are as follows:

- Overall the Framework has been simplified so it can be more readily understood and used;
- The key directions and goals have been collapsed together and refined;
- Shifts from business as usual have been identified as an addition to the draft version to signal both aspirational and directional shifts in thinking and action required (at a more fundamental level) rather than the series of somewhat ad-hoc short-term responses contained in the earlier version;
- Strategic responses corresponding to the shifts and goals have been identified at a strategic level in keeping with the role and purpose of the Framework as an overarching strategic regional document;
- A structure for measures and targets has been developed and a set of possible measures have been identified;
- The spatial element has been strengthened;
- A parallel Mana Whenua framework has been developed.

The proposals for implementation of the Long-term Sustainability Framework are outlined in section X.1.4 below.

Evaluation of the Regional Growth Strategy 1999

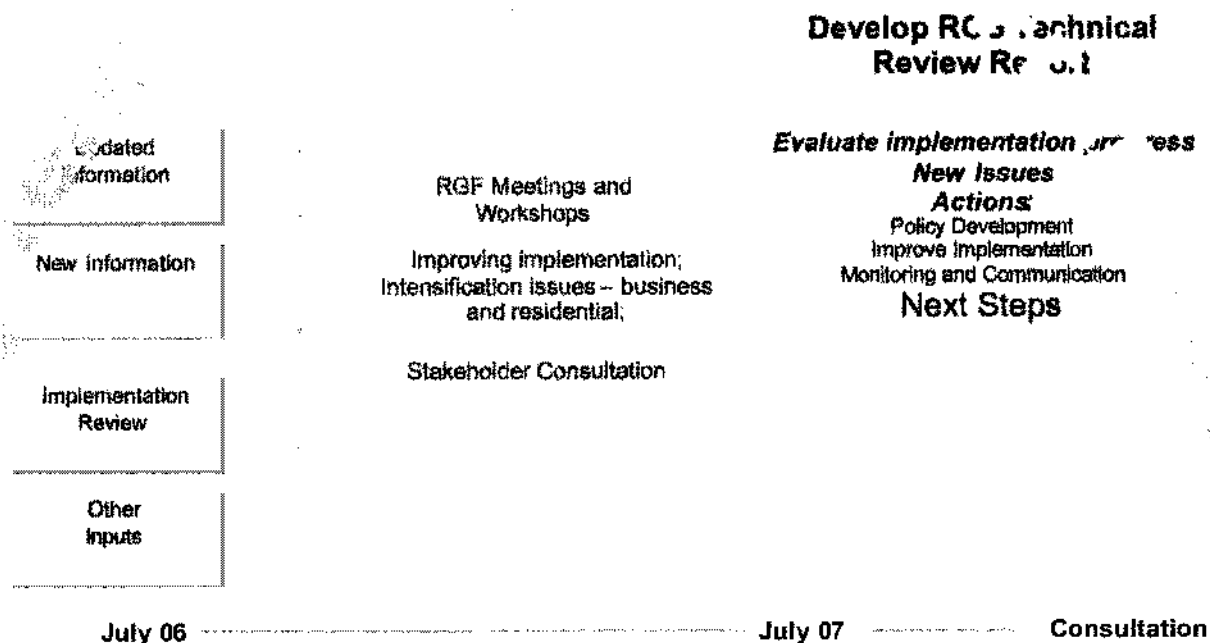
The purpose of the evaluation of the Regional Growth Strategy 1999 is:

- a) to evaluate the region's progress over the last seven years since the Auckland Regional Growth Strategy was adopted in 1999;
- b) to provide an update on issues that have emerged since 1999;
- c) to reflect on the changes needed to respond to the Long-term Sustainability Framework; and
- d) to identify proposed actions to improve implementation and gaps where further policy work is required.

The evaluation of the Regional Growth Strategy was initiated by the Forum in May 2006, fourteen months ago.

The process is illustrated below in figure 2.

**AGENDA
WEDNESDAY 4 JULY 2007
REGIONAL GROWTH FORUM**



Technical Work

The evaluation process has included a number of technical work streams that have provided empirical evidence that underpins the key conclusions and findings outlined in the Evaluation Report. In particular a full and comprehensive range of options and alternatives to improve implementation of the Regional Growth Strategy have been explored. This full set of options was formally reported to the Growth Forum at its meeting on 26 April 2007. The proposed work programme and actions outlined in Attachment 2 (pages 113-117) reflect proposals that are considered to be both achievable and realistic, and will lead to improved spatial outcomes that will ultimately deliver multi-dimensional social, environmental, cultural and economic benefits for communities.

The technical work undertaken through the Evaluation of the Regional Growth Strategy has included:

- Monitoring and updating of core information (growth and development trends);
- Technical work on key themes and focussing on implementation issues and opportunities;
- A review of literature on emerging issues;
- A review of international approaches to growth management;
- Continuation of technical work arising from the Business Land Strategy and focussed on business land and business intensification;

AGENDA
WEDNESDAY 4 JULY 2007
REGIONAL GROWTH FORUM

- A seminar in March 2007 which explored approaches to town centre development from a sustainability viewpoint and discussed practical actions underway in comparable cities.

Stakeholder input

In the development of the evaluation report (Attachment 2) there has also been targeted consultation and engagement with key stakeholders (central government, development sector, heritage and design representatives). In recognition of the political direction that an expeditious and efficient review be undertaken, consultation material was gathered through a variety of processes including:

- A stock take of existing information held by authorities within the region that gathered a range of views from various community consultation processes over the past five years;
- A number of meetings and workshops with the region's politicians (RGF and LTSP) since early 2006;
- Workshop sessions with central government. The purpose of the workshops was to introduce the scope of the Regional Growth Strategy review and to discuss opportunities and barriers around Regional Growth Strategy implementation. A summary of the proceedings has been prepared and distributed to all attendees. A follow-up survey conducted by Ministry for the Environment added further detail;
- A survey of 23 developers in the Auckland region to seek developer views on the future of residential and business development and intensification in Auckland and the constraints and opportunities to achieving the Regional Growth Strategy vision;
- A workshop with the heritage, conservation and design community to gather wider perspectives on the impacts of growth and development and the quality of development.

Integration and testing against the Long-term Sustainability Framework

A critical part of the Regional Growth Strategy evaluation and the integration proposal endorsed by the Forum in April 2007, has been the testing of the Regional Growth Strategy, against the emerging content and sustainability context provided by the Long-term Sustainability Framework. The Regional Growth Strategy review has been conducted as an iterative process alongside the development of the Long-term Sustainability Framework. The Regional Growth Strategy has been tested against the Long-term Sustainability Framework and an assessment has been undertaken (refer appendix 3 of the Evaluation Report for further detail). The concurrent timing of the two processes has created some challenges in this regard. However, it is considered that both processes have benefited from this testing and consideration of sustainability challenges and opportunities within a spatial context and vice-versa.

The conclusion of this testing process is that the new thinking on sustainability, together with international experience, reinforces the importance of the core objectives of the Regional Growth Strategy – a compact urban form, improving living and working environments through quality urban design and intensification that is integrated with more accessible passenger transport, as an essential response to the goals, sustainability challenges and opportunities identified in the Long-term Sustainability Framework. A quality compact urban form is the foundation for achieving many of the other sustainability goals.

**AGENDA
WEDNESDAY 4 JULY 2007
REGIONAL GROWTH FORUM**

Both the Long-term Sustainability Framework and the Regional Growth Strategy evaluation findings have demonstrated that to achieve any sustainability goal, the emphasis has to be on a much more sophisticated and concerted approach to implementation. The region as a whole needs to be much more upfront about the urgency of moving away from business as usual in both decision making and actions.

An important part of the regional response will be advocating for a national approach to population growth and development.

Conclusion

The region has reached a significant milestone in the presentation of these two documents to the Regional Growth Forum for its consideration. The culmination of this work:

- Demonstrates the region at all levels of government (central, regional and local) coming together and working collaboratively to develop a regional vision for the future;
- Creates the first sustainability framework in New Zealand that has defined what sustainability means in a uniquely Auckland/New Zealand way within a 100 year time horizon;
- Establishes for Auckland a single overarching regional strategic framework that provides the mechanism to integrate and align all future strategies and actions towards achieving a common set of integrated sustainability goals, as well as inform national policy from a regional perspective;
- Provides a strong platform for the development of "One Plan" that has emerged through the *Strengthening Auckland's Regional Governance* process as a key priority area for the region's councils as well as central government;
- Signals a major shift for growth planning in Auckland away from what came to be characterised as a narrow focus on 'accommodating growth' in the late 1990s to the new multi-dimensional sustainability approach as articulated in the two documents;
- Provides a more sophisticated approach both in terms of enriching the understanding of the dynamics of the region and its systems (ecological, connections, people), and in terms of enhancing the package of tools needed to secure the region's long-term sustainability goals;
- Completes the regional policy development processes within set time-frames to ensure that attention can now focus on the public desire for improved implementation that will assist in improving the quality of outcomes for all Aucklanders, both current and future generations.
- Demonstrates an ongoing commitment from Auckland's leadership on future growth issues and regional development – for example through smarter more innovative approaches and implementation tools, as well as continuing advocacy for a national policy approach to population growth and development;
- Signals a strong and ongoing regional commitment in Auckland to a sustainable development approach as signalled in the Local Government Act 2002.

**AGENDA
WEDNESDAY 4 JULY 2007
REGIONAL GROWTH FORUM**

However, there does need to be a greater level of clarity (in so far as is possible) of the next steps required to address any outstanding concerns that may not have been able to be captured within the two Attachments. The next section therefore provides an explanation of the next steps on the basis of information currently available to officers.

B.1.4 NEXT STEPS

Report back to Councils in preparation for September Regional Growth Forum

The first step is to report the resolutions the Regional Growth Forum makes at this meeting back to member Councils for their consideration.

There is an important distinction to be made between the officer recommendations for the Long-term Sustainability Framework document (Attachment 1) and the Regional Growth Strategy Evaluation Report (Attachment 2).

For the Long-term Sustainability Framework, each Council will need to consider the Framework and determine whether to approve it and endorse its use as the region's overarching sustainability framework. The proposed recommendations therefore provide a strong signal from the Forum of its support for the Framework to both the individual councils as well as to central government. Once endorsed, it will also mean that the Framework can then begin to shape and influence future policy and funding decisions, including the review of the Regional Land Transport Strategy and the development of One Plan.

The recommendations pertaining to the Evaluation Report of the Regional Growth Strategy reflect its status as a technical report. It is recommended that the Forum receive and adopt this report and that it be forwarded to each Council for consideration. In particular Councils are asked to consider the options for future work in light of their existing commitments and the likely resource implications. However, given that this is a technical report it is not necessary for each Council to adopt or endorse it.

Officers have already identified appropriate meeting times in July or August for this part of the process and this officer report can provide the basis and common template for reporting back to Councils.

Growth Forum members should prepare to report back from their Councils to the Regional Growth Forum meeting scheduled to be held on 5th September 2007 (note that this will be the final meeting of the Regional Growth Forum).

Implementation of the Long-Term Sustainability Framework

Role and status of the Framework – how will the Framework be used

The Framework is designed to facilitate sustainable decision-making that promotes long-term social, economic, environmental and cultural wellbeing for all Aucklanders.

The mandate for the Framework is derived from the Local Government Act 2002 and the Framework is an Auckland response to the sustainable development approach outlined in section 14 of the Act. Unlike the Regional Growth Strategy (refer Local Government Act 1974 sections 37SE -37SH) or the Regional Land Transport Strategy (refer Land Transport Management Act 2003 and Land Transport Act 1998 s175, s176, s179) the Framework does not have its own separate legislative provisions. This is consistent with the collaborative manner in which the Framework has been developed, and in which it is intended that the Framework will be

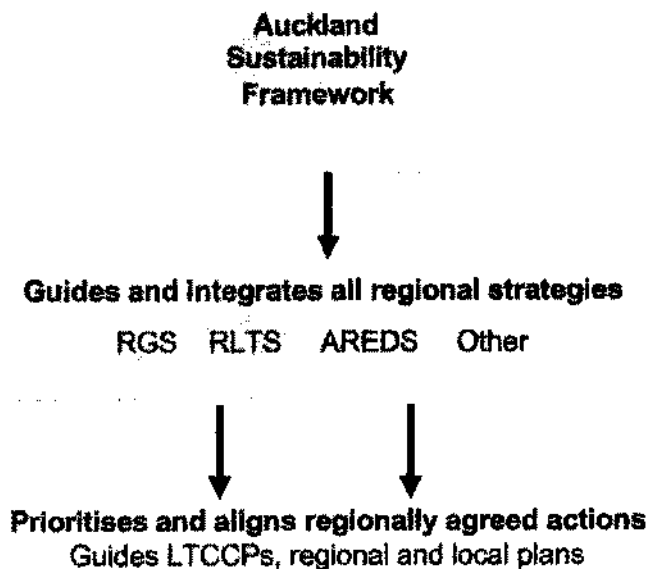
AGENDA
WEDNESDAY 4 JULY 2007
REGIONAL GROWTH FORUM

implemented. It is noted that in some cases, legislative approaches do not always achieve the optimal outcome or product.

As shown in the diagram below the Framework is intended to provide an overarching strategic framework for the Auckland region by:

- guiding and integrating current and future strategies and plans within the region; and
- providing a tool for reviewing and developing regional strategies to ensure they deliver sustainable outcomes and have anticipated forces of change.

The diagram illustrates the relationship between the Framework and other regional strategies and actions:



Once the Long-term Sustainability Framework has been adopted by the member Councils it will be used in their own policy development and funding processes. The sections below highlight how it is anticipated that the Framework will be implemented, but should not be considered as overly prescriptive or inflexible. Circumstances and context may change, the sections below are simply designed to respond to some of the concerns that have been raised by Councillors at previous workshop sessions and to provide a greater level of clarity, in so far as that is possible, at the time of writing this report.

Relationship with existing (and future) regional strategies

As illustrated above, the framework provides an overarching strategic context, strongly founded on the principles of the Local Government Act 2002 that sits above all existing regional strategies. It is suggested that a pragmatic approach is taken to the development and review of regional strategies and local plans. This means that as each strategy comes up for review, or as new strategies are developed, the Long-term Sustainability Framework will then be applied. The Tool kit that accompanies the Framework will assist in this process.

**AGENDA
WEDNESDAY 4 JULY 2007
REGIONAL GROWTH FORUM**

As covered earlier, this is the approach that has already been taken with the evaluation of the Regional Growth Strategy. The next strategy to be reviewed within a sustainability context will be the Regional Land Transport Strategy, scheduled for completion in early 2009.

Relationship with One Plan

In terms of the *Strengthening Auckland's Regional Governance* project, at the time of writing this report, the final direction on the Auckland proposals was still undetermined. However, the proposals to establish a Regional Sustainable Development Forum and a 'One Plan' are consistent with the approach outlined in the Framework. Indeed, as already signalled by the Growth Forum through the integration proposal, the Framework provides an important and necessary platform for One Plan and the existence of the Framework, once endorsed, should ease the process to develop 'One Plan'.

It is therefore suggested that the Forum recommend that the Long-term Sustainability Framework provide the foundation and platform for the development of One Plan.

Relationship with LTCCPs and funding decisions

It is anticipated that all Councils will apply the Framework in the next round of LTCCP development scheduled for 2009.

Central government

The development of the Long-term Sustainability Framework has been led by the regions' councils, informed by input from central government agencies coordinated via the Government Urban and Economic Development Office. It is noted that the general aims of the Framework are intended to be closely aligned to both central government policy agendas for sustainability and climate change, as well as the government's Economic Transformation agenda.

It is therefore recommended, that central government also be invited to consider the Framework and consider using the Framework, as applicable, in its strategy development and funding processes relating to the Auckland region.

The Framework also identifies the need for local and central government to continue to work collaboratively across sectors to ensure integrated decision-making and shared sustainable outcomes. It is anticipated that the Framework will provide one of the mechanisms to achieve an ongoing partnership and dialogue between central and local government.

Ongoing monitoring and review

The Regional Growth Forum will have an ongoing role in promoting the Long-term Sustainability Framework within member organisations. As a regional document, it is anticipated that the ARC will take on a monitoring and strategic overview role in much the same way as it does with existing regional strategies. However, as with any regional document, implementation cannot be the preserve of a single agency – all parties have a significant and important role in promoting the Framework, applying its core concepts to future decisions, educating others about the Framework and keeping the Vision and Goals alive over time. The strength of the Framework is in its ability to unify all levels of government and it will be this ongoing commitment to partnership that will make it a success.

Consideration of proposed actions and work programme for improving implementation of the Regional Growth Strategy

As noted above it is not necessary for Councils to formally resolve positions on the technical report on the Regional Growth Strategy (Attachment 2). However, it would be desirable for Councils to each consider the implications of the evaluation report, and their own role and future work programmes in light of the proposed actions and work programme contained in Attachment 2. It is therefore recommended that each of the Councils and central government initially consider the evaluation report, and in particular the proposed work programme, prior to the report back to the 5th September Regional Growth Forum meeting.

The ARC and TAs have different but complementary roles in progressing these proposals to improve implementation – for some aspects ARC will need to consider and lead and there are other proposals that TAs will need to consider and lead.

Ongoing role and function of the Regional Growth Strategy 1999

As noted earlier the technical officer report (Attachment 2), does not in itself replace or amend the existing Regional Growth Strategy 1999. The report is an evaluation of progress and sets out a proposed work programme to take the region forward for Councils to consider in terms of their own role and future work programmes.

There have been some significant changes, some legislative and others non legislative, since the Regional Growth Strategy was adopted in 1999. The Local Government Act 2002, the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Act 2000, the Local Government (Auckland) Amendment Act 2004 and the Resource Management Amendment Act 2005 have brought changes to the wider context in which local government operates and have brought new possibilities for action.

If Councils approve the Long-term Sustainability Framework and endorse its use as the region's overarching sustainability framework, there will be a new overarching vision and integrated set of high-level sustainability goals that are intended to provide an 'umbrella' that can be used to link all other regional strategies that sit underneath it. Previously the Regional Growth Strategy fulfilled this function as it was the primary strategy that others (e.g. RLTS, AREDS) were intended to be aligned with. The Regional Growth Forum has already discussed that the 'front end' of existing strategies will need to be updated once the Framework is endorsed.

The statutory context has also changed through the introduction of the Local Government (Auckland) Amendment Act 2004. This embeds in the region's planning documents the growth concept as articulated in the Regional Growth Strategy. The next review of this will occur through the Regional Policy Statement review, scoping commencing in 2008.

Both these factors clearly have implications that will need to be further explored regarding the role and ongoing function of a Regional Growth Strategy document. Discussions around the region have reflected a strong desire to continue to have a spatial development/land use strategy that sits under the Long-term Sustainability Framework. Future options for a Regional Growth Strategy document will also be heavily influenced by any decisions emerging from the *Strengthening Auckland's Regional Governance* process (and in particular "One Plan"), the relationship with the region's RMA planning documents (Regional Policy Statement and District Plans), together with the preferences of new Councils. These options will also need to address the legislative requirements outlined in the Local Government Act 1974 (provisions still in force) relating to the Growth Strategy. In particular, any changes to the existing Regional Growth Strategy or a replacement strategy must follow the

**AGENDA
WEDNESDAY 4 JULY 2007
REGIONAL GROWTH FORUM**

requirements for public consultation as set out in the Local Government Act 1974. It is intended that the regional policy steering group will consider this further, and that officers will report back to the Forum.

As is covered in the next section, linked with this, are the options that will need to be explored in terms of any future public engagement.

Public consultation and input

There has been a high degree of political interest and desire to do more in general to provide greater opportunities for public input and engagement. Councillors have also expressed a desire to have a major communication effort on sustainability and urban design/growth issues generally. There may be opportunities to link in with central government effort in this regard.

As outlined in section X.1.3 the Long-term Sustainability Framework has already been consulted on.

The Regional Growth Strategy Evaluation report (Attachment 2) does not amend or replace the existing Regional Growth Strategy 1999. Therefore there is no legal requirement to consult on it under the LGA 1974 provisions (still in force).

However, irrespective of the legislative requirements, there may still be benefits in undertaking wider public engagement. There will be a number of options that will need to be considered and the nature of any future consultation and communication with the public needs to be fully explored. The implications of any forthcoming decisions (e.g. regional governance, LGAAA, Regional Policy Statement/District Plan review) also need to be taken into account. It will also be important to consider any consultation or public communication happening over the same time period (e.g. Annual Plans, Regional Land Transport Strategy review). In particular, it is suggested that there may be benefits in linking in with the planned consultation on the Regional Land Transport Strategy review, scheduled for early 2008.

Any public consultation or communication would also need to be cognisant of further decisions emerging from regional governance (and in particular the development of 'One Plan') and the preferences of new Councils.

Further work is therefore needed to explore the options and their implications in more depth. It is recommended that a proposal be developed by officers and reported to the new Forum as soon as it is established following the local government elections in October 2007.

B.1.5 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The external costs associated with the development of the Long-term Sustainability Framework have been funded in a cost-sharing manner between Central Government (52%), Auckland City Council (16%), Manukau City Council (9%), North Shore City Council (7%), ARC (6%), Waitakere City Council (5%), Rodney District Council (3%), Franklin District Council (2%) and Papakura District Council (1%). All Councils and Central Government have also supported the development of the Framework through significant officer input and time. The ARC has also contributed funding to the development of the Mana Whenua Framework and funded the project coordinator role.

The costs associated with the Evaluation of the Regional Growth Strategy, with the exception of officer time, has been 100% funded by the ARC. However, the Business

**AGENDA
WEDNESDAY 4 JULY 2007
REGIONAL GROWTH FORUM**

Land and Economy Group work has been funded on a cost-sharing basis between the ARC and Territorial Authorities.

Both projects have been completed within budget. However, any further work will have budget implications and therefore needs to be referred back to Councils for consideration.

B.1.6 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

These have been outlined above.

B.1.7 CONSULTATION

This report has been developed in consultation with the regional policy steering group a joint officer group with representatives from ARC, Auckland City Council, Franklin District Council, Manukau City Council, North Shore City Council, Papakura District Council, Rodney District Council, Waitakere City Council and central government agencies coordinated via the Government Urban Economic Development Office (GUEDO) (including MfE, MED, MSD). Representatives from Te Puni Kokiri and the Mana Whenua Working Party were also in attendance at the last steering group meeting.

ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment 1 – Auckland Sustainability Framework – An agenda for the Future [Under separate cover].
- Attachment 2 – Growing Smarter: The Auckland Region in the 21st Century – Evaluation of the Auckland Regional Growth Strategy 1999 [Under separate cover].

RECOMMENDATIONS

- a) That the report be received.
- b) That the Regional Growth Forum receives the document entitled 'Auckland Sustainability Framework' (Attachment 1).
- c) That the Regional Growth Forum recommends that each Council considers the 'Auckland Sustainability Framework' (Attachment 1) and report any response back to the 5th September Regional Growth Forum meeting, with the intention of the Regional Growth Forum adopting the final 'Auckland Sustainability Framework' at that meeting.
- d) That the Regional Growth Forum recommends that each Council formally endorse the 'Auckland Sustainability Framework' as the region's overarching sustainability framework to be used as a framework to guide their own strategy development and funding processes, prior to the local body elections in October 2007.
- e) That the Regional Growth Forum supports the use of the 'Auckland Sustainability Framework' (Attachment 1) as the platform for the development of One Plan.

**AGENDA
WEDNESDAY 4 JULY 2007
REGIONAL GROWTH FORUM**

- f) That the Regional Growth Forum notes the intended alignment between the 'Auckland Sustainability Framework' (Attachment 1) and central government's programmes for sustainable development, economic transformation and climate change and invites central government to use the Framework, where applicable, in its strategy development and funding processes within the Auckland region.
- g) That the Regional Growth Forum receives and adopts the technical report entitled 'Growing Smarter: The Auckland Region in the 21st Century' as a technical report of the Growth Forum.
- h) That the Regional Growth Forum recommends that each Council consider the report entitled 'Growing Smarter: The Auckland Region in the 21st Century' particularly the proposed actions and work programme for improving implementation of the Regional Growth Strategy as outlined in section 7 of Attachment 2 (pages 113-117) and report their responses back to the Regional Growth Forum.
- i) That the Regional Growth Forum supports the 'Auckland Sustainability Framework' (Attachment 1) as a Framework to guide the next Review of the Regional Land Transport Strategy and that it supports the technical report entitled 'Growing Smarter: The Auckland Region in the 21st Century' as an input to the next Review of the Regional Land Transport Strategy.
- j) That officers report back on options to update the Regional Growth Strategy document, taking into account the Long-term Sustainability Framework (Attachment 1), the technical report on the Evaluation of the Regional Growth Strategy (Attachment 2), outcomes of the Local Government (Auckland) Amendment Act 2004 process, and any decisions relating to Strengthening Auckland's regional governance.
- k) That a proposal for further public consultation and communication in 2008 be developed, including options to align with the review of the Regional Land Transport Strategy, and that officers report back with this proposal as soon as the new Forum is established.
- l) That Councils provide their response to resolutions c through to i to the Regional Growth Forum meeting on 5th September.
- m) That Central government, Environment Waikato and Northland Regional Council also be invited to respond to the above resolutions to the Regional Growth Forum meeting on 5th September.

MINUTES

REGIONAL GROWTH FORUM

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE REGIONAL GROWTH FORUM OF THE AUCKLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, GROUND FLOOR, 21 FITT STREET, AUCKLAND ON WEDNESDAY 4 JULY 2007 AT 1.46 PM

PRESENT:

Cr	Michael	Lee	ARC	(Chair)
Cr	Joel	Cayford	ARC	
Cr	Linda	Cooper	WCC	
Mayor Sir	Barry	Curtis	MCC	(Until 3.26 pm, Item B.1)
Cr	Tony	Holman	NSCC	
Cr	Bruce	Hucker	ACC	
Mayor	John	Law	RDC	
Cr	Des	Morrison	FDC	
Mayor	John	Robertson	PDC	
Cr	Christine	Rose	ARC	

APOLOGIES:

Cr	Paul	Walbran	ARC
Cr	Carolynne	Stone	WCC
Cr	Penny	Hulse	WCC
Cr	Chris	Darby	NSCC

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mayor	Mark	Ball	FDC
Cr	Colleen	Brown	MCC
Cr	Bill	Burrill	ARC
Cr	Christine	Caughey	ACC
Cr	Sandra	Coney	ARC
Cr	Mark	Farnsworth	NRC
Cr	Dianne	Glenn	ARC
Cr	Peter	Goldsmith	PDC
Cr	Dan	Lynch	FDC
Cr	Magan	Ranchhod	FDC
Mr	Bruce	Davis	Mana Whenua
Mr	Lindsay	Gow	MfE
Ms	Pauline	Kingi	Te Puni Kokiri
Ms	Jane	Sherard	Mana Whenua

ABS

MINUTES
WEDNESDAY 4 JULY 2007
REGIONAL GROWTH FORUM

Mr	Peter	Winder	ARC
Mr	Blair	Doherty	ARC
Mr	Greg	Hill	ARC
Ms	Ann	Magee	ARC
	Supporting	Officers	

AB6

A PROCEDURAL ITEMS

A.1 MINUTES

MOVED

Chair, Councillor Michael Lee

SECONDED

Councillor Tony Holman

That the minutes of the meeting held on 4 April 2007 be confirmed.

CARRIED

B ITEMS FOR DECISION

B.1 LONG-TERM SUSTAINABILITY FRAMEWORK AND EVALUATION OF THE REGIONAL GROWTH STRATEGY S190-01

Committee Secretary: 5 July 2007

Ms Brenna Waghorn and Mr Alan Johnson gave powerpoint presentations and answered questions from the members.

Committee Secretary: 5 July 2007

After discussion of the draft motions the following motions were moved.

MOVED

Chair, Councillor Michael Lee

SECONDED

Mayor John Law

- a) That the report be received.
- b) That the Regional Growth Forum receives the document entitled 'Auckland's Sustainability Framework' (Attachment 1).
- c) That the Regional Growth Forum recommends that each Council considers the 'Auckland's Sustainability Framework' (Attachment 1) and report any response back to the 5th September Regional Growth Forum meeting, with the intention of the Regional Growth Forum adopting the final 'Auckland's Sustainability Framework' at that meeting.
- d) That the Regional Growth Forum recommends that each Council formally endorses the 'Auckland's Sustainability Framework' prior to the local authority elections in October 2007 as the region's overarching sustainability framework to be used as the Framework to guide their own strategy development and funding processes.

A67

**MINUTES
WEDNESDAY 4 JULY 2007
REGIONAL GROWTH FORUM**

- e) That the Regional Growth Forum supports the use of the 'Auckland's Sustainability Framework' (Attachment 1) as a Framework to guide the development of One Plan.
- f) That the Regional Growth Forum notes the intended alignment between the 'Auckland's Sustainability Framework' (Attachment 1) and central government's programmes for sustainable development, economic transformation and climate change and invites central government to use the Framework, where applicable, in its strategy development and funding processes within the Auckland region.
- g) That the Regional Growth Forum receives and adopts the technical report entitled 'Growing Smarter: The Auckland Region in the 21st Century' as a technical report of the Growth Forum.
- h) That the Regional Growth Forum recommends that each Council considers the report entitled 'Growing Smarter: The Auckland Region in the 21st Century' particularly the proposed actions and work programme for improving implementation of the Regional Growth Strategy as outlined in section 7 of Attachment 2 (pages 113-117) and reports its response back to the Regional Growth Forum.
- i) That the Regional Growth Forum supports the 'Auckland's Sustainability Framework' (Attachment 1) as the sustainability framework to guide the next Review of the Regional Land Transport Strategy and that it supports the technical report entitled 'Growing Smarter: The Auckland Region in the 21st Century' as an input to the next Review of the Regional Land Transport Strategy.
- j) That officers report back on options to update the Regional Growth Strategy document, taking into account the Long-term Sustainability Framework (Attachment 1), the technical report on the Evaluation of the Regional Growth Strategy (Attachment 2), outcomes of the Local Government (Auckland) Amendment Act 2004 process, and any decisions relating to strengthening Auckland's regional governance.
- k) That a proposal for further public consultation and communication in 2008 be developed, including options to align with the review of the Regional Land Transport Strategy, and that officers report back with this proposal as soon as the new Forum is established.
- l) That Councils provide their response to resolutions c through to i to the Regional Growth Forum meeting on 5th September 2007.
- m) That Central Government, Environment Waikato and Northland Regional Council also be invited to respond to the above resolutions to the Regional Growth Forum meeting on 5th September 2007.
- n) That the Regional Growth Forum notes its intention to rename the Auckland Regional Growth Forum, the Regional Sustainable Development Forum, and asks that Growth Forum members report back to constituent councils, and that the Regional Growth Forum reconsiders this matter at its meeting on 5 September 2007.

**MINUTES
WEDNESDAY 4 JULY 2007
REGIONAL GROWTH FORUM**

MOVED

Councillor Bruce Hucker

SECONDED

Councillor Linda Cooper

That the word 'a' replaces the word 'the' in resolution e.

CARRIED

Committee Secretary; 5 July 2007

The following became the substantive motion

- a) That the report be received.
- b) That the Regional Growth Forum receives the document entitled 'Auckland's Sustainability Framework' (Attachment 1).
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AB9

**MINUTES
WEDNESDAY 4 JULY 2007
REGIONAL GROWTH FORUM**

- i) That the Regional Growth Forum supports the 'Auckland's Sustainability Framework' (Attachment 1) as the sustainability framework to guide the next Review of the Regional Land Transport Strategy and that it supports the technical report entitled 'Growing Smarter: The Auckland Region in the 21st Century' as an input to the next Review of the Regional Land Transport Strategy.
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MOVED

Councillor Christine Rose

SECONDED

Mayor Mark Ball

That the motion be put.

CARRIED

Committee Secretary: 5 July 2007

At this point the motion was put.

- a) That the report be received.
- b) That the Regional Growth Forum receives the document entitled 'Auckland's Sustainability Framework' (Attachment 1).

A70

**MINUTES
WEDNESDAY 4 JULY 2007
REGIONAL GROWTH FORUM**

- c) That the Regional Growth Forum recommends that each Council considers the 'Auckland's Sustainability Framework' (Attachment 1) and report any response back to the 5th September Regional Growth Forum meeting, with the intention of the Regional Growth Forum adopting the final 'Auckland's Sustainability Framework' at that meeting.
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A71

MINUTES
WEDNESDAY 4 JULY 2007
REGIONAL GROWTH FORUM

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- n) That the Regional Growth Forum notes its intention to rename the Auckland Regional Growth Forum, the Regional Sustainable Development Forum, and asks that Growth Forum members report back to constituent councils, and that the Regional Growth Forum reconsiders this matter at its meeting on 5 September 2007.

CARRIED

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 3.38 PM.

A72