

Notice of Meeting:

I hereby give notice that an ordinary Meeting of the Growth and Infrastructure Committee will be held on:

Date: Tuesday 9 May 2017
Time: 9.30am
Meeting Room: Council Chamber
Venue: Municipal Building, Garden Place, Hamilton

Richard Briggs
Chief Executive

Growth and Infrastructure Committee SUPPLEMENTARY OPEN AGENDA

Membership

Chairperson	Cr D Macpherson
Deputy Chairperson	Cr G Taylor
Members	Mayor A King Deputy Mayor M Gallagher Cr M Bunting Cr J R Casson Cr S Henry Cr G Mallett Cr A O'Leary Cr R Pascoe Cr P Southgate Cr L Tooman Cr P Yeung

Quorum: A majority of members (including vacancies)

Meeting Frequency: Six weekly

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Governance Manager

3 May 2017

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Committee: Growth and Infrastructure
Committee

Date: 09 May 2017

Report Name: Chair's Report - 9 May 2017

Author: Ian Loiterton

Status	<i>Open</i>
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1. Purpose

- For the information of the Committee.

Recommendation

That the Growth and Infrastructure Committee receive the report.

1. Attachments

- Attachment 1 - Chairperson's Report - Growth and Infrastructure Committee - 9 May 2017



Chairperson's Report

1. Hamilton-Auckland Passenger Rail

2. We've been working with management and Regional Council and NZTA staff on the topics to be covered in a report to the Committee on this issue during the next couple of months. These will include

- the issue of where rail stops/park & ride bases might be situated in Hamilton and how land for them might be 'future-proofed'
- a proposal to extend Auckland services into towns in the north Waikato, and the need for that to be synchronised with a future Hamilton-Auckland service
- the nature of a passenger rail service itself, what type of trains, which stops, how it could be funded, etc.
- work that needs to be done with Auckland Transport & Auckland Council to ensure space is made available for Waikato trains.

3. On 30th April; I was invited by The Rail Opportunities Network (TRON), to be part of a panel discussing the service at a public meeting in Frankton. The meeting was well-attended, with 3 local MPs, the Mayor, 5 Councillors, and couple of Kiwi Rail employees and about 50 others present. There was a strong call for a non-partisan community & business lobby to push this issue forward more strongly than perhaps in the past.

4. Planning for growth

5. All elected members are seeing some of the alarming population growth figures now coming forward – especially for Hamilton and the north Waikato, but now noticeable also in places like Cambridge and Morrinsville. Unfortunately, planners in other Waikato organisations seem to be a little out of touch, and in dire need of receiving the same sort of information this Council is getting, especially from our work on the Future Proof strategy.

6. By way of example, I'll mention that two weeks ago, at a DHB strategic planning meeting, a well-meaning but out of touch Auckland consultant business planner was telling the Board and management that Hamilton's population in 2026 would be 157,000 – he seemed confused when I pointed out that the city had passed that figure 2-3 years ago, and that the latest projections had the 2026 city population figure at 186,000! That's a whole new city bigger than the DHB was being told it had to provide for – and an example of how far behind much of the planning for growth is in this region. He claimed that he was using Treasury figures, which adds to the concern about how out of touch Government agencies are.

7. Complaints

8. We continue to receive a number of complaints relating to road and footpath issues, many of which would not have been elevated to elected member level if some of the early communications had been handled well. We are working with the GMs to try

and come up with a process that works better, and keeps Councillors updated on issues they have raised – including with our infrastructure contractors, the Infrastructure Alliance, who need to be acting like Council staff when they are working in the field.

9. Proposed Ministry of Education Sale of Richmond Park School

10. In the last few days elected members have become aware through media reports of the intention of the Ministry of Education to sell the Richmond Park School site in Bader Street.

11. There are a number of concerns about this proposal:

- A lack of consultation by the MoE with the community or the Council;
- A failure of the MoE to factor in the need for schools to be available in the area as a result of the likely approval of the Housing Infrastructure Fund application for significant development in the Peacockes growth cell adjoining the suburb the school site sits in;
- The potential change of the character of this part of Melville to include high density residential in an area where narrow roads and traffic density is already an issue;
- The failure to consider other short and medium-term community uses for the school buildings;
- The failure to consider the 2001 Council cash contribution to the school hall on the site, to enable community usage.

12. I understand there is going to be a community meeting held to discuss the Ministry of Education move, with details of this to be shortly circulated to elected members.

13. My comment is that the Ministry of Education, despite some recent staff assurances to the contrary, continues to put its own narrow, short-term considerations ahead of community needs and sound long-term planning considerations.

14. I propose the following resolution:

That the Council:

- a) requests the Minister of Education halts any moves towards a sale of the Richmond Park School, until such time as a genuine community consultation and forward planning process can be held, and all significant future uses of the site considered; and
- b) authorises Council management and West Ward Councillors to co-ordinate a consultation process with the Hamilton West MP, the Ministry of Education and Te Whare Kokonga (the Melville Community House)."

Councillor Dave Macpherson
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