



SOUTH TARANAKI DISTRICT COUNCIL

POLICY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Date: **Monday 6 April 2009**

Time: **1.00 pm**

Venue: **Council Chamber
Administration Building
Albion Street
Hawera**

POLICY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mayor R J C Dunlop (Chairperson)
Councillor Ian Armstrong
Councillor Alex Ballantyne
Councillor Andy Beccard
Councillor Kirsty Bourke
Councillor Ann Hickey
Councillor Peter Johnson
Councillor Gordon Lawson
Councillor Debbie Packer
Councillor Mike Powell
Councillor Simon Rangiwahia
Councillor Ian Smith
Councillor Ian Wards

DISTRIBUTION LIST

Policy Development Committee Members

Chief Executive
Group Manager Community Services and Development
Group Manager Engineering Services
Group Manager Environment and Information Services
Communications Manager
Animal Control/Parking Manager
Community Development Manager
Finance Manager
Management Reporting Accountant
Human Resource Manager
Support Services Manager
Contact Centre Manager
Planning Manager
Economic Development and Tourism Manager
Economic Development Advisor
Community Development Advisors (1 copy to circulate)
Strategic Policy Advisor
Support Services Supervisor
Support Services Officer
Records

PUBLIC COPIES

Hawera Administration Building
Libraries (7)
Public (2)

Mr J Goodwin
Taranaki Runanga (2)
Ngati Ruanui Iwi Authority (2)
Nga Ruahine Iwi Authority (3)
Nga Rauru Iwi Authority (2)

Venture Taranaki
Media (8)

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

Shannon Cox
Support Services Manager

Phone 0800 111 323
Fax [06] 278 8757

Next Meeting Date
Closing Date for Reports (Elected Members)

Monday 11 May 2009
Monday 27 April 2009

SOUTH TARANAKI DISTRICT COUNCIL

POLICY DEVELOPMENT MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Policy Development Meeting of Council will be held in the Council Chamber of the Administration Building, Albion Street, Hawera, Monday 6 April 2009, commencing at 1.00 pm.

1. APOLOGIES

2. OPEN FORUM

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

- (a) Council Policy Development Meeting held on 23 February 2009 – attached. See page 1.

4. REPORTS

(a) Group Manager Engineering Services

- (i) Reconstitution of the Regional Solid Wastes Working Party – attached. See page 6.

(b) Support Services Manager

- (i) 2009 Representation Review – attached 10. See page

5. INFORMATION REPORT

(a) Economic Development and Tourism Manager

- (i) Contracts with Venture Taranaki Trust – attached. See page 17.

6. ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED WITH THE PUBLIC EXCLUDED

Pursuant to Section 48 (1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the reasons stated within the reports, the public be excluded to enable discussion on:

6.1 Minutes

- (a) Council Policy Development Committee Meeting held on 23 February 2009 – attached. See page 22

6.2 Report

(a) Group Manager Community Services and Development

- (i) Hawera Cinema2 – attached. See page 26.

Grounds: Section 48(1) (a) That the public conduct of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist.

Reasons: Section 7(2)(b) (ii) Would be likely to unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information.

Council Policy Development Committee Meeting

Minutes of the Policy Development Committee Meeting of the South Taranaki District Council held in the Council Chamber, on 23 February 2009, commencing at 1.00 pm.

PRESENT: Mayor R Dunlop, Councillors A Ballantyne, A Beccard, K Bourke, A Hickey, P Johnson, G Lawson, D Packer, I Smith and I Wards.

IN ATTENDANCE: Chief Executive (Mr Stevenson), Group Manager Community Services and Development (Mrs Martin), Group Manager Environment and Information Services (Mr Young), Group Manager Engineering Services (Mr McCann), Support Services Manager (Miss Cox), Communications Manager (Mr Langford), Community Development Manager (Mrs Mecalick), Corporate Planner (Mrs Jane), Economic Development and Tourism Manager (Ms Greenhill), Economic Development Advisor (Mr Stockwell), Hawera Community Board Representative (Mr Greaves), Patea Community Board Representative (Mrs Dew-Hopkins – 1.17 pm), two members of the public and two members of the media.

APOLOGIES: Councillors Armstrong, Powell and Rangiwahia, Egmont Plains Community Board Representative Mrs Arlidge, Eltham Community Board Representative Mrs Cave and Patea Community Board Representative Mrs Dew-Hopkins (for lateness).

RESOLUTION

(Cr Packer/Cr Bourke)

01/09 PD **THAT the apologies from Councillors Armstrong, Powell and Rangiwahia, Egmont Plains Community Board Representative Mrs Arlidge, Eltham Community Board Representative Mrs Cave and Patea Community Board Representative Mrs Dew-Hopkins (for lateness) be received.**

CARRIED

1 **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

(a) **Council Policy Development Meeting held on 17 November 2008**

RESOLUTION

(Cr Wards/Cr Lawson)

02/09 PD **THAT the minutes of the Council Policy Development Committee meeting held on 17 November 2008 be received and confirmed as a correct record of proceedings.**

CARRIED

2 REPORTS

(a) Community Development Manager

(i) Southlink Bus Service

The Council was asked to support making a submission to the Taranaki Regional Council (TRC) on the Southlink bus services for their consideration.

The Mayor commented that the TRC had already made their decision on the bus services. Mrs Mokalick replied that they had made a decision due to their contract with the New Zealand Transport Agency requiring any new tenders to be advertised four months in advance. The TRC had still requested input from the Council and the submission included a suggestion that consideration be given to altering the Opunake to Hawera route to pass through Manaia and to maintain a separate service from Kaponga via Eltham to Hawera.

Councillor Beccard supported the submission and was pleased with how well utilised the bus service was between the towns in the district.

Councillor Hickey questioned the reference to a targeted rate for the gold card users and whether this had been allowed for in the budget for the Council. The Mayor clarified this was a Taranaki Regional Council targeted rate.

RESOLUTION

(Cr Beccard/Cr Smith)

03/09 PD

THAT the South Taranaki District Council support the submission to the Taranaki Regional Council as presented.

CARRIED

(b) Corporate Planner

(i) Ten Year Plan Policies and Funded Depreciation

The Ten Year Plan policies were provided for the Council's formal consideration prior to audit inspection and then formal consultation with the district's residents. The new funded depreciation policy developed at the Ten Year Plan workshops was included for the Council's formal consideration for inclusions in the draft Ten Year Plan.

Some clarification was sought regarding the funded depreciation policy. Mrs Jane advised that for strategic assets funds would be set aside to pay off loans for any assets that had loans ie water supplies. For non strategic assets enough funds would be set aside to cover renewals, however, it would not be for the full replacement of any assets.

Councillor Hickey asked if the Opunake Town Hall required a toilet upgrade whether this was classed as a renewal. Mrs Jane replied the project would need to be examined to determine whether it was simply a replacement of existing components (renewals) or funding involved raising the level of service which was loan funded.

The councillors requested that consideration be given to the proposed removal of the Patea Domain playground and whether it could remain in place even though it would not receive an upgrade.

Councillor Hickey referred to the *Enhancing Maori Capacity to Contribute to Council Decision-Making* policy and questioned whether it implied that Maori would be involved in the citizenship ceremonies. It was clarified that the Mayor would lead the ceremonies and would decide on the level of involvement in those ceremonies by Maori.

Mrs Dew-Hopkins arrived at 1.17 pm.

Councillor Wards expressed some concerns at the *Revenue and Financing Policy*. He noted that when the levels of service workshops had been held there had not been any financial information available and it was difficult to consider the rating impact for the district. He noted that our Council was one of a few who did not charge for library issues. He suggested that this should be considered as a user pays service and that those residents who were not ratepayers received a free service. By charging for library issues library uses would pay their *fair share*.

Councillor Wards referred to the differentials and considered that the reasons for removing the differentials were inconsistent, for example it was considered that the Patea Dam had an isolation factor, whereas a number of rural properties were also isolated.

Councillor Ballantyne suggested that the library charges would not affect the UAGC as it was now a minimum charge. He referred to the differentials and suggested that the Patea Dam was no different to a large farm or business and he considered that the Patea Dam was a listed company and had assets of over \$40 million which was more than sufficient to be able to pay their fair share of rates.

Councillor Johnson supported the libraries remaining a free service, noting that if the Council decided to implement charges for the libraries then the same exercise could be undertaken for swimming pools and parks. He noted that the membership at each LibraryPlus was high throughout South Taranaki.

Councillor Beccard considered that building capital reserve funds was a prudent financial method for building up assets and that borrowing was a good way of splitting the cost of assets over the generations. He supported the Revenue and Financing Policy.

Mr Stevenson indicated that the staff would be able to reword the explanation for the removal of the differentials to provide better clarification.

Councillor Wards acknowledged the comments about the libraries and suggested that if the Council was serious about keeping rating levels at a low then this should be investigated further. He noted that fines had been abolished a number of years ago as it was considered that they were too difficult to collect. Councillor Wards commented that he was not entirely comfortable with the change in the UAGC to a minimum charge as he considered this was removing the transparency of the UAGC.

Councillor Ballantyne referred to the *Financial and Development Contribution Policy* and asked what the rural road capability study meant. Councillor Lawson clarified that the Taranaki Regional Council had undertaken a rural road strategy and the three local authorities were also required to undertake a similar study.

RESOLUTION**(Cr Bourke/Cr Beccard)**

04/09 PD **THAT the policies be included in the draft 2009/2019 Ten Year Plan for auditing and public consultation; and**

THAT the funded depreciation policy as outlined in the Corporate Planner's report be the basis for calculating funded depreciation for the Council's assets in the draft 2009/2019 Ten Year Plan.

CARRIED**3 INFORMATION REPORT****(a) Economic Development and Tourism Manager****(i) Quarterly Tourism Report**

Two components were included in the quarterly tourism report. The first was a progress report on the implementation of the Taranaki Tourism Strategy which the Council endorsed and Venture Taranaki Trust was contracted to implement. The second component highlighted the key activities the South Taranaki i-SITE visitor centre had undertaken during the same period.

Ms Greenhill tabled the latest statistics highlighting the record number of visitors to South Taranaki since records began. She noted that some of this related to a number of maintenance *shut downs* throughout November 2008.

Councillor Packer referred to the walkway brochure that she had received and expressed some concern that the map did not include the whole of the South Taranaki district. She noted that it promoted the Patea Historical Walkway yet the map only went as far as Mokoia. Ms Greenhill clarified that this was a first attempt at the brochure and a number of suggestions had been made for improvements.

Councillor Johnson asked if it was possible to include statistics relating to the number of visitors which shared comparison to various other regions. Ms Greenhill indicated that she would speak to Mr Paul Stancliff-White from Venture Taranaki Trust to see if those figures could be included in his report.

Mr Trundle advised that Taranaki as a region was significantly ahead of other areas in relation to visitors. He noted that while Taranaki had a much lower percentage share of the national and international market it was definitely ahead in percentage increases compared to other regions.

RESOLUTION**(Mayor/Cr Smith)**

05/09 PD **THAT the Economic Development and Tourism Manager's Quarterly Tourism report be received.**

CARRIED

Report

Central File Ref 849/01

To	Policy Development Committee
From	Group Manager, Engineering Services
Date	25 March 2009
Subject	Reconstitution of the Regional Solid Waste Working Party

(This report shall not be construed as policy until adopted by full Council)

1. Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to outline a proposal for a reconstituted regional waste management working party that is aligned with the Waste Minimisation Act 2008 and takes into account added waste minimisation responsibilities for territorial authorities.

Key points for Members' information in the items are:

- The four councils of the region have worked together successfully within an ad hoc waste working party.
- To meet the obligations of, and to take advantage of the Waste Minimisation Act (2008), it is proposed to re-constitute the working party as a joint committee of the four councils.
- This report presents a recommendation for approval in principle.
- Should all four councils each agree to the concept, then a draft terms of reference will be presented to a future meeting to take the concept further.

2. Background

Historically, the Council has had a well established role in waste management outside the core district council functions of municipal waste collection and disposal, and there has also been significant intra regional cooperation between the four councils. South Taranaki District Council, in partnership with the New Plymouth and Stratford District Councils, and the Taranaki Regional Council, developed the non-statutory Regional Waste Strategy for Taranaki. The Strategy set out targets and actions modified from the New Zealand Waste Strategy to reflect the Taranaki situation. Through the employment of a Waste Minimisation Officer, jointly funded by the four councils, the Council implements the targets set out in the Regional Waste Strategy for Taranaki.

2.1 Regional Solid Waste Working Party

The Council is also a participant in the Regional Solid Waste Working Party (the Working Party). The Working Party is currently made up of representatives from: the Taranaki Regional Council, New Plymouth District Council, Stratford District Council, and South Taranaki District Council, and Waste Management Ltd (current provider of municipal refuse collection and recycling services). It is a forum of councillors and senior staff to consider all aspects of waste management.

The Working Party was established in 2004 by the three district councils, with the Regional Council invited to participate shortly thereafter. The Working Party's purpose is:

- to develop a detailed proposal for funding and managing the shared landfills;
- to assist, where appropriate, with obtaining consents; and
- to co-ordinate any matter relating to solid waste management in Taranaki.

Since its establishment, the Working Party has met on a regular basis, focusing on the development of shared landfill facilities, the obtainment of consents where applicable and any other issues as they arose. The Working Party has been particularly successful in progressing the establishment and operation of a single 'regional' landfill for the Taranaki region at Colson Road, New Plymouth, and provisionally at Eltham. However, with the enactment of the Waste Minimisation Act, it is timely for the Working Party to consider its future role.

It is currently chaired by Councillor Walker from the Regional Council, and administered by the New Plymouth District Council.

2.2 Waste Minimisation Act 2008

The recent enactment of the Waste Minimisation Act in 2008 has implications for the Councils with regards to their waste management responsibilities.

The Waste Minimisation Act includes waste management provisions formerly set out in the Local Government Act 2002. However, it includes a number of new elements. Of particular note, under the new Act, levies are applied to the disposal of waste to a landfill. The levy is collected and forwarded to central government by the waste disposal operators. Fifty percent of the levy is then returned to territorial authorities (based upon population) with the remainder of the levy being available through a contestable fund to the Minister. Levy money can only be spent on initiatives to promote or achieve waste minimisation, and in accordance with a district's waste management and minimisation plan.

Under the new Waste Minimisation Act, there are obvious benefits to continuing to co-operate and promote waste collection and disposal projects with intra-regional benefits. There are also opportunities for extending the Working Party's role to cover waste minimisation. There may also be advantages to revising the working party concept from a purely advisory role to a decision-making role. For example, decision-making associated with the use of waste management levies could be decided on a regional perspective rather than referring such decisions to all the individual councils. The Working Party itself has expressed the value of, and desire to expand its role in these ways.

2.3 Decision making obligations

Part 6 (planning, decision-making and accountability) of the Local Government Act 2002 has been considered and documented in the preparation of this report. The recommendation(s) made in report comply with the decision-making obligations of the Act.

2.4 Policy considerations

This report and the associated recommendations are consistent with the policy documents and positions adopted by the Council under various legislative frameworks including, but not restricted to, the Local Government Act 2002, the Resource Management Act 1991 and the Biosecurity Act 1993.

2.5 Financial considerations

This report and associated recommendations do not have any direct financial impact on Council, however the formation of a joint committee is likely to benefit Council when applications are made to Central Government for contestable funds.

2.6 Legislative Considerations

This report and the associated recommendations comply with the appropriate statutory requirements imposed upon the Council.

2.7 Community Outcomes Affected/Impacted

Waste minimisation supports the following Environmental Community Outcome: 'Our natural environment is continually enhanced through programmes which reflect our communities' sense of kaitiakitanga (caring and protection)'.

2.8 Impact on Māori/Iwi

The reconstitution of the Regional Solid Wastes Working Party has no direct impact on Māori.

3. Discussion/Evaluation

The Working Party has examined the options for its structure and functions going forward, and has determined that the most useful option is to be re-constituted as a *joint committee*.

This option involves the establishment of joint inter-council committees (both regional and district) to consider and facilitate co-ordination of common issues and functions. Under Schedule 7 (sections 30 and 31) of the Local Government Act 2002 there are strict provisions relating to the establishment of joint committees. It is possible to have representatives on a committee who are not elected members of a council. Examples of joint committees currently operating in Taranaki are the Regional Transport Committee for Taranaki, and the Civil Defence Emergency Management Group. These groups have an appointed Chair, set functions, are empowered to make their own decisions, and have an administering authority (the Taranaki Regional Council in both these cases).

Preliminary discussions between member organisations have indicated support for the Working Party being reconstituted to have a decision making role on waste management issues. The Working Party also needs to deliver an expanded waste management role to capture added waste minimisation responsibilities. It would also be useful to have powers to decide financial matters (within the bounds set by district waste plans or as delegated otherwise). It is therefore proposed to reconstitute the working party as a joint committee with political representatives from the four Councils. Political representatives will have voting powers. Also sitting on the joint committee will be senior waste management staff from the councils and a representative(s) from the waste management industry. They will be acting in an advisory capacity to the elected representatives (they will have speaking but no voting rights).

Of note, the establishment of a joint committee could:

- Widen the current scope of the current working party to also address waste minimisation issues (not just solid waste);

- Empower a joint forum for regional and district councils to cooperate and decide on waste management projects and initiatives with intra regional benefits, e.g. the use of waste management levies and applications to the national contestable fund;
- Empower a joint forum for regional and district councils to consider, advocate and comment on national waste management issues of common interest;
- Enable decision making associated with waste management to be decided on a regional rather than district basis;
- Ensure timely administrative decision making on waste management responses rather than having any decisions/recommendations still needing to be referred to all the individual councils for their individual consideration;
- Allow the committee to seek access to the national contestable fund of waste levies, and for decisions on the disbursement of waste levy funds (in a manner consistent with the waste plans);
- Provide for waste management planning studies and their implementation; and
- Streamline reporting and accountability requirements whereby the forum that is discussing and considering information is also making the decision.

The respective representatives of each council on the Working Party have agreed to take the recommendation for formation of a new joint committee back to their councils for approval in principle. Subject to this agreement, the next step would be to work through draft terms of reference. These in turn would be brought back to councils for approval, with the subsequent formation of the new Waste Management Group.

4. Conclusion

The reconstitution of the Regional Solid Waste Working Party as a joint committee would enable Councils to apply for contestable central government funds as a region, instead of individual Councils, and the committee would have a decision-making role on waste management issues. Preliminary discussions with council representatives have indicated support for the Working Party to be reconstituted, and this has also gained support from members of the Engineering Portfolio Group.

5. Recommendation

THAT the South Taranaki District Council receives this memorandum on the option to re-constitute the current Regional Solid Wastes Working Party as a joint committee having functions under the Waste Minimisation Act 2008; and

THAT the South Taranaki District Council agrees in principle to support the proposal and to pursue membership of the group as re-constituted; and

THAT the South Taranaki District Council notes that a final decision on membership awaits adoption of suitable terms of reference.



Neil McCann
Group Manager
Engineering Services



[Seen by]
 Craig Stevenson
Chief Executive

Report

Central File Ref 135/07

To	Mayor and Councillors
From	Support Services Manager, Shannon Cox
Date	17 March 2009
Subject	2009 Representation Review

(This report shall not be construed as policy until adopted by full Council)

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 As defined by the Local Electoral Act 2002 the Council is required to review their representation arrangements at least every six years.
- 1.2 The first part of the review was to decide on the electoral system for the 2010 elections and the Council resolved to continue with the First Past the Post System.
- 1.3 The final part of the representation review is to decide on the representation arrangements for the local authority. Once the Council had decided on their initial proposal for representation this will be publicly advertised and a submission and hearing process held. Following the Council's final decision on representation any appeals will be sent to the Local Government Commission who then make their final determination by April 2010 for implementation at the October 2010 elections.

2. Background

As defined by the Local Electoral Act, representation is a review of the particular representation arrangements for any local authority. In the case of territorial authorities, they include the basis of election (at large, wards or a mix of both) and establishment of community boards. The review determines for the local authority the detailed arrangements on the number of electoral subdivisions (if any), their boundaries, names and numbers of members.

The Council is required to review its electoral arrangements in respect to:

- the number of elected members
- whether those members are to be elected at large, or by ward, or by a combination of both
- ward boundaries, ward names and the number of elected members for each ward; and
- whether there should be Community Boards and if so, the nature and structure of the Community Board(s).

The results of the review will be relevant for the next local government tri-ennial elections which will be held in October 2010.

The first part of the review was to decide on the Electoral System for the 2010 elections and at the Ordinary Council meeting held on 8 September 2008 the Council resolved as follows:

RESOLUTION

(Cr Wards/Cr Lawson)

130/08 **THAT the Council retain the First Past the Post (FPP) electoral system for the 2010 election and this decision be publicly notified by 19 September 2008.**

CARRIED

A review of the Maori wards or constituencies will be undertaken in three years time. This is not formally part of the representation review process and is a matter for each local authority to decide. There is no right of appeal to the Commission.

2.1 Existing Council Policy

There is no existing Council Policy regarding representation.

2.2 Current Situation

The current situation for representation is as follows:

A mayor – elected at large

Twelve councillors elected on a ward basis as follows:

Hawera	4 members
Tangahoe	1 members
Eltham	2 members
Patea	2 members
Egmont Plains	3 members

There are four community boards elected on a ward basis with four members elected for each Board (Hawera, Eltham, Patea and Egmont Plains Community Boards).

The current electoral population by ward is as follows (figures estimated by Statistics New Zealand as at 30 June 2007):

Ward Name	Councillor Numbers	Population per councillor	Complies with the Act
Hawera/Normanby	4	2402	Yes
Tangahoe	1	2560	No
Egmont Plains	3	2200	Yes
Eltham	2	2060	Yes
Patea	2	1970	No

+/- 10% rule is as follows:

The Council must ensure that the population of each ward, divided by the number of members elected to that ward, produces a figure no more than 10% greater or smaller than the population of the district divided by the total number of elected members (other than the mayor).