

Minutes of a meeting of the Infrastructure Committee held via Zoom on Thursday 7 May 2020 commencing at 10.00am

Present:

Councillor Quentin Smith (Chair); Councillor Penny Clark, Councillor Heath Copland, Councillor Craig Ferguson, Councillor Niki Gladding and Councillor Glyn Lewers

In attendance:

Mr Peter Hansby (General Manager, Property and Infrastructure), Ms Polly Lambert (Strategy and Asset Planning Manager) Ms Jesse Taylor (Senior Investment Advisor), Mr Tony Pickard (Transport Strategy Manager), Mrs Alice Conway (Policy and Performance Advisor), and Ms Jane Robertson (Senior Governance Advisor)

Apologies

There were no apologies.

Declarations of Conflicts of Interest

There were no conflicts notified.

Matters Lying on the Table

There were no matters lying on the table.

Public Forum

In line with the provisions adopted for conducting meetings during the COVID-19 Pandemic Level 3 period, the Governance Advisor read aloud the comments received for the Public Forum.

Gillian MacLeod

Ms MacLeod made a number of suggested changes to the Strategic Outcomes Framework, encouraging shorter wording where possible and in light of the Covid-19 emergency response and recovery, to replace 'stable' with 'diverse' and 'sustain' with 'align'.

Cath Gilmour

Ms Gilmour suggested a number of additions and deletions to the Strategic Outcomes Framework. In relation to the goal not to let contaminants to enter the natural environment, she asked for the barrier to the wetland below Remarkables Primary School to be replaced.

The Chair thanked both individuals for taking the time to make comment. He acknowledged that both were former Councillors.

The Chair noted that because the meeting was taking place via Zoom, he would take each substantive motion as if it were a division.

Confirmation of Agenda

The agenda was confirmed without addition or alteration.

Confirmation of Minutes

On the motion of Councillors Copland and Lewers the Infrastructure Committee resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 13 February 2020 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

1. Acceptance of 30 Year Infrastructure Strategic Outcomes Framework

A report from Jesse Taylor (Senior Investment Advisor) presented the Strategic Outcomes Framework for formal acceptance, noting that it would form a component of the 2021-2051 Infrastructure Strategy that was currently in development.

Ms Taylor, Ms Lambert and Mr Hansby presented the report. Mr Hansby reminded members that the scope of activities covered by the framework was 3-waters, transport and waste management only.

Ms Taylor outlined the comprehensive processes taken to develop the framework and detailed how it would be used. She noted a minor error in 3.1 of the attachment where the objective linked to the goal to 'provide high quality, affordable services' was incorrectly worded although it was correct in the covering report. She clarified that it should read: *"Respond to demand for services in a way that meets customer quality and affordability expectations."*

Councillor Gladding questioned whether the framework covered construction and observed that it did not refer to waste minimisation. She also referred to changes she had circulated earlier to the committee that she wished to raise in relation to the framework and asked how they could be incorporated in the document presented.

Mr Hansby advised that the preference of staff was to adopt the framework as presented and without change. He was concerned about the risk of making hasty changes, particularly in light of the methodical process taken and the extensive engagement with other parties to produce the Framework. He believed that Councillor Gladding's suggestions could be accommodated into the broader document, but would prefer the Framework to remain as presented to the committee.

Councillor Gladding noted that the Infrastructure Committee had had a brief opportunity to provide feedback on the Framework in February 2020, but members had not been advised that this would be their only opportunity to comment on the draft. She expressed concern about the limited opportunity for elected members to have input in comparison with other parties.

Mr Hansby thanked Councillor Gladding for acknowledging the earlier discussions. He stated that she should have contacted him earlier if she had concerns about the process and level of detail. He had concluded from the earlier discussion that committee members were generally supportive of the Framework.

Councillor Smith supported the approach presented in the Framework. He viewed it as only one step in the process, noting that it would eventually be subject to a full consultative procedure as part of the next 10-Year Plan. Accordingly, there would be further opportunity to have input.

Councillor Smith questioned whether 'reduction' was a more powerful word to use in the context of waste than 'minimise'. Councillor Lewers agreed that 'reduction' was a stronger word than 'minimise' and was a better word in terms of carbon. Notwithstanding that, he did not agree with changing the text of the Framework at the meeting and preferred to retain it as drafted. Councillor Ferguson acknowledged the immense amount of work that had gone into developing the Framework, but did not support making any changes to it at the meeting.

Councillor Gladding considered that as she would have little future opportunity to make changes, she had a number of amendments that she wished to put forward for inclusion in the Framework. She also indicated support for the wording changes suggested by Ms MacLeod in her Public Forum address, in particular, use of the word 'align' rather than 'sustain'.

Councillor Gladding proceeded to detail several changes and points of clarification that she wished to raise and Mr Hansby commented in response.

Councillor Copland acknowledged Councillor Gladding's significant work in response to the Framework, noting that he did not fundamentally disagree with her comments, but neither did he consider that they would make substantial change to the overall Framework. Accordingly, he did not support making any change to the Framework at the meeting.

The Chair asked if Councillor Gladding wished to move something different from the report recommendation, but Councillor Gladding declined.

It was moved (Councillor Clark/Councillor Lewers):

That the Infrastructure Committee:

- 1. Note that the 2021–2051 Infrastructure Strategy is currently in development;**
- 2. Accept the 30 Year Infrastructure Strategic Outcomes Framework;**
- 3. Agree that infrastructure investment planning required to inform the 2021 Long Term Plan be progressed using the Strategic Outcomes Framework; and**

4. **Note that the Strategic Outcomes Framework will form part of the 2021-2051 Infrastructure Strategy, which will be consulted on as part of the formal public consultation process followed for the 2021 Long Term Plan.**

The motion was put and carried (5:1):

For: Councillor Clark, Councillor Copland, Councillor Ferguson, Councillor Lewers, Councillor Smith

Against: Councillor Gladding

Abstain: Nil

2. **Submission on Investment Decision-Making Framework Review**

A covering report from Alice Conway (Policy and Performance Advisor) presented a submission made to Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency (NZTA) on the Investment Decision-Making Framework Review for the Committee's feedback and retrospective approval, noting that the submission had been made to NZTA on 21 February 2020.

Mrs Conway presented this report and the item following. She noted that Mr Pickard was also in attendance to respond to technical questions about this report or that following. Mr Pickard advised that the submission was largely about improving the process for applying for funds and if adopted, would help to tailor the scope of the business case to the size of the investment sought from NZTA.

Members expressed support for the submission, but asked for earlier notification of these processes in future so that retrospective approval was not necessary. Councillor Gladding asked for a link to the original consultation document.

Mrs Conway agreed that the present situation was not ideal and staff were working on streamlining the process to avoid this occurring in the future.

The Chair agreed that better communication about future consultation processes was a fair request and agreed that a link to the background information would be useful.

It was moved (Councillors Lewers/Councillor Clark):

That the Infrastructure Committee:

1. **Notes the contents of this report; and**
2. **Approve retrospectively the contents of the submission.**

The motion was put and carried unanimously:

For: Councillor Clark, Councillor Copland, Councillor Ferguson, Councillor Gladding Councillor Lewers, Councillor Smith

Against: Nil

Abstain: Nil

3. Submission on Arataki

A covering report from Alice Conway (Policy and Performance Advisor) presented a submission made to Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency (NZTA) on Arataki for the Committee's feedback and retrospective approval, noting that the submission had been made to NZTA on 30 February 2020. The report noted that Arataki was NZTA's 10-year view of what they consider to be required to deliver on the government's current priorities and long-term objectives for the land transport system.

Mrs Conway presented the report. She noted a late change to the situation and although the submission appended to the report had already been submitted to NZTA, there was now a short window to add to the submission. Further, there would be subsequent versions of the document and future opportunities to make feedback.

Members noted the further option to make additional comment but agreed that any feedback could wait until the next version of the document.

It was moved (Councillor Lewers/Councillor Ferguson):

That the Infrastructure Committee:

- 1. Notes the contents of this report; and**
- 2. Approve retrospectively the contents of the submission.**

The motion was put and carried unanimously:

For: Councillor Clark, Councillor Copland, Councillor Ferguson, Councillor Gladding Councillor Lewers, Councillor Smith

Against: Nil

Abstain: Nil

The meeting concluded at 11.24am.

CONFIRMED AS A TRUE AND CORRECT RECORD:

CHAIRPERSON

DATE