



**NOTICE OF MEETING OF THE
LONG TERM COUNCIL COMMUNITY PLAN
COMMITTEE**

I hereby give notice that the Long Term Council Community Plan Committee meeting of the Papakura District Council is to be held on:

DATE: Thursday 3rd November 2009

TIME: 1.00 pm

VENUE: Council Chambers
35 Coles Crescent
PAPAKURA

T Stratton
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

MEMBERSHIP:

Chairperson: Clr F J Auva'a
Deputy Chairperson: Clr P C Goldsmith

Members: His Worship the Mayor (C Penrose)
 Clr C A Conroy
 Clr B Catchpole
 Clr P A Jones
 Clr M P O'Connor
 Clr K P Piggott
 Clr O G Pringle
 William Brown
 Ann Kendall

(Quorum 4 members)

(The reports and recommendations contained in this Order Paper are not necessarily Council Policy and should not be taken as Council Policy, or opinion)

PAPAKURA DISTRICT COUNCIL

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PAPAKURA DISTRICT COUNCIL

**AGENDA FOR THE MEETING OF THE LTCCP/ANNUAL PLAN COMMITTEE TO
BE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 35 COLES CRESCENT, PAPAKURA
ON TUESDAY 3RD NOVEMBER 2009 COMMENCING AT 1.00 P.M.**

1. APOLOGIES

2. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

- (a) That the Minutes of the LTCCP/Annual Plan Committee Meeting held Tuesday 21st May 2009 be confirmed.

3. LTCCP / ANNUAL PLAN

(a) ANNUAL PLAN 2010/2011

**REPORTING OFFICER: J Hames
Director Policy and Democracy Services**

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The purpose of this report is for Council to consider changes to the Annual Planning process and to approve how these changes are implemented.

BACKGROUND

The 2010/2011 annual planning process has been changed by legislation to recognise the imminent changes to Auckland governance. This report sets out these changes and makes recommendations to the Council on how to implement these changes. Resolutions from previous planning processes are also brought forward for consideration.

NARRATIVE

New Legislation

In the second of the Local Government bills to bring into effect the new Auckland Council, new provisions were promulgated in relation to the LTCCP/Annual Planning processes for the Councils of the region and the ATA. In a nutshell these changes are:

- Councils must prepare an Annual Plan for the 2010/2011 financial year but this is only required to cover the period from 1 July 2009 to 31 October 2010.
- So long as this Annual Plan is consistent with (year two of) the 2009/2010 LTCCP, no consultation is required in relation to this Annual Plan.
- Councils must set rates and other revenue mechanisms for the full twelve month period; these must be sufficient to fund the 4 month period plus the balance of the financial year as if the requirements identified for the 4-month period continued for the balance of the financial year.
- Councils must consult with the ATA throughout the preparation of the Annual Plan.

Officers from around the region are working collaboratively to try to ensure that this legislation is interpreted consistently and so that the planning process is as smooth as possible for both the current Councils and the new organisation. In order to compile the information needed for all aspects of the 2010-2011 planning, the main Council decisions (that is, the decision to adopt the Annual Plan and the revenue projections) need to be made by the end of March 2010.

Annual Plan or LTCCP Amendment?

The key issue that is raised by the new requirements for the 2010/2011 planning process is the need for the Council to decide whether it is simply endorsing the second year of the LTCCP or whether it considers that it is necessary to make more than minor changes to the 2010/2011 Annual plan which would then require preparation of an LTCCP amendment. An LTCCP amendment would be required should the Council decide to change service levels or acquire or sell assets which had not been provided for previously. An LTCCP amendment would be a substantial exercise involving an audit, preparation of a Statement of Proposal, agreement of the

ATA to the amendments, consultation with the community on the amendment; hearings and preparation of the final LTCCP. The additional, unbudgeted costs of this exercise would be in the order of \$50,000 for the audit plus around \$25,000 for production of the LTCCP amendment documents and consultation costs.

As Council is only preparing an annual plan for the first 4 months of the 2010 financial year, it is very unlikely that it would be appropriate to make changes to service levels or the sale or acquisition of assets for this period.

Previous Resolutions

During the preparation of the LTCCP 2009/2019, the following resolutions were passed by the Council.

THAT THE POLICY FOR RENTAL FOR HOUSING FOR THE ELDERLY BE REVIEWED TO CONSIDER LINKING IT TO SUPERANNUATION.

THAT THE COMMITTEE SUPPORT THE CONTINUED FUNDING OF SECURITY AT THE PARK AND RIDE CAR PARK FOR THE 2009/10 YEAR WITH A REVIEW THROUGH THE NEXT ANNUAL PLAN PROCESS.

THAT THE COMMITTEE APPROVE THE CONTINUATION OF FUNDING SECURITY AT THE FARMERS CAR PARK FOR THE 2009/10 YEAR WITH A REVIEW THROUGH THE NEXT ANNUAL PLAN PROCESS.

THAT THE COMMITTEE DOES NOT APPROVE THE INTRODUCTION OF CHARGING AT THE FARMERS CAR PARK FOR THE 2009/10 YEAR WITH A REVIEW THROUGH THE NEXT ANNUAL PLAN PROCESS

THAT NOXIOUS WEED CONTROL BE UNDERTAKEN IN THE MOST ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE MANNER MINIMISING USE OF SPRAYS AND THAT THE AMOUNT SET ASIDE FOR THIS PURPOSE BE REVIEWED FOR THE YEAR 2010 ANNUAL PLAN.

THAT ONGOING TEN YEARS ANNUAL CAPITAL FUNDING OF \$2.5 MILLION FOR BPP DEVELOPMENT BE BROUGHT BACK FOR CONSIDERATION FOR THE 2010/11 ANNUAL PLAN.

Each of these resolutions and their implications for the Annual Plan process is examined in the next sections.

In the 2010/2011 year of the LTCCP, Rental of Housing for the Elderly has been budgeted to include a small increase on the current year levels. Either leaving the rental at the current level or making this small increase will not require an LTCCP amendment. If the policy were to be changed to link the rental to superannuation, this would be an amendment of the Council's funding policy and would require an LTCCP amendment. As the policy with respect to rental housing is a matter which may be set by either the Boards of the future or the new Auckland Council it is considered appropriate that the proposal to link the rental to superannuation is not advanced any further by Council.

Funding for security at the Park and Ride has been provided in each of the ten years of the LTCCP 2009-2019. If the Council were to cease the security service for the Park and Ride, this would be a change in service levels which would trigger the requirement to prepare an LTCCP amendment. It is suggested that any such change is a matter for the new Council (or the local Board) to consider in the context of regional parking provision and that no changes to the current provisions should be made.

Funding for security at the Farmers Car Park has been provided in each of the ten years of the LTCCP 2009-2019. If the Council were to cease the security service for the Farmers Car Park, this would be a change in service levels which would trigger the requirement to prepare an LTCCP amendment. Should the Council wish to include a parking charge for this service, this would also trigger the requirement to prepare an LTCCP amendment. It is suggested that any such changes for a relatively minor amount of savings do not justify the cost of the LTCCP and are best seen as a matter for the new Council (or the local Board) to consider in the appropriate context such as Town Centre support.

The provision for noxious weed control was increased from \$3,000 per annum to \$50,000 per annum in the LTCCP. The resolution was passed because some members of the Committee wished to see more money spent on noxious weed control. Any such increase would be a service level increase which might trigger the need for an LTCCP amendment although, given the impact of this change it might be able to be dealt with through a variation to the Annual Plan and additional consultation. This is not considered to be appropriate for a service that will become a regional responsibility within the new Council.

Capital funds to support development at Bruce Pulman Park have been a matter raised with the Council for some years now. While the project to develop a comprehensive development plan for the Park is still underway, good progress has been made. Although the desired development path is becoming clearer, as it has not been completed yet, there has been no consideration given to the Council's potential role in supporting this development and, especially, how this might be funded. At present, in the absence of any analysis and concrete projects which can be shown to be "caused by" or to support new growth, any new funding would have to be rates funded. As this would be a major departure from the current LTCCP, it would require an LTCCP amendment to be prepared.

As the concept planning project is still underway it appears to be difficult to provide robust justification for additional capital budgets for development on the Bruce Pulman Park. Even if the information was more developed, there would still be no certainty that this funding would be approved in the future by the new Auckland Council. Should the Council wish to add such new funding, this decision would require confirmation by the ATA as well as incur additional costs of the amended LTCCP. Should the Council wish to indicate its support for the future development of the Park once the issues are fully developed, a formal recommendation from this Council to the new Auckland Council (or, as appropriate, a new Board) would be an alternative approach which may be as effective and will be less costly.

Consultation

The new legislation has enabled Councils to adopt the 2010 Annual Plan by resolution without the need for additional consultation so long as the Plan is consistent with the LTCCP. This is essentially a pragmatic response to a transition situation whereby it would be almost "dishonest" to appear to be consulting with residents on the plan and budgets when the responsibility for this plan would, for the most part, not rest with the Council. At the time of writing this report, it is understood that at least one of the large Councils may be undertaking a "feedback" process on their annual plan. While the reasons for this approach are, as yet, unclear, it is not recommended by officers. Unless this is a very minimal process (e.g. an advertisement in the Courier inviting feedback), informative, engaging feedback processes are both costly and time consuming. Also, and more importantly, such a process would give the appearance that the outcome is able to be influenced in more than minor ways.

CONCLUSION

The 2010/2011 Annual Planning process has been changed for the Auckland Councils to recognise the split responsibilities of the current Councils and the ATA on behalf of the new Auckland Council and Boards. These changes allow Council's to respond pragmatically to the transition by adopting Year 2 of the LTCCP 2009/2019 as their Annual Plan if this is appropriate, without additional consultation. Making changes which would trigger an LTCCP amendment in the current circumstances will lead to both timing difficulties and additional costs. Previous resolutions of the Council that relate to this annual planning process have been reviewed and assessed for the implications of taking action as a result of the resolutions. It is considered that for the majority of these resolutions, any action would trigger an LTCCP amendment and that there is insufficient justification for any of these matters to be advanced given the additional costs involved and the imminent transfer of responsibilities. Accordingly, it is proposed that the Council prepare an Annual Plan for the first four months of 2010/2011 which is consistent with the 2010/2011 year of the LTCCP 2009-2019.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the information be received.
2. That the Council prepare an Annual Plan for 2010/2011 covering the 4-month period from 1 July 2010-31 October 2010 which is consistent with the 2010/2011 year of the LTCCP 2009-2019 .