

Order Paper

A Meeting of the Community and Assets Committee will be held in the Council Chamber, First Floor, Administration Building, Torphin Crescent, Tokoroa on Thursday 31 January 2008 commencing at the conclusion of the Ordinary Meeting of Council but, in any event, not before 10.30am



Dr. Hall
Chief Executive

The South Waikato ...

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Distribution

Mayor and Councillors	11	Offices/Libraries	6	News Media	5
		Tokoroa Library		South Waikato News	
Management Team:	8	Putaruru Library		Waikato Times	
Chief Executive		Tirau Library		NZ Herald	
GM Assets		Tokoroa Office (CSOs)		Radio Forestland	
GM Corporate		Putaruru Office		Radio Raukawa	
GM Environment		Tirau Information Centre (Agency)			
Human Resources Manager		Other	6		
Communications Manager		Mr D Gittings (Arapuni Res Comm)			
Comm Development Manager		Mrs L Gardiner (Tirau Business Association)			
Special Projects Manager		10 Mr N Barker (Env Walkato)			
Staff:		Canmap Hawley (Rotorua)			
Southtech Manager		Mr G Brunton (Tok Info Centre)			
Services Manager		Raukawa Trust Board			
Asset Strategy Manager					
Personal Assistant (4)					
Archives (2)					
Comm Development Staff				Total	46

Community and Assets Committee Meeting
Public Business

Community and Assets Committee - Functions

Reporting to

Council

Constitution

Full Council

Meeting Frequency

Six-weekly

Objective

To overview and, where necessary, determine activities in the Community Development Section and the Assets Group.

Scope of Activity

- To formulate policy, planning and evaluation of performance in activities that foster recreation, arts, culture and heritage and community development.
- To consider proposals of an economic and/or community development nature.
- To monitor and review economic and community development strategies.
- To monitor a sound physical infrastructure for the District, including policy, planning and evaluation of performance.
- To consider and determine such reports as are placed before the Committee regarding the activities of the Community and Assets Group.
- To consider and determine matters which would normally fall within the Scope of Activity of the Corporate and Environment Committee.

Power to Act

Pursuant to Clause 32 of Schedule 7 to the Local Government 2002 Council delegates all of its responsibilities, duties and powers to the Community and Assets Committee, with the following exceptions:

- (a) The power to make a rate; or
- (b) The power to make a bylaw; or
- (c) The power to borrow money, or purchase or dispose of assets, other than in accordance with the long-term council community plan; or
- (d) The power to adopt a long-term council community plan, annual plan, or annual report; or
- (e) The power to appoint a chief executive; or
- (f) The power to adopt policies required to be adopted and consulted on under this Act in association with the long-term council community plan or developed for the purpose of the local governance statement.
- (g) The adoption of bylaws, reviewed district plans or district plan changes.

Management Responsibility

Group Manager Assets

Order Paper
Community and Assets Committee Meeting
Public Business

**Council Chamber, First Floor, Administration Building, Torphin Crescent, Tokoroa,
on Thursday 31 January 2008, commencing at the conclusion of the Ordinary
Meeting of Council but, in any event, not before 10.30am**

Attendees

Members:	Deputy Mayor:	JR Shattock (Chair)
	Mayor:	NA Sinclair (Deputy)
	Councillors:	E Barker
		FF Campbell
		W Cook
		L Corban
		A Edmeades
		M Gubb
		S McMahon
		HGA Van Rooijen
		B Watkins
Staff:	DR Hall	Chief Executive
	RJ Fisher	Group Manager Assets
	DJL Woltman	Group Manager Corporate
	S Robinson	Group Manager Environment
	A Shaw	Special Projects Manager
	A Scott	Community Development Manager
	J Cathie	Personal Assistant – Minutes

1.0 Apologies

2.0 Confirmation of Agenda

Staff Recommendation

That the Agenda, as circulated, be confirmed.

3.0 Reports

3.1 2007-4600 – Assets Group Report – December 2007 1 - 4

To advise Council of the activities and issues in the Assets Group.

Staff Recommendation

That Report 2008-4600, "Assets Group Report – December 2007", be received.

RECOMMENDATIONS contained in Reports are NOT to be construed as COUNCIL DECISIONS.
Refer to Council Minutes for RESOLUTIONS

3.2 2007-4588 – Warm Homes Clean Air Project 5 - 7

To advise Council with the latest information regarding the Warm Homes Clean Air Project.

Staff Recommendation

That Report 2008-4588, "Warm Homes Clean Air Project", be received.

3.3 2007-4593 – Inquiry into the 2007 Local Authority Elections 8 - 12

The purpose of this report is primarily to allow Council to provide comment to Local Government New Zealand to inform their submission on the Justice and Electoral Select Committee's Inquiry into the 2007 Local Authority Elections. It could also form the basis of a submission from Council directly to the Select Committee, if that is considered desirable.

Staff Recommendation

1. *That Report No 2008-4593, "Inquiry into the 2007 Local Authority Elections", be received.*
2. *That Local Government New Zealand's draft recommendations to the Justice and Electoral Select Committee Inquiry into the 2007 Local body Elections be supported, subject to the comments made in the body of this report.*

3.4 2007-4602 – Projects Update – December 2007 and January 2008 13 - 14

To provide an update of economic and community development projects.

Staff Recommendation

That Report No 2008-4602, "Projects Update – December 2007 & January 2008", be received.

3.5 2007-4589 – Youth Council Minutes 15 - 19

To present the minutes of the Youth Council meeting held on 14 December 2007.

Staff Recommendation

That Report No 2008-4589, "Youth Council Minutes – December", be received.

3.6 2007-4601 – Tokoroa Kart Club – Loan Request 20 - 41

To present a 'Leisure Arts and Cultural Loan' request from the Tokoroa Kart Club.

Staff Recommendation

1. *That Report No 2008-4601, "Tokoroa Kart Club - Loan Request", be received.*
2. *That the loan request from the Tokoroa Kart Club be approved*
3. *That the interest rate be set year 1 at ___%, year 2 at ___% and year 3 at ___%*

3.7 2007-4597 – The Waiving of Building Consent Fees for Domestic Solar Hot Water Heating 42 - 43

To ask the Community and Assets Committee to waive building consent fees for the installation of solar hot water systems for domestic purposes.

Staff Recommendation

That Report No 2008-4597, "The Waiving of Building Consent Fees for Domestic Solar Hot Water Heating", be received.

3.8 2007-4598 – Tokoroa Leisure Centre Domestic Hot Water Solar Heating Feasibility Study Outcome 44 - 55

To inform the Community and Assets Committee of the outcome of the recently completed Solar Hot Water Heating feasibility study.

Staff Recommendation

1. *That Report No 2008-4598, "Tokoroa Leisure Centre Domestic Hot Water Solar Heating Feasibility Study Outcome", be received.*
2. *Community and Assets Committee consider the outcomes recommended in the attached feasibility study and provide suitable funds within the 2008/09 budget to support this project.*

3.9 2007-4566 – Waikato Biodiversity Forum Update: Forestry to Dairy Conversions Presentations 56

To inform the Community and Assets Committee of a recent presentation done by the Environmental Monitoring Officer to the Waikato Biodiversity Forum in Tokoroa on Forestry to Dairy Conversions on 29 November 2007.

Staff Recommendation

That Report No 2007-4566, "Waikato Biodiversity Forum Update: Forestry to Dairy Conversions Presentations", be received.

4.0 Members' Information Requests

5.0 Resolution to Exclude the Public

Pursuant to Section 48, Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987.

Staff Recommendation

That the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of the meeting, listed below.

This resolution is made in reliance on Section 49(1)(a) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest or interests protected by Section 6 or Section 7 of that Act, or Section 6 or Section 7 or Section 9 of the Official Information Act 1982, as the case may require, which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public.

The general subject of the matters to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to the matter, and the specific grounds under Section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

Reason(s) for passing this Resolution in relation to each matter	Ground(s) under Section 48(1) for the passing of this Resolution
C1.0 Reports	
C1.1 2008-4586 – Lease – Tokoroa Senior Citizens and Welfare Centre Incorporated – Papanui Street, Tokoroa	
<p>To enable Council, without prejudice or disadvantage, to carry on negotiations</p> <p>The matter to be discussed may involve the expression of opinions which, if made public, may be unhelpful in future negotiations. The interest of the parties involved in reaching the right decisions outweigh any public interest there might be in those opinions being disclosed.</p>	<p>The public conduct of this part of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which there is good reason for its being withheld.</p>
C1.2 2008-4594 – South Waikato Racing Club – Lease of Airport Property	
<p>To enable Council, without prejudice or disadvantage, to carry on negotiations</p> <p>The matter to be discussed may involve the expression of opinions which, if made public, may be unhelpful in future negotiations. The interest of the parties involved in reaching the right decisions outweigh any public interest there might be in those opinions being disclosed.</p>	<p>The public conduct of this part of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which there is good reason for its being withheld.</p>
C1.3 2008-4590 – South Waikato Arts Trust Contract	
<p>To enable Council, without prejudice or disadvantage, to carry on negotiations</p> <p>The matter to be discussed may involve the expression of opinions which, if made public, may be unhelpful in future negotiations. The interest of the parties involved in reaching the right decisions outweigh any public interest there might be in those opinions being disclosed.</p>	<p>The public conduct of this part of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which there is good reason for its being withheld.</p>
C1.4 2008-4591 – Vaka Village Expenses	
<p>To enable Council, without prejudice or disadvantage, to carry on negotiations</p> <p>The matter to be discussed may involve the expression of opinions which, if made public, may be unhelpful in future negotiations. The interest of the parties involved in reaching the right decisions outweigh any public interest there might be in those opinions being disclosed.</p>	<p>The public conduct of this part of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which there is good reason for its being withheld.</p>
C1.5 2008-4599 – Animal Control – 24 Dalmeny Street, Tokoroa	
<p>To protect the privacy of a natural person</p> <p>The interests of the person involved in this matter in not disclosing the information contained in a report dealing with it outweigh any public interest there may be in making that information available to the public.</p>	<p>The public conduct of this part of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which there is good reason for its being withheld.</p>

Report No: 2008-4600

Agenda Item No: 3.1

Report To: Community and Assets Committee

South
Waikato
District
Council

Meeting Date: 31 January 2008

Subject: Assets Group Report - December 2007

Purpose of Report

To advise Council of the activities and issues in the Assets Group.

Roading**Programme**

Report on "Pavement Deterioration Modelling" received from Consultants to update the Asset Management Plan.

Discussions have been held with Land Transport NZ on the draft District Land Transport Programme 2008/09.

Projects

Pavement rehabilitation works completed on Lichfield Road (2,460m) and commenced on Scriveners and Kokako Roads. Transit NZ have agreed to improve the intersection of Scriveners Road with State Highway 1.

Seal widening commenced on Leslie Road.

Kells Lane seal extension contract let to Excell Corporation Ltd.

Maintenance

Rural resealing completed. Good progress being made by the Contractor on urban sealing.

Section of Kokako Road (south of Cox) received extensive maintenance in advance of expected logging traffic over the next 18 months. One corner widened to improve safety, and contribution received from Hancocks Forest Management to offset costs.

Clay pavers sandblasted in Rosebery Street (east side), and Mannering Street (east side).

Minor Safety

Plans finalised for the safety pavement, and surfacing upgrade on Main Street, Putaruru. The key issues are a narrowing of the carriageway across the railway tracks, relocation of barrier arms (by "Ontrack"), relocation of the pedestrian crossing, and a right turn bay into Buckland Street.

Street lighting upgrades completed in St Andrews, Balmoral area of Tokoroa and Kensington street car park in Putaruru.

Road Safety

"SWATT 2010" enters a new phase on State Highway 1 with new education programme and changes to the "Bighead" billboards in March/April 2008.

The two year trial on subsidising bus services between Tokoroa and Taupo, and Tokoroa and Atiamuri ceased 30 November 2007 due to low patronage. The Tokoroa to Mangakino service, however, is successful; and Environment Waikato will be re-contracting this service for a further four years, with a two year review.

Services

Water

Exceptionally high water consumption was experienced during the long dry hot period.

Arapuni had a bore pump pack up. An emergency pump was installed until a new pump could be delivered. On 17 January a letter drop to residents banning the use of sprinklers and hoses was issued until 20 January. This to cover the period while running the emergency pump and the installation of the new pump.

Baird Road firemain renewal from Papanui to Cramond Street has been completed.

Sewerage

A water jetter was brought into the district to undertake six monthly preventative cleaning of the problem sewer areas.

A CCTV inspection of critical sewer mains in the district is under way. This will determine if any are at the end of their useful life.

Waste Management

The Putaruru Landfill Kiosk was broken into on 4 January, and the security cameras were stolen. One of the culprits was captured on the hard drive and the Police have since made three arrests.

Large trees along State Highway 1 near the Putaruru landfill Kiosk have been removed for safety reasons with a 50/50 split in costs with Transit NZ.

Patetere Street (Park Road), Tirau

The road surfacing, street lighting and road marking was completed a week prior to Christmas allowing the road to be opened before the Christmas holidays.

Parks and Property

The Highlights for December and January for the Parks and Property section are as follows

Property

The construction of the Plaza Theatre catwalk is now underway with the section extending the length of the theatre from the fly tower to the rear of the auditorium complete. An assessment of the fly tower structure has also been completed along with the running gear for all of the lighting bars. These all passed with the exception of the pulley wheels for the cinema screen which have suffered wear and will require replacement. Work to complete the refit of the fly tower and on the catwalk will continue into the New Year.

The refurbishment of the Pensioner Housing units in Tirau and Putaruru is now complete and new tenants have been found for all of the vacant units. The refurbishment of the rear unit at 19 Kauri Street is currently underway, this unit is having work done in the kitchen and laundry area to better use the available space. A tenant has been found for this unit and will move in when the work is completed, which is expected to be in early February.

Parks and Cemeteries

The concentration leading up to Christmas for our Contractor was to ensure that all of the Districts Parks and Reserves are in a tidy condition prior to the holiday period, after the Christmas break the Contractor was busy with a catch up from the short weeks of the holiday period. The hot weather has now slowed the grass growth although a number of parks still require mowing to control the seed heads sent up at this time of the year. We are still monitoring his performance closely and highlighting issues with him,

these are sent to the Contractor for action and inspected after a couple of days to ensure compliance. Most areas seem to be well maintained and within the contract specifications.

Veterans Affairs have recently completed their annual inspection of the Districts Services Cemeteries, they were happy with the high standard of care to which the cemetery was maintained and asked that we pass on their appreciation to Contractor and his Staff for their efforts. During this visit a number of capital projects in the Services areas were identified and we have been asked to provide prices to Veterans Affairs to undertake the work. Quotes have been provided and an acceptance of these costs has come from Veterans Affairs with an instruction to complete the work. This will proceed early in the New Year.

The Cemetery figures for the last year for the District are as follows. We had a total of 75 burials, 37 ash interments, 44 cemetery plots reserved and 2 disinterment's in the District. Our figures show that approximately 2/3 of these were at the Tokoroa Cemetery with the other 1/3 spread fairly evenly among the other three Cemeteries.

All of our regular summer park users are breaking for the Christmas period and will start again in the New Year. There has also been a number of events in the parks over the holiday period and we have number of bookings for the coming months including the Putaruru A & P show and Water Festival events at Glenshea Park and Jones Landing. A Wild Foods festival at the Youth Park in Tokoroa and a wedding ceremony on the Te Waihou Walkway.

The summer camping areas in the District have been busy over the holiday period with an estimated 1200 people at Whakamaru Reserve at the height of the season, Dunham Point and Little Waipa Reserve have also been very busy, with at times 30 sites set up in Little Waipa Reserve. Extra bins and toilet facilities were provided at Whakamaru Reserve along with Security patrols and a regular Police patrol in the Reserve to ensure that people behaved. We have had no reports of trouble from these areas over this time and have had some positive feedback on the areas from users and about the extra facilities that we provided. We have also received the suggestion that we look at providing recycling facilities at some sites next year to reduce the amounts of rubbish heading to the landfill sites, we will look into this over the next few months and make a decision prior to next summer.

Pool

The programmes for Learn to Swim, Water Woggle Classes and Swim Academy were successfully completed prior to the Christmas holidays. Attendance at all pools during the Christmas - New Year period was quiet but all pools have been busy since with the hot, sunny weather.

There were no operational issues during the last few months. Patronage figures overall are still down compared to the forecast based on previous years.

Year to Date	Patronage		
	Actual	Forecast	Variance
Adults	6,796	8,837	- 2,041
Children	17,109	15,417	1,692
Seniors	3,974	3,668	306
Spectators			- 317

	5,921	6,238		
Preschoolers	2,695	2,699	-	4
Family Groups (5)	6,828	7,414	-	586
	43,323	44,273	-	950
School Groups	3,774	4,867	-	1,093
Clubs	625	1,370	-	745
	47,722	50,510	-	2,788

Revenue			
Year to Date	Actual	Forecast	Variance
Revenue	61,689	69,112	- 7,423

Recommendation

That Report No 2008-4600, "Assets Group Report - December 2007", be received.

Roger Fisher

GROUP MANAGER ASSETS

21 January 2008

Council Resolution/Date:	
Associated Documents:	

Report No: 2008-4588

Agenda Item No: 3.2

Report To: Community and Assets Committee

South
Waikato
District
Council

Meeting Date: 31 January 2008

Subject: Warm Homes Clean Air Project

Purpose of Report

To provide Council with the latest information regarding the Warm Homes Clean Air Project

Background

The Tokoroa Warm Homes Clean Air Project has now been underway for over 2.5 years and is currently managed by a Steering Committee of representatives from SWDC, Environment Waikato, Raukawa Trust Board, Waikato District Health Board, South Waikato Pacific Island Health Committee, Tokoroa Council of Social Services and WINZ.

The first stage was a real-life emission testing study conducted by Ministry for the Environment and Environment Waikato to measure the particulate discharges from homes with open fires and old woodburners for heating, and the improvement when replaced with an NES-compliant heating appliance, such as a new woodburner or pellet burner. 9 Tokoroa homes participated in the study and had insulation and new heaters installed at a substantially subsidised cost. The results of this and similar studies have been used to assess the numbers of Tokoroa homes that must have their home heating upgraded to achieve the National Environmental Standards for Air Quality. The best estimate is 920 homes.

The second year of the project was to provide education and information to the Tokoroa community about the fact that Tokoroa has very poor air quality during winter due to the amount of fine particles (PM₁₀) in the air and the relationship between poor air quality and inefficient home heating, open fires, wet firewood, effects on respiratory health disorders, economic development limitations if National Environmental Standards for Air Quality (NESAQ) are not achieved by 2013 etc.

The Council were granted \$100,000 from MfE's Sustainable Management Fund towards this project which was completed in 2006-07 with financial contributions of \$50,000 from EW, \$20,000 from SWDC and completed with a total cost of \$289,000 including the cost of staff time from each of the partner organisations. Four typical Tokoroa homes were evaluated for their insulation and heating needs leading into a Warm Homes Expo that was run in February 2007. Another 19 homes were subsidised to have assessments done by Energy Options.

The current year's programme has moved to the physical upgrade of homes. There are two parallel programmes of improvement; the retrofitting of insulation in homes that were built prior to 1978, when compulsory insulation was introduced into the Building Act; and the replacement of old non-complying open fires and woodburners with alternative heating appliances.

The Steering Group has established an alliance with a company that is experienced in the retrofitting and heater replacement work, Energy Options Charitable Company Ltd. (Energy Options) Energy Options have partnered with a similar company, Huntly Energy Efficiency Trust (HEET) to deliver the services in the South Waikato.

Energy Options applied to EECA on the Steering Committee's behalf and were successful with an EnergyWise Home Grant project valued at \$358,354 (EECA contribution \$222,155 = 62%) for retrofitting insulation in some 190 South Waikato homes. The local share has been contributed by SWDC (\$50,000) and Pinnacle Health (\$50,000) and the balance of \$36,199 is still being sought. This project is currently underway with 17 homes completed and 118 homes on the waiting list.

Energy Options applied to EECA on the Steering Committee's behalf and were successful with an EnergyWise Clean Heat project valued at \$600,000 (EECA contribution \$300,000 = 50%) for the

replacement of inefficient woodburners with new home heating appliances in approximately 150 homes in Tokoroa. The local share of \$300,000 has been provided by Environment Waikato who have budgeted \$300,000 for the next four years for this type of project in the Waikato Region. The approval of this project was received on 16 January 2008 and the conditions of approval, particularly how soon the funds have to be spent, are still awaited. The Steering Committee has developed criteria for the approval of applications for the current projects. This first year of funding is being offered with 100% funding to the most needy applicants and the WDHB, Raukawa and SWPIHC health professionals are involved in the selection process with Energy Options.

An application for a grant from Trust Waikato was successful also and a sum of \$20,000 incl GST has been received. The Steering Committee are considering the employment of an Energy Champion to be the main contact person in the community and the Trust funds could be used for employing, training and accommodation for that person.

Council has approved funding of \$200,000 from its Community Development fund for furthering these projects. The Steering Committee will be discussing how best to maximise the use of these funds, in particular the ability to attract further subsidy from EECA and other funding sources. Council provided funding in the LTCCP of \$45,000/annum on a continuing basis.

Issues

The remaining balance of local share for the Home Grant project of \$36,199 must be found otherwise the total project expenditure will have to reduce by around \$95,000. Approaches are being made to the WDHB and other stakeholders to elicit contributions.

The Steering Committee appointed a project manager, Sue Arthur, Map the Future Ltd for the 2006-07 project. Because of the number of parties involved and the fact that none of the parties could dedicate staff exclusively to the project a project manager proved to be very necessary in order to maintain momentum and provide continuous management. There will be a need for a similar person to manage the implementation programme for the next few years subject, of course, to the necessary funding being available. Energy Options advertised in November/December for an Energy Efficiency Advocate with the view to this person being their liaison person in Tokoroa that the community could contact to discuss the projects and options available to them. This person could also be trained to carry out home assessments.

There is a case for this person to be a Council employee with part of his/her time on Warm Homes activities and the balance on community development activities under Amanda Scott. Provision has been made in the 2008-09 draft budget with this in mind. It requires further discussion with Energy Options.

Provision has also been made in the budget to increase the Council funding for the Warm Homes projects commencing 2009-10 to \$200,000 per annum through to 2013-14 in recognition of the size of the task to get to compliance with the NESAQ and also the value of the project to the health and wellbeing of the community.

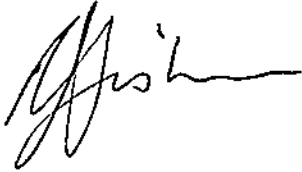
Discussion

The project has been extremely successful to date in attracting funding to advance the project further; largely because Council responded quickly to the poor air quality issue which put it in a good position to apply for funding as became available. The dedication of the Steering Committee and the strategy that it developed has also been a deciding factor.

In future years there will be more communities applying for the Government funding available and unless there is a significant increase in this Vote the progress towards compliance could be limited to the available local funding.

Recommendation

That Report No 2008-4588, "Warm Homes Clean Air Project", be received.



R J Fisher
GROUP MANAGER ASSETS

17 January 2008

Council Resolution/Date:	
Associated Documents:	

Report No: 2008-4593

Agenda Item No: 3.3

Report To: Community and Assets Committee

South
Waikato
District
Council

Meeting Date: 31 January 2008

Subject: Inquiry into the 2007 Local Authority Elections

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is primarily to allow Council to provide comment to Local Government New Zealand to inform their submission on the Justice and Electoral Select Committee's Inquiry into the 2007 Local Authority Elections. It could also form the basis of a submission from Council directly to the Select Committee, if that is considered desirable.

Background

A self-explanatory memorandum from Local Government New Zealand is attached as Appendix A. The comments made below were developed in consultation with Council's Electoral Officer, Mr Richard Fisk. Council is also participating in the technical review being undertaken by the Society of Local Government Managers.

Issues

Are there any aspects of the election process that elected members would like to raise for inclusion?

Discussion

Local Government New Zealand's recommendations are generally supported; as follows:

Section 1:

- (a) We support an extra week being added to the election timetable after the close of voting, as this allows more time to ensure that information, particularly the Candidate Profile Statements, are properly processed.
- (b) While it is appropriate that the Select Committee should consider the findings of the Local Government Commission it is difficult to fully support this recommendation without knowing what the Local Government Commissions findings might be.
- (c) We are neutral as to whether the order of candidates should be determined locally or centrally.

Section 2:

- (a) We agree that decisions on representation issues require consideration of their impacts on voter turnout.
- (b) We strongly agree that having two separate voting systems (FPP and STV) on the one voting paper creates confusion. We also consider that the requirement for District Health Board elections to be held under the STV system should be reviewed. It appears to us that at-large, STV voting over an area as geographically substantial as the Waikato DHB region creates a range of problems. These include the overwhelming number of candidates standing; the disadvantage of provincial candidates not receiving long-term regional media coverage necessary to build a regional profile; and the bulk of candidates standing being from the metropolitan (Hamilton) area and, therefore, having little connection with the outlying parts of the Waikato DHB area. We are concerned that large numbers of people outside Hamilton do not feel 'represented'.

- (c) While we support ongoing education of the importance of local body elections and encouragement to vote; we are not sure that the recent media campaigns have been particularly successful in this regard.

Section 3:

- (a) As for Section 2(c) above, we do not think that the public were unaware of the elections, just that they were not motivated to take part. The real question may be why potential voters choose not to take part; and whether the perception of a low-turnout is actually problematic.
- (b) We note that a lot of the information suggested for collation has been collected since the early 1990s at least.
- (c) We agree that the Chief Electoral Officer and the Electoral Commission should be leading work on future voting methods.

Section 4:

We support both of the initiatives in this Section; however we also suggest that more work needs to be undertaken to establish why voter turnout is considered low; and whether the national turnout has led to any particular problems.

Consideration of the "+/- 10% Rule" (which requires the populations of wards to be within +/- 10% of each other) appears to be outside the scope of this review, however it is something that has been of significant contention and may merit consideration. Having said that, now that South Waikato District - and other Councils - have been through the process of re-configuring ward boundaries to comply with this requirement it is not something that we necessarily advocate altering.

Recommendation

1. That Report No 2008-4593, "Inquiry into the 2007 Local Authority Elections", be received.
2. That Local Government New Zealand's draft recommendations to the Justice and Electoral Select Committee Inquiry into the 2007 Local Body Elections be supported, subject to the comments made in the body of this report.


D R Hall

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

21 January 2008

Council Resolution/Date:	
Associated Documents:	



Local Government New Zealand
te pūtakehi matakokiri

11 January 2008

- MEMORANDUM -

TO: Mayors/Chairs
CC: Chief Executives
FROM: Kirsty Anderson, Communications Manager
SUBJECT: Justice and Electoral Select Committee Inquiry into the 2007 Local Authority Elections

Happy New Year. I trust you had a restful and enjoyable break.

In December the Justice and Electoral Select Committee announced that it is holding an Inquiry into the 2007 local authority elections. The deadline for submissions is 8 February 2008.

The terms of reference for the Inquiry (refer to www.parliament.govt.nz) covers issues relating to: electoral systems and processes; representation; voter turnout and education.

We have written to the Committee to advise them that this deadline may be difficult for some councils, given the Christmas holiday period.

We are preparing a submission on the policy and political issues relating to the elections. The Society of Local Government Managers (SOLGM) is preparing a submission on the technical aspects of the elections. Our submission will reflect the submission we made after the 2004 elections, given that many of those recommendations have still not been implemented. We are also urging the Committee to take into the consideration the full review of the local elections being carried out by the Local Government Commission.

I have attached on our draft, recommendations for our submission to the Inquiry. Please send your comments on these recommendations to Kirsty.anderson@lgnz.co.nz at the latest by Friday 1 February. I apologise for the short timeframe but welcome any comments you have.

effective local governance

PO BOX 1214, WELLINGTON, NEW ZEALAND
PHONE: 64 4 924 1200 FAX: 64 4 924 1230
EMAIL: info@lgnz.co.nz www.lgnz.co.nz

2

Draft *Local Government New Zealand* recommendations to the Justice and Electoral Select Committee Inquiry into the 2007 Local Authority Elections

Section 1: Electoral systems and processes

Local Government New Zealand recommends that:

- there should be an extra week in the election timetable after close of nominations and before voting documents are mailed to electors
- the Select Committee should take note on and act on the findings of the review of the elections being carried out by the Local Government Commission
- the order of the candidates on the ballot paper remains one of local choice for councils.

Section 2: Representation

Local Government New Zealand recommends that:

- the Local Government Commission considers the impacts of its decisions on likely voter turnout when making decisions on representation issues. Connected to this recommendation is a recommendation that elected members maintain effective relationships with their voters during their term
- the Select Committee recognises that having two electoral systems on the one voting paper is an added complication to the voting process and that we move to one voting system for all local elections. If we continue to have two voting systems, if only for the short-term, we recommend that voting papers and candidate information clearly inform voters about the two different systems and how to vote
- any funding for communications and education needs to include funding to address Maori representation and participation in the elections

Section 3: Voter turnout

Local Government New Zealand recommends that:

- the Select Committee recognises the voter turnout is a joint central and local government responsibility and central government has to be resourced adequately to promote participation and involvement with the elections
- the Electoral Commission has responsibility for overseeing the national education and communications, with regard to all public sector processes - local and national, and that funding should be provided for this to occur. This work will be supplemented by local initiatives and promotions on the elections. The role would also include the national collation (broken down by council) of the key information on the elections, for example, candidates, voter turnout and results
- the Chief Electoral Office and Electoral Commission should be leading the work on future voting methods for all elections, and working with the Electoral Working Party on any pilots for electronic voting.

Section 4: Education

Local Government New Zealand recommends that:

- the Ministry of Education works with the Electoral Commission on the development of proposals for comprehensive citizenship education for schools, that would assist students better understand the nature of civic life and their rights and responsibilities as citizens. This will include leadership of the Kidsvoting project.
- a strategy is developed to raise awareness amongst media, of the role they can play in enhancing interest and participation in local elections and understanding about the role of local government. As a result we recommend that the public broadcasting charter is amended to promote local democracy.

Please send your council's view on any of these issues to: Kirsty Anderson, Kirsty.anderson@lgnz.co.nz, *Local Government New Zealand*, PO Box 1214, Wellington, by Friday 1 February 2008.

For any enquiries please contact Kirsty Anderson on 04 924 1202.

Report No: 2008-4602

Agenda Item No: 3.4

Report To: Community and Assets Committee

South
Waikato
District
Council

Meeting Date: 31 January 2008

Subject: Projects Update - December 2007 & January 2008

Purpose of Report

To provide an update of economic and community development project

Discussion**Concept Plans**

A meeting for the Putaruru and Tokoroa Concept plans was held on the 6 December in which appointed Councillors attended with APR contractor, Paul Killerby. The purpose of the meeting was to set up Community Planning Groups and confirm a "Terms of Reference" for participants. The purpose of the groups is to drive the process and ensure appropriate consultation. It was decided that prospective people would be approached by the relevant Councillors. The first meeting of the Tokoroa Community Planning Group will be on 8 February 2008.

Draft discussion documents have been prepared by Paul Killerby and are available.

Investor Pack

It was decided some time ago to create a package for promoting the South Waikato District as an attractive investment option. The pack is currently in draft form and will include statistics commonly requested, detailed case studies highlighting businesses successes that have been found in the South Waikato and vacant sites. Internal; staff meetings have been held during December 2007 to develop a method of information gathering from different sections.

The investor pack will be available in electronic form to ensure information can be updated regularly.

Trade Training Course

The current drive is from the local Engineering sector only. It has been decided to limit the trade training course to engineering for this initial year. Waiariki Institute of Technology (WIT) has developed a course to start in March 2008 but have now indicated that the desired student number will increase for engineering as no other course will be run.

The engineering sector have voiced concerns at taking more enrolments than jobs will be available at the end of the course.

WIT has indicated that if they don't get adequate enrolments they will not use the Tokoroa venue - this is obviously a disappointment when WIT have not themselves advertised for the course.

Council have placed 2 advertisements in the South Waikato News and are set to place one in Putaruru's This Week paper promoting engineering as a career and the establishment of the course.

The site on Braeside Ave, subject to confirmation of enrolment numbers, will be fitted out in February 2008. A meeting is to be held on 8 February 2008 with WIT to finalise enrolment numbers.

Dairy Push

Agreement now signed and money received from Fonterra. First community meeting held on 14 December 2007 in which over 50 farms signed up to the project.

Each farm will be monitored by a mentor and incorporate farming 'best practice' methodology. This will include business planning and financial packages to track efficiencies.

There will also be the setting up of a focus farm which will provide a model for farming 'best practice'. This will be open to view to the public and the farming community as an example of a successful farming operation as well as a marketing exercise promoting the farming lifestyle / business. A focus farm is yet to be selected from the group.

Vaka Village

Report included in agenda.

NZTE Application

An application to the Joining Regions Fund was completed in December 2007. Confirmation of the application's approval was given last week. The amount of \$52850 is to aid Council in reprioritising its action points from the "Economic Spirit" document and identify common focus areas with other Waikato regional sub areas. The objectives being to create a more collaborative relationship with other TLAs and EDAs in the Waikato region and provide greater alignment of their individual strategies.

Recommendation

That Report No 2008-4602, "Projects Update - December 2007 & January 2008", be received.



Amanda Scott

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

21 January 2008

Council Resolution/Date:	
Associated Documents:	

Report No: 2008-4589

Agenda Item No: 3.5

Report To: Community & Assets Committee

South
Waikato
District
Council

Meeting Date: 31 January 2008

Subject: Youth Council Minutes - December

Purpose of Report

To present the minutes of the Youth Council meeting held on 14 December 2007

Background

Two days prior to this meeting on Wednesday 12 December 2007 the Youth Council's Inter-School Top Town event was held. This event was the first in a series of events being run in partnership with Raukawa Young Leaders.

As the last meeting for the year much of the discussion focussed on a debriefing of the event and the Youth Council's year as a whole.

No minutes have been circulated of the November gatherings as they were unofficial Youth Council meetings of sub committees arranging the Inter-School Top Town event.

Issues

Appendix 1- Minutes of Youth Council meeting 14 December 2007

Appendix 2 - Letter received from Putaruru College

Appendix 3 - Letter received from Forest View High

Recommendation

That Report No 2008-4589, "Youth Council Minutes - December ", be received.

Amanda Scott
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

18 January 2008

Council Resolution/Date:	
Associated Documents:	

