



greater WELLINGTON
REGIONAL COUNCIL
Te Pane Matua Taiao

If calling please ask for: Democratic Services

31 May 2019

Annual Plan 2019/20 Hearing Committee

Order Paper for the meeting to be held in the Council Chamber, Greater Wellington Regional Council, Level 2, 15 Walter Street, Te Aro, Wellington on:

Friday, 7 June 2019 at 9.30am

Membership of Annual Plan 2019/20 Hearing Committee

Cr Laidlaw (Chair)

Cr Blakeley
Cr Gaylor
Cr Laban
Cr Ogden
Cr Staples

Cr Brash
Cr Kedgley
Cr McKinnon
Cr Ponter
Cr Swain

Recommendations in reports are not to be construed as Council policy until adopted by Council

Annual Plan 2019/20 Hearing Committee

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Public Business

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Report 19.203
Date 30 May 2019
File CCAB-8-2270

Committee Annual Plan 2019/20 Hearing Committee
Author Lucas Stevenson, Democratic Services Advisor

Process for considering submissions and feedback on the adoption of the Annual Plan 2019/20

1. Purpose

To advise the Annual Plan 2019/20 Hearing Committee on the process for considering submissions on the Annual Plan 2019/20 consultation document *What Matters*, the draft Revenue and Financing Policy, and the proposed Resource Management Charging Policy.

2. Background

At its meeting on 21 March 2019 the Council approved *What Matters*, the consultation document for the Annual Plan 2019/20, and *Staying on Track*, to inform the community of the Council's plans for 2019/20 (Report 19.109). The Annual Plan 2019/20 Hearing Committee was established at the Council's meeting on 14 May 2019 to consider and hear submissions and feedback on the consultation documents for the Annual Plan 2019/20 and other matters which are subject to concurrent consultation. A copy of the Committee's terms of reference, which sets out its roles and responsibilities, is attached as [Attachment 1](#).

The scope of the consultation document for the Annual Plan 2019/20 was limited to the identified changes from the content of the Long-Term Plan 2018-28. It was provided on the basis that all other activities would be delivered as consulted on, and agreed, in the Long-Term Plan 2018-28.

2.1 Public consultation

This hearing completes the public consultation phase for the Annual Plan 2019/20. The consultation period for the Annual Plan 2019/20 was open between 24 April and 24 May. The Council also consulted on:

- The draft Revenue and Financing Policy (with consultation open from 24 April to 24 May)

- The proposed Resource Management Charging Policy (with consultation open from 30 April to 30 May).

2.2 Principles of consultation

Six principles of consultation are set out in the Local Government Act 2002 (the Act). One of these principles is that views presented to a local authority should be accepted with an open mind, and should be given due consideration by the local authority, in making a decision.

The Committee should also take into account that persons who wish to have their views on the decision or matter considered by the local authority should be provided by the local authority with a reasonable opportunity to present those views to the local authority.

It is consistent with best practice that members should be present for the substantial part of the hearing and deliberations in order to participate in the decision-making of the Committee.

3. Submissions and feedback received

3.1 Written submissions

50 written submissions have been received on the identified changes from the content of the Long-Term Plan 2018-28, including in relation to the draft Revenue and Financing Policy.

At the time of writing this report two submissions have been received on the proposed Resource Management Charging Policy. As submissions close on 30 May Committee members will be advised if any further submissions are received.

A copy of all the written submissions will be distributed to members of the Committee (under separate cover). It is suggested that written submissions are taken as read by the Committee, and that Committee members only discuss those submissions on which they want to make a particular comment.

3.2 Other feedback

Feedback from the community was obtained through the *Have Your Say* website together with a number of written submissions received via direct mail. Analysis on this feedback is detailed in Report 19.225.

4. Oral submission process

The purpose of the hearing is to hear oral presentations in support of written submissions. At the time of writing this report 13 submitters have confirmed that they wish to be heard in relation to the three proposals.

Five minutes have been allocated to each submitter, with additional time allocated for organisations (total of 10 minutes). This time covers both speaking time and time for questions of clarification by the Committee. A hearing schedule will be provided to Committee members, with a final version available on the day of the hearing.

It is proposed that deliberations commence following the hearing of oral submissions.

5. Consideration of issues raised in submissions and feedback

The Committee must consider all written submissions, regardless of whether or not an oral presentation in support of a written submission. The Committee must also consider all of the feedback that was received on the consultation document.

There will be an opportunity to discuss the issues raised in both written and oral submissions, and the other forms of feedback, once all oral submissions on a topic have been heard.

5.1 Process after consideration of submissions and feedback

The Committee will need to prepare a report to the Council setting out its recommendations on the adoption of the Annual Plan 2019/20, the Revenue and Financing Policy and the Resource Management Charging Policy.

Each person who made a submission or provided feedback and provided a contact address will, subsequent to Council adopting the documents, receive a response outlining the decisions of the Council and any key changes.

A press release will be published, outlining the decisions of the Council and any key changes, for those who did not provide a contact address.

6. Consideration of climate change

The matters addressed in this report are of a procedural nature, and there is no need to conduct a climate change assessment.

7. The decision-making process and significance

No decision is being sought in this report.

7.1 Engagement

Engagement on this matter is unnecessary.

8. Recommendations

That the Committee:

- 1. Receives the report.*
- 2. Notes the content of the report.*

Report prepared by:

Lucas Stevenson
Democratic Services Advisor

Report approved by:

Francis Ryan
Manager, Democratic
Services

Report approved by:

Luke Troy
General Manager, Strategy

Attachment 1: Terms of reference for the Annual Plan 2019/20 Hearing Committee

Attachment 1 to Report 19.203

Terms of Reference for the Annual Plan 2019/20 Hearing Committee

1. Purpose

The Annual Plan 2019/20 Hearing Committee is established to consider, and make recommendations to Council on submissions received on the Annual Plan 2019/20 consultation document and the proposed changes to the Revenue and Financing Policy and the Resource Management Charging Policy.

2. Membership

The membership of the Annual Plan 2019/20 Hearing Committee comprises:

- Cr Blakeley
- Cr Brash
- Cr Gaylor
- Cr Kedgley
- Cr Laban
- Cr Laidlaw
- Cr McKinnon
- Cr Ogden
- Cr Ponter
- Cr Staples
- Cr Swain

Cr Laidlaw is Chairperson of the Hearing Committee.

The quorum is six members.

3. Meeting procedures

All members have equal speaking rights and a deliberative vote. In addition, the Chairperson has a casting vote in the case of an equality of votes.

Members must be present for the substantial part of the hearing and deliberations in order to participate in the decision-making of the Hearing Committee.

4. Powers

The Annual Plan 2019/20 Hearing Committee has the power to:

- Consider submissions on the Annual Plan 2019/20 consultation document, proposed changes to the Revenue and Financing Policy, and proposed changes to Resource Management Charging Policy.
- Seek clarification from Council officers on any technical matters; and
- Develop recommendations in relation to the proposals for consideration by Council.

5. Responsibilities

The Annual Plan 2019/20 Hearing Committee shall ensure that:

- The hearing and consideration process is carried out in a way that is effective and timely;
- Submitters are provided with the best possible opportunity to be heard in support of their submission;
- Hearing Committee members receive submissions with an open mind and give due consideration to each submission; and
- The decision-making process is robust and transparent.

The Hearing Committee will report direct to Council.

6. Duration of Hearing Committee

The Hearing Committee is deemed to be dissolved at the end of the decision-making process on the Annual Plan 2019/20, proposed changes to the Revenue and Financing Policy, and proposed changes to the Resource Management Charging Policy.



greater WELLINGTON
REGIONAL COUNCIL
Te Pane Matua Taiao

Report 19.225
Date 30 May 2019
File CCAB-8-2282

Committee Annual Plan 2019/20 Hearing Committee
Author Helen Guissane, Programme Lead Corporate Planning and Reporting
Stephen Thawley, Project Leader, Environmental Regulation

Report on feedback received on “*What Matters*” consultation document on the Annual Plan 2019/20, the draft Revenue and Financing Policy, and the proposed Resource Management Charging Policy

1. Purpose

This report provides a summary of the feedback received on the consultation of the Annual Plan 2019/20, the draft Revenue and Financing Policy, and the proposed Resource Management Charging Policy. The report is to assist the Hearing Committee in making recommendations to Council on the Annual Plan and other proposals.

Report 19.203 sets out the process for the consideration of submissions.

2. Consultation process

2.1 Consultation on the Annual Plan 2019/20 and the draft Revenue and Financing Policy

At the Council meeting of 2 April 2019 (Report 19.109), *What Matters*, the Consultation Document on the Annual Plan 2019/20 was approved by Council for consultation. The proposed changes to the Revenue and Financing Policy were also approved by Council at that same meeting. Council also approved *Staying on Track* which highlighted the key work programme for 2019/20.

The consultation document provided two options for community to provide feedback on. The *proposed* option suggested that a differential be applied on the general rate within Wellington City only. The *alternative* option was to maintain the current policy settings and not apply a differential to the general rate. The *proposed* differential is outlined below:

| | |
|-------------------------|-----|
| Residential | 1.0 |
| Rural | 1.0 |
| Wellington CBD business | 1.7 |
| Business | 1.3 |

Both of these options also highlighted that a comprehensive review of the Revenue and Financing Policy will be undertaken prior to the next Annual Plan.

The consultation process ran from 24 April to 5:00pm on 24 May. During the consultation period the consultation document was distributed in hard copy and on a consultation page on Have Your Say, Greater Wellington's online engagement website. Consultation on the draft Revenue and Financing Policy was undertaken at the same time.

2.2 Consultation on the proposed Resource Management Charging Policy

At its meeting on 10 April 2019 the Council approved the proposed Resource Management Charging Policy for consultation (Report 19.144) Consultation on the proposed Resource Management Charging Policy opened on Tuesday 30 April and closed at 5:00pm on Thursday 30 May.

2.2 Online engagement

Through the Have Your Say page, the community could submit on the Annual Plan 2019/20 proposal, the draft Revenue and Financing Policy and the proposed Resource Management Charging Policy.

The consultation document *What Matters, Staying on Track*, the supporting document and a draft Revenue and Financing Policy were also accessible via *Have Your Say*.

The online rates calculator was updated to allow the community to assess their individual rates based on the *proposed* and *alternative* options as outlined in the consultation document.

The proposed Resource Management Charging Policy and its associated statement of proposal were also accessible via *Have Your Say*.

2.3 Public events

At its meeting on 2 April 2019 Council determined that no formal public events would be held for the Annual Plan and Revenue and Financing Policy consultation. During the consultation period, however, Councillors engaged in a range of community events to discuss the Annual Plan and other activities of the Council, supported by officers.

Similarly no public events were scheduled for the proposed Resource Management Charging Policy. Nearly 1000 consent holders and recent consent applicants and other relevant stakeholders were informed of the proposals.

2.4 Engagement and marketing

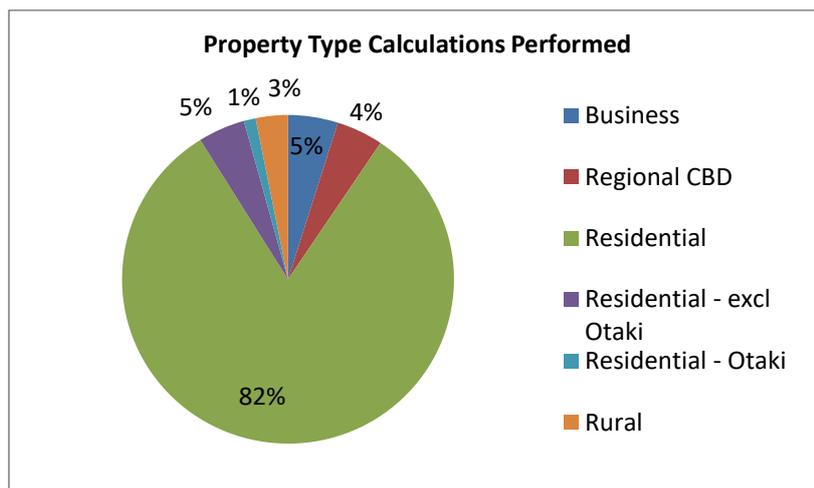
2.4.1 Annual Plan and Revenue and Financing Policy

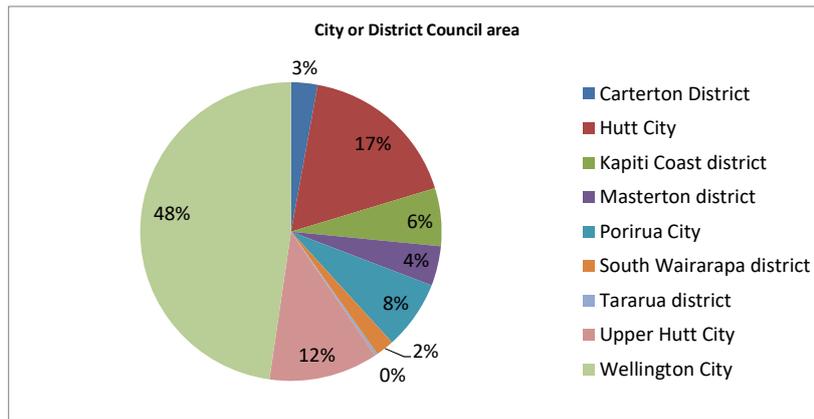
Greater Wellington's main advertising channels for consultation on the Annual Plan and the draft Revenue and Financing Policy were primarily digital and included print in some community newspapers and the Dominion Post. The consultation was also promoted on some of Greater Wellington's social media channels.

In addition, Greater Wellington ran a rates information awareness campaign on four of its social media channels (Facebook, Instagram, Neighbourly and Twitter). The campaign consisted of nine 20-second videos communicating expenditure for 2019/20 in certain activity areas and the contribution households make to that per week. The call-to-action was to visit the online rates calculator. This ran from 23 April to 19 May. Below are some statistics from this campaign:

- 263,610 individuals saw the campaign
- The videos in the campaign were seen a total of 1, 513, 062 times
- 2,760 clicks through to the rates calculator

The following graphs provide a brief summary of those who accessed the rates calculator during the consultation process:





Other engagement

Prior to consultation the Chair and Chief Executive met with the Wellington Chamber of Commerce to discuss the proposed change outlined in the consultation document.

Greater Wellington also presented the Annual Plan approach at an Ara Tahī meeting.

3. Feedback received

3.1 Annual Plan and Revenue and Financing Policy

50 submissions were received on both the Annual Plan and draft Revenue and Financing Policy. The number of submissions by type of organisations is as follows:

| | |
|------------------|-----------|
| Organisations | 10 |
| Local Government | 3 |
| Individuals | 37 |
| Total | 50 |

Of the 50 who responded, 34 responded to the consultation question on the Annual Plan and 36 responded to the consultation question on the Revenue and Financing Policy. A total of 15 did not respond directly to the issues which were consulted on and have raised issues out of scope.

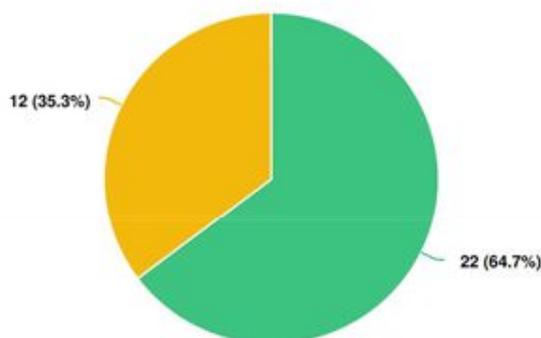
Of the 50 who responded, 13 indicated they would like to speak at the hearings including both in scope issues and out of scope issues. These submitters are currently being contacted to schedule a time to attend the hearings.

A summary of the submissions received will be provided to Councillors separately. Submissions that provided further detail will be attached to the summary.

The following graphs summarise the responses to the proposed and alternative options in *What Matters*, the consultation document for the Annual Plan

2019/20. A total of 22 supported the *proposed* option for the Annual Plan and 21 supported the *proposed* option for the Revenue and Financing Policy.

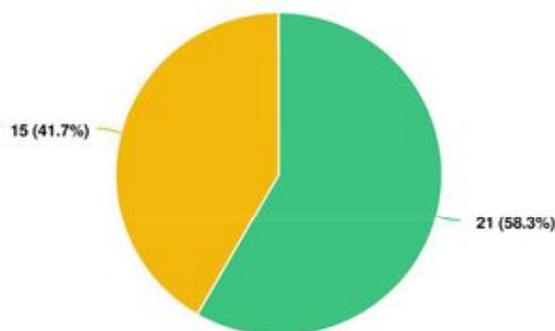
Proposed change to the Annual Plan



Question options

● Proposed option - apply a differential to the general rate within Wellington City ● Alternative option - no change to the general rate

Proposed change to the Revenue and Financing Policy



Question options

● Proposed option - apply a differential to the general rate within Wellington City ● Alternative option - no change to the general rate

A range of other topics were raised by submitters including:

- Overall rates increase for 2019/20
- Public transport, including the bus network and rail
- Regional resilience, including climate change, flood protection and water supply
- Economic development
- Governance
- Funding requests.

3.2 Resource Management Charging Policy

A total of two submissions were received on the proposed changes to the Resource Management Charging Policy.

3.2.1 Federated Farmers of New Zealand (William Beetham, Elizabeth McGruddy)

FFNZ opposes proposed increases in the RMCP. FFNZ does not agree with ad hoc increases to the RMCP and any review should be completed as part of a review of the Revenue and Financing Policy in 2019/20.

Comment: The Revenue and Financing Policy was reviewed as part of the Long Term Plan 2018-2018. The proposed changes to the RMCP ensure consistency with this Policy i.e. 100% user charge for consent and compliance processing services, and 10-20% user charge science related activities.

3.2.2 Masterton District Council (David Hopman)

MDC generally supports cost recovery directly from those who create costs, however they have concerns about our State of the Environment (SOE) charges are recovered. For MDC this will result in a 20% increase from \$64,400 to \$78,000 for consents held. MDC make significant contributions to the collection of environmental data from monitoring requirements on resource consents, and there is concern that there is duplication between GWRC and MDC in the collection of that data. Accordingly MDC recommends GWRC review its SOE programme. MDC would support GWRC advocating to central government for funding support for SOE monitoring.

Comment: GWRC completes rolling reviews of its SOE monitoring programme. In particular at the present time there is a review happening with our groundwater and hydrology programmes. Environmental Science staff would be happy to sit down with MDC staff and talk through any efficiency gains that could be made through each Council's current monitoring programmes.

4. Budget changes

A review of current year commitments, changes in budget to planned work in the Long Term Plan and a further review of the annual budget has been undertaken. These changes have been included in the final draft Annual Plan budget. These include a number of re-budgets of 2018/19 unspent expenditure into future years. Officers do not consider any of these changes to be material or significant in the context of the overall Annual Plan. The overall impact of these changes result in the average rates increased being unchanged from that indicated in the Annual Plan consultation document.

5. Communication

All submitters who provided contact details will, subsequent to Council adopting the final plan, receive a response outlining the decisions of the council and any significant changes.

The Annual Plan 2019/20 will be considered for approval by Council on 25 June 2019, and this will be notified by public notice and media release.

6. Consideration of climate change

The matters requiring decision in this report have been considered by officers in accordance with the process set out in the GWRC Climate Change Consideration Guide. Climate Change and the implications of climate change is assessed against individual activities undertaken as part of the work programme contained in the Annual Plan and assessed at the time they are considered and approved.

7. The decision-making process and significance

The matter requiring decision in this report has been considered by officers against the requirements of Part 6 of the Local Government Act 2002.

7.1 Significance of the decision

Officers have considered the significance of the matter, taking into account the Council's Significance and Engagement Policy and decision-making guidelines. The subject matter of this report is part of a decision-making process that will lead to the Council making a decision of high significance within the meaning of the Local Government Act 2002.

7.2 Engagement

Section 95 of the Local Government Act outlines the consultation process that Council must undertake for the Annual Plan. Consultation was carried out consistent with the principles of section 95.

Section 83 of the Local Government Act outlines the process to be used for changes to the Resource Management Charging Policy. The process adopted is consistent with requirements set out in Section 83.

8. Recommendations

That the Committee:

1. *Receives the report.*
2. *Notes the content of the report.*
3. *Considers the information in this report and attachments in determining its findings and recommendations to Council.*
4. *Recommends to the Council the Resource Management Charging Policy for adoption, incorporating any changes as agreed by this Committee.*
5. *Recommends to the Council the Revenue and Financing Policy for adoption, incorporating any changes as agreed by this Committee.*
6. *Recommends to the Council the Annual Plan 2019/20 for adoption, incorporating any changes as agreed by this Committee.*

Report prepared by:

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