

SOUTH WAIRARAPA DISTRICT COUNCIL

31 OCTOBER 2012

AGENDA ITEM D1

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

Purpose of Report

To report to Council on general activities since the Council meeting on 31 October 2012.

Recommendations

The Chief Executive Officer recommends that Council:

1. *Receive the report.*

1. Finance

The financial reports for the months ending 31 August 2012 and 30 September are included with the Council papers.

2. General

The implementation of the new contracts for '3 Waters' and 'Open Spaces and Facilities Maintenance' began on 1 October 2012. City Care Limited is the new contractor and is well-experienced in delivering the services that are stipulated in the contracts.

This is the most significant operational event that has occurred since the last Council meeting. Council officers have worked hard on this project and are to be congratulated on putting the new contracts in place.

The implementation of the NCS software system has progressed very well and there have been no issues that were the result of the implementation. It is always a tense time when a new IT system is being installed and the smooth implementation of the new platform is a credit to the Council staff involved and the NCS staff who have worked diligently to ensure minimum disruption to Council's operations.

With the recent appointment of Susan Mitchell to replace Gay Reed as Records and Archives Officer the work on archiving Council records will continue. Similarly, the appointment of Helen McNaught as the Parks and Facilities Officer replacing Sandra Barns will allow the work on property matters to be further progressed.

Having completed the Representation Review earlier in the year I am planning ahead for the Local Government elections in October 2013. It is necessary to begin discussions with Council's Electoral Officer in order to ensure that an efficient election process is prepared.

2.1 Martinborough Library

The search for a suitable building to house the Martinborough Library has continued and I met with the owners of some buildings over the past few weeks to discuss opportunities. I have been trying to ensure that Council acquires a suitable building that is within the town boundary at a price that the community can afford. Negotiations are continuing and I am hopeful that a satisfactory solution will be found. In the meantime, Council continues to use the portakabin at the rear of the Pain and Kershaw Supermarket building.

2.2 Water and Wastewater Consents

Council officers have continued to meet with staff from Greater Wellington Regional Council and progress has been made in respect of consent applications to take and use groundwater from bores and in respect of the waste water consent applications.

It is clear from the consenting meetings that as Council moves into the future it will be necessary to undertake some capital projects on the waste water treatment plants to ensure that the quality of the treated effluent meets the standards imposed by Greater Wellington Regional Council. Council officers will be working on providing methods of treatment that are achievable without being unaffordable. High technology, high running cost, high capital cost projects are not necessarily the only solution and they are probably not supportable by a small council such as this.

Tertiary treatment involving the potential use of floating wetlands continues to be worth further investigation and will require a commitment of financial resources. Council will need to utilise affordable methods to remove nutrients from the waste water and consenting requirements will demand that there is physical evidence of investment in systems to achieve the required outcomes.

Further land acquisition will be required as there will need to be an appropriate receiving environment to which treated effluent can be discharged. It is clear that the consenting authorities and the Maori community are continuing to expect that local authorities move towards a zero discharge to water system of disposal for treated effluent.

Additional infrastructural investment will need to be undertaken in future to meet the demands of the consenting authority and the community.

2.3 Staffing Matters

The annual staff performance review process has progressed with all managers having completed the review of the staff in their departments. A briefing with the PSA is being arranged and following this the process will be closed off with staff being notified of the outcome of the salary review.

2.4 Governance Review

The Wairarapa Governance Review Working Party (WGRWP) continued to meet during the period of this report. The Phase Three Report from Morrison Low was received and work was also undertaken to consider the possible governance structure and representation arrangements that might apply in the event of a change in governance. A meeting with the Mayor and Chief Executive of Tasman District Council provided some useful insights into their experiences as a unitary authority and also having been the subject of an amalgamation proposal.

I also attended the Regional Governance workshop in Petone on 25 September. This hui was attended by Mayors, Councillors and Chief Executives from the Wellington region. Also present was Sir Geoffrey Palmer who addressed the meeting and answered questions from the floor.

2.5 Civil Defence and Emergency Management

The Shake Out Exercise took place on 26 September and South Wairarapa District Council participated in the event with staff in the Council building in Martinborough and at each of the district's libraries taking part. The opportunity was taken to expand the exercise out to include an evacuation of the Martinborough office.

The Wellington Region Emergency Management Office (WREMO) is now well established and I continue to represent the three Wairarapa district councils on the CEG Sub-Committee which meets on a regular basis. I attended a meeting of the Sub-Committee at Upper Hutt on 18 October. The agenda was largely concerned with budget planning and resources. It also included discussion on the participation in the Shake Down exercise and the 'It's Our Fault' seismic project.

The training of Civil Defence volunteers within each of the areas in the Wellington region was referred to by Bruce Pepperell and it was acknowledged that the Wairarapa has been active in getting the engagement with volunteers underway.

The patrolling of the coast during the summer camping season is now being considered and I intend to repeat the success that we have had over the past few years by having a Council officer patrol the coast. I have been in discussions with Destination Wairarapa who approached me to enquire if it would be possible to extend this patrol further. As a consequence of this I met with Chris Lester of DOC and discussed with him how we might cooperate over the summer period. Further discussion will take place on this issue.

3. Other Meetings Attended

Date	Meeting
19/09/12	Grow Wellington, Nicci Lock – A Film Friendly Protocol. Wairarapa Mayors and CEOs attended.
25/9/12	Regional Governance Workshop, Petone.
27/9/12	CEM Training Session, SWDC.
3/10/12	DHB Smoke Free Coordinator and Compass Health Services meeting to discuss Smoke Free Signage.
10/10/12	CEOs' Workshop, Wellington City Council.
12/10/12	Mayoral Forum, Upper Hutt City Council.
26/10/12	Chief Executives' Forum, Upper Hutt.
29/10/12	Destination Wairarapa AGM.

A number of Wairarapa Governance Review Group meetings were attended during the period.

4. Financial, Legal and Policy Implications

None in particular.

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