

Report 16.31
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File CCAB-8-388

Committee Council
Author Cr Chris Laidlaw, Council Chair

Councillor appointments

1. Purpose

To update Councillor appointments to committees and advisory bodies, and to amend the terms of reference for the Sustainable Transport Committee and the Environment Committee.

2. Background

Two Councillors (Crs Laban and Wilson) have requested that they be appointed to the Sustainable Transport Committee to enable them to more fully participate in the substantive business of that committee. The terms of reference for the Sustainable Transport Committee would require amendment to accommodate the additional Councillor membership.

Two councillors have recently informed me that they have stood down or are intending to stand down from certain appointments due to other commitments:

- Councillor Swain has stood down from his appointment to the Finance, Risk and Assurance Committee
- Councillor Wilde is intending to stand down at the end of February 2016 from all of her committee and advisory body appointments.

As climate change work in GWRC progresses it is timely that a committee undertake the initial oversight of GWRC's climate change work. It is also appropriate that we consider involving a person with rural / farming experience in our environmental decision-making.

3. Proposed changes

In light of the matters outlined above I propose a number of changes to committee and advisory body arrangements, as set out below.

The terms of reference for the Sustainable Transport Committee currently provide for there to be eight Councillors appointed to the committee. I propose

that the terms of reference be amended to provide for nine Councillors to be appointed as members. This change will enable Councillors Laban and Wilson to both be appointed to the committee.

The proposed Councillor appointments to committees and advisory bodies are:

Committee and advisory body	New appointments
Sustainable Transport Committee	Cr Laban and Cr Wilson
Regional Transport Committee	Cr Laidlaw (as Deputy Chair of the committee)
Wellington Regional Strategy Committee	Cr Donaldson (as Council's alternate)
Finance, Risk and Assurance Committee	Cr Brash
Ara Tahi	Cr Donaldson
Ngauranga to Airport Governance Group	Cr Laidlaw
Wairarapa Moana Wetlands Governance Group	Cr Donaldson
Wairarapa Water Use Project Governance Group	Cr Laidlaw

Climate change matters are currently considered by the full Council. GWRC has an overall Climate Change Strategy but also undertakes a wide range of activities for which climate change impacts are an important consideration. Our work in climate change mitigation is expanding and includes moving towards an electric vehicle fleet and working towards carbon emission targets. I consider it appropriate that the Environment Committee have a responsibility to bring together the monitoring of progress with GWRC's climate change initiatives. Accordingly, I propose that the terms of reference for the Environment Committee be amended to include the following responsibility within the scope of the committee:

“Monitor the Council’s strategies, plans and activities intended to address the impacts of climate change on the Wellington Region”.

I also propose one further amendment to the terms of reference for the Environment Committee. I am of the view that the work of the Environment Committee would benefit from a person experienced in the rural / farming sector of the region. Therefore, I propose that the terms of reference for the committee be amended to provide for the Chairperson of GWRC's Farming Reference Group to be appointed as a member. A similar arrangement was in

place for the Environmental Wellbeing Committee during the previous triennium, which assisted the decision-making of that committee.

Finally, I propose that the Councillor vacancy on each of the Chief Executive Employment Review Committee, Te Upoko Taiao – Natural Resource Management Committee and the Wairarapa river scheme and flood plain management committees be carried through to the end of this triennium.

4. Communication

Relevant parties will be informed of the decisions arising from Council's consideration of this report.

5. The decision-making process and significance

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

5.1 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. Due to the procedural nature of this decision officers recommend that the matter be considered to have low significance.

Officers do not consider that a formal record outlining consideration of the decision-making process is required in this instance.

5.2 Engagement

Due to its procedural nature and low significance, no engagement on this matter has been undertaken.

6. Recommendations

That the Council:

1. ***Receives the report.***
2. ***Notes the content of the report.***
3. ***Amends the terms of reference of the Sustainable Transport Committee by increasing the committee's membership to nine Councillors.***
4. ***Appoints Crs Laban and Wilson to the Sustainable Transport Committee.***
5. ***Appoints Cr Laidlaw to the Regional Transport Committee, as Deputy Chair.***
6. ***Appoints Cr Donaldson as Council's alternate on the Wellington Regional Strategy Committee.***
7. ***Appoints Cr Brash to the Finance, Risk and Assurance Committee.***
8. ***Appoints Cr Donaldson to Ara Tahi.***

9. *Appoints Cr Laidlaw to the Ngauranga to Airport Governance Group.*
10. *Appoints Cr Donaldson to the Wairarapa Moana Wetlands Governance Group.*
11. *Appoints Cr Laidlaw to the Wairarapa Water Use Project Governance Group.*
12. *Amends the terms of reference for the Environment Committee to provide for:*
 - i. *the committee having responsibility for the monitoring of the Council's strategies, plans and activities intended to address the impacts of climate change on the Wellington Region*
 - ii. *the Chairperson of the Farming Reference Group being a member of the committee.*

Report prepared by:

Cr Chris Laidlaw
Council Chair