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Committee	Hutt Valley Flood Management Subcommittee
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RiverLink Project Managers Report

1. Purpose

To update the Subcommittee on progress made with the RiverLink Project (formerly named the Hutt River City Centre Upgrade Project - HRCCUP).

2. Background

RiverLink extends from Kennedy Good Bridge to Ewen Bridge, and aims to provide better flood protection, transport and lifestyle for central Hutt. The Project, now in the Preliminary Design phase, is progressing well and is on track to meet a 90% design milestone in March 2017.

Officers aim to seek Subcommittee recommendations following extensive Subcommittee workshop sessions in mid-2017 to proceed to the next phase of the project, which is to prepare applications for statutory approvals to carry out the work. The preliminary design phase addresses issues raised by stakeholders, landowners adjacent to the project area and wider community, and keeps them informed of progress.

3. Programme

The overall project outline programme extending out to 2025 is summarised in **Attachment 1**. This programme will be updated at key decision points for the project.

The timeline programme for the current preliminary design phase of RiverLink is attached as **Attachment 2** to this report. The work streams for the preliminary design phases are currently proceeding to programme.

4. Risks

A summary of high ranking risks are:

4.1 Confirming commitment to funding by partner agencies.

This will be addressed by LTP processes that have commenced at both HCC and GWRC. NZTA follow a separate process as part of the development of the indicative business case, and updates will be provided when key decisions are released.

4.2 Co-ordination of work programmes

The RiverLink project encapsulates a number of component projects across the three councils/agency involved. These are at slightly off-set stages and accommodation has been built into the overall programme to allow for each partner to reach similar milestones at similar times to assist with inter-agency decision making.

4.3 Melling Bridge remaining as a constriction in the river

Melling Bridge is a major constriction point in the river, and retention of the existing Melling Bridge would mean a limit of a 1-in-200 year return period level of service for flood protection and little opportunity for improvement in traffic and congestion issues, and a Hutt CBD gateway.

4.4 Property acquisition costs and current property market movement

The commencement of property acquisition for the implementation of the Flood Protection upgrades coincided with an accelerating property market. This has increased cost of the purchase forecasts, this is being monitored by GWRC's management team.

4.5 Delivery of Making Places vision

The urban interface and river frontage developed by HCC is one of the key community measurables for the project. There are a number of challenges for HCC to deliver this vision. GWRC and HCC officers have been working closely to develop practical implementation methods to achieve this vision.

4.6 Retention of commercial and business activity in Hutt City

Parts of the light industrial areas on Pharazyn and Marsden St are included in the property requirements for the flood protection upgrades. As part of the property acquisition strategy GWRC and HCC have been working to find alternate business and light industrial accommodation within Lower Hutt.

5. Property Requirements

Property purchase continues steadily on forecast with seven of 117 properties purchased, and 31 other properties at various stages in the purchase/sale process. Property acquisition is being managed by The Property Group.

Making Places and Melling Interchange property requirements are still being identified by their respective lead agencies and will commence once those requirements have been defined.

6. Design Progress

Preliminary design work to enable progress with refinement of project costs for GWRC and HCC project components will continue to be worked on through

March 2017. These work streams include all aspects of the project from local roading, through to stopbank design, to ecological and recreational enhancement.

Each design component will present their draft Preliminary Design reports in March 2017.

Further information will be provided for discussion during workshop sessions throughout the first half of the year.

7. Mana Whenua Engagement

The draft Mana Whenua engagement strategy is currently being reviewed by Port Nicholson Settlement Trust and Ngati Toa.

8. Community information and engagement

8.1 Neighbourly and Have your Say

We have used Neighbourly and other social media channels to advertise engagement opportunities with the RiverLink project and the Hutt River Environment Strategy. We will continue to use these channels for promotion of engagement events.

We continue to collect information and feedback through the RiverLink project website and GWRC's Have Your Say site.

8.2 RiverLink Website

The RiverLink www.riverlink.co.nz website is live and our main online gateway for the project. This includes project overview videos, links to more detailed information and contact details for the project team.

8.3 Newsletter

Newsletter 4 was released prior to Christmas.

Copies of the most recent newsletter were mailed out to the owners of the 117 properties being acquired as part of the project. This included a covering letter with more detailed information relevant to the property acquisition process and the revised programme for the Resource Legislation Amendment Bill.

A copy of the newsletter is also mailed out to those who have registered to be kept informed about the project.

Copies of the newsletter are available online to download, and also distributed in hardcopy to HCC, UHCC, GWRC offices, and council libraries.

8.4 Community Design Workshops

Community Design Workshops focusing on Making Places and river berm design were held on 30 September and 1 October at the Dowse, Lower Hutt.

Design workshops are planned for April 2017 to present design progress based on feedback from previous community workshops, correspondence and events.

8.5 Student Investigation into effectiveness of RiverLink engagement

A group of 4 students from the United States of America is midway through a project considering engagement methods used for RiverLink. This will involve surveys of residents and river users. The aim is to understand how aware people are about the project, how well people think their ideas have fed into the project and look at improvements to engagement methods for the project.

9. Communication

No communication is necessary.

10. The decision-making process and significance

No decision is being sought in this report.

10.1 Engagement

Engagement on this matter is unnecessary.

11. Recommendations

That the Committee:

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

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Attachment 1
Attachment 2

Hutt River City Centre Upgrade Project – Programme
Hutt River City Section Preliminary Design and Decision Making Process
Timeline