

OTAGO REGIONAL COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Finance and Corporate Committee held in the Council Chamber, 70 Stafford Street, Dunedin on Wednesday 4 June 2014 commencing at 1.08 pm

Present:

- Cr David Shepherd (Chairperson)
- Cr Gary Kelliher (Deputy Chairperson)
- Cr Graeme Bell
- Cr Doug Brown
- Cr Louise Croot MNZM
- Cr Michael Deaker
- Cr Gerrard Eckhoff
- Cr Trevor Kempton
- Cr Gretchen Robertson
- Cr Bryan Scott
- Cr Stephen Woodhead

Leave of absence: Cr Sam Neill

In attendance:

- Wayne Scott
- Jeff Donaldson
- Fraser McRae
- Gavin Palmer
- Sharon de Vries (for Item 1)
- Janet Favel

CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

It was noted that there were no in committee items to be considered. There were no changes to the agenda.

MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 April 2014, having been circulated, were adopted on the motion of Crs Kempton and Kelliher.

Matters arising from minutes

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

PART A - RECOMMENDATIONS

Item 1

2014/0842 **2014/15 Annual Plan – Recommendations from Hearing Committee.**

DCS, 21/5/14

The report presented the Hearing Committee's recommendations in respect of the Draft Annual Plan.

Enviroschools

Cr Deaker noted the submission from the DCC relating to funding for Enviroschools. He was surprised that the hearing committee recommended the submission be declined because not enough information was provided, and noted discussion at previous annual plan hearings on this matter. Cr Deaker indicated that he would put forward an addendum to the recommendations 'that relevant staff at ORC and DCC enter discussions with a view to the regional co-ordinator function and employment being phased into the ORC structure by 2015, rather than decline the request.'

Cr Shepherd explained that the hearings committee understood that a lot of the work carried out under the umbrella of the DCC was teaching teachers, and questioned whether this was a regional responsibility. Cr Robertson considered that the report reflected the decision but did not correctly reflect the discussion, and pointed out that the application did not directly request that the ORC take on the regional co-ordinator's role within Otago. She pointed out that if this was to happen, two positions were needed - the regional co-ordination role within the ORC, and provision within the DCC for teaching for teachers.

Cr Scott noted that at last year's annual plan hearings, it was suggested that Enviroschools and ORC consider how they could work together. He was frustrated that this had not happened, and felt that now was the time to explore this opportunity.

Cr Croot noted that an ORC regional co-ordination position would have to work within the Enviroschools structure, and pointed out that staff, particularly Mr Taylor, had worked with the group, supporting them with time and knowledge. She also commented that not all schools were involved in Enviroschools, and a different proposal would be needed to include them. Cr Croot supported the establishment of an environmental education position within the ORC, but whether this was with Enviroschools would have to be decided.

Cr Deaker moved

Cr Kempton seconded

That Recommendation 2 be amended to read:

That the recommendations of the hearing committee be endorsed and in the case of point 3.7.6 that the staff of ORC and DCC meet during 2014 to negotiate the transfer of the Enviroschools regional co-

ordination role and the meeting of its funding needs from the DCC to the ORC in time for the 2015 school year.

It was agreed that the phrase “in time for the 2015 school year” be deleted.

After discussion, the mover and seconder agreed to amend the proposed recommendation and it was to be added as Recommendation 5.

Cr Deaker moved
Cr Kempton seconded

That a new Recommendation 5 be added:

That the appropriate staff of Otago Regional Council and Dunedin City Council meet during 2014 to negotiate the transfer of the Enviroschools Regional Co-ordinator role and the meeting of its funding needs from the DCC to the ORC.

Motion carried

Biodiversity

Cr Robertson considered that the report did not reflect the hearings committee’s discussion on this matter. Cr Shepherd understood that the intention was for a stocktake to be undertaken of Council’s biodiversity work, following which a decision would be made on how to proceed. Cr Woodhead agreed, noting that this could flow on into development of a biodiversity strategy. There was discussion about whether the work to be undertaken was a review of existing/completed biodiversity projects or preparation of a strategy. It was noted that there would have to be public consultation on a strategy document.

Item 3.2 of the report was to be amended to read: “The Hearing Committee notes that the purpose of the ~~strategy review~~ is to draw together all of the biodiversity work currently being undertaken by Council, and to assist with planning its own role in biodiversity in the future.”

Mr McRae commented that the stocktake of each council’s biodiversity work would feed into the RPS. ORC was carrying out a number of tasks that had a biodiversity function and these needed to be identified and collated. He stated that it was not the ORC’s role to identify biodiversity work being carried out by other councils.

Mr Scott suggested that for clarification, the word review instead of strategy be used to refer to the biodiversity project in the Annual Plan.

General Rates

The following figures were to be added to the report:

2014/15	
General Rates (\$000s)	\$5,027.00
Uniform Annual general charge (incl GST)	\$13.76

Cr Woodhead moved
Cr Deaker seconded

1. *That the report be received.*
2. *That the recommendations of the Hearing Committee be endorsed.*
3. *That the 2014/15 Annual Plan incorporating the recommendations from the Hearing Committee be placed before the June Council meeting for adoption.*
4. *That the 2014/15 Rates Resolution be placed before the June Council meeting for adoption.*
5. *That the appropriate staff of Otago Regional Council and Dunedin City Council meet during 2014 to negotiate the transfer of the EnviroSchools Regional Co-ordinator role and the meeting of its funding needs from the DCC to the ORC.*

Motion carried

Item 2

2014/0861 **Passenger Transport Operations Update May 2014.** DCS, 25/5/14

The report provided an update on transport operational matters, and the following points were discussed:

- GoBus brand – the suggestion that an agreement be entered into with Go Bus Transport Ltd for the surrender of Council's GoBus trademark seemed to be the most pragmatic approach.
- Student concession trial – Ritchies wished to continue with the concession, but GoBus did not consider that the data supported retaining the concession. This matter was under discussion with both companies.
- Contracts – it was likely that current contracts would be extended to the end of July.
- Route changes - potential route changes would need to be publicised.
- Queenstown network – would be discussed once the negotiations with the DCC over responsibility for public transport were concluded.
- Journey planner – now live on the ORC's website.

Cr Woodhead moved
Cr Deaker seconded

- (1) *That the report be received.*
- (2) *That:*
 - i. *Council withdraw from the use of GoBus as its network brand, and*
 - ii. *An agreement be entered into with Go Bus Transport Limited for the surrender of Council's GoBus trademark.*

Motion carried

PART B – ITEMS FOR NOTING

Item 3

2014/0863 **Executive Report on Progress.** DCS, 26/5/14

The report described significant activities carried out by the Finance and Corporate sections since the last meeting of the Committee.

Cr Croot moved

Cr Woodhead seconded

- (1) *That the report be received.*
- (2) *That the payments and investments summarised in the table above and detailed in the tabled schedule totalling \$3,432,957.26.*

Motion carried

Cr Shepherd noted that Duncan Butcher, former councillor and chair of the Finance and Corporate Committee, had been awarded the ONZM in the Queen's Birthday honours, in recognition of his 33 years of service to local authority.

The meeting closed at 2.32 pm.



Chairperson