

## OTAGO REGIONAL COUNCIL

### Minutes of an Ordinary meeting of the Council held in the Council Chamber, 70 Stafford Street, Dunedin on Wednesday 15 October 2014 commencing at 1.40 pm

**Present:**

- Cr Stephen Woodhead (Chairperson)**
- Cr Graeme Bell**
- Cr Louise Croot MNZM**
- Cr Michael Deaker**
- Cr Gerrard Eckhoff**
- Cr Gary Kelliher**
- Cr Trevor Kempton**
- Cr Sam Neill**
- Cr Bryan Scott**
- Cr David Shepherd**

**Apologies:**

- Cr Doug Brown**
- Cr Gretchen Robertson**

The apologies were accepted on the motion of Crs Bell and Croot.

**In attendance:**

- Peter Bodeker**
- Wayne Scott**
- Jeff Donaldson**
- Jane Leahy**
- Fraser McRae**
- Gavin Palmer**
- Janet Favel**

#### CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

There were no changes to the agenda.

#### PART A – RECOMMENDATIONS

Item 1  
2014/1498 **Annual Report 2013-14.** DCS, 30/9/14

Auditor Brett Tomkins, Sharon de Vries and Stuart Lanham were present for this item.

The Council's Annual Report for the period 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2014 was presented to the Council for adoption, and the full Annual Report document was circulated separately with the agenda. The auditor's report was circulated, and Mr Scott explained that the report could not be signed until Council had adopted the Annual Report.

Auditor Brett Tomkins explained that Deloitte had audited the Otago Regional Council's financial statement, statement of service provision, and disclosures. The auditor had also considered whether ORC and group's annual report complied with the other requirements of schedule 10 of the Local Government Act.

A question was raised as to whether there were any concerns Council should be made aware of. Mr Tomkins explained that the scope of the audit was defined in auditing standards, and the auditors did not scrutinise every transaction. In the course of their work they had not identified any areas Council should be concerned about, although some areas of suggested improvement had been identified and advised to management.

Mr Tomkins advised in response to questions about the Council's surplus and contractor protocols that these were outside the auditor's scope of work.

Cr Woodhead in summing up the year's work highlighted the following achievements:

- successful conclusion of Plan Change 6A with completion of the mediation process in February 2014, which marked the culmination of a number of years' work;
- ongoing significant work around a water quantity;
- Leith Flood Protection Scheme;
- air quality;
- Regional Public Transport Plan;
- river management.

Cr Woodhead extended Councillors' thanks to Mr Bodeker and staff for their work during the year and commented that the strong balance sheet was the result of good management and sound financial skills.

In response to a question about the surplus for the year, Mr Scott explained that some resulted from accounting reporting in relation to capital expenditure, revaluation of properties, and unexpected receipt of subsidy on public transport.

It was suggested that, given the strength of the balance sheet, consideration be given to funding of appropriate projects presented at Annual Plan hearings. Cr Woodhead responded that that approach could be discussed during development of the Long Term Plan.

Cr Woodhead moved  
Cr Eckhoff seconded

1. *That the report be received.*
2. *That the Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2014, together with the report of the auditors, be adopted.*

**Motion carried**

Item 2

2014/1487 **Chief Executive's Report – Strategic Plan.** CE, 29/9/14

The report noted that through a series of workshops Councillors and directors had developed the Strategic Plan, which was presented at this meeting for formal discussion and adoption. Mr Bodeker saw the Plan as an enabling document to allow the Council to achieve its aims. The Plan was circulated with the agenda and had now been made available to all staff.

Councillors were pleased to see the completion and presentation of the Strategic Plan, which opened the door to a more positive approach.

Comments:

- Section VIII Air should refer to Alexandra, not Dunedin.
- Section I Land Use Change – it was not the responsibility of the ORC to prepare land use plans. It was suggested that this wording be clarified.
- Values (page 10) and themes (page 11) – it was important that good consenting and enforcement processes were in place.
- Section IV Biodiversity Policy – care needed to be taken with the implementation of the policy, and the wording in this section of the Strategy needed to be unambiguous.
- Heritage location theme – a question was raised as to whether there was reference to the Oamaru and Dunedin heritage precincts in the Plan.

Cr Woodhead thanked Mr Bodeker and Mr Geoff Henley for their work in preparing the Strategic Plan.

Cr Woodhead moved  
Cr Deaker seconded

*That the Strategic Plan be adopted.*

**Motion carried**

The meeting closed at 2.40 pm.

*J Woodhead*

**Chairperson**