

OTAGO REGIONAL COUNCIL

**Minutes of a meeting of the Finance and Corporate Committee
held in the Council Chamber, 70 Stafford Street, Dunedin
on Wednesday 8 February 2017, commencing at 1:09pm**

Membership:

- Cr Doug Brown (Chairperson)
- Cr Andrew Noone (Deputy Chairperson)
- Cr Graeme Bell
- Cr Michael Deaker
- Cr Carmen Hope
- Cr Trevor Kempton
- Cr Michael Laws
- Cr Maggie Lawton
- Cr Sam Neill
- Cr Gretchen Robertson
- Cr Bryan Scott
- Cr Stephen Woodhead

Apologies:

- Cr Sam Neill

Apology was noted and accepted.

In attendance:

- Peter Bodeker (CEO)
- Nick Donnelly
- Gavin Palmer
- Fraser McRae
- Caroline Rowe
- Scott MacLean
- Gerard Collings (Item 1)
- Lauren McDonald (Committee Secretary)

CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

There were no changes to the agenda.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No conflicts of interest advised.

PUBLIC FORUM

No public forum was held.

MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 23 November 2016, having been circulated, were adopted on the motion of Crs Woodhead and Deaker.

PART A - RECOMMENDATIONS

Item 1

2017/0610 Waverley-Belleknowes - Petition DCS, 27/01/17

The report provided staff comment on the petition received by Council at its 7 December 2016 Council meeting, relating to the Waverley–Belleknowes services introduced on 15 August 2016. The petition received, raised five matters where change to the current network services was requested.

Cr Noone advised he had been invited and had met with some of the affected bus users in the area detailed within the petition. He suggested that Council give consideration to targeted consultation with this community again, as the RPTP consultation was held in 2014 and there had been a significant level of residential development in that area since that time.

He advised his proposed motion was as an amendment to the staff recommendation b (iii) of the report, that there be no change to the existing route in response to the petition request to “restore the previous route through lower City Rise to service Canongate, Russell Street and Arthur Street.”

Moved Cr Noone
Seconded Cr Deaker

That Council undertake targeted consultation on the possible reintroduction of the Canongate, Russell and Arthur Streets, service as an amendment to the RPTP.

Discussion was held on the implications of making the changes requested in the petition, including:

- impact on the network and other bus routes
- alignment to the design principles within the RPTP (which have been endorsed by Council)
- creation of precedence in the network
- provision of a higher level of service for one area of the city more than other areas (anomaly).

Mr Collings, Support Services Manager, advised the implications for Council would include:

- Financial -which would require negotiations with the operator
- A timing adjustment - in relation for the provisions of services
- Investigation - as to how this would affect other interactions of the other services in and around the Bus Hub.

Moved Cr Noone
Seconded Cr Deaker

Amendment to recommendation b(iii)

That Council undertake targeted consultation on the possible reintroduction of the Canongate, Russell and Arthur Streets, service as an amendment to the RPTP.

Motion carried.

Moved Cr Woodhead
Seconded Cr Scott

That Council:

- (a) Receives this report.
- (b) Endorse the staff recommendations with regard to the petition as follows:
 - (i) *Petition: Eliminate the 37 minute delay halfway around the Waverley Loop*
Recommendation: No further action required
 - (ii) *Petition: Use that time to reinstate the twice an hour frequency of the Belleknowes end of the route*
Recommendation: Implement the change in frequency in July 2018 as programmed
 - (iii) *Amended recommendation: That Council undertake targeted consultation on the possible reintroduction of the Cannongate, Russell and Arthur Street, service as an amendment to the RPTP.*
 - (iv) *Petition: Add bus stops on Serpentine Avenue, Maclaggan Street and Somerville Street. (Note the Belleknowes petition also seeks bus stops in Lower York Place)*
Recommendation: The current actions be noted
 - (v) *Petition: Display bus signs only stating the destination*
Recommendation: The staff actions be noted

Motion carried

Cr Brown thanked the members of the public for their attendance and interest.

The meeting adjourned at 1:40pm and reconvened at 2:11pm.

The apology of Cr Noone was noted for the remainder of the Finance and Corporate Committee meeting.

Item 2

2017/0587 **Executive report – February 2017.** DCS, 18/01/17

The report outlined the rates collection and account payments for endorsement.

Moved Cr Woodhead
Seconded Cr Kempton

- (a) *That this report be received.*
- (b) *That the payments and investments summarised in the table above and detailed in the payment schedule, totalling \$26,775,985.47, be endorsed.*

Motion carried

PART B – FOR NOTING

Item 3

2017/0616 **Bus Hub Interchange - Community Engagement - Update.** DCS
30/01/17

The report provided a summary of the response received through the Community Engagement process undertaken late 2016. The detailed feedback is currently being reviewed by staff and our consultants who will consider the current design in the context of the feedback and make recommendations to Council on any changes prior to finalising the detailed design.

Moved Cr Brown
Seconded Cr Robertson

That Council receives this report.

Motion carried

Item 4

2017/0597 **Financial Report to 31 December 2016.** DCS, 25/01/17

The report provided information in respect of the overall Council finances for the six months ended 31 December 2016.

Moved Cr Robertson
Seconded Cr Hope

That this report be received.

Motion Carried

PART C – NOTICE OF MOTION

Moved by Cr Laws (and tabled in the agenda)

“That the Otago Regional Council engage with the territorial authorities in its region to collaborate in an independent study that will assess the merits and demerits of establishing unitary authorities in the Otago region, and disestablishing the Otago Regional Council. The findings of the study to be publicly published.”

Cr Brown advised that the Notice of Motion included in the agenda had been subsequently changed by Cr Laws and was detailed in the paper provided by Cr Laws.

Moved Cr Brown
Seconded Cr Robertson

For the amendment to the Notice of Motion as follows:

Moved Cr Laws
Seconded Cr Lawton

“That the Otago Regional Council invite territorial authorities in the Otago region to meet with it for the express purpose of determining the most effective and efficient governance structure for the aforesaid Otago region. That any results of these discussions be made publicly available and that the most appropriate process for public input be considered.”

Cr Laws as mover of the motion advised he wished to see ORC lead a review of the governance structure, rather than the possibility of the Local Government Commission doing so in the future. He advocated that ORC take the lead in reviewing the governance structure for the Otago region now, rather than take a “wait and see” approach.

Cr Lawton as seconder of the motion and advised her concerns included regional management of how the RMA is being applied and the existing gaps between the territorial authorities, particularly in regard to the management of water quality issues.

Discussion was held in regard to a review of the governance structure.

Comments in support of the motion included:

- A positive challenge and the opportunity to lift the “status quo” up for inspection with the guidance of an independent review group.

Comments against the motion included:

- The timing of the review was seen as an unnecessary distraction to the work ORC needs to be focused on such as water quantity, quality and pest management for the region.
- No benefit seen in splitting Otago up into smaller regions.
- Existing collaborative work already in place across regional boundaries, e.g. regional transport and pest management.
- Lack of confidence that the statements made in the discussion paper were all factually true.
- Sole focus on review of the governance structure without defining what the issues are to enable solutions to be sought.
- High cost and extended period of time required to undertake a review.
- That the DCC motion is unrelated to the Notice of Motion tabled.
- A review process already exists under Section 17A of the Local Government Act for better ways of the delivery of council services.
- Advice received from TLAs is there is no appetite to engage in a regional review.
- No mandate has been received from the community for this review.

- It was acknowledged that improved communication and collaboration with territorial authorities (TLAs) and agencies was already occurring and that the focus should be on engaging with communities and TLAs for issues such as the responsibility for the Otago Harbour and coastal areas.

The motion was lost.

The meeting was declared closed at 3:10pm.



Chairperson