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Committee Council
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Report on the Risk and Assurance Committee meeting 18 September 2014

1. Purpose

To inform the Council of the Risk and Assurance Committee (the Committee) meeting of 18 September 2014.

2. Public presentation

Greg Rzesniowiecki, from Renewables of Motueka, gave a presentation on the Trans Pacific Partnership negotiations and encouraged the Council to engage with other local government agencies and central government on this issue.

3. Reports

3.1 Health and Safety Framework

The Committee received a presentation on Greater Wellington Regional Council's health and safety framework which detailed the health and safety planning process and outlined Greater Wellington Regional Council's vision of working together to make best practice common practice in our work place. With a shift in focus to an emphasis on risk under the proposed legislation, officers are currently undertaking high-level risk analysis across the organisation.

The Committee noted the recent health and safety audit of 11 field based activities. The audit confirmed that the activities undertaken by Greater Wellington Regional Council staff and contractors were being completed in a safe manner and in most cases demonstrated a high level of health and safety skills and knowledge.

3.2 Draft Annual Report for the year ended 30 June 2014

The financial statements in the Draft Annual Report are consistent with the year-end reports that were reported to the Strategy and Policy Committee in August 2014. Audit New Zealand has substantially completed its audit and

there are no substantive unresolved issues at this stage. The remaining matters to be completed are minor and it is not expected that there will be any major changes required. The Council will adopt the Annual Report on 30 September 2014.

3.3 Report on Awareness Survey 2014

Greater Wellington Regional Council has been carrying out the awareness survey for the last three years. The survey measures the public's awareness of Council activities and their overall satisfaction with Council. It is an opportunity to get a clear idea of what is working and what we need to work on, when communicating about Council activities. The survey noted that there have been some gains in awareness of Council activities, particularly around regional parks and resource consents, however, it is important that communication about regional versus local council responsibilities continues, in order to minimise misattribution of responsibilities.

The awareness survey was carried out using phone calls to landlines and while the survey size was proportionate to district population and was weighted to reflect the age/gender of the regional population, the Committee noted the changing market and the need to develop newer communication channels to take advantage of online services and greater use of social media.

3.4 Reports for the financial year ended 30 June 2014

The Committee received the reports for the financial year ended 30 June 2014 for the areas of Finance and Support (including ICT), Investment Management, People and Capability and Strategy and Community Engagement. Highlights of the reports included:

- The roll out of GPS units to all vehicles progressed with software rollout occurring in the first quarter of the next financial year. The pooling of Shed 39 pool vehicles has been agreed to enable better utilisation of the fleet.
- Risk Management is now regularly discussed and considered an essential component of reviewing work programmes and activities. The development of 11 new risk categories has enhanced the risk management process both by providing risk categories for reporting but also providing a thought provoking framework for staff when considering and identifying risks.
- Eight new parks videos were produced and published on You-tube, and promoted through Facebook and Twitter. The most viewed video is Kaitoke Regional Park with almost 1500 views.
- Development of emergency pages for the new WREMO website which can be activated by any PIM in the region, in the event of an emergency.

3.5 Local Government Funding Agency (LGFA) Statement of Intent and June Quarter update

The Committee discussed the LGFA's Statement of Intent. A major focus for the LGFA over the coming year will be the implementation of a new treasury system which is scheduled for completion in June 2015. This will enable the LGFA to move from the New Zealand Debt Management Office who are presently providing the treasury systems.

The Committee noted the highlights from the June Quarter and while three of the five key performance indicators for the LGFA were not achieved during the quarter, the seriousness of this non achievement is either beyond the control of the LGFA or minor in nature.

3.6 New financial delegations approach

The Committee noted that Democratic Services has undertaken a review of the financial delegations framework that aligns Greater Wellington Regional Council's delegation processes with many other councils and public sector agencies.

The new approach provides for a single Instrument of Delegation to be issued by the Chief Executive, rather than for the multiple instruments of delegation and sub-delegation previously issued by various officers. This enhances the integrity of the overall delegation framework. The changes came into effect on 12 September 2014.

4. Communication

No external communication is required.

5. The decision-making process and significance

No decision is being sought in this report.

6. Recommendations

That the Council:

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

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