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Committee Wairarapa Committee
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Waiohine Floodplain Management Plan governance and project delivery structure

1. Purpose

To propose a governance and project delivery structure for completing the development of the Waiohine Floodplain Management Plan (Waiohine FMP).

2. Background

2.1 Draft Waiohine FMP - development

The intended purpose of the Waiohine FMP is to manage the risk of flooding and erosion from the Waiohine River.

In 2016 a draft Waiohine FMP (Draft FMP) was developed by the Waiohine Floodplain Management Plan Advisory Committee (Advisory Committee).

On 10 May 2016 the Environment Committee approved the Draft FMP for public consultation.

2.2 Draft Waiohine FMP - consultation

On 21 Jun 2016, the Environment Committee (on recommendation of the Advisory Committee) established the Waiohine River Draft FMP Hearing Subcommittee (Hearing Subcommittee) to hear and consider submissions on the Draft FMP.

The hearing that was to have been held on the Draft Waiohine FMP never took place due to the unavailability of Hearing Subcommittee members prior to the 2016 local government elections.

The Draft FMP did not achieve community support.

Submitters on the Draft FMP have not been heard.

2.3 Waiohine Action Group

A community-led initiative, the Waiohine Action Group (WAG), has been formed to drive the consideration of options for the Waiohine FMP. The WAG is made up of a mix of technical and non-technical people, including some former Advisory Committee members. The WAG has demonstrated its ability to engage with a range of sectors in the local community.

3. Review of the Draft FMP

Due to feedback on the Draft FMP, officers consider that the Draft FMP should be set aside and reconsidered.

3.1 Proposed approach to review the Draft FMP

Following discussions with Carterton District Council (CDC) and South Wairarapa District Council (SWDC), and a proposed project delivery approach put forward by the WAG, officers suggest a project governance and delivery model.

This proposed delivery model will be made up of a steering group to oversee the completion of a Waiohine FMP, and a project team to identify and recommend to the steering group areas of refinement to the Draft FMP.

3.2 Proposed Waiohine FMP Steering Group

Officers recommend the establishment of a Waiohine FMP Steering Group (Steering Group).

A copy of proposed terms of reference for the Steering Group is attached as Attachment 1 to this report.

A summary of the Steering Group's proposed membership, roles and responsibilities is set out below.

3.2.1 Steering Group – purpose

The purpose of the Steering Group is to make recommendations to the Wairarapa Committee on the following:

- Areas of refinement and a preferred combination of options to guide revision of the Draft FMP
- A Proposed FMP which will form the basis for further general and targeted consultation.
- A process for engaging with the community and general public on the proposed FMP

The management of the existing river scheme and the implementation of the Waiohine FMP will sit outside the remit of this Steering Group.

The draft terms of reference (see **Attachment 1** to this report) propose that the recommendations of the Steering Group, if endorsed by the Wairarapa Committee, would be submitted directly to Council for approval without the need for consideration by the Environment Committee.

3.2.2 Steering Group – membership

The following membership is proposed:

- Two members, being elected members of the Carterton District Council
- Two members, being elected members of the South Wairarapa District Council
- Two members, being elected members of the Wellington Regional Council
- Two members to represent the Waiohine Action Group (one of whom will be the Waiohine Project Team chair)
- One member to represent Kahungunu ki Wairarapa
- One member to represent Rangitane o Wairarapa

It is proposed that members of the Steering Group are appointed by the Wellington Regional Council.

3.2.3 Steering Group - Role/Responsibilities

The final decision on the adoption or otherwise of a draft or final Waiohine FMP is retained by the Wellington Regional Council.

To deliver on its purpose, the range of suggested responsibilities to be assumed by the Steering Group includes the following:

- Establish a Project Team to deliver the technical assessments needed for decision-making
- Familiarisation with the work that has been undertaken on the Waiohine FMP to date
- Oversee and contribute to the scoping of viable options for the project and recommend a preferred option for consultation
- Request and test relevant evidence-based advice and/or technical information received from the Project Team, and resolve/mediate any conflicting advice supplied
- Ensure the work of the Project Team delivers a comprehensive, long-term and sustainable solution for the Waiohine River and the people who occupy its floodplain
- Develop and implement a communication strategy to facilitate effective engagement with the WAG, the wider Greytown/ Carterton communities and the general public in the Proposed FMP
- Identify and manage potential and relevant project risks.

4. Waiohine FMP project team

Establishing a Project Team is a matter for the Steering Group. **Attachment 2** to this report contains suggestions on membership, responsibilities and culture for this team. This is a combination of ideas suggested at different times by GWRC, CDC, SWDC and WAG.

5. Wairarapa Committee's functions

The terms of reference for this Committee set out that it may consider and make recommendations to Council on any issues relevant to the Wairarapa, including but not limited to flood protection.

The terms of reference for the Council's Environment Committee sets out that one of its responsibilities is to monitor/oversee the development and implementation of floodplain management plans, including the Waiohine Floodplain Management Plan.

As both Committees have responsibility for flood protection matters, it is considered appropriate at this stage in the process that this matter being presented to the Wairarapa Committee is also presented to the Environment Committee for information before being sent to Council for decision.

6. Communication

The Committee's decisions will be presented to the Environment Committee and Council.

7. Consideration of Climate Change

The matter requiring decision in this report has been considered by officers in accordance with the process set out in the GWRC Climate Change Consideration Guide.

7.1 Mitigation assessment

Mitigation assessments are concerned with the effect of the matter on the climate (i.e. the greenhouse gas emissions generated or removed from the atmosphere as a consequence of the matter) and the actions taken to reduce, neutralise or enhance that effect.

Officers have considered the effect of the matter on the climate and have concluded that the matter will have no effect.

Officers note that the matter does not affect the Council's interests in the Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) and/or the Permanent Forest Sink Initiative (PFSI)

7.2 Adaptation assessment

Adaptation assessments relate to the impacts of climate change (e.g. sea level rise or an increase in extreme weather events), and the actions taken to address or avoid those impacts.

GWRC plans for climate change in assessing the degree of future flood hazard and in determining an appropriate response. There are only specific, limited situations in which climate change is not relevant (for example, planning for present-day emergency management).

In assessing flood hazard and determining appropriate structural and/or non-structural responses in areas subject to flood risk, GWRC applied a rainfall increase of 16.8% to the flood hydrology to account for climate change over the next 100 years. This approach was consistent with how we applied the national guidance at that time, and led to increases in flow ranging from 17% to 28% in the different sub-catchments contributing to the hydraulic model.

Further detail is available in the report: High Intensity Rainfall and Potential Impacts of Climate Change in the Waiohine Catchment - NIWA, Feb 2009.

8. The decision-making process and significance

The matter requiring decision in this report has been considered by officers against the requirements of Part 6 of the Local Government Act 2002.

8.1 Significance of the decision

Officers have considered the significance of the matter, taking into account the Council's significance and engagement policy and decision-making guidelines. Due to the procedural nature of this decision officers recommend that the matter be considered to have low significance.

Officers do not consider that a formal record outlining consideration of the decision-making process is required in this instance.

8.2 Engagement

As set out above, the proposed delivery model has been proposed by officers following discussions with CDC, SWDC and the WAG.

9. Recommendations

That the Committee

1. ***Receives the report.***
2. ***Notes the content of the report.***
3. ***Notes that a report advising the Environment Committee on the proposed establishment of a Waiohine FMP Steering Group and Project Team will be presented to the Environment Committee on 9 August 2017.***
4. ***Recommends to Council:***
 - a. *that it establish a Waiohine FMP Steering Group; and*
 - b. *that it adopt terms of reference for the Waiohine FMP Steering Group as set out in Attachment 1 of this Report.*

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Attachment 1: Proposed terms of reference

Attachment 2: Waiohine FMP Project Team – suggested structure and working principles