

August and September 2014 - Chief Executive's Report

TO	Thames-Coromandel District Council
FROM	David Hammond - Chief Executive
DATE	30 September 2014
SUBJECT	August and September 2014 - Chief Executive's Report

1 Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to present an update of significant projects from the Chief Executive's perspective since the last Council meeting.

2 Discussion

The following outlines major project progress and meetings attended with any pertinent outcomes:

District Plan (District Plan Manager)

The hearing of submissions and further submissions on the Proposed District Plan, via the District Plan Hearings Panel, began on 16 September and are expected to run through until April 2014.

The first 'block' of hearings (16-18 September) covered topics such as: the whole of the Plan; background and how to use the plan; statutory acknowledgements; information requirements for resource consents; cross-boundary matters; significant trees; airfield height and noise overlay; transport policies and rules; forestry; noise, festivals and events.

Around 20 submitters were 'heard' at the first hearing and there was positive feedback about how easy the Plan is to understand and the consultation that went prior to the Proposed Plan. There was also useful feedback on how provisions in the Plan could be improved and a good level of engagement between the Hearings Panel and submitters.

- Contact: Leigh Robcke
- Elected Member contact: Peter French
- Next Major Milestone: ongoing hearings of the District Plan Hearings Panel (through until April 2015)

The Coromandel Great Walks Projects (Area Manager Whangamata/Tairua/Pauanui)

A 14km walk from the 'Blowhole' to Whitianga has been scoped, surveyed, quantity surveyed and costed. At approximately \$2.5 million in actual build costs, the full project cost for stage 1A and 1B will be close to \$3.5million.

The Giblin Group, major funding consultants, have been preparing an application to Lotteries Significant Fund and six identified support funding agencies to raise externally at least 75% of the total cost.

The preferred governance structure for the project has been identified and primarily involves a co governance arrangement between the Department of Conservation (DoC), TCDC and

Iwi under an umbrella legal structure such as a Trust. This model will provide a mechanism to continue external fundraising for maintenance and additional improvements.

Subject to the success of the current fundraising push, construction could commence early in 2015. Preliminary preparation such as vegetation removal and access roads will commence this calendar year.

- Contact: Garry Towler
- Elected Member contact for Phases 1-2: Glenn Leach, with Project Team of TCDC, DoC and Iwi
- Next Major Milestone: Secure sufficient external funding for Stage 1a and 1b. Establish a governance body.

Coromandel Harbour Strategy (Area Manager Thames/Coromandel)

Since the August Council decision the project has been broken up into more manageable components / separate projects as follows:

- Sugarloaf expansion for aquaculture: The funding agreements and project structure arrangement with Coromandel Marine Farmers Association (CMFA) and Iwi will be the first tasks to be completed on this project. The consenting and consultation strategy is being reviewed by TCDC and CMFA. The consent process is expected to take ~2years and the proposed LTP budget has been amended to reflect the timing of the consenting and physical works stages of the project.
- Business Case for Furey's Creek half metre deep dredged channel and the Coromandel Wharf Dredged Basin is being developed internally with limited specialist contractors on board. The business case will evolve with time and only substantiate the case for the Furey's Creek option by December 2014. The Furey's Creek option will include the initial improvements proposed to make the facility more user friendly. The projected consenting, initial upgrades and new channel and reclamation costs have been scheduled in the proposed LTP budget. The concept will be refined through consultation process.
- The dredged basin option (the long term solution) business case component requires substantial work to be completed in line with its economic and commercial case. This will be completed during 2015. The dredged basin project cost has been added to the proposed LTP budget as a year 11 project (i.e. significant project but outside the 10 year planning period).
- Contact: Greg Hampton
- Elected Member contact: Peter French and Tony Brljevic
- Next Major Milestone:
 - Sugar Loaf - Heads of agreement with CMFA to form basis of formal legal agreement for funding of Sugar Loaf. Timeframes to be discussed at meeting with CMFA scheduled for 7 October.
 - Fureys Creek and dredged Basin - Business case development Fureys Creek dredged channel option 17 December 2014.

Hauraki Rail Trail (Area Manager Thames/Coromandel)

Councillor Goudie attended the Hauraki Rail Trail Trust meeting and will give a verbal update at the meeting.

- Contact: Greg Hampton
- Elected Member contact: Sandra Goudie

Thames Indoor Sports Facilities (Area Manager Thames/Coromandel)

A set of designs for Thames Indoor Sports Facilities are ready for the next round of

stakeholder consultation. Staff will arrange the meeting the week following next to be followed by a project steering group meeting to finalise design specifications. Staff are also working on setting up a meeting with Ngati Maru to undertake some of the consultation for inclusion in the Resource Consent for Thames skate park/Porritt park toilets and an Outline Plan application for Thames Indoor Sports Facilities.

The next steps following preliminary design specifications being confirmed by both the project group and stakeholder group will be to undertake QS costings, then start preparing and submitting grant applications. This is anticipated to be ready by the end of October at the latest.

- Contact: Simon Stephens.
- Elected Member contact: Strat Peters and Peter French
- Next Major Milestone: Currently finalising preliminary design and QS costings and expect this completed by the end of October.

I.T. & I.M. Review (Deputy Chief Executive)

The Information Technology and Management (IT/IM) Review has been completed by Rocket Projects.

The report makes the observation that over many years the Council, in general, has not kept up with good practice and has suffered from poor leadership and customer service, a lack of direction and strategy, very little quality assurance over security, business continuity, procurement and a lack of fundamental documentation, policies and processes that should be expected from a modern I.T. department.

The report has found that the Council has made solid investments in its core platforms in ECM (document management), Pathway (regulatory and council processes), GIS (maps) and JDE (finances) and that it should continue to develop and configure these systems to improve the productivity and performance of Council activities and services. It found that these systems in general have not been well supported, configured or used to bring the greatest benefit to the Council.

Until the Council can improve its core systems and platforms and its own capability over time, the report suggests that Council take a conservative approach to changes in IT/IM. The report recommends that once we have the core platforms adding significant productivity to Council and the IT/IM service is delivering at a higher level of capability, which can be sustained, then the Council is to look at partnering with larger suppliers to explore cost savings and efficiency gains through initiatives like datacentres, shared services and IaaS (Infrastructure as Service).

The next stages of the recovery project include the development of a new IT/IM business Model and Structure and a fresh IT Strategy. Recruitment of a new senior manager for the IT/IM area needs to be made prior to completing the next stages of the recovery.

The Council will workshop the strategy and business model at the November Long Term Plan workshops. The report will also be tabled at the next Council meeting with a full report from staff.

In the meantime, the IT/IM team have focused on delivering its 2014/15 work programme which has a focus on significantly improving the productivity at Council including:

- Significant increases in email box size to reduce the wasted time managing email (completed)

- Increased access and speed to wifi services (completed)
- Increased network and printer speed (completed and on-going)
- Replacing all Windows XP based-computers (completed)
- Improved access to the internet and reduced browser-based settings that was slowing down people's access to cloud based services (on-going)
- Removing unproductive software from the business - Track24 will be removed by the end of the year
- Assessments are underway to improve ECM and Pathway configuration
- JDE upgrade in the pipeline to give finance and managers improved financial tools
- Improved help desk support (in-house instead of outsourced contract)

The recruitment for a senior IT/IM Manager (Information Services Manager) has netted a good short list of candidates for preliminary interviews this month. A final recruitment decision is on track for October. Other current projects:

- Replacement of council's project management software;
- Replacement of Windows XP with thin client machines;
- Improved wifi access, network speed and helpdesk.

All projects and IT/IM related issues are governed by an internal governance group made up of senior staff.

- Contact: Ben Day
- Next Major Milestone: November LTP workshop with Council.

Hauraki Treaty Settlement (Strategic Relationships Manager)

The initialling of individual Iwi deeds of settlement in respect of the Hauraki Treaty Claims has commenced. The Crown anticipates that this process will be near completion by late in the third quarter of 2014 and with the Collective Deed of Settlement soon after. A ratification process will then commence with Hauraki Iwi before the final signing of deeds of settlement, probably before the end of 2014 but, most likely, early in the New Year. Included in the deeds of settlement will be legislation to enact the various facets of the agreements between the Crown and Iwi.

In the meantime, final concluding negotiations between the Crown and the Hauraki Iwi Collective continue.

In August, it is understood the Crown set before the Cabinet the final form of the co-governance arrangements for the two rivers (Waihou and Piako) and the catchments of the Coromandel Peninsula. The final form of the arrangements reflect the lengthy discussions held with the Valley councils. Council awaits an indication from the Crown as to the outcome of the Cabinet deliberations.

The Crown is also discussing with Council specific issues including matters relating to cultural and commercial redress. Direct tripartite discussions have been largely concluded between the Council, Crown and individual Iwi in respect of cultural redress matters particularly in relation to co-governance arrangements. These arrangements will be reflected in the Settlement legislation.

- Contact: Sam Napia and Peter Wishart
- Elected Member contact: Glenn Leach
- Next Major Milestone: Anticipated initialling of individual and collective deeds of settlement by the Crown and Hauraki Iwi.

Emergency Management (Community Environment Group Manager)

The Thames Valley Emergency Operating Area (TVEOA) Manager gave his six-monthly report to the TVEOA Management Committee on 5 September. Resolutions from that meeting included the agreement to increase by .5 an administrator to cover work that has increased and the splitting of the TVEOA and the Thames Valley Rural Fire District Committee, and changes to the National Plan in Welfare and Recovery requirements. Funding impact for the increase will not be affected for at least two years to the three Councils. The TVEOA Committee has requested that a review of the funding split between the three Councils is undertaken by July 2015.

A review of the TVRFDC constitution is required by November TVRFDC AGM to manage an anomaly of who should be chairing this committee currently the manager TVEOA is doing this but that is contrary to the Act which requires an elected member.

TCDC has been tasked to review the enlarged rural fire district report and prepare an options report for Council.

Meetings held 25 July 2014 - 30 September 2014

Date	Meeting	Pertinent Outcomes
1/9/2014	LASS Board Meeting	Update on collaboration projects.
	Waikato Region Chief Executive Forum	As above.
10/9/2014	Auckland Home Show promoting the Coromandel as a great place to Live, Work, Play	Attended and spoke to customers promoting Coromandel to live or set up business in.
11/9/2014	Road Asset Technical Accord (RATA) Meeting with Dawn Inglis of Waipa District Council	With Matt and Bruce, understanding the value proposition of shifting investment from our current consultants to this new collaboration.
	1877 Rates Agreement - meeting with Iwi, Mike Dreaver, and Office of Treaty Settlements	Ongoing discussion and refining of negotiating position.
12/9/2014	Discussion with John La Roche re Trust for Old Kopu Bridge	Meeting with a large group including Trustee from the Otago Rail Trail regarding the Kopu Bridge. Outlined the issues for the group to focus in from council's perspective - the key one being funding.
	Bruce Lahore, New Zealand Motor Caravan Association - Freedom Camping	Excellent meeting to work how we move forward with NZMCA.
15/9/2014	Waikato Region Mayoral Forum	Ongoing discussion on Mayoral workstreams.
	John Rennie - Kopu Stormwater matters	Mapping a way forward with stormwater issues in Kopu.
17-18 Sept 2014	Hosting Auckland Tourism Event and Economic Development CE and Senior Management	Two days to build TCDCs partnership with ATEED in economic and tourism development.
22/9/2014	Community Empowerment presentation at Community Governance workshop at Western Bay of Plenty District Councils. Also being presented at the same workshop being held in Gisborne, Wellington and Christchurch.	Presented TCDCs model of community structure and decision-making to Bay of Plenty councils. Generated considerable discussion.

Date	Meeting	Pertinent Outcomes
23/9/2014	LASS Board Strategic Workshop	A focus on more collaboration on back-office functions of councils.
30/9/2014	WRC Councillor Coastal Erosion Site Visit and Workshop	Excellent day discussing common ground and issues in our councils approaches to coastal erosion.

3 Suggested Resolution(s)

That the Thames-Coromandel District Council:

1. Receives the report.