

October 2014 - Chief Executive's Report

TO Thames-Coromandel District Council
FROM David Hammond - Chief Executive
DATE 3 November 2014
SUBJECT **October 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 until April 2014.

At the time of writing this report, three hearings had been held (it is expected there will be ten hearings in total). Hearings thus far have been held on 16-17 September, 1-2 October and 23 October. A wide range of topics have been covered including: settlement development and growth; historic heritage (without schedules); commercial and industrial zones; rural area and zones; airfield height and noise overlay; transport policies and rules; forestry; noise, festivals and events, etc.

Up to this stage, there has been substantial positive feedback about the Proposed Plan and the staff recommendations in relation to submissions that have been made - to the point where a large number of submitters have 'tabled' letters that support the staff recommendations. This has meant there have been less submitters appearing to be 'heard' by the Hearings Panel than originally anticipated.

Having said this, there are some significant Plan topics coming up for hearing (e.g. mining, biodiversity, subdivision, landscape and natural character, etc) and some of the bigger submitters have indicated they wish to be heard at these latter hearings (e.g. Waikato Regional Council, Coromandel Watchdog, Environmental Defence Society, New Zealand Transport Agency, etc).

There continues to be 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)

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 Brljevich
- 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)

The partnering Councils (TCDC/HDC/MPDC) have agreed to set up a joint project team of senior staff to facilitate better communications and collaboration on future HRT issues.

The Hauraki Rail Trail Charitable Trust (HRTCT) has provided TCDC with the financial reports and information requested by the Economic Development Committee. The Chief Executive has approved the recommencement of funding to the HRT maintenance costs and the Kopu to Kaiaua section project.

- Contact: Greg Hampton
- Elected Member contact: Sandra Goudie (HRT Trust Member)

Thames Indoor Sports Facilities (Area Manager Thames/Coromandel)

Preliminary design specifications have now been approved by the project and stakeholder groups and QS costings have confirmed sufficiency of the allocated budget. Grant applications are currently under preparation. Fundraising is making good progress towards targets with local business providing good support.

- Contact: Simon Stephens.
- Elected Member contact: Strat Peters and Peter French
- Next Major Milestone: Formation of operating Sports Trust. Agreements established with MoE.

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

The Council has appointed Rob McNaughtan as our new Information Services Manager, who started with us on 3 November. Our current contractor leading IT, Bernie Goedhart has agreed to stay with us until the early New Year to give a good handover to the new IS Manager. The teams continue to implement the recommendations from the IT/IM Review and the IT Governance Group provides oversight to all IT Projects.

- 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, 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.

Meetings held 1 - 31 October 2014

Date	Meeting	Pertinent Outcomes
1/10/2014	Coromandel Great Walks - Governance and stakeholder meeting	Hahei meeting in the Community Centre was well attended and progress well explained. Decision to pull together a community approach to information was decided as needed.
7/10/2014	Coromandel Harbour Project Meeting	Discussion on Sugarloaf consent issues and industry cost models. More work on the cost of the entire project to be done, and then a cost model to be decided.
	Alastair Knight - Kopu Development	Exploring Council's views on development of new commercial at Kopu.

Date	Meeting	Pertinent Outcomes
16/10/2014	Hauraki District Council and Destination Coromandel	Explored issues that HDC raised around future funding.
20/10/2014	Hauraki District Council and Matamata-Piako District Council meeting re Hauraki Rail Trail	Met to work through a number of issues that some parties raised to resolve them and move forward in a stronger partnership as the Trail looks toward the next Kopu to Kaiaua section.
21/10/2014	Heritage NZ - Sherry Reynolds and Robin Byron re Future of Old Kopu Bridge	Advocacy for the future retention of the Bridge, and an opportunity for TCDC to explain the issues it had with the current community proposals coming forward.
23/10/2014	Department of Conservation - Kay Booth – Deputy Director General – Conservation Partnerships, Nicola Douglas – Conservation Partnerships Director (Northern North Island) and Gemma White – Conservation Partnerships Manager (Hauraki-Coromandel)	An opportunity to meet Kay Booth, continue to build our growing relationship, discuss joint projects including walkway and talk about the emerging concept of Coromandel being a future heritage area.
24/10/2014	Local Authority Shareholder Services and Chief Executive Forum	Largely discussing progress around the Mayoral Forum projects. TCDC has agreed to participate in a project to look at whether it is possible to align subdivision Codes of Practice across Waikato.
28/10/2014	Meet and greet with new owner of Goldfields Mall, Andrew Budge and Glen Bercich - Property Manager	Met with Mayor Glenn and Greg Hampton. They discussed what the Council wanted to see the Mall develop like in future.
	Scott Wynand and Coromandel Pier Working Group	Listened to the case for pursuing the Coromandel Pier initiative. Agreed that it was a good project, not one that meets Council's needs, but great for tourism. Agreed that a business case is needed to progress it further.
30/10/2014	Bill Beard - Mercury Bay Aero Club -Land Legislation Issues	Met with staff in Mercury bay to assess where discussions are at and how to move forward.

3 Suggested Resolution(s)

That the Thames-Coromandel District Council:

1. Receives the report.