

1. COMMUNITY BOARD COMMITTEES

The Board considered a report outlining the background to the establishment of a committee structure, together with information on both the current and proposed structure, as suggested by the Board Chairperson.

It was noted that committees were introduced to meet the demand of increased delegated authority to community boards. It was recognised that any new committee structure needed to be workable, effective and efficient. Additional information was tabled regarding work to be undertaken during the next financial year by the Parks Environment and Leisure Committee. The following is a list of comments/concerns/issues raised regarding possible changes to the current committee structure of the Board:

- Any new structure needed to be cost effective and achieve the objectives of the committee.
- Why fix something that's not broken?
- Status quo should remain in terms of current structure.
- The Board should disband the committees and meet twice per month.
- What is the cost involved in servicing the committees (both elected member and staff time)?
- Efficiency of the process is important.
- Too many committees - probably need only two.
- Could split committees into "working" and "policy" - combine the three working committees as Transport, Community Services and Development and Parks, Environment and Leisure Committees (membership comprising all Board members).
- Retain Finance and Policy Committee as a separate entity.
- Prefer to retain stand-alone committees rather than lump all together.
- Advantages to retaining current structure in terms of specialist areas.
- It appears that Board members are working together better than before since the introduction of committees.
- Board meetings finish much quicker since the introduction of committees.
- Committees are providing good experience for Board (as opposed to Councillor) members.
- Receive more in-depth information by way of discussion at committee level.
- Would prefer to trial current system for a bit longer.
- One of the difficulties, if the current committee structure is retained, is that the Council could abandon the Community Boards if the Boards' costs continue to rise.

The Board **resolved**:

1. That the ordinary monthly meeting of the Community Services and Development, Parks, Environment and Leisure and Transport Committees would normally be a combined meeting of those committees, subject to there being sufficient business.

(Note: Barry Corbett abstained from voting, and Sonia Gill recorded her vote against this resolution).

2. That it be recognised that, when the occasion requires, a committee may need to call a separate meeting to deal with a particular matter.

(Note: Barry Corbett abstained from voting on this resolution).

3. That in the meantime, the status quo apply to the Finance and Policy Committee.

(Note: Barry Corbett abstained from voting, and Sonia Gill recorded her vote against this resolution).