

14. COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE-REPORT OF 17 FEBRUARY 1999

RR 9399

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Corporate Plan Output: Fendalton/Waimairi Community Board Vo1 1, 3.1 text 7	

The purpose of this report is to submit the results of the Committee's meeting held on 17 February.

The report **follows**.

COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

**Report of a meeting held on Wednesday 17 February 1999 at 9.15am
in the Meeting Room, Fendalton Service Centre.**

PRESENT: Mike Wall (Chairman), Diana Bradley, Sally Buck, Yiyi Ku, Keith Nuttall, Barbara Stewart, Ron Wright

Ron Wright left the meeting at 9.45am and was present for clauses 1, 2 and 3.

1. APOLOGIES

Nil

2. ELECTION OF DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE COMMITTEE

Diana Bradley was elected Deputy Chairperson of the Community Services Committee.

3. SCENARIOS FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT TO 2010

At the Committee meeting on 22 January, initial consideration was given to the document jointly published by Local Government New Zealand, the Society of Local Government Managers and the Department of Internal Affairs.

Some views of members were made known at that meeting with staff noting these for inclusion into a draft submission for this particular meeting of the Committee prior to recommending a final draft to the Board on 2 March.

The Committee proceeded to consider the information contained in the agenda along with a tabled paper containing possible additional comments for inclusion in a submission.

From the ensuing discussion, the **attached** draft submission was prepared for referral to the Board.

Recommendation: That the draft submission on the Scenarios for Local Government to 2010 document be adopted.

4. COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

At the Board meeting on 2 February, the Committee's recommendation for developing a Community Action Plan was adopted, including the recommendation for the Committee to act as the joint core and advisory committee.

It was also resolved that the Committee give further consideration to other community individuals and groups who should join the committee for the purpose of developing the 1999/00 Community Action Plan.

In response to these requests, a report was submitted setting out details of possible membership of the joint committee along with draft terms of reference.

The Committee undertook a re-evaluation of the process associated with the Plan including the structure and composition of the joint advisory committee.

The outcome of this review resulted in a preference being expressed to revert to a separate core and advisory group.

The composition of the core group, retitled the Community Action Steering Committee, was discussed in detail and it was **agreed** that the draft terms of reference be considered by that Committee in the first instance.

- Recommendations:**
1. That the Board endorse the establishment of a Community Action Steering Committee comprising the following;
 - Three Board representatives (Mike Wall, Diana Bradley, Yiyi Ku (with the Board Chairman ex officio))
 - Three community representatives (one each from the Fendalton and Waimairi Wards, and one other)
 - One Police representative
 2. That the Steering Committee meet as soon as possible for briefing, consideration of appropriate terms of reference, and the best method for ongoing consultation with the community.

5. ALLOCATION OF 'COMMUNITY SUPPORT SEEDING FUND'

At its meeting on 2 February, the Board requested that the \$4,000 currently allocated via this years project funding be further considered at this particular meeting.

Examples of similar such allocations made in the past were reported on and suggestions were made as to possible recipients of this years funding.

Recommendations: That a grant of \$1,000 be made to the St Adians Vege Co-Op towards the purchase of needed equipment and further that the balance

remaining of \$3,000 be retained for allocation by the end of June 1999.

The meeting concluded at 11.12am

SCENARIOS FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT TO 2010 - SUBMISSION

The Fendalton/Waimairi Community Board welcomes the opportunity to forward a submission on the draft document 'Scenarios for Local Government to 2010'.

As a first comment, the Board is rather disappointed with the scenarios set out as the format tends to suggest that there may only be one scenario that can be supported. The Board is concerned that this will be the eventuality with a number of submissions, based on the premise that scenarios 1 and 2 will not be considered as acceptable options in moving forward with the reform process. While supporting change, the Board does not support Scenarios 1 or 2, but also does not support Scenario 3 in its present form.

The following points more particularly define the Board's view for any revised scenario:

- The Board supports a position which provides for the strengthening and nurturing of the community. To this end, the Board favours local government taking a strong leadership role in meeting the needs of local communities, although it is guarded to see that there is no conversion of the role of 'welfare' from central government. Having said that the Board believes that different regions will require differing scenarios and that any prescribed future format will require 'local' variations.
- With particular experience gained from the success of the Christchurch City Council's "structure", the Board strongly suggests that any future adopted change retains the role of Community Boards in Christchurch. While acknowledging that Community Boards may not have been successful in some regions within the country the past nine years has seen an ongoing strengthening of ties between the Boards and the community, and a ready identification, by the community, of the role that the Boards can play in the matter of local governance. Any change adversely affecting this local input would not be supported by the Board.
- The Board notes that in a number of regions there has been a combining of the roles of District and Regional Councils, as Unitary Authorities, and an implication that this option could generally arise through an adoption of Scenario 3. The Board does consider that there could be merit in some cases in establishing such authorities but it does not consider that this should be a universal outcome. It is considered that the structures to be developed for individual regions should be applicable to the differing conditions that apply across the country, ie 'local' variations should apply to new structures rather than a universal structure throughout. Careful consideration will be required to ensure that there is a structure that

provides for the setting/monitoring of appropriate standards for environmentally sensitive resources.

- The Board recognises that certain aspects of present Council service delivery are potentially able to be managed in a more professional and cost effective manner but, in supporting some possible moves towards corporatisation, the Board is strongly against ongoing moves to a regime of privatisation. The opportunity for the Council's continuing overview of all aspects of service delivery is one that is considered to be to the best benefit of the community.
- The Board has recently reviewed its objectives for the next financial year. In so doing the Board has chosen a collective "vision" for its work with the local community. The cornerstone to the "vision" is a statement defining a wish for dealing with all members of the community as "equals". Any change defining local government actions, functions and roles toward the year 2010 should be built around a similar criteria.
- The Board acknowledges that change in many areas is ongoing and that, as a result, both central and local government need to adapt in the most appropriate manner to accommodate these changes, and to promote "local governance". To this end the principle of facilitating local solutions in working with the community is strongly supported. The role in facilitating on behalf of central government is also seen as an evolving part of local government working.

A further view which is based on community comment is that there should be a minimisation, or flexibility, of future 'rules' but with a maintenance of appropriate levels of quality/standards etc. For some time, there has been a public disillusionment at the extent of documentation applying before 'compliance' issues can be met.

- In concluding its submission the Board strongly recommends that any new structure will be readily understood by the community. This statement is based on the continuing lack of understanding of the present structures, and a high degree of confusion as to the respective roles and responsibilities of existing Councils, more particularly those of the Regional Councils.

2 March 1999

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Chairman's

Recommendation: That the report be received and the recommendations therein be approved and adopted.