Minutes of the Eastern Bay of Plenty Joint Committee 18 March 2015

Details of meeting: EASTERN BAY OF PLENTY JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD IN COUNCIL MEETING ROOM ONE, BAY OF PLENTY REGIONAL COUNCIL, 5 QUAY STREET, WHAKATANE ON WEDNESDAY, 18 MARCH 2015, COMMENCING AT 9.30 AM

Present: Councillor N Bruning (Chairman) - Bay of Plenty Regional Council; Mayor A A Bonne, Councillor S Jarrett - Whakatāne District Council; Mayor M Campbell, Deputy Mayor A Holmes - Kawerau District Council; Mayor J Forbes, Councillor L Riesterer (Deputy Chair) (Ōpōtiki District Council)

In attendance: K Tarboton (General Manager Technical Services), R Feist (Senior Planner), S Kameta (Committee Advisor) - Bay of Plenty Regional Council; R George (Chief Executive), C Jensen (Manager Regulatory and Planning) - Kawerau District Council; A Lawrie (Chief Executive); M Houghton (Community Facilities Manager) - Opotiki District Council; M Grenfell (Chief Executive), J Gardyne (General Manager Strategy and Economic Development) - Whakatane District Council

Visitors: M Vercoe (Rangitaiki River Forum Chair)

Apologies: Chairman D Leeder - Bay of Plenty Regional Council

1  TABLED ITEMS

RESOLVED

That pursuant to section 46A of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 the following items be considered at this meeting.

1) Tabled Document Number 1 – Eastern Bay Spatial Plan Subcommittee Workshop Report of 9 March 2015 (agenda item 5.2)

2) Tabled Document Number 2 – Eastern Bay – Beyond Today Update revised report (agenda item 6.2)

3) Tabled Document Number 3 – Eastern Bay Spatial Plan Subcommittee Workshop Report of 17 November: Missing attachment to the Eastern Bay – Beyond Today Update (agenda item 6.2)

Bruning/Campbell CARRIED

2  DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

No conflicts of interest were declared in regard to items of business.
3 PREVIOUS MINUTES

3.1 EASTERN BAY OF PLENTY JOINT COMMITTEE MINUTES - 1 DECEMBER 2014

Refer agenda pages 3-6.

RESOLVED

1 That the minutes of the Eastern Bay of Plenty Joint Committee meeting on 1 December 2014 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

Forbes/Campbell
CARRIED

4 SUBCOMMITTEE WORKSHOP REPORTS

4.1 EASTERN BAY SPATIAL PLAN SUBCOMMITTEE WORKSHOP 15 DECEMBER 2014

Refer agenda pages 9-11.

RESOLVED

1 That the Eastern Bay Spatial Plan Subcommittee Workshop Report of 15 December 2014 be received.

Forbes/Riesterer
CARRIED

4.2 EASTERN BAY SPATIAL PLAN SUBCOMMITTEE WORKSHOP 9 MARCH 2015

Refer to Tabled Document Number 1 (Objective ID A2051366).

Senior Planner Ruth Feist summarised work undertaken by the Subcommittee and project team following the 9 March workshop. She advised the Regional Growth Study, due for release in late April, would have economic linkages to the Eastern Bay spatial plan.

Members discussed a desire for population growth scenarios to be investigated and their noted concern at the reduced funding proposed in Regional Council’s Long Term Plan for Invest Bay of Plenty and Bay of Connections. Further discussion on these matters was deferred to later in the meeting under item 6.2, Eastern Bay - Beyond Today Update and item 6.5, General report.

RESOLVED

1 That the Eastern Bay Spatial Plan Subcommittee Workshop Report of 9 March 2015 (refer Tabled Document Number 1) be received.

Forbes/Riesterer
CARRIED
REPORTS

5.1 UPDATE ON THE RANGITAIKI RIVER FORUM


Rangitāiki River Forum Chair Maramena Vercoe was in attendance to speak to members about the Forum and its journey during the development of the Rangitāiki River document. Ms Vercoe highlighted the document’s initial focus on the environment to ensure balance and due care is maintained in the catchment for future generations. At the document’s next review, economic aspirations could be considered further. Emphasis was placed on the document’s reliance on the people and the conversations of those who would use and read the document, and the importance of relationships and people working together. Copies of the Rangitāiki River Document, ‘Te Ara Whānui o Rangitaiki – Pathways of the Rangitāiki’ and summary document were circulated to members.

The Chair thanked Maramena for taking the time to present to the Committee. As a member of the Rangitāiki River Forum, he acknowledged the Forum and work undertaken during the River document’s development and next steps for implementation and monitoring.

RESOLVED

1 THAT the report ‘Update on the Rangitaiki River Forum’ be received.

Bruning/Campbell
CARRIED

Adjournment

Maramena Vercoe departed the meeting following the above item.

The meeting adjourned for morning tea at 10.15 am and reconvened at 10.40 am.

5.2 EASTERN BAY - BEYOND TODAY UPDATE

Refer agenda pages 19-22, Tabled Documents 2 and 3 (Objective IDs A2047512, A2056859)

Senior Planner Ruth Feist updated the committee on progress made with Eastern Bay – Beyond Today, the Eastern Bay Spatial Plan. A revised report (refer Tabled Document Number 2) was tabled at the meeting, reflecting discussions from the Spatial Plan Subcommittee workshop held on 9 March. The Subcommittee workshop report 17 November 2014 (refer Tabled Document Number 3) was omitted from the report and tabled for information. Ms Feist informed members of work occurring on more visionary and targeted material for key stakeholder engagement, next steps for targeted engagement and funding allocations proposed in partner councils’ draft Long Term Plans.

The Chair asked members to engage with their council counterparts, not directly involved with this work and offered to attend and support discussions. Members discussed the Regional Growth Study and a desire for population and economic growth scenarios to be investigated further. Manager Regulatory and Planning Chris Jensen said a similar report to that commissioned by Bay of Connections would be worth investigating. Chief Executive Aileen Lawrie noted existing data from Invest BOP could be used and raised this for consideration and discussion at the Mayors/Chair’s triennial meeting on 20 March.
The Committee resolved to support the commissioning of a report to establish population projection outcomes under economic growth scenarios, to be undertaken by the Eastern Bay Spatial Plan Subcommittee.

RESOLVED

1 THAT the report, ‘Eastern Bay - Beyond Today Update’ and revised report (refer Tabled Document 2) be received.

2 THAT the Eastern Bay of Plenty Joint Committee supports the Eastern Bay Spatial Plan Subcommittee commissioning a further report on economic and population projections, as published by Invest BOP, to establish what outcomes for population projections may be anticipated under economic growth scenarios.

Bonne/Campbell
CARRIED

5.3 DISTRICT ROADING NETWORKS UPDATE ON COLLABORATION CONSIDERATIONS

Refer agenda pages 23-28.

Chief Executive Marty Grenfell spoke to the report on collaboration initiatives within the roading sector. He informed members of collaborative work occurring on asset management operations and service delivery to support the Road Maintenance Task Force (RMTF). He advised road management was not currently aligned, but roading managers were aware of this and were looking for potential opportunities and synergies.

A member advised that national funding from NZ Transport Agency (NZTA) had been declined for the Eastern Bay route security project at the Wainui/SH2 intersection. Subsequently, the Regional Transport Committee was waiting response from the Regional Council, after seeking the balance of infrastructure funding not previously spent on the NZTA partnership, to undertake the works. In terms of Wainui Road S bend upgrade, Whakatane District Council was appealing the consent, based on some of the consent conditions granted being seen as too onerous.

Members noted disappointment regarding NZTA’s response and the impact to Whakatāne and Ōpōtiki communities if funding could not be gained.

A correction was noted within the report: top of page 24 of the agenda, NOC Contract table, third row down, amend ‘May 2104’ to ‘May 2014’ for Bay of Plenty East.

RESOLVED

1 That the report, ‘District Roading Networks - update on collaboration considerations’ be received.

Bruning/Jarrett
CARRIED

5.4 EASTERN BAY CYCLE TRAIL

Refer agenda pages 29-30.

Community Facilities Manager Mike Houghton presented the report on the Eastern Bay of Plenty Cycle Trails proposal to establish build and extend on the Môtū Trails, west to Whakatāne and forming links from Rotorua to Kawerau and down to the Rangitāiki. Mr Houghton advised a
staff working party had been formed between Opotiki, Whakatāne and Kawerau District Councils and the Department of Conservation to explore options further. The group would be meeting on Friday 20 March to discuss a draft scope and next steps for commissioning a joint feasibility study for the cycle trail expansion.

A member advised of interest expressed by a landowner to be involved in the Kawerau expansion. This was seen as a huge benefit in terms of gaining external funding. The member suggested that the landowner be invited to discuss potential prospects with the working party.

Attendance

Councillor S Jarrett departed the meeting at 11.20 am.

Committee members supported the cycle trail proposal and the concept of a joint feasibility study. They recommended that partner Councils support the development of the Eastern Bay of Plenty Cycle Trails Strategy in their Long Term Plans.

RESOLVED

1 THAT the report, ‘EBOP Cycle Trail’ be received.

2 THAT the Eastern Bay of Plenty Joint Committee endorses the working party; and recommends to the partner Councils that the development of the Eastern Bay of Plenty Cycle Trail Strategy is supported in their Long Term Plans.

Bonne/Riesterer
CARRIED

5.5 GENERAL REPORT

Refer agenda pages 31-34.

The report provided an update on matters of general interest to the Committee. A correction was noted on page 31 of the agenda; under section 1, bullet point four, ‘fights’ should read ‘flights’. Regarding the Bay of Plenty Regional Growth Strategy, Senior Planner Ruth Feist advised that the Martin Jenkins report would go some way to provide information to national agencies in terms of potential funding gains.

Regarding Regional Council’s Long Term Plan and concerns raised earlier in the meeting on proposed funding reductions to Invest BOP and Bay of Connections, the Committee agreed to support submissions from the partner councils for funding to continue, in support of sustainable economic development and growth, in areas where it could happen. The Chair noted Regional Council’s LTP hearing in Whakatāne was scheduled for Friday 17 April.

Members provided feedback on the proposed field trips outlined in the report. The Chair asked that an invitation for the tour be extended to all councillors of the four partner councils. It was agreed that the first tour begin in the Ōpōtiki-Whakatāne area. In addition to potential sites reported, members suggested including the mānuka factory in Ōpōtiki, one of Whakatāne District’s water plants and the Piripai subdivision development. Staff were asked to look at further dates to the end of June, advising that initial dates conflicted with other scheduled meetings.

In regard to the Whakatāne Airport flight service, members were informed that an inter-liner agreement was currently being sought with Air New Zealand.
Attendance

Marty Grenfell and Julie Gardyne left the meeting at 11.55 am.

Feedback was sought from members on the work programme outlined in the report. Members asked that an update on the Regional Growth Study and Eastern Bay Cycle Trails be provided at the next meeting in July.

RESOLVED

1  THAT the General Report, be received.

2  THAT the Eastern Bay of Plenty Joint Committee supports submissions to the Bay of Plenty Regional Council Long Term Plan by Whakatane District Council, Opotiki District Council and Kawerau District Council, requesting the continuance of Invest BOP funding and Bay of Connections funding to support economic development and growth in the region.

3  THAT staff be requested to organise a field trip starting with an Eastern Bay tour with a preferred date to be confirmed.

Forbes/Bonne
CARRIED

The meeting closed at 12.07 pm.