

OTAGO REGIONAL COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Communications Committee held in the Council Chamber, 70 Stafford Street, Dunedin on Thursday 4 September 2014 commencing at 8.48 am

Present:

- Cr Trevor Kempton (Chairperson)
- Cr Doug Brown
- Cr Louise Croot MNZM
- Cr Michael Deaker
- Cr Gerrard Eckhoff
- Cr Gary Kelliher
- Cr Sam Neill
- Cr Gretchen Robertson
- Cr Bryan Scott
- Cr David Shepherd
- Cr Stephen Woodhead

Apology:

Cr Graeme Bell
The apology was accepted on the motion of Crs Croot and Neill.

In attendance:

- Peter Bodeker
- Wayne Scott
- Jeff Donaldson
- Jane Leahy
- Fraser McRae
- Gavin Palmer
- Janet Favel

CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

There were no changes to the agenda.

MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 24 July 2014, having been circulated, were adopted on the motion of Crs Deaker and Croot.

Matters arising from minutes

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

FOR NOTING

Item 1

2014/1244 **Stakeholder Engagement Report.** DSE, 20/8/14

The report detailed community, stakeholder and staff engagement activities carried out by Stakeholder Engagement directorate staff since the last meeting. Cr Kempton noted the new format of the report, which combined the Community Liaison and Education, Communications and Media, and Customer Services sections into one report structured by ORC objectives.

It was noted that the questions being asked by the public in relation to Plan Change 6A were the same as those asked at the launch of the Plan Change, and indicated that people were seeking clarity on the requirements. In response to a question Mrs Leahy advised that staff had met recently with representatives from major forestry companies to discuss the implications of 6A rules for their industry, and were now planning meetings with forestry contractors.

The availability of presentation resources for field days was discussed and Mrs Leahy advised that relevant fact sheets were in production. A 'what do I need to do now?' resource was being developed in the form of a one page information sheet, laminated so that it could be displayed in working environments for quick reference. A programme was in place to develop these resources and keep them up to date.

A question was raised about involvement in the ECan funding application to run an in-house behavioural change project. Mrs Leahy explained that ORC had written in support of ECan's funding application, and had also provided financial and other assistance. She commented that the learnings from the ECan study would be useful for Otago, and it was anticipated that the project, if funded, would be relevant for air quality initiatives nationally.

The spike in visits to the ORC website on the snow day (Friday 8 August) was noted, with people checking for information on buses. Mrs Leahy commented that an advantage of having bus information on the main website was that people were then encouraged to look at other ORC services and information. A lot of work was being put into developing the website and making it easier to use.

The report noted the requirement under changes to the Local Government Act for councils to prepare a Significance and Engagement Policy. Mrs Leahy explained that the policy should identify at what point a matter should be consulted on with the public, and should distinguish between consultation and engagement. A draft policy would be presented to the next Committee meeting before being made available for public comment.

Reference was made to the DCC on-line system which regularly sought public comment on a range of topics, and it was suggested that ORC set up a similar facility.

In response to a question Mr Scott commented that the Council could develop its own set of procedures for consultation that was not at the level referred to in the amendment to the Local Government Act.

In response to a question about Customer Relationship Management (CRM) software, Mrs Leahy explained that currently staff were investigating processes used by other organisations. Mr Bodeker pointed out that some staff had strong relationships with individual ratepayers, and while these were useful, the establishment of an automated system would free staff to work more effectively on other tasks.

Cr Deaker moved
Cr Kelliher seconded

That the report be noted.

Motion carried

The meeting closed at 9.20 am.



Chairperson