



Minutes of a meeting of the Governance, Communications and
Engagement Committee held in the Council Chamber on
Thursday 10 September 2020 at 9:00 am

Membership

Cr Michael Deaker *(Co-Chair)*
Cr Michael Laws *(Co-Chair)*
Cr Hilary Calvert
Cr Alexa Forbes
Hon Cr Marian Hobbs
Cr Carmen Hope
Cr Gary Kelliher
Cr Kevin Malcolm
Cr Andrew Noone
Cr Gretchen Robertson
Cr Bryan Scott
Cr Kate Wilson

Welcome

Co-Chair Michael Deaker welcomed Councillors, members of the public and staff to the meeting at 09:00 am.

Staff present: Sarah Gardner (Chief Executive), Gwyneth Elsum (GM Strategy, Policy and Science), Nick Donnelly (GM Corporate Services), Gavin Palmer (GM Operations), Richard Saunders (GM Regulatory), Amanda Vercoe (Executive Advisor), Liz Spector (Committee Secretary), Lisa Gloag (Manager Comms and Engagement), Nicole Ross (Manager People and Safety), Eleanor Ross (Manager Communications Channels), Andrea Howard (Manager Biosecurity and Rural Liaison), Shayde Bain (Comms and Engagement Advisor), Frederique Gulcher (Public Transport Brand Lead).

For our future

1. APOLOGIES

Resolution

That the apologies for Cr Malcolm be accepted.

Moved: Cr Hope
Seconded: Cr Forbes
CARRIED

2. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

The agenda was confirmed as published. Committee members requested to ask questions of staff after the final item about the current media monitoring service.

3. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No conflicts of interest were advised.

4. PUBLIC FORUM

No public forum was held.

5. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

There were no previous minutes of the Committee.

6. ACTIONS

There are no outstanding actions for the Governance, Communications and Engagement Committee.

7. MATTERS FOR COUNCIL DECISION

7.1. Recruitment Protocols for Governance Appointments

The report presented the draft Otago Regional Council Recruitment and Appointment Policy (Governance) to inform future governance appointments as requested by Council on 24 June 2020.

Nick Donnelly (GM Corporate Services) and Nicole Ross (Manager People & Safety) were present to speak to the report and respond to questions. Several Councillors had questions about referee checks and privacy concerns. Ms Ross noted the policy is based on best practice Human Resource guidance. After a general discussion of the policy and its application, Cr Robertson moved:

Resolution

That the Council:

- 1) **Receives** this report.
- 2) **Adopts** the attached Otago Regional Council Recruitment and Appointment Policy (Governance).
- 3) **Notes** that the Policy includes Guidelines for the Appointment of Directors to Port Otago Limited.

- 4) **Approves** that Guideline including guidance on Director residency in New Zealand.
- 5) **Notes** that the Policy also includes guidance for the Appointment of an Independent Member to the Subcommittee Audit and Risk.

Moved: Cr Robertson
Seconded: Cr Hobbs
CARRIED

8. MATTERS FOR NOTING

8.1. ECO Fund review 2020

The report was provided to give an overview of activity associated with the Otago Regional Council ECO Fund for the period covering 1 May 2019 to 30 June 2020.

Shayde Bain (Comms and Engagement Advisor) and Lisa Gloag (Manager Comms and Engagement) were present to respond to questions about the report. Cr Hobbs noted that several projects involved the same participants and asked if staff noted this before making ECO Fund awards. Ms Bain said each application was reviewed and awarded on individual merit, not necessarily taking into account who was involved in the project.

Cr Robertson asked that future reporting include visual metrics, and mapping to show the spread of uptake for the Fund. She said ORC could better use the data and then present to the community. Ms Bain indicated she was working on including this type of data in future reports.

After further general discussion of the report, Cr Wilson moved:

Resolution

That the Council:

- 1) **Receives** this report.
- 2) **Notes** that no changes will be made to ECO Fund terms and conditions, purpose and criteria following the 2020 review.
- 3) **Notes** that future reports on the ECO Fund will be presented to the Implementation Committee.
- 4) **Notes** the Chair of the ECO Fund Panel, Cr Michael Deaker, will appoint the three additional Councillor members of the decision panel as per the Terms of Reference.

Moved: Cr Wilson
Seconded: Cr Robertson
CARRIED

*Cr Noone left the meeting at 09:39 am.
Cr Noone returned to the meeting at 09:41 am.*

8.2. Local Government Members 2020/21 Remuneration Determination

This report was provided to meet legislative requirements, noting the 2020/21 Local Government Members Remuneration Determination applies from 1 July 2020, until 30 June 2021. The determination made no changes to elected members' remuneration, allowances or fees from the previous fiscal year.

Amanda Vercoe (Executive Advisor) was present to respond to questions on the report. Cr Laws said he wanted staff to prepare a news release stating there will be no pay rise for Councillors for the year as the public would like to know this. CE Gardner indicated a national news outlet had a current LGOIMA request on remuneration of staff and Councillors post COVID-19 so this information will be in the public domain soon.

After further discussion, Cr Scott moved:

Resolution

That the Council:


- 1) **Receives** this report.
- 2) **Notes** the Remuneration Authority's Local Government Members (2019/20) Determination 2019.
- 3) **Notes** the Remuneration Authority's Local Government Members (Temporary Reduction COVID-19) Determination 2020.

Moved: Cr Scott
Seconded: Cr Hope
CARRIED

9. CLOSURE

Cr Laws enquired about the current media monitoring service used by the ORC. He indicated he would like staff to review the subscription as he felt it was under-serving in certain areas. Eleanor Ross (Manager Communications Channels) said a staff review is currently underway and is well-advanced. Richard Saunders (GM Regulatory) indicated a report on the review will be brought to a future meeting of Council as it will be completed before the next Governance, Communications and Engagement Committee meeting.

There was no further business and Cr Deaker declared the meeting closed at 09:59 am.



Co-Chair

10 February 2021

Date