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## **Report 02.549**

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WJH/CTTEREP

Report to Policy, Finance and Strategy Committee  
from Cr Terry McDavitt

### **Report back from Wellington City Council: Built and Natural Environment Committee (BNE)**

#### **1. Background**

The Policy and Finance Committee appointed me to represent this Council on Wellington City Council's (WCC) *Built and Natural Environment Committee (BNE)* earlier this year. This is the first six-monthly report and covers general topics. Two items emerged that required more immediate presentation to full Council. They were the Northern Growth Study and the Urban Growth Study.

#### **2. Discussion**

- (1) BNE is the Wellington City Council's Standing Committee addressing District Plan, Bylaws and other regulatory and strategic aspects, hence Regional Land Transport Strategy (RLTS) and Urban Growth matters. As the BNE's scope intersects with other WCC's Standing Committees it frequently holds "*Joint Committee meetings*". Two recent examples: phase one of the CBD Corridor Study (RLTS) was presented to BNE and Transport and Infrastructure; proposed Karori Centre Upgrade was presented to BNE and Community Services.

The approaches would appear to offer possibilities for WRC – where interdisciplinary matters are involved, WRC's practice is to refer such matters to Policy, Finance and Strategy meetings but discussion there is rather limited.

- (2) Chaired by Cr Foster, BNE comprises half-to-two-thirds of the Councillors, plus an iwi representative on the Standing Committee (with speaking but not voting rights). It meets six-weekly, usually with a long and varied agenda in which several topics jostle for "the primary attention span" of Councillors (the morning session). Two of the four meetings for this year have required 2 full days.

The most recent agenda (early August) included:

- (a) Karori Centre Upgrade (juggling locations of various community facilities);
  - (b) Parks and streets naming policy (iwi proposals in conflict with community usage);
  - (c) Lambton Harbour reports (3 – the governance of Lambton Harbour Management Limited is complex);
  - (d) Review of schedule of District Plan work (too many high priorities competing for too little time) and 6-10 sundry processing items.
- (3) WCC operates a useful “*Forward Programme*” for each of its Committees, which identifies for Councillors, officers and the public the expected timing of Committee consideration of major items. The forward programme is printed with each Order Paper, and reviewed each meeting. BNE’s current Forward Programme includes:

<u>16 September</u>	Urban Form Working Group (sic) Northern Growth Study – implementation report CBD Corridor Study (phase two briefing)
<u>30 October</u>	Port Noise Protecting bush on private land
<u>9 December</u>	Pest management in Wellington City Rural issues – Horokiwi

Others “to be allocated” include:

- Gateways (general)
  - City Gateway (ie Wellington Railyards and Port: future landuse)
  - Street-lighting standards
  - Ridgeline and hilltops policy (regulating structures, e.g. windpower)
  - Under-grounding of overhead cables
  - Faultlines and the District Plan
  - Central Area Parking policy
  - “Tranz Rail issues” (on inquiry, this means local stations)
- (4) To take one item in particular, the District Plan schedule of work contains nearly 100 items large and small that have already been identified as needing attention or correction in the current District Plan. The Variation process for each one is complex, time-consuming and costly, especially if “appeals” or “references” get involved. The Committee’s task is to prioritise the list. At best four to six may get “done” in one year.
- (5) While items of relevance to WRC occupy a minority of the BNE agenda, those that do appear are of some significance and span several WRC Committees. - BNE meetings frequently clash with WRC schedules, a situation exacerbated by spillovers into a second day.

**Recommendation**

*That the report be received.*

Report prepared by:

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Councillor