



Report 05.398
Date 1 August 2005
File T/9/11/581

Committee Passenger Transport
Author Rhona Nicol Manager, Transport Procurement

Petone to Wellington Ferry Service

1. Purpose

To seek the Committee's decision on whether or not to proceed with the award of a subsidised Petone to Wellington ferry service.

2. Significance of the Decision

The matters in this report do not trigger the significance policy of the Council or otherwise trigger section 76(3)(b) of the Local Government Act 2002.

3. Background

At the Regional Land Transport Committee on 13 November 2003 it was resolved under RLT110 *Approve the Hutt Corridor Plan for adoption by Council.*

On 12 February 2004 Mr Jeremy Ward of East by West Company Ltd made a public submission to the Passenger Transport Committee. In response to this the Committee resolved:

“That officers prepare a report on the matters raised in the Eastbourne Market Research Report about increased ferry services and the views expressed by Mr Ward, Managing Director, East West Ferry Limited, at today’s meeting.”

Report 04.168 (**attachment 1**) to the Passenger Transport Committee on the 30 March 2004 addressed the above resolution by referring to the Hutt Corridor Study (Beca Cater Hollings & Ferner Ltd 2002). The study evaluated ferry services from Petone and Seaview to Wellington and concluded:

“The model predicts that the new ferry services between Petone and Taranaki Wharf, and Seaview and Taranaki Wharf have little impact on improving the attractiveness of ferries as an alternative mode to the car travelling to the Wellington CBD ... It is recommended that this new ferry service option be dropped.”

Officers recommended not to pursue Petone or Seaview ferry options, but would consider ways of enhancing the Days Bay service beyond the short term.

At the Passenger Transport Committee on the 30 March 2004 Mr Jeremy Ward again made a public submission in response to the above stating:

“He was disappointed that officers were advising members not to support the prospect of a second Wellington Harbour ferry and the extra services that could be provided.”

Mr Ward asked members to reconsider his proposal in spite of the contrary advice of officers in the report to be considered at that meeting.

Committee’s resolutions as a result of Report 04.168 follow:

That a report be prepared for a future meeting which includes:

- (i) financial information and transport outcomes.*
- (ii) the outcome of consultations with East by West Company Limited.*
- (iii) the rationale for rejecting an expansion of the ferry services in the Hutt Valley Corridor Plan.*

Report 04.219 (**attachment 2**) to 7 May 2004 Passenger Transport Committee answered the above resolutions in great detail. The Committee then further resolved:

- (1) That the Committee notes that the Council’s transport policy documents do not support a subsidised ferry service from Petone to Wellington.*
- (2) That the officers investigate and report back on improvement, including Petone, if a Harbour ferry service is to be trialled.*
- (3) That the proposal includes an assurance that Harbour Master approval could be given and the proposed car parking (if any) to be dedicated to any such proposal.*
- (4) That the officers report further on any other aspects they see are significant.*

Report 04.522 to Passenger Transport Committee on 7 September 2004 stated:

Officers have had a further meeting with Mr J Ward of East by West. At the meeting Mr Ward provided a copy of his company’s own survey. After the meeting officers discussed the procurement procedures required by Transfund New Zealand which Mr Ward had suggested allowed for a contract variation rather than a tender process, though Mr Ward was not unhappy to face competition. It is clear that the proposed Petone to Wellington commuter ferry service would need to be competitively tendered.

Harbour Master has been consulted and sees no concerns with the use of Petone wharf for a ferry service.

The investigation undertaken by officers now enable us to move on a trial Petone to Wellington ferry service. Officers intend to test the viability of a Petone to Wellington ferry service by calling for tenders to provide two peak hour sailings Monday to Friday (not on public holidays) for a trial period of two years. As this would be a new service and additional to current budgeted passenger transport services the result of the tender will be reported back to the Committee prior to any contract being awarded.

4. Comments

Following on from Committee resolutions a tender for a 2 year commercial trial for a ferry service between Petone and Wellington was released on 13 May 2005. Extensive work was carried out on the tender to ensure that the Wellington Region would receive a quality service. Vessel standards were developed with the assistance of ARTA. Use of Petone Wharf and parking facilities at the wharf were discussed and agreed with Hutt City Council.

The tender closed on 15 July 2005, and tender evaluation commenced. The preferred tenderer's price proposal falls within the \$80,000 budget allowance of the current annual plan.

5. Communication

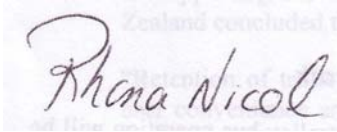
If the Council moves to award the ferry contract from Petone to Wellington that will be of public interest and the subject of an appropriate media release from the Committee Chairperson.

6. Recommendations

That the Committee:

- 1. receive the report.*
- 2. note that awarding the Petone to Wellington ferry contract for a subsidised service would be contrary to the Hutt Corridor Plan 2003 as adopted by Council; and*
- 3. note that the preferred tenderer's price proposal is within the budget allowance of the current annual plan; and*
- 4. recommends to Council that the officers be instructed to complete the tender process and award the contract to the preferred tenderer.*

Report prepared by:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rhona Nicol". The signature is written in a cursive style. Above the signature, the text "Zealand concluded" is faintly visible in the background.

Rhona Nicol
Manager, Transport Procurement

Attachment 1: Report 04.168

Attachment 2: Report 04.219

Report approved by:

Dave Watson
Divisional Manager Transport