

## **Environment and Climate Committee** (A Committee of the Whole)

### **1 Purpose**

- 1.1 Oversee the development, implementation and delivery, and review of Council's:
  - a Environmental strategies, policies, plans <sup>1</sup>, programmes, and initiatives to improve environmental outcomes for the Wellington Region's land, water, air, biodiversity, natural resources, parks and reserves, and coastal marine area;
  - b Climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies, policies, plans, programmes, and initiatives;
  - c Regional resilience priorities in the delivery of plans, programmes, initiatives and activities for flood protection, erosion control, and regional parks and forests;
  - d Regulatory systems, processes, and tools to meet Council's related legislative responsibilities; and
  - e Plans, programmes, and efforts to increase volunteer uptake, community involvement and mahi tahi with others seeking to improve environmental outcomes in the Wellington Region.
- 1.2 Recommend changes to these matters to Council for adoption or variation (as appropriate).

### **2 Specific responsibilities**

- 2.1 The Committee's responsibilities for:
  - a Environment include the areas of land use management, air quality, water health and quality, regional natural resources, river control, flood protection, regional parks and reserves, coastal marine environment, maritime navigation and safety, biosecurity, and biodiversity; and
  - b Climate include the areas of climate change mitigation and adaptation.
- 2.2 Apply Council's Te Tiriti o Waitangi principles when conducting the Committee's business and making decisions:
  - a **Pātuitanga | Relationships and Partnerships** – ensure decisions are based on shared knowledge, expertise and values maintained and sustained through active relationships and meaningful partnerships with mana whenua. These relationships and partnerships will contribute to Greater Wellington's core business services, functions, and systems to develop and deliver our shared aspirations across our Greater Wellington rohe;

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<sup>1</sup> Including floodplain management plans.

- b **Kōwhiringa | Options** – actively partner with mana whenua to enable effective governance decision making that is informed by kaupapa Māori and mātauranga Māori analytical frameworks and knowledge systems in identifying feasible and meaningful options and solutions;
- c **Tino rangatiratanga | Self Determination** – position Greater Wellington to give effect to Te Tiriti o Waitangi and uphold the interests of mana whenua in exercising their tino rangatiratanga in planning and promoting quality services that enable self-determination for whānau and community;
- d **Whakamaru | Active protection** – assess how decisions work towards protecting mana Motuhake (rights and interests of mana whenua) through relevant mutually beneficial strategies, policies, plans, programmes, and initiatives; and
- e **Oritetanga | Equity** - uphold the principle of fairness in the design and distribution of Greater Wellington’s resources and services through the Long Term Plan to meet the needs and aspirations of whānau within our Greater Wellington rohe.

2.3 Ensure the Committee’s decision making:

- a Considers climate change-related risks (mitigation and adaptation); and
- b Is consistent with Council’s plans and initiatives to give effect to Council’s declaration of a climate emergency on 21 August 2019, including agreed emissions reduction targets.

2.4 Oversee the development and review of Council’s:

- a Environmental strategies, policies, plans, programmes, and initiatives<sup>2</sup>;
- b Regional resilience priorities; and
- c Climate change strategies, policies, plans, programmes, and initiatives and recommend to Council for adoption these matters (and any variations).

2.5 Review:

- a The effectiveness of implementing and delivering Council’s:
  - i Environmental strategies, policies, plans, programmes, and initiatives (including whaitua implementation programmes and mana whenua documents, and the work of whaitua committees),
  - ii Regional resilience priorities, and
  - iii Climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies, policies, plans, programmes, and initiatives; and

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<sup>2</sup> Noting that Council retains specific responsibility to make decisions on, and review the effectiveness of implementation, of the RiverLink project.

- b Monitoring of, and reporting on, the state of the environment of the Wellington Region

and recommend to Council any changes to improve the effectiveness of these matters.

- 2.6 Consider regional, national, and international developments; emerging issues and impacts; and changes in the legislative frameworks for their implications for Council's:
  - a Environmental strategies, policies, plans, programmes, and initiatives; and
  - b Related regulatory systems, processes, and tools

and recommend to Council any changes to improve the effectiveness of these matters.

- 2.7 Consider local, regional, and international best practice approaches to climate change mitigation and adaptation; and recommend to Council how best to incorporate these matters into other strategies, policies, plans, programmes, and initiatives.
- 2.8 Review, after each Farming Reference Group meeting, a written report of the business conducted at that meeting.

### **3 Delegations**

- 3.1 Subject to sections 3.2 to 3.6, Council delegates to the Committee all the powers, functions, and duties necessary to perform the Committee's responsibilities (except those that must not be delegated, have been retained by Council, have been delegated to another committee, or have been delegated to the Chief Executive).

- 3.2 The Committee has the authority to:

- a Provide effective leadership on climate change for Greater Wellington and on climate change mitigation and adaptation for the Wellington Region;
- b Advocate (working alongside the Wellington Regional Leadership Committee) for the alignment and advancement of central government's and other organisations' programmes and initiatives in climate change programmes and initiatives;
- c Advise Council's representative on the Wellington Regional Leadership Committee on Greater Wellington's position on regional climate change projects (including the Regional Climate Emissions Reduction Plan and Regional Climate Adaptation Plan);
- d Consider and approve Low Carbon Acceleration Fund matters, including funding applications; and
- e Approve submissions to external organisations for matters pertaining directly to the Committee's purposes.

- 3.3 The Committee may decide on matters with a financial impact only where the related costs are:
- a Budgeted for in the relevant business group’s budget; and
  - b Not budgeted for in the relevant business group’s budget but can be met from savings within that budget.
- 3.4 Where the Committee considers a decision with a material financial impact is needed<sup>3</sup>, the Committee must refer the matter to Council for its decision.
- 3.5 The Committee may not make a decision that is materially inconsistent with Council’s Annual Plan or Long Term Plan.

#### **4 Members**

- 4.1 All fourteen Councillors.
- 4.2 The Chair of the Farming Reference Group.

#### **5 Voting entitlement**

The Chair of the Farming Reference Group sits at the table and has full speaking rights but has no voting rights at any Committee meeting.

#### **6 Quorum**

Eight members.

#### **7 Remuneration**

The Chair of the Farming Reference Group may claim Greater Wellington’s standard daily meeting fee and mileage allowances and/or public transport expenses for scheduled meetings of the Committee.

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<sup>3</sup> That is, where savings are identified from other business groups’ budgets to meet the related costs; or no savings are identified across Greater Wellington’s overall budget to meet the related costs.