
ORDINARY MEETING
OF
WELLINGTON CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES

Time: 9:30am
Date: Wednesday, 16 December 2020
Venue: Ngake (16.09)
Level 16, Tahiwī
113 The Terrace
Wellington

PRESENT

Mayor Foster
Councillor Calvert
Councillor Condie
Councillor Day
Councillor Fitzsimons
Councillor Foon (via audio-visual link)
Deputy Mayor Free
Councillor Matthews
Councillor O'Neill
Councillor Pannett
Councillor Paul
Councillor Rush
Councillor Sparrow
Councillor Woolf
Councillor Young

TABLE OF CONTENTS

16 DECEMBER 2020

Business	Page No.
1. Meeting Conduct	5
1.1 Karakia	5
1.2 Apologies	5
1.3 Announcements by the Mayor	5
1.4 Conflict of Interest Declarations	6
1.5 Confirmation of Minutes	6
1.6 Items not on the Agenda	6
1.7 Public Participation	7
2. General Business	9
2.1 Notice of Motion: KiwiRail's Proposed Ferry Terminal	9
2.2 Proposed changes to Regional Climate Change Working Group Terms of Reference	9
2.3 Report of the Mayoral Taskforce: Three Waters	10
3. Committee Reports	10
3.1 Report of the Strategy and Policy Committee Meeting of 10 December 2020 Review of the Advisory Group Model	10
3.2 Report of the Strategy and Policy Committee Meeting of 16 December 2020 Draft Annual Report 2019/20	8
4. Public Excluded	11
4.1 Commercial Transaction	11
4.2 Appointments to Council Controlled Organisations	11

1 Meeting Conduct

1.1 Karakia

The Chairperson opened the meeting at 9:32am with the following karakia.

Whakataka te hau ki te uru,	Cease oh winds of the west
Whakataka te hau ki te tonga.	and of the south
Kia mākinakina ki uta,	Let the bracing breezes flow,
Kia mātaratara ki tai.	over the land and the sea.
E hī ake ana te atākura.	Let the red-tipped dawn come
He tio, he huka, he hauhū.	with a sharpened edge, a touch of frost,
Tihei Mauri Ora!	a promise of a glorious day

David Zwartz and Manjit Grewal, members of the Wellington Interfaith Council, blessed the meeting.

1.2 Apologies

Moved Mayor Foster, seconded Councillor Fitzsimons, the following motion

Resolved

That the Council:

1. Accept the apologies received from Councillor O'Neill for lateness and from Councillor Calvert for early departure.

A division was required under standing order 27.6, voting on which was as follows:

For:

Mayor Foster, Councillor Calvert, Councillor Condie, Councillor Day, Councillor Fitzsimons, Councillor Foon, Deputy Mayor Free, Councillor Matthews, Councillor Pannett, Councillor Paul, Councillor Rush, Councillor Sparrow, Councillor Woolf, Councillor Young

Against:

None

Absent:

Councillor O'Neill,

Majority Vote: 14:0

Carried

1.3 Announcements by the Mayor

The Mayor thanked Councillors and officers for their hard work over the past year and highlighted the following from 2020:

- COVID-19 pandemic response and recovery plan, strong events programme, and activation programme.
- Delivered safer speeds in the central city and a new Parking Policy.
- Omāroro reservoir, e-scooters, re-established the night-time forum, agreed Te Atākura plan, opened Te Awe pop-up library.
- Consulted and made a decision on the Central Library, decision made on the Municipal Operation Building and settled the insurance claim on the Civic Administration Building.
- Agreed a new solid waste bylaw.

- Disposed of some housing for the social housing portfolio, made some housing available for rental.
- Consulted on a new cemeteries management plan and the new Spatial Plan.
- Almost completed cycleways and the seawall on Cobden Drive.
- Agreed to be part of the Wellington Regional Growth Framework.
- Repaired water pipes.
- Engaged on a new economic strategy.
- Engaged with the government on the three waters and the Mayoral taskforce.

The Mayor highlighted some of the key projects for 2021:

- Long-term Plan
- Focus on infrastructure, upgrading the three waters network, advancing investment in the landfill and the sludge treatment
- Invest in reducing our city emissions
- Let's Get Wellington Moving
- Spatial Plan, leading in to a new District Plan
- Continue working with government to make the social housing portfolio more sustainable
- Three new important strategies for economy, arts and culture, and social wellbeing
- Continue work to deliver Tākina, the Town Hall, St James Theatre, and begin construction on the Central Library, with engagement on Te Ngākau Civic Square
- Continue to enhance how we engage with communities

(Councillor O'Neill joined the meeting at 9:41am)

1. 4 Conflict of Interest Declarations

There were no conflicts of interest.

1. 5 Confirmation of Minutes

Moved Mayor Foster, seconded Deputy Mayor Free, the following motion

Resolved

That the Council:

1. Approve the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 25 November 2020, having been circulated, that they be taken as read and confirmed as an accurate record of that meeting.

A division was required under standing order 27.6, voting on which was as follows:

For:

Mayor Foster, Councillor Calvert, Councillor Condie, Councillor Day, Councillor Fitzsimons, Councillor Foon, Deputy Mayor Free, Councillor Matthews, Councillor O'Neill, Councillor Pannett, Councillor Paul, Councillor Rush, Councillor Sparrow, Councillor Woolf, Councillor Young

Against:

None

Majority Vote: 15:0

Carried

1. 6 Items not on the Agenda

There were no items not on the agenda.

1.7 Public Participation

1.7.1 KiwiRail

Representing KiwiRail, David Gordon and Walter Rushbrook spoke to item 2.1 Notice of Motion: KiwiRail's Proposed Ferry Terminal.

1.7.2 Greater Wellington Regional Council

Representing Greater Wellington Regional Council, Daran Ponter spoke to item 2.1 Notice of Motion: KiwiRail's Proposed Ferry Terminal.

1.7.3 Wellington Chinese Association

Representing the Wellington Chinese Association, Jess Wong spoke to item 3.1 Report of the Strategy and Policy Committee meeting of 10 December 2020 – Review of Advisory Group Model.

1.7.4 Felicity Wong

Felicity Wong spoke to item 3.1 Report of the Strategy and Policy Committee meeting of 10 December 2020 – Review of Advisory Group Model.

1.7.5 Wellington Residents' Coalition

Representing the Wellington Residents' Coalition, Warwick Taylor and Ariana Paretutanganui-Tamati spoke to item 2.3 Report of the Mayoral Taskforce: Three Waters.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:25am and reconvened at 11:04am with all the members present.

Secretarial note: In accordance with standing order 19.1, the chairperson accorded precedence to an item of business and announced that the agenda would be considered in the following order:

- Item 3.2 Report of the Strategy and Policy Committee Meeting of 16 December 2020
Draft Annual Report 2019/20
- Item 2.1 Notice of Motion: KiwiRail's Proposed Ferry Terminal
- Item 2.2 Proposed changes to Regional Climate Change Working Group Terms of Reference
- Item 2.3 Report of the Mayoral Taskforce: Three Waters
- Item 3.1 Report of the Strategy and Policy Committee Meeting of 10 December 2020
Review of the Advisory Group Model
- Item 4 Public Excluded
- Item 4.1 Commercial Transaction
- Item 4.2 Appointments to Council Controlled Organisations

3. Committee Reports

3.2 Report of the Strategy and Policy Committee Meeting of 16 December 2020 Draft Annual Report 2019/20

Moved Councillor Calvert, seconded Mayor Foster, the following motion

Resolved

That the Council:

1. Confirm the Accounting Policies contained in the draft financial statements (Attachment 1 Section 4) for adoption for the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2020.
2. Adopt the draft Financial Statements and Statements of Service Provision for Wellington City Council and Group within the draft Annual Report for the year ended 30 June 2020, subject to any matters identified during the meeting and receiving final audit clearance from Audit New Zealand.
3. Adopt the amended Annual Report for Wellington City Council and Group for the year ended 30 June 2020 (Attachment 1 and tabled information relating to Wellington Water Limited key non-financial performance results).
4. Delegate to the Chair of the Finance, Audit and Risk Subcommittee and the Chief Executive Officer the authority to make minor editorial changes that may arise as part of preparing the 2019/20 Annual Report document for publication.

A division was required under standing order 27.6, voting on which was as follows:

For:

Mayor Foster, Councillor Calvert, Councillor Condie, Councillor Day, Councillor Fitzsimons, Councillor Foon, Deputy Mayor Free, Councillor Matthews, Councillor O'Neill, Councillor Pannett, Councillor Paul, Councillor Rush, Councillor Sparrow, Councillor Woolf, Councillor Young

Against:

None

Majority Vote: 15:0

Carried

Secretarial note: Karen Young from Audit New Zealand presented the audit opinion on the Annual Report 2019/20 and tabled the Auditor's Report.

Attachment 1

Reference to be made to Attachment 1 of item 2.2 on the Strategy and Policy Committee agenda of 16 December 2020.

Tabled Information

Reference to be made to tabled information of item 2.2 on the Strategy and Policy Committee minutes of 16 December 2020.

Attachments

- 1 Tabled Document - Auditor's Report
(Councillor Woolf left the meeting at 11:22am)
(Councillor Woolf returned to the meeting at 11:25am)

2. General Business

2.1 Notice of Motion: KiwiRail's Proposed Ferry Terminal

Moved Councillor Young, seconded Councillor Day, the following motion

Resolved

That the Council:

1. Express its formal support for the new multi-use inter-island ferry terminal to be sited at Kaiwharawhara.
2. Agree that the Mayor communicate the Council's decision to the respective parties, in particular KiwiRail's shareholding ministers (The Hon Grant Robertson and The Hon David Clark).

A division was required under standing order 27.6, voting on which was as follows:

For:

Mayor Foster, Councillor Calvert, Councillor Condie, Councillor Day, Councillor Fitzsimons, Councillor Foon, Deputy Mayor Free, Councillor Matthews, Councillor O'Neill, Councillor Paul, Councillor Sparrow, Councillor Woolf, Councillor Young

Against:

Councillor Pannett, Councillor Rush,

Majority Vote: 13:2

Carried

The meeting was adjourned at 11:48am and reconvened at 11:51am with all the following members present: Mayor Foster, Councillor Calvert, Councillor Condie, Councillor Day, Councillor Fitzsimons, Councillor Foon, Councillor Matthews, Councillor Pannett, Councillor Paul, Councillor Rush, Councillor Sparrow, Councillor Woolf and Councillor Young.

(Deputy Mayor Free returned to the meeting at 11:52am)

(Councillor O'Neill returned to the meeting at 11:52am)

2.2 Proposed changes to Regional Climate Change Working Group Terms of Reference

Moved Councillor Paul, seconded Councillor Day, the following motion

Resolved

That the Council:

1. Receive the draft amended terms of reference for the Wellington Regional Climate Change Working Group. Of note are the changes to provide for increased mana whenua views on the group and changes which reflect the general practice of the group.
2. Endorse the draft amended terms of reference for the Wellington Regional Climate Change Working Group – which will subsequently be submitted to the Greater Wellington Regional Council for consideration and adoption at its meeting on 25 February 2021.

A division was required under standing order 27.6, voting on which was as follows:

For:

Mayor Foster, Councillor Calvert, Councillor Condie, Councillor Day, Councillor Fitzsimons, Councillor Foon, Deputy Mayor Free, Councillor Matthews, Councillor O'Neill, Councillor Pannett, Councillor Paul, Councillor Rush, Councillor Sparrow, Councillor Woolf, Councillor Young

Against:

None

Majority Vote: 15:0

Carried

2.3 Report of the Mayoral Taskforce: Three Waters

Moved Mayor Foster, seconded Councillor Rush, the following motion

Resolved

That the Council:

1. Receive the report of the Mayoral Taskforce: Three Waters.
2. Note that officers will prepare further advice on each of the recommendations.

A division was required under standing order 27.6, voting on which was as follows:

For:

Mayor Foster, Councillor Calvert, Councillor Condie, Councillor Day, Councillor Fitzsimons, Councillor Foon, Deputy Mayor Free, Councillor Matthews, Councillor O'Neill, Councillor Pannett, Councillor Paul, Councillor Rush, Councillor Sparrow, Councillor Woolf, Councillor Young

Against:

None

Majority Vote: 15:0

Carried

3. Committee Reports

3.1 Report of the Strategy and Policy Committee Meeting of 10 December 2020
Review of the Advisory Group Model

Moved Councillor Matthews, seconded Councillor O'Neill, the following motion

Resolved

That the Council:

1. Adopt the revised Advisory and Reference Group Terms of Reference as attached to provide greater clarity around the purpose and role of the Council's Advisory Groups.
2. Agree, in principle, to the establishment of a Rainbow Advisory Group, and to direct officers to work with the Rainbow community to enable this.
3. Agree that officers will use the existing criteria for adding new groups, and work with the community to determine whether a Multicultural Advisory Group or some other forum should be established and bring a report back by June 2021.

Carried

Secretarial note: The motion moved by Councillor Matthews and seconded by Councillor O'Neill was taken part by part, the divisions for which are as follows:

Clause 1

A division was required under standing order 27.6, voting on which was as follows:

For:

Mayor Foster, Councillor Condie, Councillor Day, Councillor Fitzsimons, Councillor Foon, Deputy Mayor Free, Councillor Matthews, Councillor O'Neill, Councillor Pannett, Councillor Paul, Councillor Rush, Councillor Sparrow, Councillor Woolf, Councillor Young

Against:

None

Absent:

Councillor Calvert

Majority Vote: 14:0

Carried

Clauses 2 and 3

A division was required under standing order 27.6, voting on which was as follows:

For:

Mayor Foster, Councillor Condie, Councillor Day, Councillor Fitzsimons, Councillor Foon, Deputy Mayor Free, Councillor Matthews, Councillor O'Neill, Councillor Pannett, Councillor Paul, Councillor Rush, Councillor Woolf, Councillor Young

Against:

Councillor Sparrow

Absent:

Councillor Calvert

Majority Vote: 13:1

Carried

(Deputy Mayor Free left the meeting at 12:56pm)

(Deputy Mayor Free returned to the meeting at 12:59pm)

(Councillor Calvert left the meeting at 1:05pm)

Attachments

1 Councillor Calvert tabled documents

4. Public Excluded

Moved Mayor Foster, seconded Councillor Condie, the following motion

Resolved

That the Council:

1. Pursuant to the provisions of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, exclude the public from the following part of the proceedings of this meeting namely:

General subject of the matter to be considered	Reasons for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution
4.1 Commercial Transaction	7(2)(b)(ii)	s48(1)(a)

	The withholding of the information is necessary to protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information.	That the public conduct of this item would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under Section 7.
4.2 Appointments to Council Controlled Organisations	7(2)(a) The withholding of the information is necessary to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of a deceased person.	s48(1)(a) That the public conduct of this item would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under Section 7.

A division was required under standing order 27.6, voting on which was as follows:

For:

Mayor Foster, Councillor Condie, Councillor Day, Councillor Fitzsimons, Councillor Foon, Deputy Mayor Free, Councillor Matthews, Councillor O'Neill, Councillor Pannett, Councillor Paul, Councillor Rush, Councillor Sparrow, Councillor Woolf, Councillor Young

Against:

None

Absent:

Councillor Calvert

Majority Vote: 14:0

Carried

The meeting went into public excluded session at 1:11pm.

The meeting returned from public excluded session and concluded at 1:28pm with the reading of the following karakia:

Unuhia, unuhia, unuhia ki te uru tapu nui	Draw on, draw on
Kia wātea, kia māmā, te ngākau, te tinana, te wairua	Draw on the supreme sacredness To clear, to free the heart, the body and the spirit of mankind
I te ara takatū	Oh Rongo, above (symbol of peace)
Koia rā e Rongo, whakairia ake ki runga	Let this all be done in unity
Kia wātea, kia wātea	
Āe rā, kua wātea!	

Authenticated: _____
Chair

ORDINARY MEETING
OF
WELLINGTON CITY COUNCIL
MINUTE ITEM ATTACHMENTS

Time: 9:30am
Date: Wednesday, 16 December 2020
Venue: Ngake (16.09)
Level 16, Tahiwī
113 The Terrace
Wellington

Business

Page No.

3.2 Report of the Strategy and Policy Committee Meeting of 16 December 2020

1. Tabled Document - Auditor's Report 2

3.1 Report of the Strategy and Policy Committee Meeting of 10 December 2020

1. Councillor Calvert tabled documents 8



Independent Auditor's Report

To the readers of Wellington City Council's annual report for the year ended
30 June 2020

The Auditor-General is the auditor of Wellington City Council (the City Council) and its subsidiaries and controlled entities (the Group). The Auditor-General has appointed me, Karen Young, using the staff and resources of Audit New Zealand, to report on the information in the City Council's annual report that we are required to audit under the Local Government Act 2002 (the Act). We refer to this information as "the audited information" in our report.

We are also required to report on:

- whether the City Council has complied with the requirements of Schedule 10 of the Act that apply to the annual report; and
- the completeness and accuracy of the City Council's disclosures about its performance against benchmarks that are required by the Local Government (Financial Reporting and Prudence) Regulations 2014.

We refer to this information as "the disclosure requirements" in our report.

We completed our work on 16 December 2020. This is the date on which we give our report.

Opinion

Unmodified opinion on the audited information, excluding the statement of service provision

In our opinion:

- the financial statements on pages [...] to [...] and pages [...] to [...]:
 - present fairly, in all material respects:
 - the City Council and Group's financial position as at 30 June 2020;
 - the results of the operations and cash flows for the year ended on that date; and
 - comply with generally accepted accounting practice in New Zealand in accordance with Public Benefit Entity Reporting Standards;

- the funding impact statement on page [...], presents fairly, in all material respects, the amount of funds produced from each source of funding and how the funds were applied as compared to the information included in the City Council's Long-term plan;
- the statement about capital expenditure for each group of activities on pages [...] to [...], presents fairly, in all material respects, actual capital expenditure as compared to the budgeted capital expenditure included in the City Council's Long-term plan; and
- the funding impact statement for each group of activities on pages [...] to [...], presents fairly, in all material respects, the amount of funds produced from each source of funding and how the funds were applied as compared to the information included in the City Council's Long-term plan.

Qualified opinion on the statement of service provision

In our opinion, except for the possible effects of the matters described in the *Basis for our qualified opinion* section of our report, the statement of service provision on pages [...] to [...]:

- presents fairly, in all material respects, the levels of service for each group of activities for the year ended 30 June 2020, including:
 - the levels of service achieved compared with the intended levels of service and whether any intended changes to levels of service were achieved;
 - the reasons for any significant variation between the levels of service achieved and the intended levels of service; and
- complies with generally accepted accounting practice in New Zealand.

Report on the disclosure requirements

We report that the City Council has:

- complied with the requirements of Schedule 10 of the Act that apply to the annual report; and
- made the disclosures about performance against benchmarks as required by the Local Government (Financial Reporting and Prudence Regulations 2014) on pages [...] to [...], which represent a complete list of required disclosures and accurately reflects the information drawn from the City Council's audited information and, where applicable, the City Council's long-term plan and annual plans.

Basis for our qualified opinion

Six councils, including the City Council, are joint shareholders in Wellington Water Limited (Wellington Water). Wellington Water manages the six councils' water assets and services on their behalf. A Committee represented by a member of each shareholding council monitors the



performance of Wellington Water. Wellington Water reports its performance in respect of water services to the six councils, which are required to report thereon in their respective statements of service provision.

We identified a number of significant issues with the performance measures as described below.

Fault response times – Water supply, Wastewater and Stormwater

Wellington Water was unable to accurately report on fault response times for each of the three water services. The information produced by the system used to report on fault response times was not reliable because some of the service requests for the service requests were not always recorded at the point in time they occurred.

Maintenance of the reticulation network – Water supply

Wellington Water was unable to report a reliable water loss percentage for each of the six council due to the limited number of water meters across the reticulation network.

Instead, the water loss percentage reported for the City Council was based on a regional level across all reticulating councils. However, the reliability of this regional water loss percentage was also affected by the limited number of water meters.

Total number of complaints received – Water supply, Wastewater, and Stormwater

Wellington Water was unable to accurately report the number of complaints for each of the three water services. Complete records of all complaints were not available, and the complaints system used also did not classify complaints between wastewater, water supply and stormwater.

Number of dry weather sewerage overflows – Wastewater

Wellington Water was unable to accurately report the number of dry weather sewerage overflows, as the system used for recording events included blockages in the wastewater network that did not necessarily result in an overflow.

As a result of these issues, our work was limited and there were no practicable audit procedures we could apply to obtain assurance over the reported results for the performance measures described above.

We carried out our audit in accordance with the Auditor-General's Auditing Standards, which incorporate the Professional and Ethical Standards and the International Standards on Auditing (New Zealand) issued by the New Zealand Auditing and Assurance Standards Board. We describe our responsibilities under those standards further in the "Responsibilities of the auditor for the audited information" section of this report.

We have fulfilled our responsibilities in accordance with the Auditor-General's Auditing Standards.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our qualified opinion on the audited information.



Emphasis of matter – Impact of Covid-19

Without further modifying our opinion, we draw attention to the disclosures about the impact of Covid-19 on the City Council as set out in note x/notes x and y on pages xx to the financial statements and pages xx, xx, xx, xx, xx of the statement of service provision.

Responsibilities of the Council for the audited information

The Council is responsible for meeting all legal requirements that apply to its annual report.

The Council's responsibilities arise under the Local Government Act 2002 and the Local Government (Financial Reporting and Prudence) Regulations 2014.

The Council is responsible for such internal control as it determines is necessary to enable it to prepare the information we audit that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the information we audit the Council is responsible for assessing its ability to continue as a going concern. The Council is also responsible for disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting, unless there is an intention to amalgamate or cease all of the functions of the City Council and the Group or there is no realistic alternative but to do so.

Responsibilities of the auditor for the audited information

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the audited information, as a whole, is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an audit report that includes our opinion.

Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit carried out in accordance with the Auditor General's Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements are differences or omissions of amounts or disclosures, and can arise from fraud or error. Misstatements are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the decisions of readers taken on the basis of this audited information.

For the budget information reported in the audited information, our procedures were limited to checking that the budget information agreed to the City Council's Long-term plan.

We did not evaluate the security and controls over the electronic publication of the audited information.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Auditor-General's Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. Also:

- We identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the audited information, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our



opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

- We obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the City Council and Group's internal control.
- We evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Council.
- We determine the appropriateness of the reported intended levels of service in the statement of service provision, as a reasonable basis for assessing the levels of service achieved and reported by the City Council.
- We conclude on the appropriateness of the use of the going concern basis of accounting by the Council and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast a significant doubt on the City Council and Group's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our audit report to the related disclosures in the audited information or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our audit report. However, future events or conditions may cause the City Council and the Group to cease to continue as a going concern.
- We evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the audited information, including the disclosures, and whether the audited information represents, where applicable, the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.
- We obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the entities or business activities within the Group to express an opinion on the consolidated audited information.

We communicate with the Council regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Other Information

The Council is responsible for the other information included in the annual report. The other information comprises the information included on pages [...] to [...] and [...] to [...], but does not include the audited information and the disclosure requirements.

Our opinion on the audited information and our report on the disclosure requirements do not cover the other information.

Our responsibility is to read the other information. In doing so, we consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the audited information and the disclosure requirements,

or our knowledge obtained during our work, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on our work, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Independence

We are independent of the City Council and Group in accordance with the independence requirements of the Auditor-General's Auditing Standards, which incorporate the independence requirements of Professional and Ethical Standard 1: International Code of Ethics for Assurance Practitioners issued by the New Zealand Auditing and Assurance Standards Board.

In addition to our audit and our report on the disclosure requirements, we have performed a limited assurance engagement related to the City Council's debenture trust deed and performed a review of the revenue and expenditure of the Clifton Terrace car park managed by the City Council and Group on behalf of the New Zealand Transport Agency. These engagements are compatible with those independence requirements. Other than the audits, these engagements and reviews, we have no relationship with or interests in the City Council or its subsidiaries and controlled entities.

Karen Young
Audit New Zealand
On behalf of the Auditor-General
Wellington, New Zealand

Ekta's Statement to the Strategy and Policy Committee of WCC

Morena Councillors:

Thank you for acceding to our request to speak at this meeting. I am Abhishek Sharma an Executive Committee member of Ekta. And with me is Manjit Grewal a founder member of Ekta. I would like to make a short statement in support of WCC having an Ethnic Advisory Group. We will take a question after that.

Ekta NZ is a not-for-profit Indian community organisation based in Wellington. We are a registered charity and were established in 2017. Our objective is to contribute towards building a more inclusive New Zealand by having a more engaged Indian diaspora. The principles underpinning all our activities are

A) Empowerment through knowledge and capacity development, and

B) Confidence and identity growth through showcasing of Indian heritage, history and culture.

Councillors may I take you to India right now. As we speak there is the largest protest that the world has ever seen, taking place in India. It has now been going on for over 8 days. Millions upon millions of farmers are on the streets in and around Delhi protesting new laws that the government has introduced purportedly in the interests of the farmers.

You may be wondering what this has got to do with the issue that we are discussing here today. The answer is simple: lack of consultation. Among the questions that the farmers are asking the government is: why were not consulted before these reforms were introduced.

Councillors I pose the same question to you: since you took office how often and how have you engaged with the ethnic communities of Wellington to determine whether we do or do not need an ethnic advisory panel?

I would like to ask this committee since the last review in 2014, how often have WCC officers engaged with the ethnic communities to see whether there is a need for formal structure to have discussions and conversations? In the 4 years of Ekta's existence, I can tell you not once with us.

Had not a bird not whispered in our ear that this issue was up for consultation today, we would not have even known that this matter was up for discussion leave aside giving some input into the matter. This should show how distant or should I speak candidly and say "alienated and disengaged" we are from each other.

Let me just turn now to show how we talk to each other. Aside from a couple of councillors attending a monthly meeting of one ethnic organisation, we meet only when we invite you to our functions: one or two of you will attend, most will send a polite regret and some will not bother to reply. And with the regulars who do come, we will find a few minutes to share a few points among a gamut of things. And that is it. Yes, there are those among the ethnic communities, who enjoy more personal access to some of you and they may take more of your time. But nothing more than that.

This ladies and gentlemen is quite bluntly the level of our engagement to build an inclusive society with our ethnic community.

18
22

We ask: Is this the best we can do to make our ethnic communities feel included in the consultation process?

Ladies and gentlemen you are at the point of time when you can make a difference to this.

The 2018 census shows that Asian and the MELAA (Middle Eastern, Latin Americans and Africans) formed 14.8% of Wellington's population. It was the second largest group after the Europeans. It is much larger than the Pasifika group which was at 8.4%. Not only was this group larger, it was also growing faster than that group.

If you think that the Pasifika group should be supported by an Advisory Group, why not this lot? It is not our intention to make a case of what goes for the goose, but to highlight that there are issues/concerns/needs in other ethnic communities too. An ethnic Advisory group will help to facilitate how in partnership, better and acceptable results could be achieved as it is being done for or with the Pasifika group.

Let me share just couple of examples:

1. Every year there is a Diwali event at the TSB, and thank you for that. But it has been organised by the same person/agency for years on end, how this agency is appointed and how the format is decided is unknown to the Indian community. Could this be done better with greater transparency and involvement of the community? Our view is yes. As a Wellingtonian Indian, I don't want to hear speeches from out of town MPs who do nothing to further the lot for the Indians of Wellington. Why are there to decorate the stage?

2. At this year's Santa parade, there were 1 or 2 ethnic NGOs participating and we think that is wonderful that an attempt was made to reflect our diversity. But then we get questions from our membership - how were they able to participate and we not? Is there is collusion and cronyism?

These are real issues and which ethnic associations grapple with when even the Council is doing something good. And the simple reason for this negativity is that the Council processes are not clear and there has been consultation with the ethnic communities. It appears to be ad hoc and very much based on the "who you know" approach.

It is Ekta's submission having a formal structure where there is an advisory panel would certainly help both the Council and the ethnic communities in ensuring consultation and transparency.

Auckland and Christchurch City Councils have ethnic advisory panels. The Auckland panel has been in existence since 2010. It has its own website and is very well structured. The Christchurch model is slightly different it has a Multicultural Committee of the Council which is made up of Councillors. And this committee is tasked with the establishment of an advisory group. The 2018 census shows that the ethnic population (all i.e. excluding European) of Canterbury was lower than that of the Wellington Region i.e. 17.6% against Wellington's 26.4%.

To us it appears that the question to have or not to have an ethnic advisory panel is a no-brainer.

We will urge you to support the establishment of this advisory panel. Do not repeat the omission done in 2014. It is an opportunity for you to send the right and positive signal to the community that you do want to listen to the ethnic communities.

Thank you for this opportunity to be blunt, brutal but honest.



Wellington Interfaith Council's Statement to Strategy and Policy Committee of WCC

Morning Councillors

My name is Mustenser Qamar, I am secretary of the Wellington Interfaith Council and I have come here along with Manjit Grewal, the chair of the Interfaith Council.

We are here to urge you to support the establishment of an advisory group for ethnic and migrant communities which would also look at faith-based issues and help to promote interfaith harmony.

I am not sure how many of you know of the Interfaith Council? We have been registered entity for the last 10 years but have been in existence since the 1990s. We have representatives from over 11 religious and faith groups and we meet monthly.

Our objectives are to contribute towards building greater understanding and tolerance in our community through acceptance, respect and appreciation of the different faiths and religions that make our diversity.

According to Census 2018, about 44% of the residents of Wellington profess to a religion or faith or a set of spiritual beliefs. Christians constituted 35.6%, Hindus 2.6%, Muslims 1.1%, Buddhist 1.2%, other religions faiths/beliefs 3.2%.

This is a significant segment portion of the Wellington population. The question that we have for this committee is: what formal mechanism does the Council have to engage with this lot? How do you ensure that their concerns are addressed, and they feel included?

The Council currently has 4 advisory groups viz The Accessibility Advisory Group (AAG), Environmental Reference Group (ERG), Pacific Advisory Group (PAG), and Youth Council.

The single largest tragedy that we have had in this country in recent time has been the Christchurch shooting. Let us ask ourselves how has the Council engaged with these faith communities in Wellington since that tragedy? Yes, a vigil was held at the Basin in March of last year. But what about thereafter? The symbolic human chain done at the Kilbirnie Mosque was organised by the Interfaith Council, the "We Are One" interactions which some of you attended were initiated by WIFC individual members.

The Government has adopted all the 44 recommendations of the Inquiry which includes the setting up of a Ministry of Ethnic Communities. We ask this committee what is your response to building interfaith harmony in this city on a sustained and planned manner? It is ironic that we are here asking you to engage with us on a continuous and sustained basis, something which you think we need to convince you about as you on your own have not taken the initiative. I think there is a need for Council introspection.

We note that the establishment of new advisory groups was not included in the terms of reference for the review of the advisory group model. However, the review has urged this could be considered. I think the reviewers were polite. It is intended to be "SHOULD be considered". And the WIFC strongly urges that a new advisory group be established which would also look at faith-based concerns/issues of our people especially so of and for the migrant and ethnic communities.



If even for a moment any of you are to think that there is no faith-based issues that the ethnic communities are facing, I would say you are gravely mistaken. Let me just take an example of our Hindu Community. Some of you will recall that last year, there was a huge concern when the Council supported TSB Diwali program, was going to be held on Diwali Day. We are glad rationality prevailed. Some Councillors will also be aware of the ongoing issue of this community on the scattering of ashes of deceased in flowing water. And this issue not only impacts the Hindu but also the Sikh and Buddhist community.

You will also recall the graffiti at Temple Sinai earlier in the year. There have also been cases of Muslim women wearing the Hijab who have been made to feel threatened.

Madam Chair we should not think everything is honky-dory, there are many amongst us who feel vulnerable because of their faith and for wearing their faith symbols. There is need for constant and sustained engagement between public agencies and faith groups especially from our migrant and ethnic communities.

Currently there is no established mechanism that the Council has which would allow for such conversations/engagements to take place. It is done on an arising basis with individuals lobbying known councillors for support and direction. This approach is unsustainable as communities grow and issues become larger and more complex. A structured approach and a sustainable mechanism is required.

Just by way of example, the WIFC has recently met with His Worship the Mayor and we have made some suggestions which include among others the establishment of a non-denominational prayer place in the new library. We would also like to jointly work with the Council on the World Interfaith Harmony week in Feb. Madam Chair the point is that it is because of the absence of a formal engagement mechanism that we have had to make this individual representation. This should not be the way, there must be better method than that. And the answer is an Advisory Group in the Council which will also look after faith related matters for Wellingtonians especially for those who have recently come to the country or are the minorities amongst us.

Before I end may I ask you to ponder and ask yourselves the following:

-how much do I know of the Muslim, Hindu, Sikh, or Buddhist faith as these are the people that I and my children are going to be living with the rest of our lives

-what have I done as an elected Councillor to also include them in my city?

May I end by saying May you be guided wisely in your decisions including on engaging with us.

Thank you

9 Dec 2020

From: [Kiran Thakrar](#)
To: [Councillor Diane Calvert](#)
Cc:
Subject: Re: Ethnic Advisory Group
Date: 16 December 2020 09:27:54

Councillor Calvert - We would be grateful if you could please pass on our submission to the Wellington City Council Committee.
Thank you

To the Wellington City Council Committee,

On behalf of the executive committee and members of Hindu Council of New Zealand (HCNZ) we would like to wholeheartedly support Councillor Calvert's request to the WCC Committee to agree in principle to the addition of an Ethnic Advisory Group to cater for the needs of our members as well as other ethnic groups. Members of the Hindu community make up a good percentage of Wellington's ethnic groups.

We are aware that the Council is involved in supporting the celebration of Diwali, Chinese New Year etcetera.

However, we feel that our needs and that of the many diverse ethnicities in Wellington should not be limited to cultural aspects. We all follow different faiths, speak different languages and have very diverse needs so these need to be supported as well.

Thank you

Kind Regards
Members of the executive committee of HCNZ (Emails supplied as cc)

Vinod Patel
Vijeshni Rattan
Nidhi Bhargava
Tribhuvan Shreshta
[Kiran Thakrar](#)
email:

From: [prachee.gokhale](#)
To: [Councillor Diane Culvert](#)
Cc:
Subject: Submission to support Ethnic Advisory Group
Date: 15 December 2020 16:37:50
Attachments: [WCC.submission.docx](#)

Good afternoon Councillor Culvert,

This is my first attempt at writing a submission and therefore beg pardon at any errors / non-confirmation to protocol.

I am writing in support of Establishing an Ethnic Advisory Group. I am a committee member of the Hutt Multicultural Council (Trustee, HMC Inc.), committee member of the Hindu Council of New Zealand (HCNZ), Wellington chapter and a volunteer for EKTA in the Hutt. My submission however is in my personal capacity with the experience gained through my association with the ethnic communities over the past several years.

Please find attached the submission document.

Kind regards
Prachee Gokhale

A submission to Strategy & Policy Committee, Wellington City Council
in response to the establishment of an Ethnic Advisory Group
December 15, 2020

From Prachee Gokhale

I do not request the opportunity to make an oral submission

Position Statement

I am a Public Health Researcher (by day) and volunteer for Hutt Multicultural Council (HMC Inc.) and the Hindu Council of New Zealand (HCNZ). In my role as volunteer with the HMC, I meet and work with individuals of various ethnicities; each with their unique issues and requirements and therefore my interest in the proposal.

Submission

Thank you for the opportunity to present my thoughts before you. I understand there are advisory groups one each for Environment, Youth Pasifika People, Accessibility and an 'in principle' sign-off for an advisory group for the Rainbow community.

At present, the interaction between the Wellington City Council (WCC) and the ethnic communities is limited to annual events such as Diwali, Chinese New Year and Africa Day. While WCC support of these Cultural events is greatly appreciated, it does not contribute to nor address the more important issues facing ethnic communities with respect to Faith and language. The diversity within ethnic communities in this regard is tremendous and there is an urgent need for an official within the WCC to assist the communities with a holistic approach rather than being limited by Culture.

Not unlike the Rainbow community, the sheer diversity within the Ethnic communities and the population size thereof in the Wellington region, requires that a separate advisory group be formed dedicated to Ethnic Communities or in the very least granted an 'in principle' sign off. This will give a reassurance to the communities that their needs will be considered and met with understanding by the Council

Conclusion

I sincerely urge that due consideration be given to the formation of an Ethnic Advisory Group or at the very least, an 'in principle' sign off be granted along the lines of the privileges granted to the Rainbow community.

Prachee Gokhale

December 15, 2020