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Committee Strategy and Policy Committee
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Report on the Te Kāuru Upper Ruamahanga River Floodplain Management Plan Subcommittee meeting 7 October 2014

1. Purpose

To inform the Strategy and Policy Committee of Te Kāuru Upper Ruamahanga River Floodplain Management Plan Subcommittee (the Subcommittee) meeting of 7 October 2014.

2. Reports

2.1 Te Kāuru Upper Ruamāhanga Floodplain Management Plan: Approval of Phase 1 Outcomes

The Subcommittee approved the Te Kāuru Upper Ruamāhanga Floodplain Management Phase 1 Summary Report as final. The investigations that were completed during the first phase of the floodplain management planning process have created a clear picture of the values of the rivers and the adjacent floodplains, and identified the risks that exist in the relationships between flood hazards, people and communities, values and the way in which the interactions between these are managed. It was noted that it is important to establish good relationships with communities and individuals who will be affected by the Floodplain Management Plan and to keep them informed of the decision-making process.

Flood hazard information was sent out to property owners and rate payers in August and, while this has generated 177 enquiries, no new issues have arisen from the release of the information. The Subcommittee congratulated officers on the recent successful flood hazard information open day which focused on the flood spread to assist attendees with understanding the impacts of the information on their property.

2.2 Subcommittee Forward Work Programme

The Subcommittee approved the forward work programme for the coming year. The meetings and workshops are scheduled to align with the work stream that the Subcommittee is focusing on, rather than that of the project team. The

Subcommittee noted that additional meetings or workshops could be scheduled as needed throughout the year.

2.3 Project Manager's Report

Alastair Smaill updated the Subcommittee on the progress of the Ruamāhanga Whaitua Committee and noted that the draft Natural Resources Plan which will assist in the sustainable management of the natural and physical resources within the Wellington region is now available for public comment.

The Subcommittee noted updates from other projects with links to the development of the Floodplain Management Plan including that the Wairarapa Water Use Project is midway through pre-feasibility stage investigations that will identify the most viable schemes from a shortlist of five preferred schemes to progress through to full-feasibility investigations starting mid-2015.

The Subcommittee received a demonstration of the online GIS viewer, which now includes the information collected from the Phase 1 investigations. The GIS viewer shows flood spread information rather than depth as adding an additional layer would be too data intensive. Feedback and use from the community will help to refine the viewer.

2.4 Issues and Options for Flood Risk Management

The Subcommittee was introduced to the options for flood risk management which will form the basis for Phase 2 investigations. Using the issues previously identified in Phase 1, each issue has been assigned into one of four groups according to their likelihood or consequence based on the criteria of risk to life, cultural, economic, environmental, social and political impacts. The groups will be used to assist development of option combinations and the project team will be using the issues ranking to determine which reaches to progress first and work on options to manage these before moving onto the next reach.

The Subcommittee discussed the use of an options tool box which is a starting point for risk management that contains methods that have been used before or are documented. The Subcommittee noted that the development of the tool box is a collaborative process that does not attempt to cover every possible option and more options can be added. The Subcommittee will be asked to sign off the potential options at a later date.

3. The decision-making process and significance

No decision is being sought in this report.

4. Recommendations

That the Council:

- 1. Receives the report.*
- 2. Notes the content of the report.*

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Report approved by:

Cr Donaldson
Chair, Strategy and Policy
Committee