



# WAIKATO MAYORAL FORUM

SUBJECT: Outcomes of Waikato Mayoral Forum meeting held 5 December 2016.

This report summarises the main discussions and outcomes of the forum's first meeting of the 2016-19 triennium.

- 1. New chair** - Waikato Regional Council chair Alan Livingston was elected unopposed as the forum's new chair. The outgoing chair Allan Sanson was thanked for his hard work in that role over the last triennium. The incumbent deputy chair Brian Hanna was re-elected to that position unopposed.

Mr Livingston said he looked forward to leading the team and that "teamwork is essential to any organisation". A media release issued about his election and a number of other forum matters is at this link:  
<http://waikatomayoralforum.org.nz/home/news/new-chair-for-forum/>
- 2. Triennial agreement** – This agreement is a requirement of the Local Government Act and requires the region's councils to, each triennium, sign up to collaboration and how they intend to achieve it. The 2016-19 agreement is due to be signed by March next year. A range of broad issues relating to this were discussed and CEOs are to take on board discussions and circulate an amended triennial agreement to councils for adoption in the new year. One issue canvassed was whether forum meetings should be open to the public. It was felt by the majority, however, that there was value in having the meetings closed to media and the public as this allowed for an informal "free and frank" exchange of views rather than decision-making. (Individual councils have to sign off on their participation in and funding of any workstreams proposed by the forum.) But additional reporting of meeting outcomes will be provided to councils, as per this report.
- 3. Future of forum** – The way the forum operates in future was considered, in light of the maturity of such processes as the Waikato Plan, Waikato Means Business and Waikato Local Authority Shared Services Ltd. It was noted that the forum was able to give "status" to issues and submissions. Chair Livingston noted "it's a situation of looking to identify opportunities" for the forum. Chief executives are to report back on options in the new year.
- 4. Waikato Means Business** – As noted in the media release referred to above, the forum agreed the two local government representatives on the Waikato Means Business steering group would be the regional council's Bob Simcock, a former Hamilton mayor and the current DHB chair, and South Waikato district councillor Gray Baldwin, a farmer with extensive business and governance experience. It was felt Mr Simcock and Mr Baldwin would bring, respectively, urban and rural perspectives to the steering group. Hamilton will continue to have a strong presence through the involvement of its CEO Richard Briggs.
- 5. MPs briefing** – The forum will look to hold a briefing for the region's MPs early in the new year. This will be designed to inform them on regional co-operation and related issues.