

Waikato Mayoral Forum and Councils Collaboration Projects: Progress Report #3: Sept 2013

Introduction

This report is to provide an update on four work streams being carried out under the auspices of the Waikato Mayoral Forum, which consists of the region's mayors and the chair of the regional council.

The work streams – covering roading, water and wastewater services, planning and economic development - are an integrated package designed to help get the best out of the regional economy and deliver multi-million dollar cost savings for ratepayers. Each workstream has a small governance group of three or four mayors/chair and support from an assigned council executive officer.

In March 2013 the Mayoral Forum made a presentation to all the councillors of the twelve local authorities in the Waikato region on the opportunities that these workstreams provided, and the funding required to progress to the next stage. The same presentation was given to wider stakeholders. A copy of this information is available at www.mpdc.govt.nz/waikatomayoralforum.

Councils, through their Annual Plan process, made commitments to these projects, and approved funding. It was agreed that regular reporting on these workstreams would be provided.

This report provides an update for forum members, councillors, stakeholders and the general community on progress. The projects are due to continue to provide updates on the workstreams on a six-weekly basis.

The governance groups are:

Roading: Mayors: Brian Hanna, Allan Sanson, John Tregidga.

Executive Officer: Don McLeod.

Economic Development: Mayors/Chair: Peter Buckley, Julie Hardaker, Alan Livingston, John Tregidga.

Executive Officer: Langley Cavers.

Planning & governance: Mayors/Chair: Peter Buckley, Julie Hardaker, Neil Sinclair, Hugh Vercoe.

Executive Officers: Garry Dyet, Gavin Ion.

Waters: Mayors: Glenn Leach, Alan Livingston, Dale Williams.

Executive Officer: David Hall.

Workstream: Waikato Roding Collaboration

Purpose

This workstream, known as the Waikato Roding Collaboration project, is investigating whether a sound business case can be made for a Waikato Centre of Excellence for advanced road asset management.

Progress on Key Milestones

Progress on the roding reports over the last 6 weeks:

- Report from the Data Collection group has been completed and submitted. Has now been incorporated into the indicative business case on roding collaboration in the Waikato
- Workshop of the Regional Advisory Group to build a shared understanding of the component parts of road asset management that may be best delivered through a regional centre of excellence.
- Regional Road Classification group assessed the effect of a common road classification on existing levels of service.

Next Steps

Project milestones in the next 6 weeks:

- Regional Road Classification report will be completed in draft form and submitted for review pending the outcome of the national road classification process being run by NZTA and LGNZ.
- Indicative business case advance for the Roding Collaboration on shared asset management examining the financial case for elements that may be contained in a regional centre of excellence for asset management by February 2014.

Workstream: Waters

Purpose

This workstream is progressing investigations into the benefits and challenges that either a regional or sub-regional management of the water and wastewater utility activities would provide to the Waikato.

Progress on Key Milestones

- The Mayoral Forum resolved to support Stage II of this study at a meeting held in Karapiro on 29 July. Since that date the Project Control Group has met to finalise the details of the brief and, following further negotiations, approve a contract between Participate Ltd and LASS. This contract has now been agreed and executed and work is underway.
- In order to streamline data gathering a targeted survey will be prepared for each Council and circulated well in advance of proposed visits to each Council. Members of the project team have also met with senior managers from each Council to brief them on the purpose of the survey and the importance of accurate and timely responses.
- The Stage II report will be completed by February 2014.

Next Steps

The next step is the development of an individualised, targeted survey for each territorial authority.

Workstream: Waikato Planning

Purpose

This workstream is progressing the Waikato Plan project, which commenced in May 2013.

Progress on Key Milestones

The key steps towards developing the Waikato Spatial Plan as set out in the diagram below. We are currently at Stage One of this process – developing a common evidence base, which will be completed by December 2013.



| Task | Progress |
|--|--|
| 1. A Waikato Profile Statement for economic, social, cultural and environmental wellbeing that summarises the existing evidence base for the opportunities, strengths and challenges the Waikato region will face in the coming 30-years. | Drafts due 30 September Finalised 15 November 2013 |
| 2. Technical Paper – Population and Demographics | Complete |
| 3. An assessment of critical infrastructure that supports the region, and available data on committed and forecasted investment. | Draft 30 th September |
| 4. Regional Sport and Recreational Facilities Plan | Tender let and project commenced |
| 5. A summary report suitable for community engagement that sets out: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The opportunities, strengths and challenges the Waikato region may face in the coming 30-years Vision, objectives and goals Identify any trade-offs that need to be made in order to achieve the objectives sought A draft set of priorities the region wishes to commence | Draft due 30 November, 2013 Final 15 th December |

| | |
|--|---------------|
| engagement with communities during the plan development phase. | |
| 6. Project plan, budget and scope for the next project stage | December 2013 |

Since mid-July the project milestones have been:

- The Waikato regional demographic report has been completed by the University of Waikato
- A workshop has been held with each Council in the Waikato Region on the successes, challenges and priorities to achieve their community outcomes
- A meeting of the Governance Group was held on 16th of August
- The technical leadership group continues to meet every fortnight to progress the common evidence base for economic, social, cultural and environmental wellbeing
- An infrastructure stock take has commenced
- The Waikato Regional Sport and Recreation Plan project has appointed a lead consultant to develop the plan.

Next Steps

The project will be progressing the following key tasks over the coming 6 weeks:

- The technical leadership group will continue to progress the common evidence base for economic, social, cultural and environmental wellbeing.
- A project establishment meeting will be held for the regional sport and recreation plan with the appointed consultant. Contact will be made with appointed local authority staff to secure existing facility data.
- A draft regional infrastructure stocktake will be completed.
- A discussion document on an implementation framework for a Waikato Spatial Plan will be completed.

Workstream: Economic Development

Purpose

This workstream is managing the development of a draft Waikato Economic Development Strategy.

Progress on Key Milestones

At the last Economic Strategy Governance Group meeting a decision was made to alter the approach and timeline for the release of the Economic Strategy.

This is to allow the Governance Group to take a more active part in the development of the core components of the strategy, rather than simply being a sounding board. The matters that were going to be considered at the August meeting were spread over two sessions, one in August and one in September.

The August meeting considered a report from Market Economics. This report detailed the outcomes of the initial modelling by Market Economics on what current trends and information collected to date suggest that the structure of the regional economy will be in 20 years. The majority of the meeting was devoted to a workshop session seeking governance members' views on a vision for Waikato's future and goals for the future of the economy.

The September meeting will involve a report back on a high level vision and goals for the strategy for further discussion and agreement, and a recap of the major issues and opportunities facing the Waikato economy identified through all of the work to date. This will then form the basis of a facilitated discussion on what all of this means for high-level strategic priorities for the economy.

Next Steps

The outcomes of the two meetings will then form the basis of a final strategy discussion document, or green paper, for consultation. The strategy discussion document will be a short document (say 5-6 pages) that provides enough content that stakeholders and businesses can engage with and react to. The document will summarise (based on the evidence-base collected to date):

- The current state of the Waikato economy, its role in the national and international economy and major trends
- Major regional and industry issues and opportunities as identified through the research review and limited consultation to date

- A potential vision and possible goals
- An outline of high-level strategic priorities which could be the focus of a final economic strategy (e.g., at the level of “a focus on the development, retention and attraction of skills”, rather than detailing specific actions or investments that might be taken by relevant stakeholders to address skill needs).

The consultation on the Green Paper will be carried out over October and November 2013 with the Governance Group considering the feedback in December. The draft economic Strategy will then be put together in January 2014 for discussion and sign off by the Governance Group in February 2014.

Overall Finances

The finances for these workstream projects are being collectively managed through the jointly owned organisation Local Authority Shared Services Ltd (LASS), in which each Council is a shareholder.

| | Roading | Planning | Waters | Economic Development | Governance | Totals |
|---------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Phase One Contributions | 20,000 | 32,500 | 51,200 | 0 | 8,000 | 111,700 |
| Phase Two Contributions 2012/13 | 30,000 | 135,800 | 40,020 | 84,070 | 0 | 289,890 |
| Phase Two Contributions 2013/14 | 49,190 | 446,990 | 154,140 | 74,410 | 0 | 724,730 |
| Phase Two Contributions 2014/15 | 0 | 241,370 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 241,370 |
| Total Contributions | 99,190 | 856,660 | 245,360 | 158,480 | 8,000 | 1,367,690 |
| Expenditure To Date | 18,000 | 65,249 | 72,000 | 61,851 | 7,430 | 224,530 |
| Still Available | 81,190 | 791,411 | 173,360 | 96,629 | 570 | 1,143,160 |