



WAIKATO MAYORAL FORUM

Summary of key matters from Waikato Mayoral Forum proceedings 10 April 2017:

Strategic review:

The forum agreed on a process to do a strategic review to identify future regional strategic collaboration initiatives.

It will include interviews with council mayors/chair and CEOs from the various councils.

This initiative will be funded through the jointly owned Waikato Local Authority Shared Services Ltd.

MPs meeting:

The forum decided that invitations will be sent to Waikato regional MPs, the Minister for Local Government and the NZ Transport Agency's Waikato and Bay of Plenty regional director Parekawhia McLean to attend the next forum meeting in June for a presentation by the forum on priorities taken from the Waikato Plan.

Regional facilities funding framework

The forum has previously identified an opportunity to develop an agreed process to fund facilities where beneficiaries are spread over more than one district. The meeting heard details of how a draft facilities funding framework will be developed between now and September under the guidance of a sub-group of council leaders.

The sub-group comprises mayors Sandra Goudie, Andrew King, Jim Mylchreest and Allan Sanson and forum chair Alan Livingston from the regional council.

CEOs will support their leaders to keep all councils informed and ensure feedback on what's proposed is fed into those developing the process.

Chair Livingston said it was critical that a funding framework be in place prior to the finalising of the next Long Term Plans.

Discussion also included the need to define what facilities meant, the distinction between regional and sub-regional facilities, and inclusion of facilities other than sports-centred ones.

Waikato Means Business (WMB)

A presentation was made by Waikato Means Business chair Dallas Fisher and consultant Harvey Brookes. The forum heard how, at a recent meeting, the Minister for Economic Development Simon Bridges discussed with WMB committee members his recognition of the strong economic growth in the Waikato and indicated the availability of government resourcing for key projects. His focus is on new rather than traditional business models and situations where the call for backing is spoken with one voice.

Dallas Fisher said it was important to attract good, serious businesses to the Waikato region.

Waikato Medical School

The chair tabled information on the proposed joint venture between Waikato University and Waikato District Health Board to establish a Waikato Medical School.

Forum members strongly endorsed the release of a media statement confirming their collective support for the idea and the sending of letters of support to relevant Government ministers and the region's MPs.

The subsequent media release is available at this link:

<http://waikatomayoralforum.org.nz/home/news/waikato-councils-back-medical-school-proposal/>

Upper North Island Strategic Alliance (UNISA)

This key upper North Island alliance currently involves the regional council and Hamilton City Council. Membership comprises Auckland Council, and the regional councils and biggest urban councils of Northland, Waikato and Bay of Plenty.

UNISA's members recently re-committed to UNISA. See the media statement here:

<https://www.waikatoregion.govt.nz/community/whats-happening/news/media-releases/waikato-councils-affirm-commitment-to-key-upper-north-island-alliance/>

The forum meeting was given a verbal update on various UNISA issues.

A request from the Waikato Mayoral Forum for Waikato District Council to be included in UNISA was declined at the alliance's meeting but it was decided that, when cross-boundary issues involving Waikato district are discussed at UNISA, Waikato District Council can expect to be present. While not surprised by UNISA's decision, Waikato mayor Allan Sanson thanked the forum for showing its support for his council's inclusion.

Alan Livingston

Chair

Waikato Mayoral Forum