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Committee Te Kāuru Upper Ruamahanga FMP Subcommittee
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Waipoua Masterton Urban Area Project Group establishment and terms of reference

1. Purpose

To establish the Waipoua Masterton Urban Area Project Group (the Project Group), and adopt the terms of reference for the Project Group.

2. Background

The Te Kāuru Upper Ruamahanga Floodplain Management Plan (TKURFMP) is being developed guided by GWRC's floodplain management planning guidelines. Te Kāuru is a very large catchment area when compared with previous FMPs undertaken by Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC). There are differing types of floodplain management required across this catchment: urban area (current emphasis on structure options), rural gravel bed rivers (primarily river management), and rural silt bed rivers (minimal intervention, willow removal, potential scheme expansion). This diversity within the catchment means that a more complex FMP process has evolved.

It is proposed that the TKURFMP Subcommittee establish the Waipoua Masterton Urban Area Project Group to consider the Masterton urban reach options. This report sets out the proposed membership of the Project Group and its terms of reference.

It is also proposed that this Project Group develop and assess design options for the Waipoua urban area. This will enable input and approvals from both GWRC and Masterton District Council (MDC). The Project Group would bring back recommendations to the Te Kāuru Upper Ruamahanga River Floodplain Management Plan Subcommittee.

3. Membership

The proposed membership is:

- The chair of the Te Kāuru Upper Ruamahanga River Floodplain Management Plan Subcommittee
- The Greater Wellington Regional Council Councillor elected from the Wairarapa Constituency
- Two MDC councillors on appointment by Masterton District Council
- One member of Kahungunu ki Wairarapa who is also on the TKURFMP Subcommittee
- One member of Rangitāne ō Wairarapa who is also on the TKURFMP Subcommittee.
- One officer from the GRWC Project Team
- One officer from MDC.

4. **Terms of reference for the Project Group**

The purpose of the Project Group is to facilitate the Waipoua River flood hazard mitigation option development for the Masterton urban area.

The options developed will be recommended to the TKURFMP Subcommittee for endorsement and inclusion in the draft TKURFMP.

The Waipoua Masterton Urban Area Project Group is responsible for:

- Agreeing the flood hazard within Masterton urban area
- Developing and agreeing options for flood and erosion management of the Waipoua River in the Masterton urban area
- Providing recommendations for consideration to the TKURFMP Subcommittee regarding options

The Project Group will act only to consider draft reports/recommendations with a focus on new flood hazard maps and design options for the Waipoua River. All decisions and recommendations to the Environment Committee remain the responsibility of the TKURFMP Subcommittee.

The Subcommittee retains its existing responsibilities and recognises the Project Group as a mechanism for consideration of design options.

Proposed terms of reference for the Project Group are included as **Attachment 1** to this report.

5. **Establishment and plan**

It is proposed that the first meeting of the Project Group be held in July 2017. The details of the timelines for the Project Group will be discussed at the first meeting.

Indications of the topics for the initial meetings of the Project Group are included as **Attachment 2** to this report.

6. Consideration of Climate Change

The matter requiring a decision in this report has been considered by officers in accordance with the process set out in the GWRC Climate Change Consideration Guide.

6.1 Mitigation assessment

Mitigation assessments are concerned with the effect of the matter on the climate (i.e. the greenhouse gas emissions generated or removed from the atmosphere as a consequence of the matter) and the actions taken to reduce, neutralise or enhance that effect.

Officers have considered the effect of the establishment of the Project Group on the climate. Officers recommend that the matter only relates to travel of the Project Group members and will have an effect that is not considered significant.

The effects of potential FMP works (that may be recommended by the Project Group) on the climate are not considered significant, and will be addressed through GWRCs procurement process which is undergoing review in 2017 and will encourage suppliers and contractors to minimise emissions.

6.2 Adaptation assessment

Adaptation assessments relate to the impacts of climate change (e.g. sea level rise or an increase in extreme weather events), and the actions taken to address or avoid those impacts.

GWRC plans for climate change in assessing the degree of future flood hazard and in determining an appropriate response. There are only specific, limited situations in which climate change is not relevant (for example, planning for present-day emergency management).

In assessing flood hazard and determining appropriate structural and/or non-structural responses in areas subject to flood risk, GWRC is applying a rainfall increase of 20% to the flood hydrology to account for climate change over the next 100 years.

Guidance from the Ministry for the Environment will be updated from time to time and our approach will be revised in line with any updates.

7. The decision-making process and significance

The matters requiring decision in this report have been considered by officers against the requirements of Part 6 of the Local Government Act 2002.

7.1 Significance of the decision

Officers have considered the significance of the matter, taking into account the Council's significance and engagement policy and decision-making guidelines. Due to the procedural nature of this decision officers recommend that the matter be considered to have low significance.

Officers do not consider that a formal record outlining consideration of the decision-making process is required in this instance.

7.2 Engagement

Due to its procedural nature and low significance, no engagement on this matter has been undertaken.

8. Recommendations

That the Subcommittee:

- 1. **Receives** the report.*
- 2. **Notes** the content of the report.*
- 3. **Establishes** the Waipoua Masterton Urban Area Project Group.*
- 4. **Adopts** the terms of reference for the Project Group as set out in Attachment 1 to this report.*

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Attachment 1: Waipoua Masterton Urban Project Group Terms of Reference (TKURFMP Subcommittee) - Draft

Attachment 2: Programme for the initial meetings of the Waipoua Masterton Urban Area Project Group