



Minutes of a meeting of the Governance, Communications and
Engagement Committee held in the Council Chamber on
Thursday 13 May 2021 at 9:00 AM

Membership

Cr Michael Deaker (Co-Chair)
Cr Michael Laws (Co-Chair)
Cr Hilary Calvert
Cr Alexa Forbes
Hon Cr Marian Hobbs
Cr Carmen Hope
Cr Gary Kelliher
Cr Kevin Malcolm
Cr Andrew Noone
Cr Gretchen Robertson
Cr Bryan Scott
Cr Kate Wilson

Welcome

Co-Chairperson Michael Deaker welcomed Councillors, members of the public and staff to the meeting at 09:02 am. Staff present included Sarah Gardner (Chief Executive), Nick Donnelly (GM Corporate Services), Gavin Palmer (GM Operations), Richard Saunders (GM Regulatory and Communications), Amanda Vercoe (GM Governance, Culture and Customer), Liz Spector (Governance Support), Eleanor Ross, Lisa Gloag, and Asuma Bainbridge-Zafar. Natalie Richards of Versus Research was also present.

For our future

1. APOLOGIES

Resolution

That the apologies for Cr Hobbs, Cr Kelliher, Cr Scott, Cr Wilson and the lateness of Cr Robertson be accepted.

Moved: Cr Hope
Seconded: Cr Noone
CARRIED

Cr Robertson arrived at 9:06 a.m.

2. PUBLIC FORUM

No public forum was held.

3. CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

The agenda was confirmed as presented.

4. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No conflicts of interest were advised.

5. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Resolution

Minutes of the 10 February 2021 Governance, Communications and Engagement Committee were confirmed as a true and accurate record.

Moved: Cr Hope
Seconded: Cr Calvert
CARRIED

6. ACTIONS

The table of outstanding actions was reviewed. Mr Saunders updated the meeting on the outstanding action related to the Significance, Engagement and Maori Participation Policy report. He said once consultations with Aukaha were completed, the Policy will be presented to the Strategy and Planning Committee meeting of 7 July 2021. Mr Saunders noted that under committee terms of reference, consideration of this policy needed to be undertaken by either Strategy and Planning or Council, rather than the Governance, Communications and Engagement Committee and asked this be reflected in the Action.

7. MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION

7.1. Community Survey Implementation Plan

As part of setting the 2020/21 Annual Plan, Councillors requested that staff initiate delivery of a community survey for the Otago Regional Council. The purpose of this report was to present the proposal to commence an annual community survey. Richard Saunders (GM Regulatory and Communications) and Eleanor Ross (Manager Communications Channels) were present to speak to the report and respond to questions. Natalie Richards of Versus Research was also present to respond to questions around implementation of the process.

Mr Saunders noted a survey was sent to 900 residents in 2014 and said he will circulate a summary of responses to Councillors. He also noted that staff recommended a sample size of 1700 questionnaires be submitted, which differed from Versus Research's recommendation of 1200. Mr Saunders said this was in response to Councillor direction to use a larger sample size. Cr Deaker asked about the survey costs. Mr Saunders said the costs were included in the draft LTP budgets. Cr Deaker asked Ms Richards what she thought about using a larger sample size for the survey. Ms Richards said she is comfortable with that and understood there was a strong preference to receive responses from a variety of areas throughout the region.

Cr Laws moved the four recommendations and Cr Calvert seconded the motion.

Cr Hope asked if there would be a way for people who weren't included in the survey sample of 1700 to respond anyway. Ms Richards said there needs to be an element of randomness in the samples, but some postal invitations to participate are planned to reach those audiences. She noted this will preserve randomness of responses and won't be a significant part of the survey.

There were no further discussions and Cr Deaker put the motion.

Resolution

That the Committee:

- 1) **Receives** this report.
- 2) **Approves** the delivery of a Community Survey for Otago Regional Council with a sample size of 1700.
- 3) **Notes** that Versus Research will be contracted to deliver the survey annually for the next three years.
- 4) **Notes** that the survey will be completed between August and October.

Moved: Cr Laws
Seconded: Cr Calvert
CARRIED

7.2. Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 Data

This report was provided to set out key LGOIMA data for the period 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021 to enable future point-in-time comparisons. Peter Kelliher (Legal Counsel) was present to speak to the report and respond to questions. Mr Kelliher summarised the report and Cr Deaker asked for Councillor questions.

Cr Calvert thanked Mr Kelliher for the report. She said the law was set out to ensure open and transparent government and the report shows the ORC is following good practice. Cr Deaker asked if Mr Kelliher knew how the ORC compared to other entities on response percentages. Mr Kelliher noted that the ORC's average response-time was lower than the 14.4 days the Ombudsman cited as commendable.

Cr Calvert asked if media requests for information were included in the statistics and Mr Kelliher said they were not. Cr Calvert said she would like to see those requests included if they are actual requests for information.

There was no further discussion and Cr Hope moved receipt of the report.

Resolution

That the Committee:

- 1) **Receives** this report.

Moved: Cr Hope
Seconded: Cr Deaker
CARRIED

8. CLOSURE

There was no further business and Co-Chair Deaker declared the meeting closed at 09:30 am.

Co-Chairperson

Date