

Strategy & Policy Committee

Reports to:	Council
Chairperson:	Cr Joblin
Deputy Co-Chairs:	Crs Brown and Melser
Membership:	Mayor Tripe, Deputy Mayor Cr Craig, all other Councillors, and Rural Community Board member Julian Bailey (speaking rights, not entitled to vote)
Meeting frequency:	Eight-weekly
Quorum:	Half of the members (including vacancies)
ELT Lead:	Deputy Chief Executive

Purpose:

The Committee is responsible for:

- Setting the broad vision and direction of the District, determining specific outcomes that need to be met to deliver on that vision, and developing strategies, plans and policies to achieve those goals.
- Developing and recommending bylaws to the Council for approval.
- Guiding the development and growth of the District through land use, transport, and infrastructure to meet the current and future needs of the District. This includes responsibility for:
 - the District Plan (other than those matters reserved for Council).
 - the Resource Management Act and other relevant planning legislation;
 - water supply, stormwater and wastewater;
 - waste management;
 - asset management plans;
 - parks and reserves;
 - cemeteries;
 - oversight of Council's involvement in central government strategies, plans or initiatives that impact the District's future land use and infrastructure;
 - climate change response and resilience;
 - urban, rural and waterfront development;
 - roading, parking and other transport assets;
- Overseeing the work of the Regulatory Hearings Committee.
- Ensuring decisions are made with the appropriate level of participation from, and engagement with, the Rural Community Board, mana whenua and the wider community.

The Strategy & Policy Committee has the following Terms of Reference and is delegated the following powers:

General

1. To develop and approve the statement of proposal for new or amended strategies, plans, policies, and approve new or amended strategies, plans, and policies for consultation and community engagement.
2. To hear and decide on the adoption, amendment or revocation of all strategies, plans and policies, except those which the Council cannot delegate or chooses to retain (see Council terms of reference, above).
3. To appoint external members to the Regulatory Hearings Committee, either through establishing a panel of external members or on an ad-hoc basis, to provide skills, attributes and/or knowledge that will assist the work of that committee.

Bylaws

1. To develop and approve the statement of proposal for new or amended bylaws and approve new or amended bylaws for consultation and community engagement.
1. To hear and consider submissions on bylaws.
2. To recommend to the Council new or amended bylaws for adoption.

District Plan

2. To review and approve for formal notification (under Schedule 1 of the Resource Management Act 1991) a proposed district plan, a proposed change to the District Plan, or a variation to a proposed plan or proposed plan change (excluding any plan change notified under clause 25(2)(a), Schedule 1 of the Resource Management Act 1991)
3. To make the following decisions to facilitate the administration of plan changes, variations, designation and heritage order processes:
 - i. To decide whether a decision of a Requiring Authority or Heritage Protection Authority will be appealed to the Environment Court and authorise the resolution of any such appeal, provided such decisions are consistent with professional advice.
 - ii. To consider and approve Council submissions on a proposed plan, plan changes, and variations.
 - iii. To monitor the private plan change process.
 - iv. To accept, adopt or reject private plan change applications under clause 25, Schedule 1, Resource Management Act 1991.

Other resource management issues

1. Under Section 34(1) of the Resource Management Act 1991, to exercise all of the Council's functions, powers and duties under that Act, except the functions, powers and duties:
 - i. that cannot be delegated or that are otherwise retained by the Council(see Council terms of reference, above); or
 - ii. that have been expressly delegated to other Council committees, other subordinate decision-making bodies, or staff.
2. To make decisions on environmental management and sustainability within the District.

Infrastructure, Development and Reserves

1. To provide governance advice on the development and implementation of growth and development strategies, land use, and spatial plans in line with national policy requirements.
2. For all Council-owned land that is either open space under the District Plan, or reserve under the Reserves Act 1977:
 - i. To approve draft reserve management plans for consultation and community engagement.
 - ii. To hear submissions and adopt or amend reserve management plans.
 - iii. To adopt names for reserves (subject to appropriate community engagement or consultation).
3. To approve development agreements, other than unfunded agreements which the Committee will review and, if appropriate, recommend to Council for approval.
4. To provide direction on Council's regional alliances, plans and forums for joint infrastructure and shared services.
5. To approve criteria for prioritising projects for an upcoming Long Term Plan or Annual Plan.
6. To consider, and make recommendations to the Council in relation to, the schedule of prioritised future projects presented to it by the Projects & Grants Committee.

Submissions and legislation:

1. To approve submissions to outside organisations, and on legislation and regulatory proposals.

Note:

- *The following process can be used in the event that a submission cannot be considered by the Committee prior to the due date for submission:

Staff will circulate the submission to all Councillors for their approval, providing a minimum of 48 hours for them to review of the submission.

Councillors will confirm by written response whether they approve the submission or whether they have any feedback on the submission. If no feedback or response is received then it is presumed to be approved.

Staff will then consider all feedback and make amendments to the submission in consultation with the Chief Executive.

Once the submission has been finalised and all feedback has been incorporated where possible, the Mayor or the Deputy Mayor along with the Chief Executive may approve the submission as final.

Any submission approved via this process must be presented to the next Strategy & Policy Committee meeting for noting.*
- *If a submission is of a technical and operational nature the submission can be approved by the Chief Executive (in consultation with the Mayor) and presented to the next Strategy & Policy Committee meeting for noting.*