

By email

22 March 2019

File Ref: OIAP-7-10164

Ben Hassall

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Dear Mr Hassall

Response to request for information 2019-106

I refer to your request for information dated 16 January 2019, which was received by Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC) on 17 January 2018. Due to an internal oversight, this request for information was not logged in accordance with GWRC's usual procedures, and we acknowledge this response is overdue. We appreciate your patience in this matter.

You have requested the following information:

“ ...

However there is one remaining point of confusion in the information I have requested. This relates to my follow-up request of 27 August 2018 asking for information about the GWRC "series of workshops" that decided on the initial Transport Rate Differentials outlined in the discussion paper presented to the Public Transport Review of Revenue Financing Policy Working Group on the 20th September 2017:

Attachment 2: Discussion Paper Council Working Group 20 September 2017 Public Transport Review of Revenue Financing Policy: This document outlines two options for further consideration as well as the initial Benefit Ratios for different ratepayer groups under the "Level of Benefit Option". It states "These suggested differentials were derived in a series of workshops with economics, policy, finance, and public transport staff, exploring the relative benefits and impacts of public transport".

Can I please have a copy of the meeting or management decision that eliminated two of the initial four options as well as the assessing information on which this decision was based?

Can I please have a copy of the meeting agendas, presentation information and minutes for the "series of workshops with economics, policy, finance, and public transport staff, exploring the relative benefits and impacts of public transport"?

RESPONSE TO REQUEST FOR INFORMATION 2019-106106



The GWRC response to this information was provided on 12th November 2018 and stated:

I refer to your request for information dated 27 August 2018:

“8. Can I please have a copy of the meeting agendas, presentation information and minutes for the “series of workshops with economics, policy, finance, and public transport staff, exploring the relative benefits and impacts of public transport”?”

GWRC’s response to the requests listed above follows:

8. The meeting agendas, presentation information and minutes for the “series of workshops with economics, policy, finance, and public transport staff, exploring the relative benefits and impacts of public transport”, including the time and place of the workshops as well as a list of all who attended these workshops.

The series of workshops referred to did not have agendas and were not minuted. However, the relevant findings and information presented were documented in the working group presentations and papers that you have received (attachments 1 – 7 of this request). Furthermore, we do not have a recorded list of attendees for these meetings; it is only recorded those who were invited to the meetings. Those details follow:

2-4pm on Friday, 28 July 2017: Revenue & Financing Policy Working Group (Shed 39, 2 Fryatt Quay, Pipitea) Invited attendees:

Dave Humm, General Manager, Corporate Services/Chief Financial Officer

Wayne Hastie, General Manager, Public Transport

Chris Laidlaw, Council Chair

Paul Swain, Councillor

Barbara Donaldson, Councillor

Roger Blakeley, Councillor

Ian McKinnon, Councillor

Mark Ford, Strategic Finance Manager

Samantha Gain, Manager, Legal, Asset Management & Procurement

Paul Kos, Manager, Public Transport Planning

Helen Chapman, Senior Transport Planner

Helen Gilbert, Revenue & Finance Policy Contractor

1-3pm on Wednesday, 20 September 2017: Revenue & Financing Policy Working Group (Shed 39, 2 Fryatt Quay, Pipitea) Invited attendees: ...

1:30-3pm on Wednesday, 11 October 2017: Revenue & Financing Policy Working Group (Shed 39, 2 Fryatt Quay, Pipitea) Invited attendees: ...

Approximately 1pm on Wednesday, 18 October 2017: Council Workshop (Westpac Stadium conference room) Invited attendees: ...

1-3:30pm on Monday, 20 November 2017: Revenue & Financing Policy Working Group (Shed 39, 2 Fryatt Quay, Pipitea) Invited attendees: ...

*Approximately 1pm on Wednesday, 13 December 2017: Council Workshop
(WestpacStadium conference room) Invited attendees: ...*

The 12th November response appears to list the date/time and attendees of the Public Transport Review of Revenue Financing Policy Working Group as it includes Councillor representation but fails to provide any information on the date/time and attendees of the "series of workshops with economics, policy, finance, and public transport staff, exploring the relative benefits and impacts of public transport" referred to in the discussion paper presented to the 20 September 2017 Working Group meeting. This is why I again, on the 22nd November 2018, requested:

Furthermore, in regards to my question 8, I asked for:

"The meeting agendas, presentation information and minutes for the "series of workshops with economics, policy, finance, and public transport staff, exploring the relative benefits and impacts of public transport", including the time and place of the workshops as well as a list of all who attended these workshops."

The GWRC response on 18th December on this issue is very confusing:

As for the Councillor workshops, I ask for and want to know what information the GWRC does have about "series of workshops with economics, policy, finance, and public transport staff".

A) For each of these "workshops with economics, policy, finance, and public transport staff", can you please provide the date/time, location, attendees and any workshop information provided to the attendees (either before, during or after the workshop)?

Greater Wellington Regional Council's response follows.

8.A) The dates, times, locations and invited attendees were provided to you in the request for information sent on 12 November 2018. The only information presented to the attendees was by way of the discussion papers that you have previously received.

The latest GWRC response that "The dates, times, locations and invited attendees were provided to you in the request for information sent on 12 November 2018" appears to be confuse the request for:

I) the date/time and attendees of the Public Transport Review of Revenue Financing Policy Working Group meetings and the date/time with the request for:

II) the date/time and attendees of the "series of workshops with economics, policy, finance, and public transport staff, exploring the relative benefits and impacts of public transport" referred on in Section 6.4 (Page 15) of the "Review of Revenue & Financing Policy – Public Transport - Discussion paper for Councillor working group, 20 September 2017" provided as Attachment 2 in the GWRC response of 12 November 2018.

I have received the information related to i) but I am yet to receive the requested information related to II).

Can I please have the date/time and attendees of the workshops referred to in the statement "These suggested differentials were derived in a series of workshops with economics, policy, finance, and public transport staff, exploring the relative benefits and impacts of public transport" in Section 6.4 (Page 15) of the "Review of Revenue & Financing Policy – Public Transport - Discussion paper for Councillor working group, 20 September 2017" provided as Attachment 2 in the GWRC response of 12 November 2018?"

Greater Wellington's response follows:

The dates and times of the "series of workshops with economics, policy, finance, and public transport staff, exploring the relative benefits and impacts of public transport" has not been wholly recorded in Greater Wellington's Outlook system as this process was run through an external consultant.

Through liaison with the external consultant we have ascertained that administrative records of the workshops are not held in full, however, we have endeavoured to procure this information from the Outlook calendars of the involved officers. As has been previously disclosed, the series of workshops did not have agendas or minutes, otherwise this information would be provided.

Below are the times, dates and invitees of the aforementioned workshops that can be found in staff calendars:

PT Funding Review Shortlisting workshop

29 March 2017

1:30 – 3 p.m.

Invitees:

Helen Gilbert, External Contractor

Helen Chapman, Senior Policy Advisor

Wayne Hastie, General Manager, Public Transport

Paul Kos, Public Transport Planning Manager

Charlotte Vaughan, Strategic Business Partner

Mark Ford, Strategic Finance Manager

Shane Mercer, Financial Reporting Team Leader

Angus Gabara, Rail Assets Manager

Barry Fryer, Rail Assets Team Leader

LTP – Revenue & Funding workshop with PT

5 May 2017

11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Invitees:

Paul Kos, Public Transport Planning Manager

Angus Gabara, Rail Assets Manager

Helen Chapman, Senior Policy Advisor
Shane Mercer, Financial Reporting Team Leader
Helen Gilbert, External Contractor
Charlotte Vaughan, Strategic Business Partner
Peter Doherty, Accountant
Helen Guissane, Corporate Planner
Dave Grimmond, Economist

PT Revenue & Financing

18 May 2017

8:30 – 10:30 a.m.

Invitees:

Helen Gilbert, External Contractor
Helen Guissane, Corporate Planner
Helen Chapman, Senior Policy Advisor
Peter Doherty, Accountant
Paul Kos, Public Transport Planning Manager
Shane Mercer, Financial Reporting Team Leader
Charlotte Vaughan, Strategic Business Partner
Dave Grimmond, Economist

PT Revenue Funding

9 June 2017

11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Invitees:

Wayne Hastie, General Manager, Public Transport
Mark Ford, Strategic Finance Manager
Charlotte Vaughan, Strategic Business Partner
Jonathon Gear, PT Senior Financial Advisor
Paul Kos, Public Transport Planning Manager
Helen Chapman, Senior Policy Advisor

PT Rating Model Options

3 July 2017

1 – 2 p.m.

Invitees:

Wayne Hastie, General Manager, Public Transport
Paul Kos, Public Transport Planning Manager
Helen Chapman, Senior Policy Advisor

Jonathon Gear, PT Senior Financial Advisor
Charlotte Vaughan, Strategic Business Partner
Mark Ford, Strategic Finance Manager

PT Rating Model Options

26 July 2017

4 – 5 p.m.

Invitees:

Helen Chapman, Senior Policy Advisor
Wayne Hastie, General Manager, Public Transport
Jonathon Gear, PT Senior Financial Advisor
Charlotte Vaughan, Strategic Business Partner
Paul Kos, Public Transport Planning Manager
Mark Ford, Strategic Finance Manager
Helen Gilbert, External Contractor

PT Revenue Whiteboard Session

21 August 2017

10 – 11 a.m.

Invitees:

Helen Gilbert, External Contractor
Helen Chapman, Senior Policy Advisor
(Note: there were likely other officers in attendance, however, only these attendees can be found in our system)

PT Rates – Policy Options

4 September 2017

2 – 3 p.m.

Invitees:

Helen Gilbert, External Contractor
Helen Chapman, Senior Policy Advisor
Charlotte Vaughan, Strategic Business Partner
Jonathon Gear, PT Senior Financial Advisor
Paul Kos, Public Transport Planning Manager

R & F Policy – PT

18 September 2017

4 – 5 p.m.

Invitees:

Mark Ford, Strategic Finance Manager

Paul Kos, Public Transport Planning Manager

Helen Gilbert, External Contractor

Helen Chapman, Senior Policy Advisor

Marie Kitchener, Strategic Finance Planning Consultant

Charlotte Vaughan, Strategic Business Partner

Dave Humm, General Manager, Corporate Services/ Chief Financial Officer

Angus Gabara, Rail Assets Manager

If you have any concerns with the decision(s) referred to in this letter, you have the right to request an investigation and review by the Ombudsman under section 27(3) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987.

Yours sincerely

Samantha Gain

General Manager, Corporate Services