

Report 99.61

2 March 1999

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Report of the Special Meeting of the Passenger Transport Committee held in the Wellington Regional Council Chamber, The Regional Council Centre, 142-146 Wakefield Street, Wellington on Tuesday, 23 February 1999 at 9.30am

<p>Matters for Council Decision are shown in bold type and enclosed in a box. <i>Matters for Information of Council are in italic type.</i></p>
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Present

Councillors McDavitt (Chairperson), Allen, Bonner, Buchanan, Gibson, Macaskill, McQueen, Shields and Turver

Officers Present

Messrs Brennand, Cross, Darroch, Dave, Laplanche, Leonard, Saywell, Schollum, Stone and Dr Watson

Procedural Items

PT 17 Apologies

There were no apologies.

Public Participation**Mrs Anne Bain, Chairperson, Wellington Branch Association of Blind Citizens of New Zealand**

Mrs Anne Bain said the total mobility scheme was much appreciated by users and the current situation where the Wellington Regional Council was not receiving any new applications to use total mobility was not acceptable. The budget has remained at the same level for about three years and Anne Bain asked for increased funding for the total mobility scheme.

A copy of Anne Bain's representations was distributed to members.

Grace Moulton, Stroke Foundation

Grace Moulton said she was also requesting extra funding for the total mobility scheme. The health funding authorities and Income Support were not prepared to provide additional support for total mobility and requested that the Regional Council reconsider its budget allocation for the scheme. Grace Moulton said in limiting the funding the Regional Council was contravening all that it stood for in caring for the citizens of the regional community.

Peter Kennedy-Good, Royal New Zealand Foundation for the Blind

Mr Kennedy-Good said that his organisation had 1400 members and of these 450 were users of the total mobility scheme. Mr Kennedy-Good said that demographic predictions showed that the region had an aging population and membership of his organisation would probably increase by 100% within 10 years.

Mr Kennedy-Good said he was not asking for an open cheque book but suggested that there must surely be ways the administration of the scheme could be improved to cope with the increased demand in the regional community.

Vicki Terrell, the Assembly of People with Disability, Wellington Region

Vicki Terrell thanked Councillors for the opportunity to speak about the total mobility scheme on behalf of the disabled people of the region. Vicki Terrell said that the Regional Council should examine the scheme as a public transport issue and not as a special disabled assistance scheme. The Regional Council had a lot more power than people with disabilities and should lobby central Government on behalf of disabled people for more assistance. Vicki Terrell concluded that the Regional Council do all in its power to support the increased demand for total mobility.

Members asked questions of each participant.

Councillor McDavitt thanked all those who had made representations and said that total mobility would be considered as the first item of business when members considered the Transport Division's operating plans. Councillor McDavitt said he would ask Dr Watson to brief members on the scheme at that time.

Matters for Consideration

PT 19 **Long-Term Financial Strategy 1997-2007: 1999 Update and Supporting Operating Plans**

(1) **Report of Council Chairperson.**

Report 99.51

File: G/4/1/10

Resolved

(Cr McDavitt/Cr Turver)

That the report be received and the contents noted.

(2) **Report of Chief Financial Officer**

Report 99.52

File: G/4/1/10

Resolved

(Cr McDavitt/Cr Turver)

That the report be received and the contents noted.

PT 20 **Transport Division: Operating Plans 1999-2007**

Report 99.33

File: T/13/1/3

Public Transport Department – Total Mobility

Dr Watson gave a history of the total mobility scheme and confirmed that continued growth in the number of eligible members was putting a strain on the scheme. Further changes to the scheme will need to be made to stay within budget during 1999-2000. Dr Watson suggested that he could report options to the next Passenger Transport Committee on 17 March 1999.

Resolved to Recommend

(Cr McQueen/Cr Turver)

- (1) **That the Wellington Regional Council accepts a continuing involvement in total mobility.**
- (2) **That the Wellington Regional Council recognises the forecast growth in demand for total mobility resources as a result of both social and demographic change.**
- (3) **That the Wellington Regional Council works with the appropriate agencies to develop and refine criteria for eligibility for total mobility funding which will set the scheme at a long term sustainable level.**

- (4) That the Wellington Regional Council in association with other Regional Councils approach Government at ministerial level with the aim of developing a formula for joint central/regional Government funding, including from Transfund New Zealand.
- (5) That until these questions are resolved Wellington Regional Council funding be managed with goodwill towards total mobility clients but taking into account the overall Wellington Regional Council budget priorities.
- (6) That in association with other Regional Councils a system be evaluated and if practicable developed for the common application of total mobility throughout New Zealand.

Resolved to Recommend

(Cr Shields/Cr Turver)

That in the light of the further work to be undertaken on the total mobility budget and to allow consideration of the results of that further work, the budget figure of \$957,000 be noted as interim until further recommendations are available from the Passenger Transport Committee.

Public Transport Department: Operating Plans

Resolved to Recommend

(Cr Buchanan/Cr Turver)

That in order to hold the transport rates at current levels an allocation of \$524,000 from the transport reserve be made.

Resolved to Recommend

(Cr McDavitt/Cr McQueen)

That subject to the above change the following proposed operating plans be approved in principle:

- Transport Policy
- Public Transport
- Customer Services

Resolved to Recommend

(Cr McDavitt/Cr McQueen)

That the draft Operating Plans for the above activities be recommended to the Policy and Finance Committee for inclusion in the Council's proposed Long Term Financial Strategy 1997-2007: 1999 update (incorporating Council's 1999/2000 Annual Plan).

Resolved to Recommend

(Cr Buchanan/Cr Turver)

That a decision on the use of the balance of the transport reserves expected to remain at 30 June 1999 be held over until the adoption of the reviewed Regional Land Transport Strategy.

Resolved to Recommend

(Cr McDavitt/Cr Shields)

That Report 99.33 be received and the contents noted.

The meeting closed at 12.43pm.

T J McDAVITT
Chairperson

Date

Policy and Finance Committee – 18 March 1999

To be moved:

That the report of part of the meeting of the Passenger Transport Committee held 23 February 1999 Items PT 17 to PT 20 and the recommendations contained therein, be adopted.