

## 8.1.2. Public Visibility Working Group Council report

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<b>Date of meeting</b>	18 June 2020
<b>Author</b>	Councillor Marshall, Chair of Working Group
<b>Responsible Director</b>	Tafflyn Bradford-James, Director Communications & Engagement

### Purpose

1. The purpose of the Public Visibility Working Group (the Working Group) is to make recommendations to Council on public visibility of Council business, including community engagement, democratic processes, and community participation in democratic decision making.
2. The purpose of this paper is to provide Council with an update on discussions and actions from the meetings of the Working Group between 16 April and 18 June 2020.

### Recommendations

**That the Council:**

1. **receives the notes and actions paper from the Public Visibility Working Group.**

### Key points

### Background

3. The Working Group was formed at the Council meeting of 16 April 2020, and met for the first time on 5 May 2020, and again on 11 June 2020.
4. The initial meeting considered the scope of the group and enabled member Councillors to bring their views forward regarding public visibility and democracy. A brief verbal update on that meeting was given at the Council meeting on 14 May 2020.
5. The 11 June 2020 meeting developed an early 'work programme' to enable the Working Group to focus on the Strategic Direction, and in particular work leading up to the Long-Term Plan 2021-31.

### Working Group Meeting – Notes and Actions

6. The attached table highlights the key topics of discussion and subsequent actions identified by the Working Group as at 18 June 2020.

## **Attachments**

Working Group Issues and Actions

ATTACHMENT 1 – MEETING NOTES & ACTIONS Working Group for Public Visibility

Notes	Actions	Status Update
<p><b>Confirmation of high-level purpose</b></p> <p>The Working Group discussed the scope of the group to reach a common agreement about who Environment Canterbury wanted to engage with and why this was important to each of the Councillors on the group. The Council paper establishing the group articulated the purpose as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To make recommendations to Council on public visibility of Council business, including community engagement, democratic processes, and community participation in democratic decision making.</li> <li>• It is anticipated that work will include the development of innovative solutions designed to break down the distance between Council and our community, making community participation in local governance more accessible, inclusive and effective.</li> </ul> <p>Given this purpose it was agreed that the following staff should be invited to join the Working Group to support the work of the Councillors and take actions back into the business:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Director Communications &amp; Engagement</li> <li>• Director Strategy &amp; Planning</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meeting invitations to include staff members are noted, unless by exception at the discretion of the Chair of the Working Group.</li> </ul>	

<p><b>Identify intended outcomes, focus and approach</b></p> <p>The group discussed the outcome being sought from the Working Group. This was confirmed as:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Council is confident that the Environment Canterbury approach to public engagement is appropriate to the objectives of the Council.</li> <li>2. Council works with staff and community members (as appropriate) to identify/create opportunities to increase community <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Understanding of Environment Canterbury and significant resource management issues</li> <li>b. Participation in <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Appropriate Environment Canterbury work programmes (e.g. planting days and odour reporting)</li> <li>ii. Democratic processes.</li> </ol> </li> </ol> </li> <li>3. Council agrees to the recommendations of this working group to enable accessible, inclusive and effective participation in local government.</li> </ol> <p>It was agreed that the approach the Working Group takes should be flexible, acknowledging that there is a lot of activity that could happen and that it will be necessary to deliberately pick the areas to focus for best results, and that it may be necessary to evolve as external factors influence where the focus needs to be.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The focus on the wider community and the specific outcomes to be front and centre at each meeting.</li> <li>• Specific measures will be established for individual areas of focus – see below.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Initial areas of focus</b></p> <p>The group agreed the following areas for immediate focus:</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Workshop to respond to the challenges identified in the initial research stages with Councillors, to provide guidance to staff. This will also consider how the</li> </ol>	

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Assist with the project already underway to develop the new Engagement Framework for the organisation, bring a governance and community outcome perspective to that work.</li> <li>2. Review the Significance and Engagement Policy in line with the Long-Term Plan 2021-31 to ensure the Policy will achieve the objectives of this Council and that consultation on this Policy can occur alongside the LTP.</li> <li>3. Debrief the Annual Plan engagement process and agree an approach for the Long-Term Plan to be shared with full Council.</li> </ol>	<p>group can align its work with the five transformational opportunities identified in the Council Strategic Direction.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Workshop to review the Significance and Engagement Policy.</li> <li>3. Workshop to debrief the AP and develop a strawman for the LTP engagement process.</li> </ol>	
<p><b>Partnering outside of ECan</b></p> <p>The group discussed stakeholder engagement (in terms of stakeholder organisations, as distinct from community engagement noted above) and agreed that this was being considered and progressed through the Regional Leadership portfolio.</p> <p>The group also discussed engagement with other entities such as community boards, residents' associations, community groups, and agreed that engagement with such groups is an area that the Working Group should focus on.</p>	<p>Participate in the Regional Leadership portfolio discussions around our stakeholder engagement work.</p>	
	<p>Compile a comprehensive list of external community groups to ensure they are deliberately included in engagement activities to enable sharing of information, building of trust and participation in Council business.</p>	
<p><b>Background Information</b></p> <p>The Working Group briefly discussed what is currently done at Environment Canterbury through the different staff teams, in the context of where the group's efforts would be most useful.</p>	<p>Documents distributed as noted.</p>	

<p>Community and stakeholder research is undertaken on a regular basis and this was shared with the Working Group, as well as external research regarding the relevance of local government.</p> <p>The Communications &amp; Brand Strategy was also shared.</p>		
<p><b>Next Steps</b>  Briefing of full Council: 18 June 2020  Establish cycle of meetings/workshops to progress initial areas of focus identified.</p>		