**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:                                Planning and Strategy Committee**

**MEETING DATE:           5 August 2019**

**TITLE:                            Organisational Approach to Environmental Sustainability**

**DATE:                            6 July 2019**

**PRESENTED BY:            Tom Williams, Chief Infrastructure Officer  
David Murphy, City Planning Manager**

**APPROVED BY:             Sheryl Bryant, General Manager - Strategy & Planning**

**Tom Williams, Chief Infrastructure Officer**

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| **RECOMMENDATION TO PLANNING AND STRATEGY COMMITTEE**  **1.   That the Memorandum dated 6 July 2019 and titled “Organisational Approach to Environmental Sustainability” be received.** |

**1.         ISSUE**

There have been a number of requests for reports on environmental sustainability, including the most recent calling for a report on a Science and Sustainability Champion.  The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of the organisation’s approach to environmental sustainability that addresses the issues raised in previous resolutions of Council.  The approach taken is one of integration to ensure that environmental sustainability is embedded across the organisation to maximise ownership and responsibility.

**2.         BACKGROUND**

The following instructions have been made:

“That the Chief Executive be instructed to report on Council’s environmental sustainability plans and progress including reducing transport and plastic waste” (Council 25 March 2019).

“That the Chief Executive be instructed to report annually on the Council’s Emissions Reduction and Management Plan” (Planning and Strategy 6 May 2019).

“That the Chief Executive be instructed to report on the proposal to create a Science and Sustainability Champion in the organisation, with recommendations for any necessary action” (Committee of Council 20 May 2019).

**3.         ORGANISATIONAL APPROACH**

Strategic Context

Goal 4 of Council’s Strategic Direction is to be an Eco-City with a target of 25% reduction in carbon emissions by 2028.  To achieve this, the Council has adopted an Eco-City Strategy and 5 plans covering three waters, waste, energy, biodiversity and sustainable practices.  These plans have a major strategic theme of sustainable practices to ensure that these practices are embedded throughout Council’s business.  The Council has also adopted the Waste Minimisation Plan.  In addition, the organisation has developed and reported on the Council’s Emissions Management and Reduction Plan to ensure that the organisation is working towards the target set by the Council.  The Council has also approved a programme for year 2 of the Long-Term Plan for the development of a low carbon road map.

Environmental Sustainability Programme and Champions

To implement this strategic direction, the Executive Leadership Team has approved an environmental sustainability programme that focuses on its planning, building, and operations activities.  Part of this programme established a cross-functional working group from across the organisation as well as those staff who have particular responsibilities for environmental sustainability.  This working group reports to the Sustainability Leadership Group who is taking oversight of the implementation.  The Leadership Group comprises second tier managers who can best influence the delivery of this programme.  In effect the staff working group and the leadership group are acting as environmental sustainability champions.

Partnerships

While to date, the focus has been on the organisation, the road map will provide further direction on the approach with the community.  Discussions have also been held with Massey University and Horizons Regional Council about how we can work together to achieve our mutual goals in this area.  Horizons Regional Council is taking a lead on a regional climate change strategy and will have held a forum (24 July) by the time this report is considered by the Committee.  Palmerston North City Council and Massey University have discussed the future of the Living Lab and will be co-hosting an unconference on climate change with the intention to include iwi and the relevant managers and staff with environmental responsibilities from major organisations.  This will guide further research and action in this area.  These relationships with Horizons Regional Council and Massey University are particularly important for accessing any scientific knowledge where required.

The Council has been a long-standing member of ICLEI and more recently signed up to the Local Government Leaders’ Climate Change Declaration to ensure that the organisation is able to keep abreast of best practice.  In addition, we are applying the United Nations Sustainable Development goals to drive the Palmy Global Ambassador Programme as part of the Council’s Global Partnerships.

Integration and Implementation

In establishing the operational framework for the organisation’s approach to environmental sustainability consideration has been given to the cultural context that this operates within.  To achieve the integrated Strategic Direction of Council, the organisation is taking an integrated approach to implementation to ensure that environmental sustainability is embedded in all parts of the organisation.  Having a single champion has not been an effective approach in the past as it centralises ownership in one person resulting in slow implementation with sub-optimal ownership across the organisation and mixed results in embedding change into business as usual.

The diagram attached as an appendix is a summary of the Council’s and organisation’s approach to sustainability.  The yellow boxes represent Council’s Strategic Direction, the blue boxes represent the organisation’s response through its operations and the green boxes represent the external drivers through best practice opportunities and legislative constraints.

**4.         NEXT STEPS**

4.1       Report on environmental sustainability, including transport and plastic waste: The initial focus will be on reporting on the monitoring of Council’s Strategic direction.  This includes Goal 4 Eco-City.  We will then be in a position to assess whether further detailed reporting is required.  It is important to note, the integrated nature of the strategic direction and that these goals have an inter-dependency in meeting the purpose of local government in achieving Community Wellbeing.

4.2       Report annually on the Council’s Emissions Management and Reduction Plan: This report provides Council with an update on progress on the organisation’s operations.

4.3       Science and Sustainability Champion: The organisation has established a number of champions conducive to its culture.  This has oversight at the highest level.  In discussion with Massey University and Horizons Regional Council, access to the science is able to be achieved through partnerships such as the Living Lab.

**5.         COMPLIANCE AND ADMINISTRATION**

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| Does the Committee have delegated authority to decide?  If Yes quote relevant clause(s) from Delegations Manual <Enter clause> | | **Yes** |
| Are the decisions significant? | | **No** |
| If they are significant do they affect land or a body of water? | | **No** |
| Can this decision only be made through a 10 Year Plan? | | **No** |
| Does this decision require consultation through the Special Consultative procedure? | | **No** |
| Is there funding in the current Annual Plan for these actions? | | **Yes** |
| Are the recommendations inconsistent with any of Council’s policies or plans? | | **No** |
| The recommendations contribute to Goal 4: An Eco City | | |
| The recommendations contribute to the outcomes of the Eco City Strategy | | |
| The recommendations contribute to the achievement of action/actions in the Sustainable Practices Plan  The action is: “Help foster more sustainable behaviours and practices will help Council achieve its other sustainability goals, such as the reduction of energy, waste and carbon emissions.” | | |
| Contribution to strategic direction | The organisations approach to environmental sustainability is designed to deliver on Council’s Goal of being an Eco-City and its target to achieve a 25% reduction in carbon emissions. | |
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**ATTACHMENTS**

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| 1. | Environmental Sustainability Model for Implementation [⇩](http://palmerstonnorth.infocouncil.biz/Open/2019/08/PLA_20190805_AGN_8750_AT.htm" \l "PDF3_Attachment_22756_1" \o "View attachment" \t "_blank) |