

# Proposed Auckland Unitary Plan Update Report

## Recommendation

That the board:

- i. Receive the information contained in the update report on the Proposed Auckland Unitary Plan and note the approach being adopted by staff.

## Executive summary

Submissions on the Proposed Auckland Unitary Plan (PAUP) closed on 28 February 2014 and further submissions (on the original submissions) closed on 22 July 2014.

AC has been developing processes for establishing a combined AC/CCO position on the issues raised in submissions. AT's involvement will include providing experts to support AC's topic teams in the review of submissions, preparation and review of reports, attendance at pre-hearing meetings or mediation sessions, and attendance at the hearings.

In parallel, the Independent Hearings Panel (IHP), appointed by the Government to hear submissions on the PAUP, is scheduling pre-hearing meetings. It is also preparing a 'parties and issues' report to outline the IHP's position on whether each topic will benefit from expert witness conferencing and/or formal mediation, or whether the topic should proceed straight to a hearing. Pre-hearing meetings are expected to start in September with the hearings likely to run between November 2014 and April 2016.

AT, through the agreed Council/CCO position setting process, now has the ability to be involved in every decision made on a submission to the PAUP.

## Strategic context

The PAUP is a key document for the Auckland region providing the regulatory framework to implement the Auckland Plan. It includes:

- The planning framework and rules for what AT does
- The rules for what others do – land use impacts on the network and activities on the road by other parties
- Defines where and when growth occurs – co-ordinating with AT's investment as contained within the Integrated Transport Programme.

## Background

Over 9,000 submissions were received on the PAUP raising nearly 100,000 individual submission points.

The period for making further submissions on the PAUP closed on 22 July 2014. Further submissions are essentially a way of declaring an interest in other people's original submissions and seeking involvement in the pre-hearing and hearing to follow.

## Key issues raised by submissions

The key topics raised by the number of submission points were

- Rezoning requests (over 20,000 points)
- Urban growth (2,660 points)
- Business zones (2,205 points)
- Transport (over 2,000 points).

. Key issues raised under the transport theme have been identified by AC as follows<sup>1</sup>:

- Emphasis on public and alternative forms of transport
- High Land Transport Noise overlay
- Integrated Transport Assessments
- Parking maximum/minimum approach
- Cycle parking and end of trip facilities
- Vehicle access
- Traffic Generation Control
- Use of designations within the road corridor.

Other topics of interest to AT include infrastructure/utilities, managing growth, subdivision, Mana Whenua, stormwater, earthworks, trees and zoning and any other matter that may impact on our business (e.g. delivery, maintenance and operation).

## Process going forward

### Auckland Council position setting process

The PAUP will be processed under its own legislation to speed up decision making using a Government appointed Independent Hearings Panel (IHP).

To meet the IHP's accelerated timetable, AC is setting-up a process (including streamlined staff delegations) for developing a combined AC/CCO position on the matters raised in submissions. Initially this will involve the preparation of factual issues reports, outlining submissions received by PAUP topics.

AT and Watercare are working with AC to clearly define the CCOs' roles in this position setting process. AT's involvement will include providing experts to support AC's in the review of submissions, preparation and review of reports, attendance at pre-hearing meetings or mediation sessions and attendance at the hearings.

Where agreement on a combined position between AC and CCOs cannot be reached the issue will be escalated to the Chief Executives.

AT and Watercare are attending meetings of the Unitary Plan Steering Group established by AC to discuss key management and process issues related to the PAUP.

### Independent Hearings Panel (IHP) process

The IHP is developing a schedule for pre-hearing meetings based on AC's identification of topics and sub-topics. There are over 700 topics and sub-topics many of which will require at

---

least one pre-hearing meeting (starting in September) and a hearing. Some hearings may last several days and are likely to run between November 2014 and April 2016.





The IHP intends to prepare a 'parties and issues' report that will identify all submitters and further submitters for each topic. This report will outline the IHP's position on whether each topic will benefit from expert witness conferencing and/or formal mediation, or whether the topic should proceed straight to a hearing.

It is anticipated that the IHP will consider submissions on the strategic issues (i.e. compact city, Rural Urban Boundary, economic development and infrastructure) contained in the Regional Policy Statement chapter of the PAUP at the outset of the process, before moving on to more detailed topics.

## Next steps

- AT will continue working with AC on the details of the position setting process and our involvement and resourcing across the various PAUP topics.
- Strategy and Planning will ensure appropriate representation of AT interests across the case teams being put together by AC by drawing on experts from across the organization.
- AT's resourcing requirements for the above points will become clearer once AT has completed a review of and come to a position on relevant submissions.
- Pre-hearing meetings are expected to start in September with the hearings likely to run between November 2014 and April 2016.

## Document ownership

|                                |   |   |
|--------------------------------|---|---|
| <b>Submitted by</b>            | Alastair Lovell<br><b>Principal Transport Planner</b>                     |  |
|                                | Christina Robertson<br><b>Transport Land Use Integration Plans Leader</b> |  |
| <b>Recommended by</b>          | Peter Clark<br><b>General Manager Strategy and Planning</b>               |  |
| <b>Approved for submission</b> | David Warburton<br><b>Chief Executive</b>                                 |  |

## Glossary

| Acronym | Description                      | Business Unit |
|---------|----------------------------------|---------------|
| AC      | Auckland Council                 |               |
| IHP     | Independent Hearings Panel       |               |
| PAUP    | Proposed Auckland Unitary Plan   |               |
| CCOs    | Council Controlled Organisations |               |

