

Memo

30 November 2018

To: Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Joint Governance Political Working Party; Local Board Chairs and Members Waiheke and Rodney. Councillor Lee, Councillor Sayers; Helgard Wagener, Lesley Jenkins, Chief of Staff Mayoral Office, Wally Thomas, Auckland Transport, Jonathan Anyon, Auckland Transport

From: Phil Wilson, Governance Director

Subject: Progress update - Recommendations of the Local Government Commission

1. On 22 March 2018, Auckland Council received recommendations of the Local Government Commission made under section 31(1) of the Local Government Act 2002 following its final determination on the reorganisation proposals for North Rodney and Waiheke.
2. The Commission made 12 recommendations. Most of the recommendations fell into the following key themes:
 - Increasing understanding the respective roles of the different governance arms
 - Ongoing commitment to localism, devolution, flexibility
 - Active monitoring of council-controlled organisations against governance expectations
 - Appropriateness of local board funding policy settings
 - Address legacy issues impacting on service level variability across the region
 - Tailoring local communications, including raising public awareness of council services and service improvements.
3. Other recommendations included:
 - recommendations specific to Waiheke and Rodney Local Boards relating to road sealing budgets, governance over council owned land at Mātiatia and the future location of the Rodney Local Board office
 - a recommendation to the Minister of Local Government relating to the lack of flexibility for Auckland Council's electoral arrangements i.e. changing the number of Governing Body members, aligning ward and local board boundaries.
4. A report outlining council's initial response was provided in June 2018. A further progress report is attached for your information, which follows the same format as the June report and outlines the work that has progressed over the last five months.
5. The report demonstrates that council is applying deliberate focus to improving understanding and effectiveness of the governance model, providing more flexibility to local board decision-making, more active monitoring of the effectiveness of relationships with CCOs and more resource to address issues faced by the Waiheke and Rodney local board areas.

6. Maintaining this level of focus is critical to achieving the right balance between regional strength and consistency and local voice and community democracy.

Regards



Phil Wilson
Governance Director