

Local Government Reorganisation/Unitary Authority

TO	Thames-Coromandel District Council
FROM	Sam Napia - Director Strategic Relationships and Projects
DATE	17 July 2013
SUBJECT	Local Government Reorganisation/Unitary Authority

1 Purpose of Report

To recommend to Council work programmes preparatory to the development of a proposal for local government reorganisation.

2 Background

At its meeting on 26 June 2013, the council resolved to initiate a reorganisation project, the desired outcome of which is the best promotion of the purpose of local government and improved economic performance, within the area of the Coromandel and the Thames Valley and, by extension, the Waikato Region.

Council staff are asked to report on work programmes preparatory to the development of a proposal for local government reorganisation. These work programmes relate to shared services and a proposal for local government reorganisation.

3 Discussion

Shared Services

There are a number of shared services in which the council is engaged.

The potential benefits of shared services are well understood. These include cost savings and sustainable efficiencies through economies of scale and economies of scope; increasing the flexibility and agility of service delivery; and, the ability to deliver otherwise less-sustainable services.

However, we would do well to remember that it is possible to build bad shared services solutions.

This is not to suggest that any of the shared services arrangements in which we are currently engaged, or which are being contemplated, are bad. Rather, it is a reminder that a review of our current and contemplated shared services is timely and warranted given the overall objective to best promote the purpose of local government concurrently with improved economic performance.

Attachment A presents an indicative work programme for reviewing shared services.

Unitary Authority - Local Government Reorganisation

The council has engaged Morrison Low to investigate options to assist the council in determining what governance option is best for our communities. This work is to be undertaken at a level sufficient for incorporation into an application for reorganisation to the Local Government Commission by the end of October 2013. This does not necessarily mean that the council itself will make an application at that time, or any time. Whilst taking such a decision, to informedly initiate local government reorganisation within and beyond the district is clearly available to the council, it is equally valuable for the council to be in a

position to respond informedly in the event that another organisation makes an application for reorganisation.

To this end, the scope of work will generally incorporate:

- financial modelling
- governance and representation arrangements
- efficiencies (high level)
- communities of interest
- economic catchments
- water catchments
- simplified planning

Attachment A presents an indicative work programme for a local government reorganisation proposal.

4 Suggested Resolution(s)

That the Thames-Coromandel District Council:

1. Receives the report.

References-Tabled/Agenda Attachments

Attachment A Attachment A - As at 18 July 2013 - Indicative work programme for review of shared services and a local government reorganisation proposal

