

Date: Thursday, 11 April, 2019
Time: 1:00 p.m.
Location: Council Chamber
Forum North, Rust Avenue
Whangarei

In Attendance

Cr Sharon Morgan (Chairperson)
Cr Gavin Benney
Cr Vince Cocurullo
Cr Tricia Cutforth
Cr Shelley Deeming
Cr Sue Glen
Cr Phil Halse
Cr Cherry Hermon
Cr Greg Innes
Cr Greg Martin
Cr Anna Murphy

Not in Attendance

Her Worship the Mayor Sheryl Mai
Cr Crichton Christie

Scribe

Sue Reid (Democracy Adviser)

Prior to the start of the workshop Cr Innes referred to the Planning Development Committee meeting scheduled for 18 April 2019. Councillors have been emailed a link to the very large attachments for Item 4.1 Urban and Services Plan Changes – Notification. Printed copies will be available in the Councillor room and Councillors were requested to let the Democracy Team know today if they want a printed copy.

1. Apologies

Her Worship The Mayor
Cr Crichton Christie

2. Reports

2.1 Elections 2019 - Guidance for Elected Members during the pre-election period

Dominic Kula (General Manager – Strategy and Democracy) advised the key points of the presentation were:

- This briefing was not for feedback but to give an understanding of protocols and why they are in place.
- For all candidates and staff to ensure they are doing the right thing.
- To ensure a level playing field is provided for all candidates.

Tracey Schiebli (Manager – Democracy and Assurance) and Kathryn Candy (Senior Legal Adviser) went through the presentation and answered questions after each slide.

They gave guidance around managing the dual role as an elected member and as a candidate in the election. They also covered interaction with council staff during the pre-election period. The pre-election period is set through the Local Electoral Act and Councillors should be mindful of what expenses they incur during an electoral period and what they declare.

There was discussion around:

- Publications and Councillors columns and newsletters in the pre-election period.
- If using Facebook, the benefit of having two clearly separated pages.
- The Communications policy, for example the annual report (including photographs) will not change and the Councillor page on the website will remain.

Ms Candy said there were a lot of grey areas around perception and publications and she can advise any Councillors who are unsure.

The SOLGM Election Protocols for Elected Members gives good guidance for balancing the dual role as an elected member and a candidate seeking re-election. Staff are working through these protocols with SOLGM and Ms Candy will circulate to Councillors when confirmed. Mr Kula commented that the protocols would also have to be aligned with our internal communication policies and resourcing.

The role of the Council in the promotion of Election 2019 is to get people involved in the process, about representation and to encourage voting. Candidate evenings will be held for anyone who wants to stand to get information. Specifics around the campaign have not been finalised. Councillors will not see Election promotions before they are made public, as this is about supporting the democratic process and is a-political.

Ms Candy advised she will check on the six-month requirement around candidate photos and any restriction around the recycling of billboards.

Cr Vince Cocurullo left the meeting at 13.37.

3. Closure of Meeting

The meeting concluded at 13:44.