

## **Council Briefing Meeting Minutes**

**Date:** Tuesday, 30 April, 2019  
**Time:** 9:00 a.m.  
**Location:** Council Chamber  
Forum North, Rust Avenue  
Whangarei

**In Attendance**

Her Worship the Mayor Sheryl Mai  
(Chairperson)  
Cr Crichton Christie  
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 Sharon Morgan  
Cr Anna Murphy

**Not in Attendance**

Cr Gavin Benney

**Scribe** Sue Reid (Democracy Adviser)

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### **Document tabled:**

Projects 2019/20

#### **1. Apologies**

Cr Benney – leave of absence

#### **2. Reports**

##### **2.1 Annual Plan 2019 – 2020 Community Feedback Report**

Her Worship the Mayor convened the meeting and thanked staff for their parts played and for the recording of the submissions which both she and Cr Halse had listened to.

Dominic Kula (General Manager, Strategy and Democracy) ran the presentation and thanked Sheila Taylor (Strategic Planning Coordinator) for collating the feedback on

issues raised by submitters. Mr Kula said this was an opportunity for councillors to get a comprehensive picture of feedback and also ongoing reviews of budgets.

### **The Plan**

The briefing covered the overarching approach and gave a recap of financials since receiving the consultation document and would go through a staff analysis of community feedback at high level.

### **Process to date**

Although there was no statutory requirement to consult, Council resolved to and Mr Kula outlined the timeline to date. He thanked Ms Stratham and everyone involved in the communication and consultation process. Mr Kula said the brief had been met in terms of communicating differently.

### **Approach and assumptions**

A strategic approach was used to set Long Term Plan priorities based on three key areas.

### **Constraints**

The key overarching constraint is the need to be able to deliver Capex.

### **Financial Update**

Delyse Henwood (Manager, Finance) presented the financial update which was covered under the following slides of the attached presentation:

#### *What has changed - Opex*

This gave an overview of what has changed from the consultation document in the Annual Plan budget, with the second section showing timing differences and impacts due to timing.

#### *Balanced benchmark*

Any flow on effects for additional Opex need to be considered.

#### *Draft impact*

This is a high level look at what is already known with any changes staff are aware of and additional costs. There are a number of known/unknowns where uncertainty remains.

#### *What has changed - Capex*

Ms Henwood explained the changes to the Capex and advised there is still some work to do.

#### *External debt benchmark*

This is still within limits.

### *Income Statement*

This has been updated and shows there is not a lot of difference from the consultation document.

Mr Kula continued with the presentation and an updated projects programme for 2019/20 was tabled:

#### **Known unknowns:**

Several other areas for potential were raised but there was not enough information to know what the costs and options would be.

#### *What's in progress:*

There is an ongoing review of Capex and Projects and staff recommendations. Any additional projects will need options for funding.

#### **Consultation**

The report focused on high level.

#### *The right track?*

38% said 'yes', 35% did not answer and 27% said 'no' – which was not a clear outcome but gave a balanced view.

#### *Hot topics*

The key issues which came up were:

- Seal extensions
- Parks and reserves
- Footpaths
- Spatial
- Traffic calming
- Spots facilities
- Shared paths
- Environmental impacts
- Playgrounds and skate parks
- Vegetation and kerbsides

#### *Staff feedback*

The high level staff considerations showed that issues raised were similar to those which came up in the Long Term Plan. Funding has not been put in for recreation at this stage as the Active Recreation and Sport Strategy is out for consultation.

## Questions and feedback from Councillors

Her Worship the Mayor asked if there were any questions before discussing feedback from the community consultation. Issues raised and discussed were:

- Ms Henwood confirmed the carryforward figures had been adjusted and included. It was also queried why there was such a high level surplus because it was not right raise rates for debt we haven't got. Mr Adcock advised that the debt budget is enough funding to cover all the capital projects we have in the Long Term Plan and we need to show capacity to raise that money.
- Is the operating surplus each year normally that amount and is there flexibility to move that surplus around? Mr Adcock responded that accounting surplus is not cash.
- Having flexibility in the Long Term Plan is difficult because projects have to be planned and consented and ready to go, and those may not be the number one priorities.
- The need to be careful not to have heartstrings pulled by the group making the loudest noise when we making assessments.
- Flexibility relates to timing and a more effective way of managing projects, not bringing in new ones. There is flexibility in Long Term Plan as it is reviewed every three years, and every year with the Annual Plan.
- The need to be mindful we are listening to the submitters and be careful about inequality in different areas. Strong communities should be encouraged to use the Community Fund.
- Rural roads and the unsealed roading network was discussed at length and calming devices instead of signs or speed limits. Mr Weston said they are starting a programme of two months of heavy metalling this month. The councillor group will be reconvened to have a look at both the seal extension programme and footpaths and this will be brought to the Infrastructure Committee meeting. Mr Weston said it has to be taken into consideration that when the Government decided not to subsidise seal extension the Council decided not to put this into our Annual Plan and we now have a huge backlog and would have to put \$4 million to \$5 million into the Long Term Plan to make a difference over 20 years
- Spatial planning is critical for efficiency in providing infrastructure as we are experiencing substantial growth in some areas.
- Whether the bus station was going to upgraded or relocated from Rose Street.
- Planning ahead for bypass, including designated land.
- There was strong feeling there was a rural/urban split where rural people in the more established areas felt they have been overlooked in preference to the urban and CBD area and the impact of visitors.

Mr Kula said staff acknowledged feedback and they were looking today to get feedback on the report itself and areas where the councillors want to focus. Her Worship led the councillors through the Annual Plan 2019 – 2020 Community Feedback Report for the following amendments to be fed into the formal deliberations report:

***Page 14 – Unsealed road***

There was discussion around the criteria for unsealed roads and if this information could be made available to the community. Her Worship advised this was an operational matter and requested Cr Martin to cover this off in the Infrastructure Committee.

***Page 15 – Seal extensions***

More information requested under staff analysis.  
Advise there is criteria and a matrix.  
Can roads be prioritised.  
Narrative to explain a bit more about costs and subsidy funding.  
Councillors requested \$2 million to be investigated as an option for additional funding.

***Page 18 – Shared paths***

Questioned whether this is in the wrong place and should be under the reference to extending cycleways. Staff to see what they can do.

***Page 19 – Other alternative modes***

Bus services should have separate public transport heading.  
More commentary about bus location.

***Page 20 – Road safety***

Add discussion of calming.

***Page 21 – Traffic flow***

Can mention be made of traffic flow through the whole district and advise what we are going to do around congestion in the city and what areas are going to be improved.

***Page 22 – Parking***

See if narrative can be changed around bicycle parking and CBD parking – need some in the city centre including for motorbikes.  
Check whether comments on Page 46 should be put under here – Mr Kula will review where it fits.

***Page 24 – Transport projects***

Need to cover planning for strategic routes within the district.

1a - put in bypass narrative.  
Ruakaka – take last part off

### ***Page 28 – Quality***

Queried if there should be hyperlinks in the document.  
Could the heading read “Drinking Water Quality”?

### ***Page 33 – Rubbish***

Refine wording.

### ***Page 34 – Transfer stations***

Queried how can people use them if they are not open? Find a more diplomatic way of saying that.

**The briefing adjourned from 10.45 – 11.00**

### ***Page 37 – Wastewater***

Refine wording in 2.

### ***Page 40 – Stormwater***

Make comment on focus on promise to improve quality, not necessarily the volume.  
Some narrative around projects relating to water quality.

### ***Page 45 – Parks and reserves***

There were queries around allocating \$50,000 to the NRC Predator Free 2050 and Sue Hodge (Manager, Parks and Recreation) advised there had been two workshops on this proposal. This was the Council’s contribution towards the application and was contingent on NRC receiving their funding.

More explanation needed to be added to the second paragraph of the staff analysis.

### ***Page 46 – Parks and reserves staff analysis continued***

Another point related to Parua Bay reserve where another submission was made.  
Waipu Caledonian Park needs assistance right now.  
Aquatic facility plan discussed.  
Consider putting in comment on addressing levels of service for sporting clubs which was low.

### ***Page 48 – Playgrounds and skate parks***

Could Raumanga Smeaton be added to the list of playgrounds.  
Look at Lake Waro.  
Need to acknowledge what stage community projects are at.  
Mr Kula said we took on board issues around visibility of community but these need to be reported outside of the Annual Plan process.

***Page 49 – Public toilets***

Add discussion of changing rooms at Ruakaka.

***Page 50 – Libraries***

Change to “co-located”.

***Page 52 – Community Development***

More information under staff analysis around underwrite of up to \$90,000 for the Camera Obscura project.

***Page 54 – Venues and events***

Submission on events from Hockey Northland not mentioned.

***Page 55 – Civil defence***

Capital “D” for defence

***Page 58 – Consultation and engagement***

Staff may want to make comment in analysis around urban/rural spatial representation.

***Page 59 – Whangarei Art Museum Trust***

More about WDC involvement as a majority shareholder and as WAMT is a CCO. Whangarei Art Museum Trust, not Arts Museum.

***Page 59 – Other***

Narrative implies we are seriously considering, but at this stage just considering.

***Page 61 – Environmental Issues***

No comment about sustainability – add in as raised as an issue in consultation.

***Page 62***

Query if the heading is correct and should it be Infrastructure Projects and Planning?

***Page 65 - Tangata whenua***

What is MACCA – use full name.

***Page 68 – District planning***

Under staff analysis 4b, provide information on what was resolved. Environmental issues need to be referenced under district planning.

### ***Page 69 – Economic development***

Discussion of Chamber of Commerce and in the analysis, there will be ongoing discussion in terms of representation of the City Precinct Plan. Staff noted that this is covered under spatial planning which was supported by councillors.

### ***Page 70 – Tourism development***

Leave out note in italics at bottom of staff analysis.

### ***Page 73 – Building Control***

Building control staff need to be aware they need to acknowledge they are entering a property for a specific reason so they are not in breach of the new Health & Safety rules. Ms Geddes advised this had been raised at the Planning and Development Committee and provided a response.

### ***Page 74 – Health and bylaws***

There were a noticeable number of submissions about cats. Cr Murphy noted that she and Cr Cutforth had met with staff to see what they could do.

### ***Page 75 – Development contributions***

First sentence of staff analysis to be widened a bit more as only one component at the moment.

### ***Page 78 – Financial services***

Could Point 1 be covered in one sentence.

### ***Page 79 – Rates***

Where does the Chamber of Commerce submission fit? Ms Taylor advised it was under Spatial Planning.

### ***Page 80 – Other***

Remove “other”. With 81 others, you could integrate into some other commentary. Local builders not part of process, response/analysis needs to be softened a bit. See if can clarify around what is meant by Civic Centre.

### ***Page 81 – Other***

Quite a few submissions were from individuals not association they belong to and need to be clear about that. Mr Kula advised staff could only categorise submissions based on information provided.

Her Worship advised this documentation would be used for formal deliberations and asked councillors for updates on any items they wanted included. The following comments were made:



- Camera obscura project to be factored in in some way.
- Managing the impacts of tourism – concerns around providing for tourists with money paid by ratepayers. There was discussion around the Tourist Infrastructure Fund (MBIE).
- Camera obscura and seal road network to be put before tourism.
- Prioritisation process for roads yet to be finalised.
- At Tutukaka meeting number one concern was speed and looking for Council to fund speed radar camera and speed breakout sign as you enter Ngunguru.
- Submissions made to Long Term Plan but not to the Annual Plan should be kept in the queue especially when new staff at Council – so the submissions are carried on.
- Mr Kula advised councillors they would receive the updated document on Friday.
- Issues with what's presented, for example seal extensions and urban parks and focusing on the 'pretty' rather than what needs to be done.
- Not dealing with growth issue, for example parking.
- Rural roads - \$4 million needed annually to bring these up to standard.

Her Worship summed up that we are on the right track and this will have an impact on the next Long Term Plan but not the Annual Plan. Changes had been agreed around narrative and others around operational process. She said Mr Kula had alluded to the capital programme which is a big thing the community sees, but the operational programme is massive and invests every day across the functions of this organisation.

Mr Kula said the next step is to finalise the amendments around a number of key issues put forward. These included road sealing, camera obscura and the Waipu Caledonian Society.

### **3. Closure of Meeting**

The meeting concluded at 12:36