

Council Briefing Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday, 20 July, 2017
Time: 1:00 p.m.
Location: Council Chamber
Forum North, Rust Avenue
Whangarei

In Attendance	Her Worship the Mayor Sheryl Mai (Chairperson) Cr Stu Bell 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 Sharon Morgan Cr Anna Murphy
Not in Attendance	Cr Jayne Golightly Cr Greg Martin

Also in Attendance:

Chief Executive (Rob Forlong), General Manager Corporate (Alan Adcock), General Manager Strategy and Democracy (Jill McPherson), Governance Manager (Jason Marris), Media Relations Advisor (Ann Midson), Resource Consent Manager (Murray McDonald), District Planning Manager (Melissa McGrath)

1. Apologies

Cr. Jayne Golightly and Cr. Greg Martin

2. Reports

2.1 Climate Change Strategy

Secretary Note: Item was presented as Briefing item 2.

Tony Horton covered the content of the briefing as outlined in the agenda report and presentation.

*Her Worship the mayor and Cr Christie exited the meeting at 2pm.
Deputy Mayor, Cr Morgan continued chairing meeting.*

Discussion Focused on:

Schools – One of the Elected Members requested more information about schools and what they are doing in relation to climate change.

Vehicle Strategy – Alan Adcock advised that the Business Analysis role is still to be filled so this project is currently on hold.

Procurement Policy -

There was a query on the possibility of incorporating the reduction of waste into our Procurement Policy. Tony advised that this could be done and provided the example of Auckland's Housing NZ contracts. There was discussion on other authority's procurement processes. Tony advised that the NDHB have programmes in place in which NRC are included and that we are investigating also being part of.

Tony concluded that the aim is for the Procurement Strategy to be developed and presented back to Council by Christmas.

Cr. Murphy and Joanna Wilson exited the meeting at 2:10pm.

2.2 National Policy Statement on Urban Development Capacity

Secretarial Note: Item was presented as Briefing item 3.

Tony Horton covered the content of the briefing as outlined in the agenda report and presentation.

Cr. Cutforth exited the meeting at 2:18pm

Discussion Focused on:

Concern expressed regarding New Zealand fitting within the Australian model – will be considered further.

There was discussion on growth in the upper North Island and how we need to consider Auckland and Tauranga – we should be in discussions with other growing cities.

Market attractiveness – We need to develop a market attractive to developers.

Tony advised that we are in discussions with UNISA. We have been sought support and are working with the Ministry to get their input.

Assistance available - There was a query in regards to the cost of working on this process. Government has provided information on policies. There is no information presently in relation to housing costs.

We have strongly advised that smaller councils, especially Whangarei, need assistance. We haven't received any feedback in this regard.

Next steps:

- Establish project team with WDC and NRC and continue to work with government agencies
- First quarterly report will be presented to Council in August

- Scoping and project plan for the Housing and Business Land Capacity Assessments
- Scoping and project planning for the update of Sustainable Futures/Development Strategy

2.3 Community Environment Hub

Secretarial Note: Item was presented as Briefing item 1.

Joanna Wilson covered the content of the briefing as outlined in the agenda report and presentation.

Elected members were advised that staff visited an existing community environment hub where they heard of issues encountered and were offered support. An invitation to Councillors to visit was extended.

There is an identified need for meeting rooms and storage for equipment. The different groups approached all identified a need for an education and volunteer training space. They would like to have a combined space to network and communicate.

There was a query as to how many of the 20 organisations listed were working on land administered by WDC. Joanna advised that there are quite a few groups working on public land, there are also multi-organisation projects e.g. the Otuihau project on Council and private land. There are also opportunities for future groups – particularly pest control.

The Blue/Green Network Strategy recommended riparian planting and additional water quality improvements. This is all undertaken with volunteers at present. We would like more volunteers to get involved which is far more cost effective for Council than us carrying out the work. It can be difficult for volunteers to connect into new groups. A community hub could provide a place to bring these volunteers together.

Council would need to find a budget and space for the hub. It could be funded through the LTP process. There is a Council building currently available at 8 First Ave (adjacent to fernery etc) in the unoccupied former Water Services building. This building was reroofed two years ago, but needs refurbishment. It could accommodate hot desks and meeting rooms.

The next steps would be to see how much it would cost to re-fit and furnish, get partner organisations on board e.g. Landcare and NRC, look at options for ongoing resourcing and bring back options for Council to make a decision.

Discussion Focused on:

Cost of the proposed building - Mike Hibbert has confirmed that there is no current interest in the purchase of this building from other groups. The costs to replace the roof was approximately \$25,000, which was completed in 2015. The basic fit-out was quoted in 2015 to cost

approx. \$55,000 - but figure could be higher now. A refit would have to be undertaken to generate any income.

Safety and availability of storage - the availability of storage was discussed. The garage next to the building is largely empty which also provides lockable storage for bait etc. There was concern expressed regarding the storage of dangerous chemicals. There is a poison cupboard for dangerous chemicals. The nursery is already there on council land and there have been no issues with chemicals. The fernery is also adjacent.

Agreement with parties - There was discussion on how the hub would be run and how an agreement would be formed with the groups involved. Who will be the lead agent? Joanna advised that options had not been pursued however it could run for trial period and then Council could look to hand over to a trust, as per other environment hubs around the county. The trust would then be the other party.

There were opinions expressed that this proposal has potential. There is a need for it in the community but there needs to be more detail on the possible model before committing to it further.

There was a concern expressed that a number of organisations have been approached before councillors were made aware of this possibility

Joanna clarified that a quick Survey Monkey was used to gauge interest from organisations and it was defined as a concept only. There was a trigger for this proposal through Te Huinga and requests from the community.

At the conclusion of the Briefing the following was summarised:

- Elected Members do not wish to pursue the investigation of this concept at this stage.
- Rob Forlong to discuss the concept with the NRC.
- The proposed project can be reviewed at a later stage.

3. Closure of Meeting

Cr Morgan closed the meeting at 2.40pm.