

Council Briefing Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, 11 December, 2019
Time: 10:30 a.m.
Location: Council Chamber
Forum North, Rust Avenue
Whangarei

In Attendance

Her Worship the Mayor Sheryl Mai
(Chairperson)
Cr Gavin Benney
Cr Vince Cocurullo
Cr Nicholas Connop
Cr Ken Couper
Cr Shelley Deeming
Cr Jayne Golightly
Cr Phil Halse
Cr Greg Innes
Cr Greg Martin
Cr Anna Murphy
Cr Carol Peters
Cr Simon Reid

Not in Attendance Cr Tricia Cutforth

Scribe C Brindle (Senior Democracy Adviser)

1. Apology

Cr Cutforth

Cr Martin opened the meeting and advised that Item 2.2 would be taken first on the agenda.

2. Reports

2.1 Infrastructure Capital Projects Update

Shelley Wharton, Infrastructure Planning and Capital Works Manager, updated Council on the capital projects portfolio for infrastructure as outlined in the agenda report.

Sue Hodge, Parks and Recreation Manager, provided a brief explanation on the Pohe Island development projects. A report is being presented to the 19 December council meeting requesting the reallocation of budgets and a reduction in the number of projects so that other projects can be developed to a higher amenity. As detailed design and construction of the first tranche of projects has been finalised, it has become clear that to provide the high level of amenity required and to work compliantly on a closed landfill, the project budgets initially set were insufficient. The Central carpark, and Destination Playground project budgets are insufficient to develop those projects to a high standard. Additional services, not considered when the budgets were put together, such as power, water, waste and stormwater, are also required. Construction costs are also increasing. The report proposes council consider doing less projects, but to a higher amenity.

At the conclusion of the presentation questions and feedback were invited.

- Carry forwards – on 1 November council approved that the following projects be brought forward:
 - Pohe Island Skate Park upgrade
 - Ngunguru Sportsfield drainage
 - Whareora Road Water Main upgrade
 - Hikurangi Water delivery line
 - Cobham Oval Carpark sealing
 - Waipu Cove Wastewater River Crossing.
- Seal extensions, timeframe?
In Northland road construction season runs from October to April.
Consultation process needs to be completed early in the year.
- Roothing works programme currently only for one year, because of elections and not wanting to commit a new council to a programme they might not agree with. The works programme will be considered during the Annual Plan process.

2.2 Northland Transportation Alliance Briefing

Calvin Thomas (Northland Transportation Alliance Manager), covered the content of the presentation (attached to the agenda report).

At the conclusion of the presentation Mr Thomas invited questions from the Councillors, questions feedback included:

- Are we starting to see any savings yet?
There are definitely monetary savings, however any savings are being reinvested back into Northland's roading network. Taking a regional

approach to procurement is a key example of where savings are being made. Consultants and suppliers have been asked when submitting contract price to provide a price for individual council engagement only and also for all three districts, this is showing on average, a saving of between 5 to 8%.

- Co-location and being able to collaborate early on procurement needs would be an advantage, has there been a noticeable difference in the ability to attract contracts?
Working in close proximity enables everyone to better understand each party's procurement needs and work collectively to attract better contract outcomes.
- NTA is currently located in Walton Plaza, does NTA pay for their accommodation?
NTA shared business unit sub lease from WDC. The cost, based on staff numbers, is shared amongst the three council's and NTA based on staff numbers and floor space usage.
- Walking and Cycling strategy provides for the development of cycling routes to attract the cycle-tourism market. Is there a relationship for securing additional funding from the Tourism Infrastructure fund?
To date the primary focus has been awaiting the outcomes and recommendations of the PGF funded NZTA business case (Northland Integrated Cycling Implementation Plan – Preliminary Design and Delivery) to inform and support future funding submissions.
- Council's roading works programme is finalised around February. Massey and Brooks road residents, who are part funding the cost, may not be ready by then.
Projects are constantly being assessed, various factors can delay the start of projects, including the granting of consents, weather conditions, availability of contractors, customer readiness etc in such cases projects may carry forward.
- Councillors have talked about wanting to double the amount of road sealing, how long would that take to implement?
Delivery timeframes depend on what we are targeting in terms of the sealing programme (Maintenance, Resident Contribution, NZTA co-funding etc.) as each of these require differing consultation and engagement lead times. The ability and willingness of Contractors to increase resourcing to deliver depends on whether this is just for one year

or future years, with one of the risks of proceeding with little notice is the potential for inflated pricing.

- Is there a community development role e.g. is anyone communicating with the community regarding their aspirations when planning for footpaths, traffic calming?

This generally falls on the project manager or if there is a programme of works we may engage either an external consultant or specialist home Council staff to assist with that. Our resources are there to cover BAU, we wouldn't want to add an additional consultation process or resource that duplicates council's.

- How do we get key fundamentals into the work programme e.g. Onerahi bypass?

NTA work for council, council retain ownership of the work programme. Onerahi bypass is in council's Long Term Plan. At the moment NTA are working with each council to develop their LTP's.

3. Closure of Meeting

The meeting closed at 11.28am.