

Council Briefing Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, 12 February 2020
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Location: Council Chamber
Forum North, Rust Avenue
Whangarei

In Attendance

Her Worship the Mayor Sheryl Mai (Co-Chairperson)
Taipari Munro (Co-Chairperson)
Cr Vince Cocurullo
Cr Nicholas Connop
Cr Ken Couper
Cr Tricia Cutforth
Cr Shelley Deeming
Cr Jayne Golightly
Cr Phil Halse
Cr Greg Innes
Cr Anna Murphy
Cr Carol Peters
Cr Simon Reid
Deborah Harding
Delaraine Armstrong
Hona Edwards
Janelle Beazley
Merepeka Henley
Sharon Kaipo

Not in Attendance

Cr Gavin Benney
Cr Greg Martin

Scribe Nicolene Pestana (Team Leader, Democracy)

Also present: Gregory Cook (New Zealand Media Services), Dominic Kula (General Manager, Strategy and Democracy, WDC), Sandra Boardman (General Manager, Community, WDC), Alison Geddes (General Manager, Planning and Development, WDC), Aperahama Edwards (Manager, Māori Relationships, WDC), Shelley Wharton (Manager, Infrastructure Planning and Capital Works, WDC), Tracey

Schiebli (Manager, Democracy and Assurance, WDC), Merryn Statham (Consultation Adviser, WDC).

The meeting commenced at 9.00am.

1. Open Meeting

2. Karakia/Mihi - Aperahama Edwards and Taipari Munro.

3. Apologies – Cr Gavin Benney, Cr Greg Martin.

4. Introductions (Whakawhanaungatanga)

Introductions were given by those present at the meeting.

5. Reports

5.1 Māori Participation in Decision Making

Dominic Kula (General Manager, Strategy and Democracy, WDC) ran through the presentation acknowledging that this will be a governance decision. He noted that in terms of advice staff had provided everything they could and today was really about building understanding between hapū and councillors in order to move forward.

Dominic Kula briefly covered the legislative constraints/framework noting:

- That the Local Government Act is focused on participation in decision making, not representation. While a mechanism for Māori Wards is provided for under the Local Electoral Act they are be subject to a poll and could only be in place after the next election (this would require a resolution by 23rd November 2020)
- While there is no legislative basis/recognition for He Whakaputunga under local government legislation there is a commitment to build capability for this under the existing Te Kārearea Relationship Agreement. There would be nothing to prevent this being a continued area of focus outside of any formal terms of reference if a standing committee were preferred.
- Confirming there is no provision for co-chairs under the Local Government Act or Standing Orders.

He then recapped discussions to date and feedback/direction provided before Christmas, before working through feedback and responses to the draft terms of reference, as summarised in attachment 3 of the Agenda. Dominic also discussed budget constraints and potentially competing expectations (i.e. advisory members/partners on a committee to represent their community vs. mana enhancing agreements/contracts for service where specific or input is sought). Examples of mana enhancing agreements at NRC were discussed.

Feedback on presentation

- The relationship must move forward.
- Māori have a lot to contribute to these discussions.
- Meetings on marae should continue.
- Hapū need to be adequately resourced.
- The RMA provide mechanisms for hapū to participate through hapū environmental management plans. There was a discussion on the effectiveness of the RMA. It was felt that the RMA needed to be overhauled, but this fell outside of this forum.
- Councils policy on community funding excludes hapū, the policy should be useful to all of us and equal.

Elected members and Te Huinga members listed what they would like participation to look like at by 2022. This was worked through on the whiteboard and has been included as Appendix 1.

Three potential governance model options have been discussed to date (as outlined in the agenda) but these are not mutually exclusive and there are opportunities to identify others.

Option 1: Continuation of Te Kārearea as an advisory committee

Option 2: Te Kārearea as a committee of Council

Option 3: Māori Participation on Council's committees of the whole.

Elected members and Te Huinga members broke into smaller groups to discuss the pros' and cons of these options. The discussions of the groups were summarised on the whiteboard, included as Appendix 2:

Discussion on options

- A Te Kārearea standing committee with co-chairs could focus on the future steps for representation and make recommendations to Council for example on representation review, Māori wards.
- A suggestion was made to form a working group (3 – 4 people) to work on terms of reference. The timing of this was discussed as it will take time to put together a working group.
- Hona Edwards stated that these discussions need to go back to the people to debate and this could take time.
- Delaraine Armstrong said that this could be a parallel process of a working group working on this while the matter was debated and this could be done quite quickly. There was support for this.

Next steps:

- Te Huinga will discuss who should be on the working group and advise Dominic Kula.
- Elected Members who are interested in being on the working group will also contact Dominic.
- A paper could be put up for the February Council meeting but a more likely scenario would be the March Council meeting.
- Another briefing can be held in March with Council and Te Huinga.
- Merepeka Henley raised a new kaupapa that land of the school in Matapouri, which is culturally significant and the intention of Hapū is to land bank that land. Hona Edwards stated that the same position applies to the land that Carter Holt Harvey is vacating.

6. Closure of Meeting - Taipari Munro

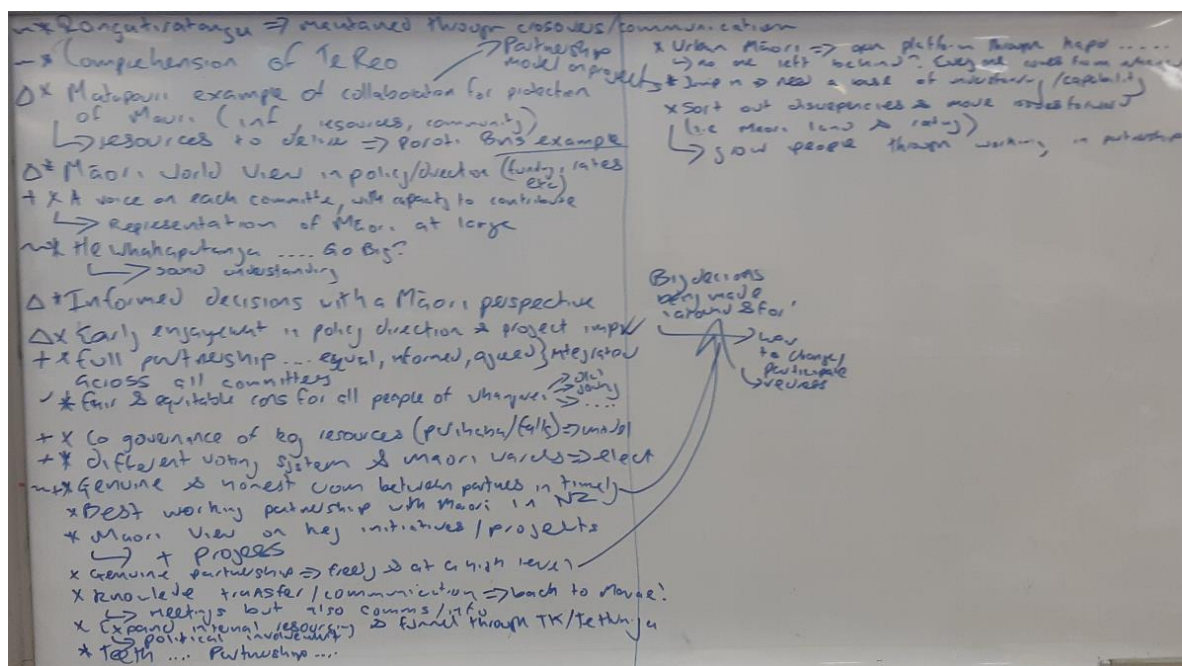
7. Karakia - Aperahama Edwards

The meeting concluded at 12.15pm.

Appendix 1: What does good look like?

Where do you want to be in October 2022?

Rangatiratanga – ensure maintained through crossovers/communication
Comprehension of Te Reo
Matapouri example of collaboration for protection of mauri (information, resources, community). Also Poroti bins example. Partnership model on projects, but need resources to deliver
Māori world view in policy/direction (funding, rates etc)
A voice on each committee, with capacity to contribute <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Representation of Māori at large
He Whakaputanga Go Big! <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Need a sound understanding
Informed decisions with a Māori perspective
Early engagement in policy direction and project implementation
Full partnership. Equal, informed, agreed, integration across all committees
Fair and equitable consideration for all people of Whangarei – old, young etc
Co-governance of key resources (Parihaka,/falls)
Different voting system (i.e. STV) and Māori wards?
Genuine and honest communication between parties in timely manner – big decisions being made ‘around and for’ (i.e. Navy). How to change, participate and ensure redress
Best working partnership with Māori in New Zealand
Māori view on key initiatives/projects, plus progress
Knowledge transfer/communication back to Marae <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - meetings but also communications/information
Expand internal Māori Relationships resourcing and funnel discussions through TK/Te Huinga <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - potential for councilors to be a silent observer at Te Huinga in order to understand involvement?
Teeth ... need true partnership
Urban Māori – open platform through hapū. No one left behind. Everyone comes from whanau
Jump in – need a base of understanding/capability
Sort out discrepancies and move issues forward; ie Māori land and rating. Grow people through working in partnership.



Appendix 2: Group consideration of the pros and cons of options

Group 1

Option 1	Pros	Open and easy, not restricted, shared presence, learning environment
	Cons	No formal power, operational focus, no outcome reached, not resourced, stagnated over 8 years, time constraints
Option 2	Pros	Formal, decision making powers/weight
	Cons	Restricted by LGA standing orders, diluted voice, appointed vs. elected participation
Option 3	Pros	Input to decisions of a committee
	Cons	Selection (appointed vs. elected participation)

A con identified for all options is that elected members and political direction can change following local and national elections. Hapū need to have internal discussions and confirm direction so ready to go regardless of political outcomes.

Group 2

Option 1	Pros	Open and transparent, all attend
	Cons	No power/teeth, all Māori issues coming through
Option 2	Pros	A step up, provides a focus on strategic direction
	Cons	No confidential issues can be considered (queried by others in the room and clarified that this is a point that would need to be managed), LGA processes and unable to deliver

Option 3	Pros	Direct voice at table, possible voting inputs (clarified that independent members of a committee can have voting rights under the LGA)
	Cons	Unfair/special entry vs voting, how to choose right person (up to Māori to ensure skills/best people)

Limited funding a con under all options

Group 3

Option 1	Pros	Forum to engage, can make recommendations, marae visits and allows to connect with the comm, Hapū hub a benefit from Te Kārearea, shared chair allows tikanga and information sharing / relationship
	Cons	No teeth, not a strong voice, funding (hub), mandate process
Option 2	Pros	Teeth/voting rights, set direction at beginning, resourced, expertise/mandate, even membership
	Cons	Standing orders, 1 chair, lack of Te Ao Māori influence, quarterly schedule
Option 3	Pros	Voice in decision making, separate mandates, teeth, representation
	Cons	LGA requirements, public, chair set up, 1 representative on each

Additional 'hybrid' options to have a Standing Committee only plus one hapū member on each Council committee of the whole:

Pros – teeth, partnership, can still have marae based hui.

Cons – 1 chair, large time commitment, LGA/standing order constraints.

Group 4

Group 4 reiterated all that had already been said, and raised the additional points below.

All good that have been raised, development over time, (hybrid)
Advisory but grows confidence to work together
Potential in decision but 1 member
Additional option for wards raised but still seen to promote inequity

