

Council Briefing Agenda

Date: Wednesday, 6 May, 2020

Time: 9:00 am

Location: Virtual Meeting Room

Elected Members: Her Worship the Mayor Sheryl Mai
(Chairperson)
Cr Gavin Benney
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 Greg Martin
Cr Anna Murphy
Cr Carol Peters
Cr Simon Reid

For any queries regarding this meeting please contact
the Whangarei District Council on (09) 430-4200.

1. Apologies

2. Reports

2.1 Strategic Update

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3. Closure of Meeting

2.1 Strategy update

Meeting:	Council Briefing
Date of meeting:	6 May 2020
Reporting officers:	Tony Horton (Manager – Strategy) Bernadette Aperahama (Senior Strategic Planner) Alicia Lawrie (Strategic Urban Designer) Injoo Reihl (Strategic Planner) Hamish Sykes (Graduate Strategic Planner)

1 Purpose

To provide Elected Members an update of the following strategy programmes:

- Placemaking
- Growth Strategy
- Climate Change

2 Discussion

This Council Briefing will provide an overview and an update of various strategy programmes which are currently being worked on. Specifically, the briefing will address the following:

- Progress updates
- Impact of COVID-19 on the process and outcomes of the programme
- Next steps for the programme

An overview of each programme is provided below. Where possible more detailed presentations covering each of the programmes will be provided to Elected Members in advance of the Briefing.

COVID-19 Implications

COVID-19 will have a major impact on all three strategic programmes. Those impacts include:

- Our ability to engage with the community
- The focus of the outcomes associated with each strategic programme to align with COVID-19 Response Strategy

COVID-19 also presents challenges for the delivery and implementation of our strategies, including a more limited budget for the next 12 months and potentially into the 2021-31 LTP.

Ultimately, elected members will work through and determine priorities and budget allocations for the LTP. The outcomes of these strategic programmes will assist in this decision making by identifying those actions which are practicable but also help support the recovery and reset of our economy through alignment with the COVID-19 Response Strategy.

Placemaking Programme

This programme is a key action in the Draft Whangarei District Growth Strategy. While the programme was formally called the Spatial Planning Programme, a name change has been made in order to distinguish it from the larger scale spatial plan currently being proposed by central government for Whangarei to Auckland (discussed below).

Direction was given at the 20 February Strategy, Planning and Development Committee to begin working on the programme in Hikurangi and Tikipunga. Following this direction meetings were held with both communities.

The COVID-19 lockdown has disrupted the timing and extent of community engagement staff originally had planned. However, staff have continued to work on the programme, focusing on spatial analysis, discussion with internal experts in the transport, planning and infrastructure departments and providing updates to key contacts in the community.

A presentation providing more detail on the Placemaking Programme will be given at the meeting.

Growth Strategy

Elected members received updates on the Draft Whangarei District Growth Strategy over December 2019 and February 2020.

Since those updates the focus of the work programme has included:

- Refinement of the draft to respond to feedback received during public consultation in June 2019
- Updating the draft to reflect new statistics from the 2018 Census
- Updating the draft to respond to new government policy direction relating to urban development, productive land and freshwater management
- Initial discussion with central government on a spatial plan between Whangarei and Auckland
- Report into the opportunities for inner city living
- Background report into our readiness to accommodate an expansion of Northport

The events of COVID-19 will require a readjustment of the policies and actions within the Growth Strategy. Some of this thinking has already be covered in the Draft COVID-19 Response Strategy shared with Elected Members on the 22 April 2020.

A presentation providing more detail on the Growth Strategy will be given at the meeting.

Climate Change

Three components of the Climate Change work programme will be covered in the briefing:

- Draft Climate Change Action Plan
- Regional Climate Change Adaptation Strategy
- Whangarei District Council Adaptation programme

All three components have progressed well through the COVID-19 lockdown. However the disruption of the lockdown has delayed the development of the Draft Climate Change Action Plan.

Alignment is being established between the Climate Change Action Plan and the actions of The Draft COVID-19 Response Strategy, particularly around the reset of the economy.

A presentation will be provided in the meeting, with the Draft Climate Change Action Plan being worked through for initial feedback.