

## Council Briefing Agenda

**Date:** Wednesday, 20 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 Complete Streets Masterplan Final Draft

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**3. Closure of Meeting**

## 2.1 Whangarei Complete Streets Masterplan and Streetscape Design Manual

**Meeting:** Council Briefing  
**Date of meeting:** 20 May 2020  
**Reporting officer:** Sonya Seutter (Senior Strategic Planner)

### 1 Purpose

To present the draft Whangarei Complete Streets Masterplan and Streetscape Design Manual.

### 2 Background

#### **What is the Whangarei Complete Streets Masterplan and Streetscape Design Manual?**

The Whangarei Complete Streets Masterplan and Streetscape Design Manual (the Masterplan) was a key action from the City Core Precinct Plan, adopted by Council in 2019.

The Masterplan presents a plan for the revitalisation of public streets and places in our central city. The outcome the Masterplan is to achieve outcomes that align with both the City Core Precinct Plan and the Whangarei City Centre Plan by contributing to a vibrant urban environment, reflecting the unique character of Whangarei and creating a welcoming city centre for people, a place to live, work and play.

The Masterplan is structured to:

- Deliver the vision, key outcomes and transformational moves outlined in the Whangarei City Centre Plan.
- Articulate urban design analysis, design ideas and preliminary investigations of design options and visualisation.
- Include assumptions, constraints, design principles, justifications and explanation/description of all elements.

As part of the masterplan, a movement network plan (traffic modelling) ensures that the testing of proposed road movements, street /intersection layout changes is complete and fully functioning for initiation of detailed design work. The movement network plan will also examine all transport modes, including cycling and bus routes. The modelling was completed for traffic volumes at present as well as in the future.

The design manual is a detailed and technical document for street furniture and materials infrastructure which will establish 'treatments' based on the classification of street.

## **Elected member input into the plan making process**

The Masterplan process began 14 months ago and through this process there has been five briefings and workshops for elected members as well as updates through operational reports to the Strategy, Planning and Development Committee. These briefings provided guidance to staff to proceed with the Masterplan, based on a proposed “Option 4” scenario along with further transport modelling.

The last two briefings to Elected Members were in December 2019. The first of these briefings on the 4 December provided an overview of the project and the key outcomes. The second briefing on the 11 December provided more detail discussion on specific elements of the plan including streetscape upgrades and intersection improvements.

Feedback from Elected Members has been incorporated into the next draft of the Masterplan.

## **3 Discussion**

### **Overview of the briefing**

A presentation will be provided by the key staff and consultants that have created the document. This includes:

- Sarah Bishop (Principal Landscape Architect, Isthmus Group)
- Angie Crafer (Director, Flow Transportation Specialists)

The briefing will cover the following aspects of the Masterplan:

- Outline the scope of the Masterplan
- Design Principles which drive the Masterplan
- Local landscape context and Hapu engagement
- Street typologies with bus, pedestrian, cycle and vehicle movements
- Car parking
- Traffic modelling
- Masterplan approach to key streets

### **How does the Masterplan fit with wider strategic goals of our Council?**

As noted in the previous section, the Masterplan is a key action to deliver the outcomes of both the Whangarei City Centre Plan and the City Core Precinct Plan.

Late last year councillors held a number of briefings and workshops to discuss priorities for the Triennium. This work culminated in the following priorities being endorsed in February for consideration through the 2021 – 2031 Long Term Plan (LTP), with a further minor amendment made in Council's 14 May meeting:

- Transport (Roading and Public Access)
- Revitalising the City Core
- Potential Northport expansion/Navy relocation
- Sustainability (including waste minimisation)
- Housing

The key focus of the Masterplan is to deliver improvements to the public spaces and streets in the City Centre, these are the areas where Council has direct control over. By improving these spaces, we will attract more people and more investment as well as showing leadership and “skin in the game” for the revitalisation of our city centre.

The improvements articulated through the Masterplan will make our city centre more attractive for investment in inner city living through creating more attractive living environments and also providing greater certainty for investment. This Masterplan will form a key part of Councils programme to drive more housing in and around our city centre.

A separate briefing will be prepared to discuss the issue of housing and inner city living, tying together elements of the City Centre work programme and the Draft Whangarei District Growth Strategy.

### **Impacts of COVID-19**

COVID-19 will have a major impact on Councils approach to city centre revitalisation. 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, including a more limited operational budgets 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 and this decision making will be informed by the Masterplan and the City Core Precinct Plan.

As part of the recovery and reset of our economy, the COVID-19 Response Strategy includes Action 2.5 which seeks to:

*“Support economic recovery of the city centre through investment in quality design of public spaces”*

This acknowledges that continued investment in our city centre is vital to broader economic recovery of our District.

### **Infrastructure funding**

As part of the government response to COVID-19 a number of funding opportunities have arisen which could assist in the implementation of the Masterplan. These funding opportunities sit alongside existing subsidy and support offered by NZTA.

Through the Crown Infrastructure Partnership “shovel ready projects” an application was made for the implementation of components of the draft Masterplan. At the time of the preparation of the agenda item, the outcome of this funding application is unknown.