



Te Kārearea Strategic Partnership Forum Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday, 23 June, 2020
Time: 1:00 p.m.
Location: Council Chamber
Forum North, Rust Avenue
Whangarei

In Attendance

Cr Phil Halse (Chairperson Council Chambers)
Taipari Munro (Chairperson - Marae based hui)
Her Worship the Mayor Sheryl Mai
Cr Gavin Benney
Cr Ken Couper
Cr Greg Innes
Cr Anna Murphy
Cr Simon Reid
Delaraine Armstrong
Janelle Beazley
Deborah Harding
Merepeka Henley
Sharon Kaipo
Mike Kake

Not in Attendance

Cr Carol Peters
Violet Gough-Sade

Scribe

Nicolene Pestana (Team Leader Democracy)

Also present: Cr Vince Cocurullo, Cr Nicholas Connop, Aoranga Kawiti, Aperahama Edwards (Manager Maori Relationships), John Isles (Independent Chairperson Risk and Audit Committee), Rob Forlong (Chief Executive), Dominic Kula (General Manager Strategy and Democracy), Alison Geddes (General Manager Planning and Development), Tracey Schiebli (Manager Democracy and Assurance), Murray McDonald (Manager RMA Consents), Melissa McGrath (Manager District Plan), Merryn Statham (Consultation Advisor).

- 1. Open Meeting** – Cr Phil Halse and Taipari Munro
- 2. Karakia/Mihi** – Aperahama Edwards
- 3. Apologies**

Cr Carol Peters and Violet Gough-Sade.

Moved By Cr Greg Innes
Seconded By Cr Ken Couper

That the apologies be sustained.

Carried

4. Introductions (Whakawhanaungatanga)

5. Reports:

5.1 Inaugural Te Kārearea Strategic Partnership Forum

Moved By Cr Greg Innes
Seconded By Cr Ken Couper

That the Partnership Forum note the report.

Carried

Dominic Kula (General Manager Strategy and Democracy) provided a presentation to the meeting. The challenge is to start korero on what strategic looks like and how to align priorities as a collective.

Melissa McGrath (Manager District Plan) provided the meeting with an overview of the regulatory framework that Council is subject to in terms of the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) and the rolling review of the District Plan.

Cr Innes stated that a lot of influence can be exercised by being proactive in how we approach things. Hapū have to be proactive in this space and the way to do this is through Hapū Environmental Management Plans which must be given effect to. Eighty percent of hapū have put together or considered Hapū Environmental Management Plans, forty percent said that these were ineffective, primarily because of lack of capacity.

Melissa McGrath replied that they could be more effective, the ones that we currently have range in nature, it is difficult to balance the issues. Council planners do their best to interpret Hapū Environmental Management Plans but rely on hapū to direct and be the experts.

Aoranga Kawiti stated that strategic engagement needs to occur early on in the review process.

Melissa McGrath replied that council planners do try to bring the District Plan changes to hapū as early as possible but there has to be some drafting done in order to present something to hapū, it is a moving process and things shift and change.

Delaraine Armstrong stated that the capacity and funding provided for hapū engagement is insignificant. NRC provide funding of \$5000 to hapū to prepare Hapū Environmental Management Plans. This amount of funding will not produce a

substantial document. Hapū do not have the resourcing to engage but Te Huinga would like to look at this again in order to find ways for hapū to participate in this process.

Cr Halse stated that for hapū to build capacity, Te Huinga must look at what capacity is needed and this must be put into the Long Term Plan.

Her Worship the Mayor stated that if we want Te Huinga to think like Councillors, Councillors need to think like Māori. She expressed an interest in the future plan changes, particularly the Tangata Whenua / Mana Whenua Plan Change and queried the progress of the RMA Fast Track Bill.

Melissa McGrath advised that council planners have started thinking about the Tangata Whenua / Mana Whenua Plan Change, this is going to be a big piece of work and council planners would like to start off the process with discussion about the best way to approach this and what would work best for all sides. The RMA Fast Track Bill has come out. Melissa McGrath and Murray McDonald (Manager RMA Consents) have reviewed the bill and have submitted a submission outlining their concerns. One of the concerns is that the legislation refers only to iwi authorities, this needs to come down to include hapū. Other concerns raised in the submission is that this legislation bypasses the District Plan and that managing the process raises capacity issues for council.

Dominic Kula provided the meeting with an overview of the upcoming Long Term Plan (LTP) process.

Merepeka Henley requested feedback on the submission that's she had made on funding of Community Halls by Council.

Dominic Kula replied that Council has considered the broader definition of Community Halls, but increased funding has not been considered as this will form part of the LTP.

Cr Murphy advised that Council voted to enlarge the definition of Community Halls to consider other types of facilities and this has been changed to the Community Facilities Fund to allow for other facilities to apply for funding and support through the LTP.

Te Huinga provided a presentation to the meeting. Deborah Harding stated that this presentation is about who Te Huinga are and want to be, and what Te Huinga brings to the table.

Taipari Munro spoke to Te Huinga's presentation explaining the vision and mission of Te Huinga. Te Huinga's vision is to ensure that hapū are self reliant and prosperous. The Huinga's vision is to advocate and advance hapū aspirations. Hapū in the North do not have the same tribal make up as hapū in the South. In the North, hapū are more autonomous. All Māori hapū in the Whangarei District have the right to be represented by Te Huinga, working together as tribes, not in isolation. The

concerns of Māori must be balanced with the concerns of other members of the Whangarei district.

Mike Kake spoke to Te Huinga's presentation and went through the intended hapū outcomes. He stated to achieve these outcomes, resources are needed.

Deborah Harding stated that although there is a difference in world views, both views need to come together. Te Huinga needs the backing of their marae and Council needs the backing of their communities.

Her Worship the Mayor advised that as Elected Members they get feedback from Māori that Te Huinga do not represent them. Could this be explained?

Taipari Munro explained that Te Huinga's position has always been that any Whangarei hapū can become a member of Te Huinga, this is strongly encouraged. However, there are some hapū that prefer to approach Council directly.

Delaraine Armstrong acknowledged the independence of hapū but also recognised the need for interdependence. All hapū are welcome to come to Te Huinga but they also have a right to come direct to Council. Where action is required, hapū often come to Te Huinga as a working way forward.

Merepeka Henley stated that Te Huinga have always had an open door policy but they respect that independent hapū may want to act autonomously from Te Huinga.

Delaraine Armstrong stated that recently there was example of a group who were invited but did not wish to come to Te Huinga. This group approached Council which was viewed as derisive, these things are difficult to manage.

Cr Halse acknowledged Te Huinga's presentation as a good way to document what Te Huinga stand for, for the whole community to understand.

Cr Couper asked about people who are not affiliated to hapū and who have no ability to organise themselves, is there a way to reach out to these people?

Taipari Munro replied that Te Huinga must consider tribes that are from outside of the district because if Māori issues come up, these people need Māori support and cannot sit on the outside. Te Huinga are working through how to respond to these people.

Taipari Munro advised that at Te Huinga Level, they represent their hapū but at a Te Karearea level they have to represent the whole district.

Delaraine Armstrong acknowledged that Council has recognised the need for Māori participation.

6. General Business

Her Worship the Mayor stated that she would like to base Te Karearea's workstreams on the tikanga and principles in the Tane Whakapiripiri report. At some

stage we will have to agree to have a collective discussion on our relationship with iwi and where we stand on this.

Cr Innes stated that our relationship with NRC is also important, it is about more than RMA processes, we can be proactive and influence, he would like to see an incentivised approach and collectively we can provide strength.

Cr Benney stated that he is looking forward to diving deeper into the issues.

Cr Halse stated that we need to find understanding in order to find a way to navigate clear path going forward. The co-chairpersons will meet to plan the next agenda and get some action points in place.

Deborah Harding asked whether the Te Karearea working group will be continuing? Cr Halse confirmed that this group would continue for a few more meetings.

7. Closure of Meeting – Karakia

The meeting concluded at Aperahama Edwards – 14.58pm.