

Council Briefing Minutes

Date: Thursday, 30 July, 2020
Time: 9:00 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 Tricia Cutforth
Cr Shelley Deeming
Cr Phil Halse
Cr Greg Innes
Cr Greg Martin
Cr Anna Murphy
Cr Simon Reid

Not in Attendance

Cr Jayne Golightly
Cr Carol Peters

Scribe N. Pestana (Team Leader Democracy)

Cr Gavin Benney facilitated the briefing.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors Carol Peters and Jayne Golightly.

2. Reports

2.1 Northland Civil Defence Emergency Management (CDEM) Group LTP 2021-2031 Activity Briefing

Victoria Harwood (Northland CDEM Officer) and Graeme McDonald (CDEM Manager Northland Regional Council) ran through the presentation providing elected members with an overview of the Northland Civil Defence Emergency Management Group activity.

Victoria Harwood and Graeme McDonald covered the content of the briefing as outlined in the agenda report and the presentation, which included:

- What we do;
- The key assets and levels of service; and
- The key issues facing this activity.

Elected members feedback and discussion included:

- What is the status of the Joint Multi-Agency Emergency Coordination Centre for the region? *Northland CDEM is developing a proposal, including the strategy, scope and potential for the centre. Discussions have been held with key stakeholders, including iwi. Some locations have been identified.*
- During the recent flood event, the Tutukaka Tsunami Evacuation Route had several floods and slips – are those routes going to be cleared? *Roading will be advised to have a look at this.*
- Wouldn't it be more efficient to put funds into improving infrastructure in Whangarei to a standard where we wouldn't be so reliant on emergency response? *Investing in infrastructure is seen as a contribution to civil defence but is also part of Council's responsibilities. Investing in emergency response still needs to be considered because when it is required, funding needs to be in place.*

2.2 Community Development Department LTP 2021 - 2031 Activity Briefing

Jonny Gritt (Manager Community Development) ran through the presentation providing elected members with an overview of Community Development activity.

Jonny Gritt covered the content of the briefing as outlined in the agenda report and the presentation, which included:

- What we do;
- The key assets and levels of service; and
- The key issues facing this activity.

Elected members feedback and discussion included:

- Are all council's pensioner housing units filled with pensioners? *Pensioner housing tenants are all pensioners. There are certain eligibility criteria to qualify for pensioner housing i.e. an asset limit of \$40,000 plus furniture plus a car. These criteria are set by government but Council policy on this is going to be reviewed in 2021.*
- Have we identified sites for additional pensioner housing? *This was previously considered by Council but at the time the feeling was that we couldn't move forward without support from central government. A few sites were identified if*

funds could be realised but this was pre Covid-19. If we had investment from central government, we could consider this again as there is a future need for pensioner housing.

- *How many pensioner housing units would we need, given our aging population? Council staff have not done any long casting on this, other departments projections would be used to determine the numbers.*
- *Is council able to decide where the pensioners can be placed? Pensioner housing is limited, pensioners who apply for pensioner housing approach council because they don't have any options for other housing. They are glad to be given shelter and are usually in the units until they pass, very few move on to rest homes.*
- *How many cameras are needed in the city for sufficient safety coverage? Having cameras everywhere is not the solution, there isn't a real need to add too many more cameras than what we currently have, we must look at the software that is currently available. Some of the cameras we have are still analogue, keeping this infrastructure strong is going to be an issue.*
- *In ten years time, what will be needed? Smart CCTV technology, collaborating with our partners to make use of their technology and we need to drive community policing.*
- *Do we need more City Safe staff? A second pair of Community Patrol Officers has improved coverage. Whilst the overall trend in anti-social behaviour in Whangarei is positive, the nature of anti-social behaviour is alarming, the key is a more coordinated, less one-dimensional approach to community issues. If we invest in more City Safe staff, we would need more support from the police, and we need to be realistic about police pressures.*
- *Community Buildings - what do we need to build into the LTP? Some community buildings are old and tired, they can be fixed to a point, but provision needs to be made for aging buildings.*

2.3 Libraries LTP 2021 -2031 Activity Briefing

Glenn Davidson (Team Leader Outreach Services, Libraries) ran through the presentation providing elected members with an overview of the libraries' activity.

Glenn Davidson covered the content of the briefing as outlined in the agenda report and the presentation, which included:

- What we do;
- The key assets and levels of service; and

- The key issues facing this activity.

Elected members feedback and discussion included:

- Are there any plans to improve accessibility to images in our existing database for example aerial photographs? *Library staff are trying to improve and digitise this as we can, this will get better as technology improves.*
- Could we do something to assist community members running the Hikurangi Community Library? *Library staff can assist community libraries in a number of ways for example giving advice, helping community libraries with their layout, depending on the space, there is a possibility to run programmes in the community library.*
- Over the next ten years, will the Kamo, Tikipunga and Onerahi branch libraries continue as they are, or could they expand? *Kamo is one of the smallest libraries and there is no possibility for expansion. Tikipunga and Onerahi are bigger and has the facilities and space to deliver more in terms of service.*
- Is there a possibility for community libraries to become part of our library network? *Tikipunga library was a community library and they requested that they become part of our library network. Community libraries are a community resource and are driven by the community, the request must come from the community library for Council to consider.*
- How do we engage with members of the community that don't have access to libraries? *We use the mobile library to go into communities, library staff are always looking at ways to engage more with communities.*

2.4 Customer Services Department LTP 2021 - 2031 Activity Briefing

Lesley Ashcroft (Manager Customer Services) ran through the presentation providing elected members with an overview of Customer Services activity.

Lesley Ashcroft covered the content of the briefing as outlined in the agenda report and the presentation, which included:

- What we do;
- The key assets and levels of service; and
- The key issues facing this activity.

Elected members feedback and discussion included:

- The Ruakaka Library was built with the intention to expand it out to the back without compromising the Service Centre in the front, it should remain where it is as it is central and very accessible to the public. *The reason for highlighting this is because we are getting to that point where this expansion will be necessary.*
- Although the Tarewa Park i-SITE has been impacted by Covid-19, there has also be construction outside which has caused people to avoid going there. A lot of people are disappointed that the Tarewa Park i-SITE is closing.
- Could we use volunteers in the service centres? *There are certain skills required, volunteers would have to be there more than once or twice a week to learn the systems.*
- To what extent can the Service Centres showcase local product? *Clapham's Clock Museum has lot of local product, in the Hub less so as there are competition issues, at Tarewa Park i-SITE, council staff have tried to introduce a lot more local produce.*
- What happens to the clocks that are being decommissioned from Clapham's Clock Museum? *Council staff attempt to locate the person that donated the clock. If they cannot be found, or they come back and say that they don't want the clock back, the clock gets placed in another museum.*

2.5 Venues and Events Department LTP 2021 - 2031 Activity Briefing

Carina de Graaf (Manager Venues and Events) ran through the presentation providing elected members with an overview of Venues and Events activity.

Carina de Graaf covered the content of the briefing as outlined in the agenda report and the presentation, which included:

- What we do;
- The key assets and levels of service; and
- The key issues facing this activity.

Elected members feedback and discussion included:

- Is the online booking system not part of the development of the new Council website? *The booking system is separate but will be able to integrate with the new website.*
- High quality flags should be used as they last longer.
- Looking forward ten years, current consent conditions need to be revisited to enable flexibility to hold more events at the Town Basin and Hatea Loop. This

should be considered in context of the current situation and the growth we are experiencing, economic development is imperative.

3. Closure of Meeting

The briefing concluded at 11.23am.