

Council Briefing Meetings Minutes

Date: Wednesday, 6 September, 2017
Time: 10:30 a.m.
Location: Council Chamber
Forum North, Rust Avenue
Whangarei

In Attendance

Her Worship the Mayor Sheryl Mai
(Chairperson)
Cr Stu Bell
Cr Crichton Christie
Cr Vince Cocurullo
Cr Tricia Cutforth
Cr Shelley Deeming
Cr Sue Glen
Cr Phil Halse
Cr Cherry Hermon
Cr Greg Innes
Cr Greg Martin
Cr Sharon Morgan
Cr Anna Murphy

Also present:

Alan Adcock (General Manager Finance and Corporate), Simon Weston (General Manager Infrastructure), Alison Geddes (General Manager Planning and Development), Jill McPherson (General Manager Strategy and Democracy), Sandra Boardman (Community), Jason Marris (Governance Manager), Jeff Devine (Roading Manager), Jonny Gritt (Manager Community Development), Dominic Kula (Manager Infrastructure Development), Tony Horton (Manager Strategy), Sonya Seutter (Strategic Planner), Nicole Butturini (Management Accountant), Nicolene Pestana (Democracy Adviser).

1. Apologies

There were no apologies.

Her Worship the Mayor welcomed the Elected Members and commenced the briefing at 10h43.

2. Reports

2.1 Environmental Scan for the 2018 - 28 LTP

Tony Horton led the presentation on the Whangarei District Environmental Scan for the 2018 – 2028 Long Term Plan. The Environmental Scan serves to provide an overview of the legal, social, economic, environmental and technical environment for the district and identify trends and issues to inform the strategic direction of the Long Term Plan over the next 10 years. The district is growing and changing and Council needs to make provision for an increase in expectations for amenities and levels of service in our District. Factors which must be considered are economic growth, the impact of technology, the importance of water, the environment, new requirements within the district and changing legislation.

A question was asked as to whether there are any skills shortages in the labour market required for the economic growth of the district and if so, whether the filling of these skills shortages has become a key focus for WDC. Tony advised that WDC is aware of the constraints in the labour market in the district and these constraints are considered when marketing the district.

A comment was made that Whangarei is one of the most culturally diverse districts in the country and this should be acknowledged.

With regards to the impact of technology, the question was asked as to what constitutes a “smart city” and what the costs of becoming a smart city would be. Tony advised that the key aspect is how technology can be used to make the city more efficient.

The Environmental Scan will form part of the supporting documents informing the Consultation Document which will be presented to Council in November.

2.2 Growth Model for LTP

Sonya Seutter ran through the presentation on the Growth Model for the 2018-2028 Long Term Plan. The Growth Model runs in conjunction with the Environmental scan. The previous growth model was completed in 2014 for the last LTP.

Statistics NZ released new projections in May 2017. Both Statistics NZ and other agencies have predicted stronger growth than previously estimated. Further indications of stronger growth include the Marsden Point Ruakaka area population tracking above the predicted population growth and the Port Nikau area development set to occur within the next few years which will create a further 14 000 homes in the district. It should be noted that the projections provided by Statistics NZ were only made available to 2043, however figures to 2058 are required to estimate growth.

Questions were asked as to what factors will influence population growth. Factors would include infrastructure and migration into the district. Council was advised that the new census will determine the extent of infrastructure growth and migration numbers and adjust the figures accordingly.

It was pointed out that there is a substantial difference between Statistics NZ's projection and WDC's growth model tracking. WDC's growth model is significantly lower than Statistics NZ's medium projection. The question was asked as to whether WDC should adjust its growth model. Council was advised that it would be better to stick with the current growth model to remain consistent with the National Policy Statement – Urban Development Capacity (NPS-UDC).

2.3 2018-28 Long Term Plan - Early Engagement Results

Council was advised that the 2018 – 2028 Long Term Plan Early Engagement Results would be dealt with in three sessions.

In the present briefing, Council will look at new community requests obtained from the Early Engagement sessions and from Elected Members.

A question was asked as to whether the solid waste submissions made are included on the list. Council was advised that these submissions have been allocated to the Waste Management and Minimisation Plan.

A comment was made that none of the requests from the Early Engagement sessions bear relation to the Maori community. Council was advised that we have engaged with Maori, including running a Hui, and the requests raised there have been included in the list.

The Elected Members proceeded to list their requests which are included in this report as Annexure "A". Elected Members were requested to e-mail any additional requests to Jill.

Her Worship the Mayor thanked the Elected Members for their contributions and advised the Elected Members that the next briefing session on the 12th and 13th September will focus on prioritising all requests. The session scheduled for the 17th October will be used to review activity profiles with the prioritised projects.

3. Closure of Meeting

The briefing adjourned at 12:18.

Annexure “A”

Elected Member Requests

2018-28 Long Term Plan

6 September 2017 briefing

- Fund stage 2 of the Waipu cycleway
- Complete Kamo cycleway in its entirety
- Connect schools with cycleways and link the entire cycleway network e.g. Kamo to Riverside
- Plan for sewerage network in Maungakaramaea
- Increase spend (\$100k) for community development in Raumanga
 - Improve lighting, concrete at community centre
 - Playground
- Increase spend (\$50k) for a resource bid by Lighthouse for work in the CBD
- More smokefree public places
- Set aside 1% of infrastructure spend for Art
- Sell leasehold properties in town, and reinvest funds
- Shift Porowini Ave Marae to Old Boys, with shared parking from adjacent venue
- Support Whangarei Harbour Marina Extension
- Safety provisions for One Tree Point Boat Ramp
- Assisting with Ball Clock project
- Complete approved programme for public toilets
- Advocate for Marsden Point expansion
- Include NRC, and Government agencies such as NTA in One Building
- Continue with One Building
- Increase parking in CBD
- Remove carpark at Laurie Hall Park and extend park
- Cheaper rubbish collection
- Focus on arterial routes (Onerahi bypass, SH1 through Maunu, Port Rd to SH1 link)
- Roadway intersections (Cr Christie)
- Continue footpath programme
- Future treatment for smell at the sewerage treatment station
- Focus on blue/green strategy
 - Maintain clean streams so that they can meet their purpose of water delivery
- Plan for converting the Property Investment Fund to cash
- Relocate fishing boats from main wharf in Whangarei to promote tourism
- New central bus station
- Soccer hub at Tikipunga
- Upgrade soccer and hockey fields
- Fund floodlights at sportfields in Otangarei
- Improve sportfields in Ruakaka
- Pohe Island upgrade/development
 - Solve Old Boys funding issue
 - Seek external funding
- Improve boat ramps and parking throughout the District e.g. Tutukaka
- Support mountain bike track in Parihaka

- Advocate for new rail along the proposed new SH1 (Maungatoroto)
- Gondola to Parihaka
- Increase stormwater funding by 10%
- Improve city cleanliness
- Continue to fix the small things that come up
- Re-look at opex for the provision of additional staff where needed e.g. increase WDC ability to seek funding from agencies such as NZTA
- Double the width of the Hatea Loop
- Springs Flat roundabout
- Sense of Place – include rural
- Ruakaka Library extension
- Increase spend on bus shelters and seats
- Improve attractiveness of public transport
- Adequate funding for a larger auditorium
- Focus on walking tracks, completing and connecting them
- Complete legacy projects, including NRU building
- One Tree Point cliff erosion consents
- Plan for 120,000 people in our district, and 200,000 people in Northland
 - Have the infrastructure in place to manage this growth
 - Upgrade stormwater, wastewater for growth areas before they become a problem e.g. 3 Mile Bush Rd
 - New water supply source e.g. Poroti Springs (review consent for bottling)
 - Expand and upgrade services e.g. under roads, footpaths
 - Facilitate easier urban development (industrial and residential)
 - Focus on core business and infrastructure
- Provide \$5m community funding – move it from ‘paper’ fund to cash to enable distribution
- More money for community grants
- Continue and increase funding for Village Plans
- Improve LoS for Litter control
- Improve LoS for treescapes
- Improve LoS for weedspraying
- Increase LoS for berm mowing
- Increase LoS for road sweeping
- Improve city entranceways
- Provide funding to improve greenwaste processing
- Fund improved signage for transfer stations
- Longer opening hours at transfer stations
- Provide for better sorting for commercial waste at our transfer stations
- Continue with Hihiaua Cultural Precinct
- Focus on central area plan
- Continue with seal extensions
- Investigate slow streets where needed
- Decentralise recreation and sporting facilities
- Increase LoS for parks and recreation
- Matai Street trees, Otangarei
- Kamo Village Centre paving
- Buy NZTA land at bottom of Kamo Rd for Recreation Park
- Plan to join up Whangarei Falls and Tikipunga park areas

- Almond Court model. Would be good to follow this partnership model for regenerated CBD living
- Increase resource into economic development
- Revitalise our District's small villages
- Complete partially completed projects before starting new ones
- ANZAC walkway in Whananaki
- Walkway in Waikaraka
- Additional hydrotherapy pool at the aquatic centre
- Increase spend on sealing roads
- Seal all of Wrights Road
- Use cycle routes to link to NZTA funding for at least 150km of road sealing
- Caledonia car park sealing
- Increase number of skateparks, plan and program them
- Ensure contractors meet contractual obligations
- Improve harbor amenity
- Ferry across the harbor
- Smart city, focus on innovation
- Plan for public safety on Ruakaka Beach
- Advocate for Hammer Hardware purchase in Waipu
- Pocket Park in Waipu
- Pedestrian bridge (Douglas St end)
- Signage for Otangarei (Entrance and walkway)
- Increase housing for older people
- Provide emergency housing
- Build larger theatre/concert venue
- Facilitate employment growth initiatives to address skill gap
- Tertiary hub
- Extend Hatea Loop network to include another loop to Whangarei falls via Mair park and Whareora road
- Waipu museum expansion