

Council Briefing Minutes

Date: Tuesday, 25 August, 2020
Time: 9:30 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 Jayne Golightly
Cr Phil Halse
Cr Greg Innes
Cr Greg Martin
Cr Anna Murphy
Cr Carol Peters
Cr Simon Reid

Scribe N. Pestana (Team Leader Democracy)

The briefing commenced at 9.30am.

1. Apologies

Cr Carol Peters and Cr Tricia Cutforth for late arrival.

2. Reports

2.1 LTP Direction Setting: Approach to LTP prioritisation, community outcomes, significance and engagement and communications

Her Worship the Mayor convened the briefing.

The purpose of the briefing is to provide an overview of, and seek feedback on the:

- Prioritisation of opex and capex requests
- Review of community outcomes
- Significance and Engagement Policy
- Approach to consultation

Prioritisation of opex and capex requests

Elected Members will prioritise funding proposals on 17 September 2020. This process will prioritise capex and opex funding proposals from elected members (identified in the briefing sessions held on 5 and 12 August and any further proposals identified in this briefing), identified through consultation on the 2020/21 Annual Plan and identified by staff as a result of Council direction. The outcome of prioritisation will set the direction for the draft LTP, to be completed by the end of the year.

Existing funding required to deliver committed core business (i.e. through Levels of Service required to maintain assets, undertake renewals and ensure we can meet growth demand) will not fall under the prioritisation process unless there is a desire to change levels of service in a particular area.

Dominic Kula (General Manager Strategy and Democracy) took elected members through the presentation.

Elected members took part in a whiteboard exercise to list capex and opex priorities or proposals. (see Annexure 1 for photo's). It was agreed that staff would summarise these listed priorities and provide details of the ones where there are existing programmes to fund it.

Elected members indicated that they would like to workshop ways to deliver our Capex programme.

Rob Forlong (Chief Executive) advised elected members that although the listed priorities are within the realms of a responsible council, elected members must be aware of the consequences of additional operational expenditure as this is put onto ratepayers. Elected members must also be conscious that NZTA has indicated that it will be reducing funding available for subsidies. Capex is not a financial constraint, the constraint is getting the work out and delivering it. WDC needs to build a good track record to get contractors to tool up. The way to achieve this is to do so in an incremental manner. With every Capex project comes operational expenditure and we need to figure this in as well.

Review of community outcomes

The LTP process is an opportunity to review our Community Outcomes. An initial review by staff has identified broad alignment of the outcomes with our functions and priorities, with the following exceptions:

- Cultural wellbeing
- Waste minimisation
- Housing
- Port and Navy

Feedback from elected members is required on whether a review of the Community Outcomes is needed, as follows:

- Option 1 – keep the existing Community Outcomes unchanged for the 2021-2031 LTP
- Option 2 – Add cultural wellbeing, waste minimisation and housing to the existing Community Outcomes
- Option 3 – Full review and change of Community Outcomes

Tony Horton (Manager Strategy) took elected members through the presentation.

Elected Member feedback and discussion

Elected members indicated that Waste minimisation and Housing can be incorporated into existing Community Outcomes. Tweaks to the current Community Outcomes will be required for Cultural Wellbeing and Port and Navy. Other suggestions were to include outcomes for employment or economic wellbeing, resilient communities (perhaps under positive about the future) and caring for our community

Dominic Kula advised that staff could make some minor tweaks and bring them back to Elected Members to see if they are comfortable with them and then elected members can make a call on the existing or the modified Community Outcomes.

Significance and Engagement Policy

Under the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA), every local authority must have a Significance and Engagement Policy. This policy is reviewed as part of the LTP process.

Feedback from elected members is required on whether a review of the Community Outcomes is needed.

Tracey Schiebli (Manager Democracy and Assurance) took elected members through the presentation.

Elected Member feedback and discussion

Elected members indicated that they would like workshop engagement and the Significance and Engagement Policy in a more considered way.

Approach to consultation and Communications

Council previously resolved not to undertake early engagement on the 2021-2031 LTP, instead requesting staff to develop a communications programme. LTP communications will take place in three phases:

- Phase 1: Education and awareness (October 2020 – February 2021)
- Phase 2: Consultation (March 2021)
- Phase 3: Communicating / confirming the plan (April to June 2021)

At this briefing, staff will update elected members on Phase 1 of the communications programme before providing a high level overview of, and seeking feedback on Phases 2 and 3.

Jane Ashley (Manager Communications) took elected members through the presentation.

Elected Member feedback and discussion

Elected members indicated that whereas the online engagement proposals looked good, there is a large section on our community that prefer face to face engagement, particularly in the rural communities. There must be measures to include this type of engagement, notwithstanding the Covid-19 environment we are in. The approach to engagement must be balanced. Different approaches work for different communities.

The idea of having local influencers was keenly supported.

There was a suggestion that there should be a longer consultation period. However, there were concerns that there would be time constraint if a longer period was allowed for consultation.

3. Closure of Meeting

The briefing concluded at 12.33pm.

Annexure 1 – Photo's: Whiteboard Session

Reacting to govt reforms - being nimble - ^{weathers} ~~DATA~~ etc.

Debt maintain. ^{Marine access points boat ramps car parking tolls}

^{Turbocharger} ^{Marine sports Park} ^{Reversible drive.} ^{opex/capex} ^{Rural amenity}

Increase Roading (Rural) - Same on facilities more on roads

→ **Key focus for rural** ^{Increase bus stop/shelter funding} ^{Park and Ride} ^{revive Springs flat contractors}

Pedestrian safety/Traffic calming ^{capex} ^{Rural as well as urban bus service}

Pensioner Housing - Increase (Capex) ^{Ramanga Timui link}

Increase community development ^(staff opex) ^{after special planning}

Fund for more park and rec land (Capex/opex)

Xtra grant funding ^{Hikurangi Ruakakara/Scors}

Active sport strategy (Sports hubs) ^{Hika/Waipu/Ruakakara}

Waste levy fund for community grants

Support for park volunteers - ^{pest control}

New water sources ^(capex) ^{zebra crossing} ^{Ngunguru}

Economy ^{fund for matching govt}

Programmes over projects ^{3 year funding certainty}

Align strategies with strategies ^{increase quality/quantity}

Theatre ^{Pipiwai Red car park}

Electric vehicle charging infrastructure

Annexure 1 – Photo's: Whiteboard Session

