



Te Kārearea Strategic Partnership Forum Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, 19 August, 2020
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Location: Council Chamber
Forum North, Rust Avenue
Whangarei

In Attendance

Cr Phil Halse (Co-Chairperson - Council Chambers)
Her Worship the Mayor Sheryl Mai
Cr Gavin Benney
Cr Ken Couper
Cr Greg Innes
Cr Anna Murphy
Cr Carol Peters
Cr Simon Reid
Delaraine Armstrong
Janelle Beazley
Deborah Harding
Mike Kake

Not in Attendance

Taipari Munro (Co-Chairperson - Marae based hui)
Merepeka Henley
Sharon Kaipo
Violet Gough-Sade

Scribe

N. Pestana (Team Leader Democracy)

Also present: Cr Vince Cocurullo, Cr Nicholas Connop, Rob Forlong (Chief Executive), Dominic Kula (General Manager Strategy and Democracy), Aperahama Edwards (Manager Maori Relationships).

1. **Open Meeting** - Cr Phil Halse and Mike Kake.
2. **Karakia/Mihi** - Mike Kake.
3. **Apologies**

Taipari Munro (absent) and Deborah Harding (late arrival).

Moved By Cr Benney

Seconded By Cr Peters

That the apologies be sustained.

Carried

4. Introductions (Whakawhanaungatanga)

5. Previous Minutes

5.1 Minutes Te Kārearea Strategic Partnership Forum meeting held 22 July 2020

Moved By Cr Carol Peters

Seconded By Janelle Beazley

That the minutes of Te Kārearea Strategic Partnership Forum held on Wednesday 22 July 2020, having been circulated, be taken as read and now confirmed and adopted as a true and correct record of the proceedings of that meeting.

Secretarial note: Typographical errors in the minutes to be corrected.

Under Item 2 Covid-19 – corrected to ‘metalling a road’.

Under Item 2 – corrected to Cr Carol Peters has been involved in Poroti Dam.

Carried

6. Reports:

6.1 Update on Maori Participation in Decision Making

Moved By Cr Ken Couper

Seconded By Mike Kake

That Te Kārearea Strategic Partnership Forum notes the report.

Carried

Discussion

Cr Phil Halse, Cr Ken Couper and Delaraine Armstrong advised Te Kārearea that the Working Group has been working well and there has been some very good and robust discussion. Cr Halse stated that it is important to set the direction and that direction must be clear. Delaraine Armstrong stated that we need to get our heads around where the Terms of Reference will land. We need clarity on scope of the Standing Committee and opportunities for decision making within that scope.

Cr Halse – the Working Group has identified key areas where the Terms of Reference could provide for advisory input / recommendations on Council and hapū processes, and those where decision making powers could be delegated.

Discussion on these key areas followed:

Advice / recommendations	
Information sharing / discussions on Treaty Settlement processes and potential co-governance opportunities (where appropriate).	<p>Information sharing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delaraine Armstrong –timing of information is key for hapū. Hapū are largely reactive to Council’s agenda. Te Huinga needs to go broad and wide to get hapū fully informed in order for Te Huinga to have an informed position. Then Te Huinga must bring this position to the Standing Committee to consider before it becomes a decision of Council. This process can be improved by having earlier notice of information to hapū but if this process works properly, we should have confidence that by the time it gets to Te Kārearea it has been fully considered. • Cr Reid – early engagement and getting all the feedback we can get and in a timely fashion is key. • Cr Couper – there needs to be a process for defining how we get information to the people. The Standing Committee must have the discipline to stay within the boundaries that we set up. Matters that the Standing Committee has control over must go out for consultation and then come back to the Standing Committee to make a recommendation which would go to staff who prepare recommendation to Council. Staff would take the recommendation into account in the report and Council can sit down and know that they are making a decision with influence from Te Kārearea • Cr Halse – the Standing Committee must agree on a recommendation to go to Council as part of the information that Council assesses when it makes a decision, this is the input that Māori would have in decision making. • Cr Murphy – we do this already and we do it really well, there are times that having a clear recommendation from Te Huinga / Te Kārearea will be useful.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delaraine Armstrong – the other aspect of information sharing relates to the type of information. The information that hapū require may be different from information that Council requires, getting this information requires resources. • Cr Peters – there is a lot of information that comes to Council, it is difficult to determine what is important to hapū. <p>Treaty Settlement processes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delaraine Armstrong – it is challenging for hapū that agreements are between Central Government and iwi. • Cr Halse - local government cannot get involved in treaty settlements but our hapū members do, the Standing Committee can offer advice or recommendations. • Cr Innes –it is crucially important to sit down as early as possible for decision making e.g. pre-settlement.
Advice to, and relationships with, other committees of Council.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This was agreed to as a key area for inclusion in the Terms of Reference. • Deborah Harding – important that the Standing Committee does not get involved in another standing committee's kaupapa, Te Huinga have a different view to add to Council's view, it is about having two sets of knowledge to learn about and understand as we go.
Recommendations on harbour and waterway matters (within the jurisdiction of WDC).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cr Halse -this is a priority for members around the table, a lot of this falls under NRC but the Standing Committee can advise and make recommendations to NRC. • Delaraine Armstrong – there is a view that this is an area that sits mainly with NRC. Hapū feel that this is an area where another joint committee should be formed and have been having those conversations, although the conversations have been largely technical and a little fragmented, resourcing is an issue. • Cr Innes – waterways is more a question of integrated catchment management but also relates to regulation, the two

	<p>combined do influence the wider catchment management as it relates to water quality. The ways to influence this is through the LTP and the District Plan and this should be done as early as possible. Hapū management plans are a really valid way to influence the District Plan.</p>
<p>Advice and recommendations on key strategic policies, plans and projects of Council, including but not limited to growth strategies, the Long Term Plan and the District Plan.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Her Worship the Mayor – District Plan processes are lengthy processes. The mechanism to disseminate into communities and how feedback from the communities is captured to come back to Council is what is missing. • Delaraine Armstrong – Te Huinga do not have the capacity to engage in a lengthy and complex process. • Cr Innes – District plan – the Standing Committee needs to get involved in the pre-draft stage and try to influence before the draft district plan. • Cr Halse – a lot of Council processes need to be delivered in timelines. • Delaraine Armstrong - for Māori to respect Councils timeline, the information needs to come early to Te Huinga to allow time for consideration. • Cr Murphy – Three Waters is one of the most important areas of Council and for water is a crucial issue for Māori. Minister Mahuta has stated that a key goal is to bring Māori to the table. This Standing Committee could have an influence on this conversation.
<p>Recommend ways to develop Council capacity (the potential for Māori Relationships to sit under, and report to, the Committee was discussed)</p>	
<p>Recommend ways to develop Māori capacity to contribute to decision making processes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cr Halse – over the last three years, there has been a drive from Central Government to have more Māori participation. • Dominic Kula – Te Huinga has been having discussions about budget and how this can be used to build capacity. • Her Worship the Mayor – this is the missing piece of the puzzle, to close the

	loop, we need to get to the point of quantifying what is the change and what is the benefit of investment.
Recommendations on Māori Representation (i.e. under the Local Electoral Act)	See Item 6.2.

Decisions under delegated authority	
Audit processes for statutory provisions relating to Te Tiriti o Waitangi. There would be an ongoing monitoring function of key processes and controls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delaraine Armstrong – it is critical to have more information on what this audit would entail.
Te Ao Māori framework for decision making	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dominic Kula – this area was identified by Te Huinga, it allows for the Standing Committee to make a decision around the framework and then the framework goes to Council. • Delaraine Armstrong – there are two areas where hapū need decision making powers. The one is pre-settlement and settlement and the second area is waterways. We are still teasing through this, the need for decision making powers will be revealed as we go through the process. • Delaraine Armstrong –hapū would expect a very broad and open conversation about decision making. • Her Worship the Mayor – Mana Whakahono ā Rohe should be included in scope of the Standing Committee. • Cr Murphy – review of RMA – should be on the Te Kārearea agenda. • Cr Murphy - any legislative change is something that the Standing Committee should have an influence on. • Cr Couper – we should include spatial planning. Cr Innes replied that spatial planning is a key component of the RMA review. • Cr Murphy – there should be a strategy log so that we can check through these and tick off where we are with these decisions.

<p>Nominating hapū representatives to a Joint Climate Change Standing Committee, if adopted by Council.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Her Worship the Mayor – what is timeframe for a joint committee? Dominic Kula advised that KDC are putting up a decision in September so there is have a bit of time, ideally this would come to the Standing Committee. • Te Huinga have made their nomination and sent it through to Bernadette.
<p>Prioritising WDC's waterway/harbour focus (within the jurisdiction of WDC)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dominic Kula – this comes down to where our role sits as Council, regulating and monitoring are going to be functions of NRC. • Delaraine Armstrong – it is pertinent to remember that WDC owns significant assets that are captured within the concept of water ways and harbours, this comes under the scope of WDC asset management, there is a part of the process where WDC needs to be monitoring its own assets and the effect on its assets. Everybody is good at regulation but not good at monitoring and using information obtained from monitoring to move forward, hapū want to put their hands up to do the monitoring. • Discussion that this point needs to be assessed to relate to advice on WDC Waters assets.
<p>Areas of focus for strategic relationships with NRC</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cr Halse – we will need buy in from NRC to set up these strategic relationships. • Her Worship the Mayor – have we had conversations with NRC? Dominic Kula has had discussion with his counterpart at NRC and the feedback was that they wanted a clear mandate. • Discussion on making this point around several Council strategic relationships.

6.2 Council decisions leading into 2022 Local Government Elections

Moved By Cr Carol Peters

Seconded By Cr Anna Murphy

That Te Kārearea Strategic Partnership recommend to Council to introduce Maori Representation for the 2022 and 2025 Local Government Elections.

Carried

Cr Simon Reid abstained from voting on Item 6.2.

Dominic Kula discussed the matters requiring consideration by Council in 2020/2021 for the 2022 triennial elections. The first matter Council must consider is the choice of the electoral system (between FPP and STV). Council will decide on this in August 2020 to be in place for the 2022 triennial local body election. The second decision that Council may consider is whether or not to introduce Māori representation. This decision would need to be made in November 2020. If Council chooses to introduce Māori wards, a representation review must be undertaken in 2021.

Discussion

- Cr Halse does not support STV and does not believe it is a true model for representation. Council should enter the process for introducing Māori wards and involve the community along the way. If there is support, it will go through. If Māori wards are introduced, the boundaries of wards will have to be adjusted. If Council decides to introduce Māori wards, we must still have a Te Kārearea Standing Committee.
- Delaraine Armstrong – hapū are looking at every opportunity to increase decision making power in Council, there is a strong desire from hapū to have Māori wards and hapū have tried to do this several times. Māori wards are not exclusive, hapū would like to see Māori wards and a Standing Committee. Supports STV but there needs to be a conversation about rural and urban splits.
- Janelle Beazley – supports Māori wards but how are the boundaries going to be defined? Urban and rural is not a good way of defining these wards.
- Mike Kake – Supports STV, it is about equitable representation, feels that there is a wind of change out there in local government with regards to Māori representation, we must take every opportunity to get Māori around this table.
- Deborah Harding – must take every opportunity to get more Māori working, engaging, participating in decision making. Has a preference for STV, would get a better reach and would prefer voting to be at large.
- Her Worship the Mayor – should Council choose to introduce Māori wards, this would trigger a representation review where the number of people on Council can also be considered, the community will have a say and the would the go to the Local Government Commission for consideration.

Personally, she feels that if we introduce Māori wards, voting should be at large as this will allow for real preferential voting.

- Cr Innes – supportive of a Standing Committee as this is reflective of hapū participation and there is robust process in terms of appointment to the Standing Committee, has an open mind on representation, this will involve a complete review of representation in wards.
- Cr Reid – not bothered by voting system, we need to get the Standing Committee cemented in first and then look at Māori wards. Cr Couper agreed with Cr Reid.
- Cr Murphy – Council needs to make a decision on the voting system in August. Favours STV as it increases diversity and gets more people voting.

6.3 2021 - 2031 Long Term Plan Process

Moved By Cr Carol Peters

Seconded By Cr Ken Couper

That Te Kārearea Strategic Partnership Forum note the report.

Carried

Cr Halse advised that the Working Group will go through feedback from today's meeting and flesh it out for the September meeting. The September meeting will be a big meeting with formal decisions.

9. Closure of Meeting – Karakia - Aparahama Edwards.