

Council Briefing Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday, 8 October, 2020
Time: 10:30 a.m.
Location: Council Chamber
Forum North, Rust Avenue
Whangarei

In Attendance

Cr Greg Martin (Chairperson)
Her Worship the Mayor Sheryl Mai
Cr Vince Cocurullo
Cr Nicholas Connop
Cr Ken Couper
Cr Tricia Cutforth
Cr Shelley Deeming
Cr Phil Halse
Cr Greg Innes
Cr Anna Murphy
Cr Carol Peters
Cr Simon Reid

Not in Attendance

Cr Gavin Benney
Cr Jayne Golightly

Scribe Sue Reid (Democracy Adviser)

1. Apologies

Apologies received from Crs Benney and Golightly.

Cr Martin convened the briefing at 10:30 and handed over to Ms Sue Hodge (Manager – Parks and Recreation) to run the presentation.

2. Reports

2.1 Maunu Cemetery Development Plan

Ms Hodge said the purpose of this report and presentation was to inform Elected Members of the current use and future development of Maunu Cemetery.

Elected Member feedback and discussion included:

- Management and access to the crematorium was discussed and Ms Hodge said the facility only had capability for three cremations daily which made access difficult. She said there would be no restraint of trade objections to an additional crematorium but resource consent would be needed.
- Ms Hodge responded that Council could work through an agreed payment plan for more expensive burial options such as family plots. She also said their first Muslim funeral had been held and they had received a request from the Brethren community for space to be provided for them.

2.2 Maintenance Contract KPM Results - Year 2

Mr Calvin Thomas (General Manager - Northland Transportation Alliance) continued the presentation and said the purpose of this report is to provide WDC with an update on the Maintenance, Operations and Renewals (MO&R) Contracts Key Performance Measure (KPM) results from 19/20 for the five maintenance contracts across the three Northland District Councils.

Elected Member feedback and discussion included:

- It was felt the contract in the southern area was below standard and there was not much improvement. Mr Thomas responded that the contractor had made management changes and there had been consistent improvement, but there was still work to get the contractor up to desired standard.
- Performance measures were discussed and Mr Devine said there is some work contractors have to do and measures are taken to see if they have met their delivery time. Minor problems are covered, such as ensuring potholes are repaired, and these are taken into account. It was asked if performance measures around culture could be included to drive real improvement.
- In response to a query, Mr Devine said all performance measures are based on contracts and a bonus is awarded if they achieve and a deduction is made if they don't.
- Mr Thomas was asked how the KPIs line up with Council's procurement policy and the culture of the organisation so that Council can be a positive influence through contractors, for example minimum wages and how they are looking after their employees and buying local. Mr Thomas responded that they do have a measure of minimum 30% component of work awarded to local contractors and the minimum achievement in 2018/19 was 34% across five contractors. He said some of this may be contained or referenced within the contract, noting the contracts would have been awarded prior to the procurement policy discussions in 2018.

2.3 Provisional Data Quality Results

Mr Thomas said the purpose of this report is to provide Elected Members with an update on the provisional data quality results from 19/20 for the three Northland District Councils.

Elected Member feedback and discussion included:

- In response to a question whether contracts are being delivered on time and on budget as there is no reference to this, Mr Devine said roading maintenance contracts are set by councils who decide which works are done. There is a time limit and standard cost for them to do that work and if they do it well or not is recorded and how they perform generally over the year is measured. He said in terms of the total contract cost the budget is set and contractors cannot spend over that. Mr Thomas said in terms of capital works projects, these are set outside the maintenance contract process and have individual approval process for any variations.
- Where does the money come from to clear vegetation from cycleways? Mr Devine said when a new asset like cycleways is created, this is covered in the LTP and a subsidy is received from NZTA for this. He said it is a consequential cost and has to be allowed for as the asset base is increased. For this year, because NZTA brought in new activities which have been subsidised, Council has been able to increase the total cost in maintenance and keep Council's share the same.

2.4 Whangarei Road Safety Update

The Chair welcomed Ms Gillian Archer who is retiring as the Manager Road Safety Education Programmes.

Mr Devine said the purpose of the report is to update Elected members on the funding and results for the Road Safety promotion activity for 2019/20 and said the first attachment in the agenda sets out the achievements from that programme.

Elected Member feedback and discussion included:

- Ms Archer was asked to respond to a question about the SAiD and Drive Soba programmes. She said the Drive Soba programme had been developed as a pilot programme by forensic psychologist Bronwen Wood 13 years ago following international research to help repeat drink drivers change their ways. She said it is a 12-week sign up for workshops and there is an assessment before they commence the programme. Bigger

and longer programmes have shown to be more successful than shorter programmes that were in place at the time.

The Drive Soba programmes are offered in Dargaville, Whangarei, Kaitaia and Kaikohe and are externally funded, not through Road Safety Promotion programmes.

- Ms Archer said the SAiD programme has a funding stream which was established from the National Road Safety Trust fund. This is a smaller programme of three sessions held out of working hours with a lot of support from local businesses. It was mostly attended by working people, with the Salvation Army providing treatment for people not in employment.
- In response to a question as to whether people are sent to the programme from the Court or whether someone can just sign up if they need help, Ms Archer said the District Health Board has a counsellor who works with people coming through the Court. Judges often send offenders to have a short assessment with a drug and alcohol counsellor who will decide if an individual will benefit by coming through the programmes. Individuals can self-refer themselves, but they have to be assessed first.
- Mr Devine said this is joint funded with NZTA.

The Chair thanked Ms Archer for her input and wished her well in her retirement.

2.5 Whangarei Shovel ready Infrastructure projects

Mr Devine took Elected Members through the presentation and said the purpose of the report was to update Elected Members on the “Shovel Ready” infrastructure projects recently approved for Whangarei.

Elected Member feedback and discussion included:

- It was noted that some of the existing footpaths in Raumanga were not up to the same level of standards as the rest. Mr Devine said this is something that will be looked at in the future if not part of this project. He said it would have to be raised with MBIE as funding is specific for these projects and it was possible but not guaranteed. He confirmed that the installation of lighting and CCTV in Raumanga had been included in this budget.
- Mr Devine was asked if funding for maintenance would be adjusted for the shared pathways and he responded that the funding will allow the footpaths to be brought up to standards but cannot be used for anywhere else. The work done is prioritised to do the most important first.
- Cycleways around Kioreroa Road were discussed and Mr Devine said there is also a plan to run a coastal cycleway round the other side which will connect up to service lanes in Port Road.

- The cycleway strategy was discussed and Mr Devine said a lot of developments are looking to fund cycleways as part of their development.
- The Port/Kioreroa intersection upgrade was discussed as this was a key entrance to Whangarei and Mr Devine was asked if they were looking at ecological restoration as it is a significant intersection. Mr Devine said this project has been on Council's books for a long time and there had been significant discussion with other departments around the potential for this land, but it depends on KiwiRail who will dictate the final outcome of whether there will be a roundabout or traffic lights.

3. Closure of Meeting

The briefing concluded at 11:57.