

Council Briefing Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday, 17 September, 2020
Time: 1:00 p.m.
Location: Committee Room 1
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 Simon Reid

Not in Attendance Cr Carol Peters

Scribe N. Pestana (Team Leader Democracy)

Her Worship the Mayor facilitated the briefing.

1. Apologies

Cr Carol Peters.

2. Reports

2.1 LTP Updates

Simon Weston (General Manager Infrastructure) presented to elected members on the challenges of developing Capital Projects for the Long Term Plan. This presentation covered the following:

- Project Maturity.
- Suggested changes to LTP Capex Programme delivery – Year 1.
- Suggested changes to LTP Capex Programme delivery – Years 2 - 10.

- Suggested new role – Dedicated Capex Programme Engineer.

Elected member feedback and discussion

- There was mixed support for the creation of a Dedicated Capex Programme Engineer role. Elected members in support felt that this would improve efficiencies of staff to deliver Capex projects and provide necessary oversight to ensure that projects are rolled out properly. It was suggested that the investment in this role could be balanced against the fees paid to consultants to do this work and this could be extended further.
- There was a discussion on looking at alternative ways to deliver projects, it was suggested that this be workshopped by elected members as part of this process.

Dominic Kula (General Manager Strategy and Democracy) presented to elected members on the following matters:

- Budget update.
- Prioritisation methodology to be used at the elected member prioritisation sessions on 22nd and 23rd September.
- Whether there are any functions or services Council should stop doing.

Elected member feedback and discussion

- Flexibility in terms of timing and associated delegations is key.
- Prioritisation must be based on strategies and criteria. Dominic Kula replied that it is fundamental for projects to be linked to elected member priorities.
- There was discussion on whether a Covid-19 rates catchup would be supported by elected members. Alan Adcock (General Manager Corporate) advised that this would require rates to increase by LGCI + 2% + 2.1% + growth for next year. Elected members did not reach agreement on support for a Covid-19 recovery.
- There was discussion on staff costs and possible savings from no recruitment of staff. Alan Adcock advised that there are consequences for not recruiting staff such as a levels of service and loss of revenue.

Next steps

- LTP prioritisation sessions will be held on the 22nd and 23rd September. These sessions will determine 'what projects Council wants to deliver'.
- Elected member capex delivery session will be held on the 29th September. This session will work through 'how Council delivers projects', including the potential for different mechanisms for delivery.

3. Closure of Meeting

The briefing concluded at 14.28pm.