

Council Briefing Minutes

Date: Tuesday, 22 September, 2020
Wednesday, 23 September, 2020
Time: 9:00 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 9.00am. Her Worship the Mayor facilitated the briefing. There were no apologies.

1. Reports

1.1 LTP Priortisation

Dominic Kula (General Manager Strategy and Democracy) covered the content of the briefing as outlined in the agenda and presentation.

The session is the first of two sessions for elected members to prioritise new project capital and operational requests for the draft 2021 – 2031 Long Term Plan.

In advance of the briefing, elected members were give two lists of new requests (for Capex and Opex projects. These lists were compiled from one or more of the following:

- Requested from elected members from the briefings on 5th, 12th and 25th August;
- Funding requests from the 2020-2021 Annual Plan;
- New requests from asset management plans (including those from the community where aligned).

Elected members individually prioritised each new request using the following scoring approach:

- Out = 0 points
- Low Priority = 1 point
- Medium Priority = 2 points
- High Priority = 3 points

The lists were collected by staff who will add up the scores and report back to Councillors in the next prioritisation session on 23 September. Following that, staff will work through the budgetary implications and report back to elected members on the budgetary impact of the prioritisation. An iterative process will then be followed to identify which projects can be funded / delivered and those that cannot be funded / delivered. The full project list will then be brought back to elected members, along with further discussion of financial parameters.

The briefing was adjourned at 10.07am and recommenced at 9.01am on Wednesday, 23 September 2020 for the second session on prioritisation of new project capital and operational requests for the draft 2021 – 2031 Long Term Plan.

Her Worship the Mayor facilitated the briefing. There was an apology from Cr Gavin Benney.

Dominic Kula covered the content of the briefing as outlined in the agenda and presentation.

In order to deliver a draft LTP by the end of the year, direction from Council is needed on the programme for capex and opex projects. This direction will enable financial modelling of BAU and elected member priorities in order to establish a position.

Dominic Kula went through the list of the top 15 Capex and Opex projects as ranked by elected members in the session on 22 September 2020.

Elected members discussion

- Elected members expressed support for grouping as programmes and into themes.
- There was discussion on whether a line should be drawn below the top 15 or whether further lines should be considered. Some elected members favoured looking at both lists in their entirety, others favoured using the top 15 as a cut off point. Some elected members felt that a number of items in the top 15 and

further on the lists could be incorporated into other projects, programmes or grant funding.

- If we are adopting a strategy, we should include a budget line for implementing the strategy, additional funding requests must then be put to Council.
- We are building our collective plan to go out to the community who will feedback through the consultation process. Community feedback is a big part of what goes into the final plan.

This approach was generally supported by elected members. Dominic Kula stressed the need for a collective view. In order to move forward he proposed that staff will model using the top 15 as a guide and pick up items that can be aligned to other items and where there can be rationalisation, particularly on the opex side. Staff will then provide feedback to elected members and consider rating levels and provide elected members with recommendations.

It was again stressed that a collective position is required from elected members and suggested that if elected members are proposing changes to the programme following modelling, these should be by exception on a 'one in one out' basis.

3. Closure of Meeting

The briefing concluded at 10.59am.