

Council Briefing Minutes

Date: Tuesday, 20 October, 2020
Time: 1:00 p.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 Jayne Golightly
Cr Phil Halse
Cr Greg Innes
Cr Greg Martin
Cr Anna Murphy
Cr Carol Peters
Cr Simon Reid

Not in Attendance Cr Shelley Deeming

Scribe N. Pestana (Team Leader Democracy)

The briefing was facilitated by Her Worship the Mayor.

1. Apologies

Cr Shelley Deeming.

2. Reports

2.1 LTP Capex and Opex modelling

At the Council briefings on 22 and 23 September, elected members prioritised new requests for capex and opex projects, identifying a potential 'first 15' for financial modelling. Staff have subsequently undertaken financial modelling of these projects in order to get an indication of debt. At the Council briefing on 29 September, elected members led a session on Capex delivery. The purpose of this briefing is to provide staff recommendations based on elected member feedback provided in the September briefings.

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

Elected Member discussion and feedback

- *Funding for the theatre* – Staff advised that options for the theatre will be discussed at the workshop scheduled for 3 November. Direction obtained from elected members at that workshop will be factored in. The funding budgeted for the theatre is still included.
- *Funding for pensioner housing* – *some elected members felt that housing is still a key priority for this Council, and this should be progressed over this term, albeit in a small way. Partnering with entities SAORSA could be a cost-effective way of addressing pensioner housing.* Staff advised that pensioner housing has not been modelled as this was not a collective ‘first 15’ priority. The budget for pensioner housing renewals is less than usual but traditionally the budget for this has been underspent. Units were extensively renovated two years back.
- *Funding for Waste Minimisation and Sustainability* – *some elected members felt that resourcing for a Waste Minimisation Officer should be included in the budget as Waste Minimisation and Sustainability is a key priority for this Council.*
- *Funding for Public Transport* - *NRC are consulting with the community on public transport, funding for dedicated bus lane infrastructure must be included. Getting people to use public transport was also one of this Council’s priorities.*
- *Active Recreation and Sport Strategy funding* – Staff advised that funding is required for the navigator position who will work with community groups to help them with thing like applications for funding, registering an entity, good governance, drafting a business plan. The other component is facilities requested e.g. basketball. At this stage there is no evidence to support the need for these facilities. The first step would be an assessment to identify a need for these.
- *Funding for dog pound* – *some elected members felt the budgeted amount was very high and could be scaled down.* Staff advised that the amount quoted is based on animal shelter standards.
- *Funding for Emergency Operations Centre (EOC)* - *some elected members felt the budgeted amount was very high.* Staff advised that the budgeted amount is for the total build as quoted by NRC. There is an option to rent and NRC builds, so this could be capex or opex. This will only come in effect when we move into the Civic Centre.
- *COVID catchup in Year 1* – *elected members did not collectively support this.*
- *Balanced budget* – *elected members generally supported a balanced budget.*

The briefing concluded at 14.57pm.