

Council Briefing Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday, 3 December, 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 Shelley Deeming
Cr Phil Halse
Cr Greg Innes
Cr Greg Martin
Cr Anna Murphy
Cr Carol Peters
Cr Simon Reid

Not in Attendance Cr Jayne Golightly

Scribe Danielle Garner (Trainee Democracy Adviser)

Cr Phil Halse and Cr Gavin Benney declared an interest as trustees of the Northland Event Centre Trust.

The briefing commenced at 13:00 and was convened and facilitated by Her Worship the Mayor.

Dominic Kula (General Manager – Strategy and Democracy) said the purpose of today's briefing is to outline the next steps in establishing the new trust and to receive feedback on levels of comfort around the expectations, outcomes and principles previously decided upon. The outcomes from today will guide future discussions in workshops and will be the framework moving forward.

1. Reports

2.1 Update on the establishment of a new trust for the Northland Event Centre

2.1.1 Update on the establishment of a New Trust - Replacement Attachment

Dominic Kula commenced the presentation that covered a recap, the transition timeline, expectations of the NEC, outcomes/principles for review and feedback, and the next steps. He said that discussions between the trust and Council over the last three years mean issues can be recognised and considered when looking forward to the new trust.

Cr Halse acknowledged and gave thanks to the members of staff and trustees that have worked together. He said that the new trust can apply for a business grant and that time should be made for Councillors to be updated and go through the founding documentation. Cr Halse felt very comfortable with the timeline created.

Elected Members feedback and discussion included:

- It was queried whether, if created, the new trust would be unable to apply to Foundation North for one year.
- Collaboration on major events has been identified as a potentially problematic area; is there a solution? Cr Halse advised this is a sensitive area that is being worked through. The general trend is for large sports organisations is to go straight to Council for subsidy. Securing the event is important.
- One Councillor noted that there should be collaboration with the Cricket Association so as not to repeat previous issues. He also felt it was critical that Council keep the name "Northland Event Centre."
- There was a request for clarification on the desire for trustees to use the 2010 Trust Deed as the founding document. Cr Halse advised that only a few small details needed amending. Audit New Zealand and the legal team have provided guidance on this decision. He also said that keeping the faith of funders and ratepayers was important, and keeping the Trust Deed very similar, and the name, would ensure continued support. Sandra Boardman (General Manager - Community) said other sporting trusts generally have a very similar Trust Deed to this one and the changes made were around how the trust is managed.
- Will the establishment of a new trust be lost in the LTP consultation? Dominic Kula advised that the trust will be set up on the basis of business as usual, not

resulting in a noticeable shift. He said by having this in the LTP, a narrative can be created.

- When seeking trustees, can there be a preference set that the person be from, or have a connection with Northland? Dominic Kula said that this is possible; however, would not like to see someone with the right skills turned down due to not being from Northland.
- As a CCO, are systems being aligned with processes? Dominic Kula said that the current CCO's evolved at different times and for different purposes, which have changed. While Whangarei Art Museum has accounting support, the resolution for NECT is that it has its own accounting systems. What will be different, is how we support it.
- Cr Halse confirmed that it is just the name of the trust that is changing, not the name of the event centre.

Elected Members were supportive of the transition timeline and all steps being well and truly thought through, including arrangements for the Rugby World Cup next year. Her Worship the Mayor concluded the briefing by thanking staff and trustees for their efforts, noting that expenses have been saved in the processing.

2. Closure of Meeting

The Briefing closed at 13:48.