

## **Council Briefing Meeting Minutes**

**Date:** Thursday, 18 February, 2021  
**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 Carol Peters  
Cr Simon Reid

**Not in Attendance**

Cr Jayne Golightly  
Cr Anna Murphy

**Scribe**

Danielle Garner (Trainee Democracy  
Adviser)

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### **1. Apologies**

Apologies were received from Crs Golightly and Cr Murphy. Notice for early departure at 14:15 was received from Cr Martin, Cr Cutforth and Cr Halse.

Her Worship convened the briefing at 13:00 and handed over to Mr Tony Horton (Manager - Strategy).

## **2. Reports**

### **2.1 Whangarei District Growth Strategy and NPS-UD Update**

Mr Horton commenced the presentation, the contents of which are covered in the agenda report and the presentation (attached). He said they are working in a state of fluidity with the pending RMA Reforms and Three Waters Review, which may impact outcomes and how they are delivered.

#### **Elected members feedback and discussion included:**

- When asked if broader areas had been considered when looking at the Whangarei to Auckland corridor, Mr Horton said that transport is a key driver. The Growth Strategy identifies where new growth is going and if new transport connections will be needed. He said Elected Members should consider transport connection decisions now.
- Mr Horton was asked if housing is going to be an issue and are Council in a good position to work with Kainga Ora. He said he feels the district is in good shape to deliver but does not know how this will look.
- Mr Horton was asked if the interest of smaller, rural communities had been adequately catered for. He said feedback indicated that the Growth Strategy has too much of an urban focus and in response, acknowledged there are meaningful things that can be done within the Growth Strategy for those communities such as infrastructure. He said staff agreed with the feedback and hoped to bring more content around rural and coastal communities to Council in March.
- When asked if Council are meeting their own objectives along with directives from Central Government, Mr Horton said when looking at housing demand and capacity, we also have to look at commercial feasibility and capacity.
- It was felt a Whangarei focussed model is needed that looks at key potential issues, and that Council should learn from the mistakes of other cities such as Auckland and Tauranga.
- Her Worship noted that the Growth Strategy implies more houses, people and cars and asked if the negative impacts resulting from growth are considered. Mr Horton said the pressure on infrastructure is mentioned in the housing portion of the Growth Strategy which talks about projected increase. He said the last part of the Growth Strategy looks at how Council will mitigate these issues and potential partnerships that could be made with other agencies to create outcomes.
- Mr Horton confirmed the Whangarei District Council has the capacity to be “partnership ready” and is in good stead to negotiate with potential partners.

## **2.2 Climate Change Update**

This report was deferred to a future briefing.

## **3. Closure of Meeting**

The briefing concluded at 14:25.