

## **Council Briefing Minutes**

**Date:** Thursday, 4 March, 2021  
**Time:** 9:30 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 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**

**Not in attendance** **Cr Ken Couper**

**Scribe** **N. Pestana (Team Leader Democracy)**

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Also in attendance: Aorangi Kawiti, Deborah Harding, Jade Kake, Jared Pitman, Len Bristowe and Mira Norris (Te Kārearea members) and members of the public.

Len Bristowe opened the briefing with a karakia.

### **1. Apology**

Cr Ken Couper

### **2. Reports**

#### **2.1 Representation Review 2021**

Dale Ofoske (Electoral Officer, Independent Election Services) provided a presentation overviewing the representation review process. The presentation

highlighted factors that Council is required to consider in order to finalise an initial proposal of representation, as follows:

- What are Whangarei's communities of interest?
- What is the best number of councillors and how should they be elected?
- How do we ensure each councillor represents the same number of people?
- Should we have community boards?
- Are there any 'known' issues we need to consider?

A provisional timetable for the process was included in the agenda for this briefing.

Preliminary informal community consultation will take place from April to May and will be based on obtaining feedback from the community on the above questions. Feedback from this consultation will be fed back to Council to assist Council in formalising options for formal consultation.

### **Discussion points**

- The total number of councillors - determined by Council (legislation states this could be between 5 and 29). There is no set formula for this and is a local decision based on how many councillors can effectively represent the district.
- The number of Māori and general councillors - determined by a formula prescribed in Local Electoral Act, based on total population (not electors who can vote).
- The number of Māori councillors is relative to the number of general councillors.
- The Remuneration Authority sets remuneration of councillors, this is a set remuneration pool for payment of councillors.
- The representation review provides an opportunity to change the current ward system entirely, as long as this complies with the legislation. The current wards system is a historical one, Council must consider whether it is still relevant.
- Compliance with the +/- 10% rule is going to be difficult with tribal boundaries as some boundaries overlap.
- Communities of interest are easy to explain in the city but difficult in isolated rural and coastal areas.
- Community boards – have some responsibility for work at a community level, if community boards are introduced, this could reduce the number of councillors required.
- Community boards - do not have the same level of responsibility as Council.
- Other councils with community boards – Dunedin (one urban community board, elected at large), Far North (three community boards, subdivided to reflect communities).
- Council sets the budgets for community boards.

- NRC have decided on a staged approach with a single Māori constituency, with all Māori councillors elected at large. This approach was decided on due to the short time to establish Māori wards and to allow for open and robust discussion. This is one option that Council can consider.
- Determining the geographical boundaries of Māori wards is a hapū discussion, Council would welcome hapū recommendations on this.
- The question is what would Māori prefer? A single ward with 2 ward councillors or 2 wards with 1 councillor each?
- Council needs clear direction from hapū on hapū/iwi boundaries and hapū mandate, hapū must decide on the best option for hapū and bring this back to Council.
- Appeals and objections – a person could appeal or object to Māori ward boundaries.

### **Feedback on preliminary consultation**

- Need to consult with Advisory Groups and Multicultural Whangarei / Multi Ethnic Collective.
- Education sector should be involved.
- Should attend events that are happening.
- Discussion at Māori based wananga being planned.
- Need extensive education campaign.
- Video for LTP was really effective.
- We could go out to community with pictures of different calculations on numbers of Māori and general councillors or what the district would look like with or without wards.

### **Further information requested**

- Data for estimated General Electoral Population and Māori Electoral Population at 30 June 2020 requested.
- Information on community boards requested.

### **Next steps**

- Te Kārearea will be briefed on 17 March 2021 and 21 April 2021.
- There will a further briefing with Council on 1 April 2021.
- Preliminary informal community consultation will take place from April to May. Feedback from both Te Kārearea and the community will be fed back to Council at the briefing on 1 June 2021.
- Council will resolve an initial proposal for formal consultation on 24 June 2021.

## **3. Closure of Meeting**

The briefing closed at 11.30am.