

Whangarei District Council Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, 12 May, 2021
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 C Brindle (Senior Democracy Adviser)

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1. **Karakia/Prayer**
Chief Executive Rob Forlong opened the meeting with a karakia.
 2. **Declarations of Interest**
Item 4.1 Long Term Plan 2021-2031 Deliberations
 3. **Apologies**
There were no apologies.
 4. **Decision Reports**
 - 4.1 **Long Term Plan 2021 - 2031 Deliberations**
Moved By Cr Vince Cocurullo
Seconded By Cr Nick Connop

That Council notes and considers the 2886 formal submissions received on the Long Term Plan 2021 – 2031 and Concurrent Consultations.

Carried

Cr Cutforth joined the meeting at 9.06am following Item 4.1.

Recommendations - Spaces for Gathering

The recommendations were taken in parts.

Moved By Cr Greg Innes

Seconded By Cr Gavin Benney

3. In relation to Key Issue 1 of the consultation document, Spaces for Gathering, resolves to:

Oruku Landing Conference and Events Centre (Option 1a)

- a. Proceed with the Oruku Landing Conference and Events Centre subject to:
- a \$14m contribution from Northland Regional Council (as consulted on); and
 - The outcomes of feasibility and due diligence investigations.

On the recommendation being put Cr Cutforth called for a division:

On the motion being put Her Worship the Mayor called for a division:

	For	Against	Abstain
Her Worship the Mayor	X		
Cr Gavin Benney	X		
Cr Vince Cocurullo	X		
Cr Nicholas Connop	X		
Cr Ken Couper	X		
Cr Tricia Cutforth		X	
Cr Shelley Deeming	X		
Cr Phil Halse	X		
Cr Jayne Golightly	X		
Cr Greg Innes	X		
Cr Greg Martin	X		
Cr Anna Murphy	X		
Cr Carol Peters	X		

Cr Simon Reid	X		
Results	13	1	0

The motion was Carried (13 to 1)

Hihiaua Cultural Centre (Option 1b)

- b. Provide a \$5m Hihiaua Cultural Centre Grant subject to an approved funding agreement.
- c. Adjust the timing of the Hihiaua Cultural Centre Grant to meet the needs of the project, while maintaining a Balanced Budget.
- d. Authorise staff to investigate capital projects that could provide further support to the Hihiaua Cultural Centre and report back to Council outside of the Long Term Plan process.

Carried

Upgrade facilities at Forum North (Option 1c) and Theatre at Forum North (Option 3)

- e. Move \$2m of capex associated with the upgrade of existing facilities at Forum North into a new project line for a 800 – 1000 seat Council Theatre at Forum North (the 'Lyric Theatre'), starting in year 8 of the Long Term Plan.
- f. Include an additional \$3m of capex as seed funding for an 800 – 1000 seat Council Theatre at Forum North in year 10 of the Long Term Plan.
- g. Continue to work with the Forum North Trust on the timing of a Theatre at Forum North, and the implications for third party funding, with a view to maximising the funding from this project alongside funding upgrades to Council's existing Theatre facilities at Forum North (note, for the avoidance of doubt/confusion these will be kept as separate projects within the 2021 - 2031 Long Term Plan, with the timing to be reviewed through the next Long Term Plan).

Carried

Amendment

Moved By Cr Tricia Cutforth

Seconded By Cr Anna Murphy

- e. Move \$2m of capex associated with the upgrade of existing facilities at Forum North into a new project line for a 800 – 1000 seat Council Theatre at Forum North (the 'Lyric Theatre'), starting in year 2 of the Long Term Plan.

- f. Include an additional \$3m of capex as seed funding for an 800 – 1000 seat Council Theatre at Forum North in year 4 of the Long Term Plan.

The amendment was LOST

Recommendations – capital expenditure

Moved By Cr Ken Couper

Seconded By Cr Phil Halse

4. Resolves to make the following changes to capital expenditure;
 - a. Include \$1m of funding for a programme of district wide bike security infrastructure within the Long Term Plan, (along with an ongoing operational cost of \$10k p.a.);
 - b. Include \$1m to construct a car park to serve the community led Ruakaka Recreation centre Wahitakaro & Northland Regional Volleyball Arena project and new sports fields;
 - c. Adjust the timing of sportsfields projects in accordance the attached report, with minor increases in total capex for some projects to reflect cost escalations/additions;
 - d. Shift \$1m from the Sportsfield Land Acquisition budget to a funding line for Neighbourhood Park Land Acquisitions;
 - e. Fund the cost of upgrading the Whangarei Art Museum air conditioning unit as a Council asset (estimated at \$365k).
 - f. Include an additional \$50k in capex in Year 3 for Raumanga playground development.

Carried

Declaration of Interest:

Cr Couper declared an interest as Council's appointed Trustee to WAM.

Recommendations – operational expenditure

The recommendations were taken in parts.

Cr Cocurullo requested divisions be taken on all recommendations.

Moved By Her Worship the Mayor

Seconded By Cr Tricia Cutforth

5. Resolves to make the following changes to operational expenditure;
 - a. Increase the Te Karearea budget by \$70k per annum (inclusive of \$40k p.a. set aside for Hikurangi Repo, below) with the Committee having governance oversight of funding

for initiatives that fall within its Terms of Reference;

- b. Increase contestable funding for community waste minimisation projects and community clean ups to \$200k p.a. with a further review (and potential for a further increase) to be undertaken once operating expenses are known;
- c. Increase contestable grant funding by a further \$100k p.a.;
- d. Budget \$15k p.a. for the first three years of the LTP to subsidise cat de-sexing, microchipping and registering programmes;
- e. Allocate \$30k of new grant funding in year 2 of the LTP to a consent for the 'Gomez Park' proposal.
- f. Allocate \$30k of new grant funding in year 1 of the LTP to support the Oakura Wetland Project (in addition to the \$20,000 already provided).
- g. Allocate \$250k in year 1, \$150k in year 2 and \$50k in year 3 of the LTP to WAM for operational funding.
- h. Include new grant funding of \$50k p.a. for predator control for Parihaka Scenic Reserve.
- i. Allocate an additional \$200k p.a. to the waste minimisation budget.

Amendment

Moved By Cr Greg Martin

Seconded By Cr Shelley Deeming

- 5. Resolves to make the following changes to operational expenditure;
 - a. Increase the Te Karearea budget by \$70k per annum (inclusive of \$40k p.a. set aside for Hikurangi Repo, below) with the Committee having governance oversight of funding for initiatives that fall within its Terms of Reference;
 - b. Increase contestable funding for community waste minimisation projects and community clean ups to \$200k p.a. with a further review (and potential for a further increase) to be undertaken once operating expenses are known;
 - c. Increase contestable grant funding by a further \$100k p.a.;

- d. Budget \$15k p.a. for the first three years of the LTP to subsidise cat de-sexing, microchipping and registering programmes;
- e. Allocate \$30k of new grant funding in year 2 of the LTP to a consent for the 'Gomez Park' proposal.
- f. Allocate \$30k of new grant funding in year 1 of the LTP to support the Oakura Wetland Project (in addition to the \$20,000 already provided).

On the amendment being put Cr Deeming called for a division:

	For	Against	Abstain
Her Worship the Mayor		X	
Cr Gavin Benney		X	
Cr Vince Cocurullo	X		
Cr Nicholas Connop		X	
Cr Ken Couper		X	
Cr Tricia Cutforth		X	
Cr Shelley Deeming	X		
Cr Jayne Golightly		X	
Cr Phil Halse		X	
Cr Greg Innes		X	
Cr Greg Martin	X		
Cr Anna Murphy		X	
Cr Carol Peters		X	
Cr Simon Reid	X		
Results	4	10	0

The amendment was Lost (4 to 10)

Further amendment

Moved By Cr Ken Couper

Seconded By Cr Anna Murphy

- g) Allocate \$200k in year 1, \$100k in year 2 and \$50k in year 3 of the LTP to WAM for operational funding.

The amendment was Carried

The motion as amended was voted on in parts:

- a. Increase the Te Karearea budget by \$70k per annum (inclusive of \$40k p.a. set aside for Hikurangi Repo, below) with the Committee having governance oversight of funding for initiatives that fall within its Terms of Reference;

	For	Against	Abstain
Her Worship the Mayor	X		
Cr Gavin Benney	X		
Cr Vince Cocurullo		X	
Cr Nicholas Connop	X		
Cr Ken Couper	X		
Cr Tricia Cutforth		X	
Cr Shelley Deeming		X	
Cr Phil Halse	X		
Cr Jayne Golightly		X	
Cr Greg Innes	X		
Cr Greg Martin			X
Cr Anna Murphy	X		
Cr Carol Peters	X		
Cr Simon Reid		X	
Results	8	5	1

The motion was Carried (8 to 5)

- b. Increase contestable funding for community waste minimisation projects and community clean ups to \$200k p.a. with a further review (and potential for a further increase) to be undertaken once operating expenses are known;

	For	Against	Abstain
Her Worship the Mayor	X		
Cr Gavin Benney	X		
Cr Vince Cocurullo		X	
Cr Nicholas Connop	X		
Cr Ken Couper	X		

Cr Tricia Cutforth	X	
Cr Shelley Deeming		X
Cr Phil Halse	X	
Cr Jayne Golightly		X
Cr Greg Innes	X	
Cr Greg Martin		X
Cr Anna Murphy	X	
Cr Carol Peters	X	
Cr Simon Reid		X
Results	9	5

The motion was Carried (9 to 5)

c. Increase contestable grant funding by a further \$100k p.a.;

	For	Against	Abstain
Her Worship the Mayor	X		
Cr Gavin Benney	X		
Cr Vince Cocurullo	X		
Cr Nicholas Connop	X		
Cr Ken Couper	X		
Cr Tricia Cutforth			X
Cr Shelley Deeming	X		
Cr Phil Halse	X		
Cr Jayne Golightly	X		
Cr Greg Innes	X		
Cr Greg Martin	X		
Cr Anna Murphy	X		
Cr Carol Peters	X		
Cr Simon Reid	X		
Results	13	0	1

The motion was Carried (13 to 0)

- d. Budget \$15k p.a. for the first three years of the LTP to subsidise cat de-sexing, microchipping and registering programmes;

**The motion was Carried (14)
Unanimous**

- e. Allocate \$30k of new grant funding in year 2 of the LTP to a consent for the 'Gomez Park' proposal.

**The motion was Carried (14)
Unanimous**

- f. Allocate \$30k of new grant funding in year 1 of the LTP to support the Oakura Wetland Project (in addition to the \$20,000 already provided).

**The motion was Carried (14)
Unanimous**

- g. Allocate \$200k in year 1, \$100k in year 2 and \$50k in year 3 of the LTP to WAM for operational funding.

	For	Against	Abstain
Her Worship the Mayor	X		
Cr Gavin Benney	X		
Cr Vince Cocurullo		X	
Cr Nicholas Connop	X		
Cr Ken Couper	X		
Cr Tricia Cutforth		X	
Cr Shelley Deeming		X	
Cr Phil Halse	X		
Cr Jayne Golightly		X	
Cr Greg Innes	X		
Cr Greg Martin		X	
Cr Anna Murphy	X		
Cr Carol Peters	X		
Cr Simon Reid		X	
Results	8	6	

The motion was Carried (8 to 6)

- h. Include new grant funding of \$50k p.a. for predator control for Parihaka Reserve.

	For	Against	Abstain
Her Worship the Mayor	X		
Cr Gavin Benney	X		
Cr Vince Cocurullo		X	
Cr Nicholas Connop	X		
Cr Ken Couper	X		
Cr Tricia Cutforth	X		
Cr Shelley Deeming	X		
Cr Phil Halse	X		
Cr Jayne Golightly		X	
Cr Greg Innes	X		
Cr Greg Martin	X		
Cr Anna Murphy	X		
Cr Carol Peters	X		
Cr Simon Reid		X	
Results	11	3	

The motion was Carried (11 to 3)

- i. Allocate an additional \$200k p.a. to the waste minimisation budget.

	For	Against	Abstain
Her Worship the Mayor			X
Cr Gavin Benney	X		
Cr Vince Cocurullo		X	
Cr Nicholas Connop	X		
Cr Ken Couper	X		
Cr Tricia Cutforth	X		
Cr Shelley Deeming		X	
Cr Phil Halse	X		
Cr Jayne Golightly		X	
Cr Greg Innes	X		

Cr Greg Martin		X	
Cr Anna Murphy	X		
Cr Carol Peters	X		
Cr Simon Reid		X	
Results	8	5	1

The motion was Carried (8 to 5)

Declarations of Interest

Cr Martin declared an interest in regards to Item 5.a. – Hikurangi Repo.

Cr Couper declared an interest in regards to WAM, as council appointed Trustee.

The meeting adjourned for a break from 11.14am following the vote on the further amendment.

Recommendations – Hikurangi Swamp (Repo)

Moved By Cr Phil Halse

Seconded By Cr Shelley Deeming

6. Resolves the following in relation to Hikurangi Swamp (Repo):
 - a. To establish a working group of Council, hapu and scheme holders;
 - b. To suspend any planned renewals of pumps and pump stations in the first 24 months of the LTP until a workable solution can be found, with any projects being shifted to later years;
 - c. To recognise the role of hapu as kaitiaki and provide an initial ~~\$20k p.a.~~ \$40k pa. increase (note, this amount will not cover the estimated costs of hapu) in funding as part of a ~~\$50k p.a.~~ \$70k p.a. increase to Te Karearea's budget (above).

Carried

Secretarial Note: Following the meeting resolution 6.c. was amended to: '\$40k p.a. increase to Te Karearea's budget'; this was a consequential change to reflect resolution 5.a. adopted earlier in the meeting.

Declarations of Interest:

Cr Martin declared an interest in regards to the Hikurangi Swamp.

Cr Martin withdrew from the table, taking no part in discussions or voting on this item.

Recommendations – Housing

Moved By Cr Vince Cocurullo

Seconded By Cr Shelley Deeming

Resolves in relation to Housing:

To continue our existing housing related workstream, working alongside Government agencies such as Kāinga Ora to develop strategies and deliver new public housing in the District.

Amendment

Moved By Cr Tricia Cutforth

Seconded By Cr Nicholas Connop

7. Resolves the following in relation to Housing:
 - a. To allocate \$50k opex to a housing strategy in the first year of the LTP;
 - b. To allocate an additional \$2m of capex to new Council delivered senior/pensioner housing in the LTP (resulting in \$4m total capex).

On the motion being put Cr Cutforth called for a division:

	For	Against	Abstain
Her Worship the Mayor		X	
Cr Gavin Benney		X	
Cr Vince Cocurullo		X	
Cr Nicholas Connop	X		
Cr Ken Couper		X	
Cr Tricia Cutforth	X		
Cr Shelley Deeming		X	
Cr Phil Halse		X	
Cr Jayne Golightly	X		
Cr Greg Innes		X	
Cr Greg Martin		X	
Cr Anna Murphy	X		
Cr Carol Peters		X	

Cr Simon Reid

X

Results**4****10****The amendment was Lost (10 to 4)**Further Amendment**Moved By** Cr Carol Peters**Seconded By** Cr Ken Couper

Resolves the following in relation to Housing:

- a. To allocate \$150k opex to a housing strategy in the first year of the LTP;
- b. To allocate an additional \$2m of capex to new Council delivered senior/pensioner housing in the LTP (resulting in \$4m total capex).

On the amendment being put Cr Martin called for a division:

	For	Against	Abstain
Her Worship the Mayor		X	
Cr Gavin Benney	X		
Cr Vince Cocurullo		X	
Cr Nicholas Connop	X		
Cr Ken Couper	X		
Cr Tricia Cutforth	X		
Cr Shelley Deeming		X	
Cr Phil Halse	X		
Cr Jayne Golightly	X		
Cr Greg Innes	X		
Cr Greg Martin		X	
Cr Anna Murphy	X		
Cr Carol Peters	X		
Cr Simon Reid		X	
Results	9	5	

**The amendment was Carried (9 to 5)
and subsequently Carried
as the substantive Motion**

Crs Cocurullo, Deeming, Reid and Martin requested their votes against be recorded.

Cr Cutforth left the meeting at 12.30pm following the vote on housing.

Recommendations – Other

The recommendations were taken in parts.
Cr Couper called for a division on all recommendations.

Moved By Cr Ken Couper

Seconded By Cr Jayne Golightly

8. Resolves to make the following changes as a result of new information available:
 - a. To include an additional \$5.9m for replacement of the Semenoff Stadium roof;

**Carried
Unanimous**
 - b. To authorise staff to manage carryforwards (including bringing forward funding for the Waipu Skatepark) in order to maintain programmes while maximizing our ability to deliver;

**Carried
Unanimous**
 - c. To include \$2.15m for strengthening/improvements to the Old Municipal Building alongside any insurance payout.

**Carried
Unanimous**
9. Resolves to establish a new Trust/Council Controlled Organisation for the Northland Events Centre.

**Carried
Unanimous**
10. Notes the potential for increased carryforwards as a result of an ambitious programme, particularly in Transportation.

**Carried
Unanimous**
11. Notes that it is increasingly likely that decreases to Central Government Transport subsidy will require a review of revenue/rates and/or service delivery through a future Annual Plan or Long Term Plan Amendment process.

**Carried
Unanimous**
12. Delegates the Chief Executive to make minor changes to meet the budget parameters as agreed in the Financial Strategy in order to accommodate the recommendations set out within this report.

**Carried
Unanimous**

13. That a limit of \$4m be put on the building price of the animal shelter.

	For	Against	Abstain
Her Worship the Mayor		X	
Cr Gavin Benney	X		
Cr Vince Cocurullo	X		
Cr Nicholas Connop	X		
Cr Ken Couper	X		
Cr Shelley Deeming		X	
Cr Phil Halse	X		
Cr Jayne Golightly	X		
Cr Greg Innes	X		
Cr Greg Martin	X		
Cr Anna Murphy	X		
Cr Carol Peters	X		
Cr Simon Reid	X		
Results	11	2	

The motion was Carried (11 to 2)

Cr Cutforth was absent.

Declarations of Interest:

Cr Halse in regards to recommendation 9. Cr Halse is a Trustee on the NECT. Cr Halse withdrew from discussions and voting for recommendation 9.

14. \$13m for the Inner City Revitalisation project be used to increase car parking in the CBD.

	For	Against	Abstain
Her Worship the Mayor		X	
Cr Gavin Benney		X	
Cr Vince Cocurullo	X		
Cr Nicholas Connop		X	
Cr Ken Couper		X	

Cr Shelley Deeming		X
Cr Phil Halse	X	
Cr Jayne Golightly	X	
Cr Greg Innes		X
Cr Greg Martin	X	
Cr Anna Murphy		X
Cr Carol Peters		X
Cr Simon Reid	X	
Results	5	8

The motion was Lost (8. To 5)

15. That Council review the Ruakaka library submission.

**Carried
Unanimous**

Further motion

Moved By Her Worship the Mayor

Seconded By Cr Anna Murphy

1. Confirms the non financial responses as recommended in the attached report, including changes in the timing of some projects and any further changes made as a result of deliberations.
2. That the Council delegates the Chief Executive to make minor changes to relevant financial prudence benchmark parameters and financial objectives as set out in the draft Financial Strategy in order to accommodate the recommendations set out within this report, any further changes made as a result of deliberations and any subsequent resolutions prior to adoption.
3. Notes that any changes that cannot be made within allowable financial parameters and/or require further consultation will be brought back to Council via an extra ordinary meeting prior to adoption.

Carried

4.2 Long Term Plan 2021 - 2031 Concurrent Consultation Deliberations

Moved By Her Worship the Mayor

Seconded By Cr Anna Murphy

That Council

1. Notes the total of 2886 formal submissions were received on the Long Term Plan 2021 – 2031; 10 of the total submissions directly related to the Concurrent Consultation and 7 of the total submissions directly related to the stand-alone Fees and Charges Consultation.
2. Confirms the responses as recommended in the attached report, including changes in the timing of some projects.

Recommendation – Revenue and Financing Policy

3. Note the submissions received and confirms the Revenue and Financing Policy be amended to reflect the outcomes of LTP deliberations if necessary.

Recommendation – Rates, Remissions and Postponement Policy and the Early Payment of Rates Policy

4. Notes that there is no requirement, following the public consultation, to amend, revise or change any part of either policy.

Recommendations – Development Contributions Policy

5. Notes that the assessment criteria (Household unit Equivalent) HUE calculations and timing of payments will continue without any amendment to this.
6. Approves the amendment of the wording under Clause 4.2, as outlined in Section 12 of this report.

Recommendations – Fees and Charges

7. Note the information and submission comments
8. Approve that no changes be made to proposed fees as a result of submissions
9. Approves the preparation of the final 2021-2022 Fees and Charges schedule and present to the June meeting of Council, for adoption; and
10. Note that individual submitters will be informed of the outcome of their submissions.

Carried

5. Closure of Meeting

The meeting concluded at 1.13pm

Confirmed this 27th day of May 2021

Her Worship the Mayor Sheryl Mai (Chairperson)