

## Council Briefing Meeting Minutes

**Date:** Tuesday, 14 November, 2017  
**Time:** 9:00 a.m.  
**Location:** Council Chamber  
Forum North, Rust Avenue  
Whangarei

**In Attendance** Her Worship the Mayor Sheryl Mai  
(Chairperson)  
Cr Stu Bell  
Cr Crichton Christie  
Cr Vince Cocurullo  
Cr Tricia Cutforth  
Cr Shelley Deeming  
Cr Sue Glen  
Cr Phil Halse  
Cr Cherry Hermon  
Cr Greg Innes  
Cr Sharon Morgan  
Cr Anna Murphy

**Not in Attendance** Cr Greg Martin

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**Also in attendance:** Rob Forlong (Chief Executive), Jill McPherson (General Manager- Strategy and Democracy), Alison Geddes (General Manager – Planning and Development), Alan Adcock (General Manager - Corporate), Tony Horton (Manager - Strategy), Jason Marris (Manager – Democracy and Assurance), Jennie Thomas (Democracy Advisor)

Her Worship the Mayor convened the meeting.

### 1. Apologies

Cr Greg Martin

### 2. Reports

#### 2.1 Maori Participation in Decision-Making

Jill McPherson advised the meeting that the Local Government Act (LGA) required a statement to be included in the Long-Term Plan (LTP) on how Council proposes to facilitate Māori participation in Council's decision making.

Council is required to agree a statement for the next LTP. The options are to use an updated version of the statement as included in the previous LTP or to agree on a different statement.

Discussion documents included in the agenda were used to gauge a collective sense from Elected Members on the direction to take when formulating the statement. The statement on Māori participation in decision making will be drafted by Jill McPherson and included in the draft LTP for consideration.

Current practices at Whangarei District Council includes a hapū-based relationship with Te Huinga and a Strategic Partnership Forum Te Kārearea. Council employs a team of two Māori Relationship staff. Their role is to guide the organisation.

Discussion on the relationship that has been built with Te Huinga and Te Kārearea indicated that there was no sense of a need for change. Views expressed also supported the status quo in relationship to the business in the organisation (Māori Relationship staff).

Council has an out of date Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Patuharakeke. A copy of the outdated MoU was provided as an example to Elected Members.

There were varying views expressed on the use of MoU's with hapū. Some of the Elected Members expressed a desire for more MoU's to be entered in to. MoU's were seen to assist with building relationship foundations rather than achieving outcomes. There were varying views on funding commitments being associated to MoU's.

The possibility of Co-governance due to treaty settlements was discussed. Co-governance in relation to settlements (redress) can be included in Settlement Acts, examples include the volcanic cones in Auckland and Ninety Mile Beach in the Far North. It was stated that at some point decisions regarding co-governance would need to be made.

There was some discussion on addressing consultation with Maori through Hapu Environmental Management Plans (HEMPs). The LGA overlays the RMA but some form of narrative would be used to communicate Council's obligation under the RMA.

The general consensus from Members was that the existing statement was suitable with some minor adjustments.

Concluding discussions, Jill McPherson summarised the feedback received from Elected Members on the development of the statement as -

- Continued Council commitment to Te Kārearea and Te Huinga.
- Possible new relationship requirements from Treaty Settlements will be noted.
- Status quo on business in the organisation.
- Mention of the Strategic Alliance to be removed.

- The statement will note our obligation under the RMA.

MoU's will not be encompassed in the statement.

The meeting adjourned at 10.10am for a short break. Her Worship the Mayor reconvened the meeting at 10.27am.

## **2.2 Summary of Whangarei District Growth Strategy Sustainable Futures 30/50**

Tony Horton advised that the purpose of today's briefing was to present a draft summary document update of the Whangarei District Growth Strategy: Sustainable Futures 30/50.

A Council Briefing was held in August where staff outlined the process to update the strategy considering the new National Policy Statement on Urban Development Capacity (NPS-UDC) requirements for the 2018-2028 Long Term Plan.

Conscious of the need to be customer friendly, a summary version of the Sustainable Futures 30/50 has been produced. The summary will be an easy to read visual document. The document has not been revisited but summarises the content of two large documents and provides some updated figures.

The second stage of the process will begin early in the year and will be completed by the end of 2018. Stage 2 will include:

- Development of the NPS-UDC required Development Strategy
- Public consultation on the Development Strategy
- Producing a revised version Sustainable Futures 30/50 which includes the adopted Development Strategy

The summary highlights the key outcomes, provides an update on key strategic issues and a revised set of actions to implement over the next three years.

One of the key elements we wish to communicate to the community is that to ensure a sustainable future we need managed and consolidated development around a hierarchy of growth nodes. The growth strategy sets out key outcomes to achieve this by:

- focused development around the key growth nodes
- planned development to ensure integrated land use and infrastructure
- protecting the productivity of our high class agricultural land
- recognising and enhancing our unique natural environment
- building on high value economic development
- celebrating our vibrant and powerful culture and heritage
- using place/people based strategies to deliver change across the District

A sustainable approach to development is used as support for the key outcomes:

- sustainable economy
- sustainable environment
- sustainable society
- sustainable culture

Whangarei District grew by 2.3% (2000 people) from 2016 to 2017. This is the highest increase in estimated population in the last 21 years. The expectation is to see population figures continue to grow in the longer term but at a lower rate. The estimated residential population is expected to reach 100,000 by 2028.

Central Government developed the NPS-UDC to provide direction to Councils to ensure sufficient land and infrastructure are provided for new homes and businesses. The projected growth of the Whangarei District at 10.5% classifies it as a High Growth Area. WDC is now required to deliver the legislative requirements associated with this classification set out by the NPS-UDC.

Discussion focused on previous subdivision growth and the implications this has for controlling growth on high class agricultural land. It is planned for a map to be inserted into the document illustrating the subdivision development before the plan change and after with consolidated development.

There was discussion on the need to review the Growth Strategy to ensure it is working. One of the requirements of the National Policy Statement is to actively monitor where development occurs and link this to house sale prices etc. Sustainable Futures 30/50 contains a review process to ensure the strategy remains up to date and relevant to changing issues. Part of this process is to review the actions and growth model to coincide with the LTP every three years.

Constraints on growth may see higher prices but an important thing to note is that the District Plan amendments still provides time to consider these issues. It was noted that a design-led approach was important. The Growth Strategy is performing as expected.

### **3. Closure of Meeting**

The meeting concluded at 10.55 am.