

## Council Briefing Minutes

**Date:** Tuesday, 22 February, 2018  
**Time:** 1:00 p.m.  
**Location:** Council Chamber  
Forum North, Rust Avenue  
Whangarei

**In Attendance**

**Her Worship the Mayor Sheryl Mai (Chairperson)**  
**Cr Stu Bell**  
**Cr Gavin Benney**  
**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 Greg Martin**  
**Cr Sharon Morgan**  
**Cr Anna Murphy**

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

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The briefing commenced at 14.02pm. Councillor Morgan welcomed Councillors and staff to the briefing.

## **2. Reports**

### **2.1 2018-2028 LTP Consultation Document Update**

Jill McPherson led the presentation and provided an update on the progress of the Consultation Document. The contents of the agenda and presentation should be read in conjunction with this report.

#### Audit Review

Elected members were provided with a draft Consultation Document in December, which was sent to Audit NZ for their initial review. Since then, further changes have

been made and sent back to Audit NZ for their “hot review” process. The Consultation Document has now been approved by Audit NZ.

### Consultation Document Preview

The Consultation Document contains three key issues for the community to provide feedback on.

- Key issue 1: Continuing focus on core assets

After the initial review, Audit NZ requested further information on our stormwater renewals. Since the hot review, Options 1 and 2 have been included, in line with recommendations from Audit NZ.

The elected members discussed how best to present the options for stormwater for example providing a range of outcomes or framing the options in a more positive way. Staff advised that the consultation document has been extensively reviewed by Audit NZ and is now at the point where it has been approved. Any further amendments are to be submitted to Audit NZ and could delay the adoption of the Consultation Document scheduled for the 28<sup>th</sup> February 2018.

- Key issue 2: Getting set-up for the future

Since the initial review in December, information on the Civic Centre has been added.

There was discussion amongst the elected members as to the section in the consultation document dealing with the Civic Centre. Some of the issues raised were whether the Civic Centre should or needs to fall within the city core and how the public would receive the information on the Civic Centre.

A suggestion was made that an additional potential future use for Forum North be added to include “the partial demolition of Forum North to create a new performing arts centre”. It was agreed that this would be added to the consultation document and sent to Audit NZ. There was also a query on the map of the City Centre included in the Consultation Document.

- Key issue 3: We need to keep the place nice and make it even better to live here

Two options are included in the Consultation Document:

- Option 1: Increase funding for Community led projects
- Option 2: Don't increase funding for Community led projects.

### Rates review summary

Two options included in the Consultation Document:

- Option 1: Modified status quo– Definition of SUIP’s revisited from “capable of use” to “actual or intended use” thereby reducing the number of SUIP’s charged rates.
- Option 2: Transport fixed rate on capital value, plus modified status quo.

There has also been a review of Council’s rates remission and postponement policies to ensure alignment with the proposed changes.

### Concurrent consultations

- Fees and charges 2018 – 2019
  - the biggest change is in the number of hours to process Building Consents.
  - Other fees have increased by 2% LGCI.
  - Cemeteries and Reserves user charges have increased.
  - One charge for rates and property searches.
- Revenue and financing policy
  - Analysis of the policy has been completed and reviewed by Audit NZ. More explanation was provided as to how activities are funded with Capital funding sources.

A viewpoint was expressed that there is a disconnect between the information provided by staff to elected members and what is in the Consultation Document.

- Rates remission and postponement policy

### Next Steps

- Jill will discuss the changes proposed by the Elected Members with Audit NZ.
- The council meeting to adopt the Consultation Document is scheduled for the 28<sup>th</sup> February 2018.
- Consultation packs should be available by the 1<sup>st</sup> March 2018.

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

The briefing closed at 15.11pm.