

Council Briefing Minutes

Date: Wednesday, 24 October, 2018
Time: 2:30 p.m.
Location: Council Chamber
 Forum North, Rust Avenue
 Whangarei

In Attendance	Cr Greg Innes (Chairperson) Cr Crichton Christie Cr Vince Cocurullo Cr Tricia Cutforth Cr Sue Glen Cr Phil Halse Cr Cherry Hermon Cr Sharon Morgan Cr Anna Murphy
Not in Attendance	Cr Stu Bell Cr Gavin Benney Cr Greg Martin
Scribe	Nicolene Pestana (Democracy Adviser)

1. Apologies

Cr's Greg Martin, Gavin Benney and Stu Bell. (Absent)

2. Reports

Whangarei City Core Precinct Plan Council Workshop

Cr Greg Innes convened the briefing. Dominic Kula (General Manager – Strategy and Democracy), and Tony Horton Manager – Strategy) facilitated the meeting with Sonya Seutter (Senior Strategic Planner) and Alicia Lawrie (Strategic Planner) leading the presentation on the Whangarei City Core Precinct Plan Update.

An early draft of the Whangarei City Core Precinct Plan was circulated to Elected Members prior to the briefing. Elected Members were taken through the presentation and the draft document. Staff will incorporate feedback received from the Elected Members into the finalised document for adoption.

City Core Precinct Plan process

Post adoption of the Whangarei City Centre Plan in December 2017, there have been several engagement sessions with Elected Members, key stakeholders, reference and advisory groups and businesses on the plan. The plan has been developed in an integrated way, with collaboration across the organisation.

City Core Precinct Plan structure

- 5 Key Outcomes
 - Experience
 - Connectivity
 - Living
 - Employment & Educations
 - Design
- 6 Urban Design Drivers
 - Legibility
 - Character
 - Diversity
 - Active Edges
 - Connectivity
 - Quality Public Realm
- 3 Programs
 - Complete Streets
 - Waterfront City Core
 - Wayfinding Connections
- 11 Projects
- 125 Actions
 - Short, medium and long term actions.

Proposed Land uses

Amendments to the Land Uses Map were made after consultation with key stakeholders. Three proposed land uses - Mixed Use – Commercial focused, Mixed Use – Residential focused and Community Use.

Focus 1 – Complete Streets Masterplan

A consultant will be engaged to develop a Complete Streets Masterplan to take into the future. This Masterplan will determine changes to intersections, road crossings and roundabouts, establish street designs and look at traffic flows. The consultant will follow an integrated and multifunctional approach, within the context of shaping existing projects in the LTP. This plan sets the brief, the Complete Streets Master plan is the design.

Focus 2 – Bank Street

This is already a project which must be completed and there is money to spend on this project in this financial year. The project presents an opportunity to work across council.

Focus 3 – Dent Street

The primary focus is to connect the main retail centre and city core to the waterfront. Short term achievements include:

- New Town Basin Park
- Footpath improvements on John Street
- Work with landowners to enable development
- Dent / John Street crossing improvements
- Establish a new crossing between the hub and Carruth Street

Focus 4 – Bus Services Centre

- After consultation with Councils Advisory Groups, the proposal is to relocate the Bus Service Station to Robert Street. The Advisory Groups felt the bus station should be nearer to Pak n Save. Further detailed design and consultation is required.

Focus 5 – Wayfinding

To implement signs and wayfinding between key destinations, amenities and carparks.

Discussion and Feedback on Presentation

Street Changes

- Roading will model the changes as part of the process and will work with the Strategy team to come up with a workable programme. Urban designers and roading engineers will work together to achieve the outcomes.

- The plan closes some streets but opens other streets which have been closed. Arterial routes should also be considered.
- Wayfinding is a key component.

Bus Service Station

- There was discussion on the proposed site for bus services.
- Moving the Bus Services Centre to Robert Street will create traffic congestion in the city.
- There is no infrastructure at the Robert street site.
- The new Civic Centre should be considered when deciding on the location of the Bus Service Centre.
- A future transport hub incorporating rail with the Civic Centre and a car park should be considered.
- Robert Street cannot handle a bus terminal as there is limited space to park buses there.

125 Actions in the plan

- The plan could be augmented by including the actions.
- Cycling in the city should be included in the 125 actions.

Discussion and Feedback on the draft Whangarei City Core Precinct Plan

- Should be a living document and the public should be able to comment.
- The draft plan includes the Robert Street location for the Bus Service Centre and the location of the Civic Centre in the city core. This has not yet been decided on by Council or seen by the public. Dominic Kula advised that this would be taken out of the plan.
- The dynamics have changed as there are more people in the district. We need to be progressive and open to testing new ideas, integration of teams is working.
- People come from outside the city to shop and we need to accommodate them with parking.
- Provision must be made for additional carparks. Tony Horton advised that the document provides options for new carparks or to use existing carparks more effectively.
- All options should be investigated, if it doesn't work as an option, consider another option.
- The safety of pedestrians must be considered especially in James and Dents streets. Sonja Seutter advised that safety of pedestrians is always considered when implementing plans.
- The introduction of signage falls in the wayfinding programme. The action would be to first test the signage to see what works.
- Some of the work will begin in this financial year, linking to current projects.

Next Steps

- Take feedback received from today's briefing and polish and refine the draft document.
- Draft document will be presented to a scoping meeting in November and then to Council for adoption.

The meeting concluded at 15.55pm.