

## **Council Briefing Meeting Minutes**

**Date:** Tuesday, 27 November, 2018  
**Time:** 1:00 p.m.  
**Location:** Council Chamber  
Forum North, Rust Avenue  
Whangarei

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| <b>In Attendance</b>     | <b>Cr Greg Innes (Chairperson)</b><br><b>Cr Stu Bell</b><br><b>Cr Gavin Benney</b><br><b>Her Worship the Mayor Sheryl Mai</b><br><b>Cr Vince Cocurullo</b><br><b>Cr Tricia Cutforth</b><br><b>Cr Shelley Deeming</b><br><b>Cr Sue Glen</b><br><b>Cr Phil Halse</b><br><b>Cr Greg Martin</b><br><b>Cr Anna Murphy</b> |
| <b>Not in Attendance</b> | <b>Cr Crichton Christie</b><br><b>Cr Cherry Hermon</b><br><b>Cr Sharon Morgan</b>  |

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The briefing convened at 1.02pm and was facilitated by Cr Greg Innes.

### **1. Apologies**

Cr's Sharon Morgan, Cherry Hermon and Crichton Christie.

### **2. Reports**

#### **2.1 Review of Whangarei District Growth Strategy**

Elected Members were advised that the purpose of the briefing is to update Council on the review of the Whangarei District Growth Strategy and the requirements on the National Policy Statement on Urban Development Capacity.

The National Policy Statement on Urban Development Capacity (NPS-UDC) has defined Whangarei's Urban Area as "high growth". This has resulted in a requirement to develop a 'Future Development Strategy' to outline how future

growth will be accommodated. This requirement will be met through a review of our existing Whangarei District Growth Strategy: Sustainable Futures 30/50.

Tony Horton went through the presentation with Elected Members and facilitated discussion.

#### Feedback and Discussion on presentation

- Integral part of adoption of strategy is to have a monitoring programme. Tony advised that this is quite an extensive review and is expected to remain relevant. There will be further opportunities to consider monitoring.
- Spatial planning is similar to village planning but will there also be community input? Tony advised that spatial planning is bigger as it considers big infrastructure and aligns with the LTP. There will be community input.
- There was discussion on the 30/50 document and what is required by NPS-UDC. Most Elected Members agree that 30/50 is a great document. There was a view that the original 30/50 was mostly made up of spatial plans and one document is needed that addresses all aspects. Another Elected Member felt that 30/50 was intended to be an overarching document above individual strategies and should be kept that way. A further view was that the challenge is to filter it down to community level to get community engagement. Tony advised that we are currently in a legislative space and must prioritise compliance with legislation whilst balancing the individual strategies with legislation. Dom stated that the key is to align the individual strategies with what legislation requires.
- There was discussion around housing. One Elected Member felt that council should consider whether there is anything that can be done around this issue. There was a counterview that this is not our responsibility, central government created the issues with its housing and immigration policies and should fix the problems. Another elected member felt that ratepayers should not be burdened to address unaffordable and inadequate housing. There was a further view that the housing issue could be addressed through district development.
- How to deliver a prioritised spatial planning programme will be a challenge.
- There was discussion on the proposed Urban Development Authorities and whether these will be put in place in areas of high growth? Tony advised that these agencies incorporate functions of NZ Housing and Kiwibuild and have an influence on small and medium scale housing development. Their

functions will overlap with the local authority functions but the trigger is that there must be agreement with the local council and the public has to be consulted on at least two occasions. There is emphasis on growth development. A bill will be put before parliament in late 2019 and UDA's will be established in 2020. The initial focus of UDA's will be in Auckland, Christchurch and Wellington but ministers are interested in how this tool can be implemented in smaller cities.

#### Next steps

- Councillors will be briefed on draft strategy and what consultation and engagement would look like in February and March.
- Public consultation and stakeholder engagement will take place in April.
- Elected Members will review public feedback and discuss changes to strategy in May and June.
- The strategy is due to be adopted in July.
- The spatial planning programme is to begin in the 2019/2020 financial year.

The briefing concluded at 1.57pm.