

## Council Briefing Agenda

**Date:** Thursday, 7 February, 2019

**Time:** 1:30 pm

**Location:** Council Chamber  
Forum North, Rust Avenue  
Whangarei

**Elected Members:** 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

For any queries regarding this meeting please contact  
the Whangarei District Council on (09) 430-4200.

**1. Apologies**

**2. Reports**

2.1 Annual Plan 2019-2020 update

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**3. Closure of Meeting**

## 2.1 Annual Plan 2019-2020 update

**Meeting:** Council Briefing  
**Date of meeting:** 7 February 2019  
**Reporting officer:** Dominic Kula - General Manager Strategy and Democracy

### 1 Purpose

To provide Council with:

1. An Annual Plan update outlining the proposed consultation, communication and engagement approach.
2. An update on the fees and charges 2019-2020.
3. An overview of the Productivity Commission issues paper on local government funding and financing.

### 2 Background

During late 2018, a series of workshops and briefings were held to establish:

1. The degree to which the 2019-2020 Annual Plan (the Annual Plan) would deviate from year two of the LTP 2018-2028 (financial plan review); and
2. How we should communicate and seek community feedback in relation to these changes (communication and engagement plan).

A financial review was undertaken and its outcomes were presented to Council on 18 December 2018. Included in this review were the impacts the proposed changes would have on the balanced budget and Councils ability to maintain debt ratios.

Both the financial and communication and engagement plans are fundamental to setting the Annual Plan. They ensure that stakeholders are well informed as to Councils plans and have an opportunity to provide feedback that will inform staff and Elected Members throughout the Annual Plan review and deliberation process.

### 3 Discussion

#### Annual Plan update

At the meeting of 13 December 2018 meeting Council resolved to both formally consult with the community on the Annual Plan, and develop a communication and engagement programme.

At this briefing staff will provide an update on the Annual Plan process, with a focus on the proposed communication and engagement plan.

Staff will also provide feedback on elected member priorities/issues raised in the 18 December Annual Plan workshop, that were not already responded to during that workshop.

### Fees and charges 2019-2020

The draft fees and charges for 2019-2020 will be consulted on concurrently to the draft 2019-2020 Annual Plan. In general, fees and charges will be adjusted in accordance with the LTP 2018-2028 (inflation). Some minor changes will be presented at the briefing for Councils consideration.

In conjunction with setting the draft fees and charges for 2019-2020, staff have also been reviewing the process for setting fees and charges and the policies and assumptions that underpin how much we charge/cost recover. This review will be completed in time to inform the next Long Term Plan.

An update on the setting of the fees and charges for 2019-2020 and an overview of the current review being undertaken will be presented at the briefing.

### Productivity Commission issues paper on local government funding and financing

In November 2018 the Productivity Commission published an issues paper for an inquiry into local government funding and financing. The issues paper briefly describes local government in New Zealand and how funding and financing currently works. It asks questions about current pressure points and ways that councils can manage cost pressures. It then seeks views on options for future funding and financing tools.

The Productivity Commission is seeking feedback on the issues paper, which closes on 15 February. The Productivity Commission will use the feedback received to inform a draft report, which is due in June 2019 and then a final report to government at the end of 2019.

Council staff have reviewed the issues paper as well draft feedback from Local Government New Zealand. Staff are recommending that we support the LGNZ feedback, but with additional feedback points that are relevant to our District. Those points relate to issues such as:

- Challenges of supporting growth (particularly infrastructure)
- The demand tourism has on our infrastructure
- The need for flexibility of funding along with community certainty and involvement in decision making

While recommendations from the issues will not affect the 2019 – 2020 Annual Plan, they could influence funding mechanisms available in future Long Term/Annual Plan processes.

Given this and the timeframes for feedback on the issues paper a brief overview of both the issues paper, and the recommended staff response, will be provided in this briefing.

A presentation will be provided covering each of the points above.