

Kaipara District Council
Long Term Plan Briefing Minutes

Date: **Wednesday 14 October 2020**
Time: **9.30 am – 3.43 pm**
Location: **Mangawhai Domain**
75 Moir Road
Mangawhai

Members present: Mayor Jason Smith
Deputy Mayor Anna Curnow
Councillor Victoria del la Varis-Woodcock
Councillor Mark Vincent
Councillor Peter Wethey
Councillor Jonathan Larsen
Councillor Eryn Wilson-Collins
Apologies: Councillor David Wills
Councillor Karen Joyce-Paki

1. Long Term Plan update

Michaela Borich (Strategic Planning Advisor) presented this item.

The following matters were raised:

- It was noted the programme is on track
- Pre-consultation locations were discussed. It was noted the Dargaville was yet to be confirmed.

Council direction:

- Continue as presented.

2. Civil Defence Emergency Management Long Term Plan presentation

Victoria Harwood and Graeme MacDonald (Northland Group Controllers) presented this item.

The following matters were raised:

- The strategic goals and priorities, work programmes, and planning and operational structure of the organisation were described and discussed

- Funding sources and structures were explained
- Asset and performance standards were explained. It was noted that there is a need for a continual improvement approach to raise these to international standards
- KDC contributions and funding of CDEM assets were discussed
- It was emphasised that communities must be prepared to wait for assistance due to logistical and response challenges
- Possible alignment on shared facilities between agencies was discussed.

Council direction:

- Continue as presented.

3. Rates Overview

Sue Davidson (General Manager, Sustainable Growth and Investment) and Christine Toms (Revenue Manager) presented this item.

The following matters were raised:

- Legal background, function and purpose, and structure of the various rates used in the District was explained and discussed
- Applications of rating regulation and criteria was discussed in the context of rateable properties
- Growth patterns in the District and the impact on rates was discussed
- The challenges to administering targeted rates was discussed.

Council direction:

- Consult on the funding of green spaces
- Provide numbers of impacted properties due to changes in the 50/75 targeted rate change for sewage
- Continue with forestry targeted rate and provide further modelling on the impacts of the sector on the District
- Modelling on cross equalisation for wastewater schemes needed
- Continue as presented.

The Briefing adjourned at 11.12 am

The Briefing reconvened at 11.21 am.

4. Rates Remissions

Sue Davidson (General Manager, Sustainable Growth and Investment) and Christine Toms (Revenue Manager) presented this item.

The following matters were raised:

- Remission Maori Freehold Land was discussed in the context of ongoing parliamentary reform
- effectiveness of the Postponement and Remission policies was discussed
- Approaches to rates collection and types for residential, commercial, and residential titles was explained and discussed
- Approaches to incentivise landowners to be environmentally sustainable.

Council direction:

- Keep both remission and postponement policies
- Requests modelling for rates remission on SNAs, Kaipara Moana, or other non-productive land impacted areas
- Provide more information on ways that policy could developed on vibrant communities
- Continue as presented.

5. Development of a Civic Facilities strategy

John Burt (Property, Procurement, and Commercial Manager) presented this item.

The matters were raised:

- Background to the rationale and scope of the matter was explained and discussed
- The financial implications of a renovation versus a rebuild was discussed.

Council direction:

Current Memorial Town Hall –

- Preference is to demolish the 1990's leaky addition at 37 Hokianga Rd with the necessary repairs/ reinstatement made to the two older buildings
- Council will consult with the Community about forming a trust to construct a new building adjacent to the war Memorial hall and Municipal building to house the Library and a community Hub. This facility will be multiuse and therefore also be suitable for holding Council meetings/ceremonies . Council contribution to this project will be in the order of \$2.8 million as well as providing the land.

Council offices, 42 Hokianga Road –

- Preference to demolish 42 Hokianga Road council building and convert land into green space and land bank it, once council staff had moved into new NRC building

Mid Kaipara –

- An office in the centre of the District was not supported. Could explore options for hot desking (as required) at Kauri Museum.

Library –

- Dargaville need to come back with an interim option as not appropriate to continue in our current location
- Mangawhai – conversation with Mangawhai central options and likelihood.

Mangawhai office –

- Set out options and cost of new building / lease or owned

Shared assumptions:

- We continue to operate across community sites
- Don't require dedicated Mayoral office / Councillor space
- No mid-Kaipara location needed
- Demolition.

The Briefing adjourned at 12.45 pm.

The Briefing reconvened at 1.18 pm.

6. Long Term Plan Consultation Document update

Ben Hope (Senior Communications Advisor) presented this item.

The following matters were raised:

- Submission and hearing processes and procedures were explained and discussed
- Formats of engagement and consultation events was discussed
- It was emphasised that there is a need for high impact and meaningful engagement from the community with a range of different times and venues during the week
- Waste management and drinking water was discussed in the context of LTP investment
- Council to provide ideas on potential names for the LTP.

Council direction:

- Formal consultation and hearings needed
- Submitters to present on submitted related matters only
- Provide mixed format to provide information and avenues for feedback at a range of different location, formats, times
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- Add Three Waters to consultation document
- Address Water Security at a future briefing to be determined
- Add context to the potential costs of the Kaipara Moana Crown settlement and Three Waters reform
- Continue as presented.

7. Long term Plan Financial Alterations

Sue Davidson (General Manager, Sustainable Growth and Investment) presented this item.

The following matters were raised:

- The ability of the Council to take on and structure future debt was described and discussed
- It was emphasised that there is a need for financial prudence and more work is needed to prioritise where resources are allocated
- The range of rate increases and potential priorities was discussed
- Possible impact of Central Government reform on the wider local government sector was discussed. It was noted that until more clarity is provided, it creates a planning challenge for the Council
- Aging infrastructure and the level of investment required to fix it was described and discussed
- It was noted that there is need to ensure sustainable levels of water services around the District
- It was emphasised by the Chief Executive that a decision what item should be cut to bring any rates increase down from 11% to an acceptable level, and that the Auditor General has provided direction to all LG that EMs must guide the strategy to LTPs.

Council direction:

- Provide modelling of debt levels and interest rates
- A balanced approach to investment, planning for growth, and incurring debt is needed.

The Briefing adjourned at 3.20 pm.

The Briefing reconvened at 3.32 pm.

Council direction continued:

- Removed transport capital and parks budget to reduce costs
- Consulting on waste/recycling, climate change, Dargaville water storage (remove from data set).

The Mayor closed the Briefing with a Karakia.

The Briefing closed at 3.43 pm.

Kaipara District Council