

Communication and Consultation Update

Meeting: Council Briefing
Date of meeting: 09 December 2020
Reporting officer: Ben Hope, Senior Communications Advisor

Purpose/Ngā whāinga

To update the results of the pre-engagement survey, clarify the engagement events planned for March 2021, and to provide a draft consultation document for feedback.

Discussion/Ngā kōrerorero

Pre-engagement survey

The pre-engagement survey is another informal tool to gain insight and the thoughts of community in conjunction with the community events.

The survey looked to gain people's thoughts on the established key areas currently under discussion for the Long-Term Plan (LTP).

We had 451 responses, from across the rural, lifestyle and residential areas of Kaipara, with a significant portion of respondents coming from the main townships of Kaipara.

General observations can be made about;

- Infrastructure being the focus of spending in the immediate future,
- External funding should be explored where possible to minimise costs,
- 49% of respondents believe it's fair for people to pay the same amount for connections to council networks.

The rest of the graphs highlighting the overall responses can be found in **Attachment A**.

Activity managers are now working with the information to inform the LTP.

Engagement Events

Currently, webinars are planned for the first two weeks of March 2021, hosted by an elected member, joined by staff to present the thinking and information provided around the key LTP topics of;

- Rooding,
- Water harmonisation,
- Waste minimisation, and,
- Dargaville Civic Precinct.

These events would be run as a staff and elected member led Q&A, streamed to social media and YouTube, and would be publicised so we can gather questions from the community to answer on the night.

These events will be supported by four drop-in style events with an educational focus, taking place the week of 15 March 2021. The planned locations are Te Kopuru, Dargaville, Paparoa and Mangawhai, with some of them possibly market based.

The engagement events will be supplemented by a promotional campaign using social media, our website, radio and traditional media.

Consultation Document draft

Attachment B is a draft consultation document for refining and publication in March 2021. As previously stated, the Consultation Document (CD) provides an effective basis for public participation in local authority decision-making processes relating to the content of an LTP.

A CD is expected to concisely and clearly present the significant issues, plans, and projects that councils intend to include in their LTPs. Key issues should be presented in a way that is easy for people to understand and respond to.

It shouldn't just be a summary LTP, but should describe the key issues proposed, the choices on offer and the implications for the community.

The CD is also subject to audit, to meet legislative requirements and ensure it presents the community with clear, relevant and accurate options.

Information relating to the proposed impacts is to be discussed at the December LTP briefing, and will then be incorporated into the financial implications for the Consultation Document and Audit.

Feedback required from this briefing:

- A title for the Consultation Document
- Direction on areas that needed adding to in the Consultation Document
- Direction on clarity of questions

Next steps/E whaiake nei

- The draft CD will be audited by Council auditors in January 2021
- The draft version of the CD will be presented to the February LTP briefing before adoption at the February Council meeting
- An updated engagement plan will also be provided to the February LTP briefing.

Attachments/Ngā tapiritanga

A	Graphs from LTP pre-engagement survey
B	Draft consultation document wording (excl. finances)