



Briefing: Consultation priorities for the draft Long Term Plan

6 December 2023 – 4.56pm

Attendees

Elected Members: Cr Brown, Cr Dyer, Cr Edwards, Deputy Mayor Lewis (part meeting), Cr Mitchell, Cr Morgan, Cr Parkin, Cr Shaw, Cr Stallinger, Cr Tupou, D Crisp (Wainuiomata Community Board), S Freeman (Petone Community Board) (via audio-visual link).

Staff: J Livschitz, Group Chief Financial Officer (via audio-visual link); A Blackshaw, Director Neighbourhoods and Communities (via audio-visual link, part meeting); J Griffiths, Director Strategy and Engagement; B Hodgins, Strategic Advisor (via audio-visual link, part meeting).

Apologies

Mayor Barry, Cr Briggs (absent on Council business) and T Harker (Wainuiomata Community Board).

Absent

Cr Barratt

Presenters

R Hardie, Head of Strategy and Policy and S Bascand, Communications and Engagement Advisor.

Key Objectives of the Briefing

The purpose of the briefing is to provide an update on the officers' approach to the consultation document, the methodology proposed and how officers arrived at the priority consultation items.

Presentation by R Hardie, Head of Strategy and Policy and S Bascand, Communications and Engagement Advisor

Slide 1 - (Header)

Slide 2 – Council must consult on its Long Term Plan: The Local Government Act requires that councils consult.

Slide 3 – Council decisions and direction to date: The process so far.

Slide 4 – Developing content for the draft Long Term Plan: A timeline of the process up to consultation.

Slide 5 – Approach to consultation: Officers are aiming for an approachable easy to understand consultation document with clear messages that encourage engagement. It will show residents how their responses inform final decisions.

Slide 6 – Approach to consultation: A mixed method approach will use online engagement, hub activity and in person hui with communities of interest. There will be a focus on letting residents know how decisions will affect them.

Slide 7 – Consultation best practice: Officers are consulting on a few issues that will have an impact across a wide section of the community. The consultation will include targeted engagement.

Slide 8 – Consultation on priority projects: Food and green organics collection is a priority project since it is of high public interest. The other projects chosen as priority projects will also generate high public interest. Legislation does not require consultation on water infrastructure, but it is included as a priority project due to the amount of work it requires and the level of public interest.

Officers will be looking to engage communities that are not easy to reach.

Questions and discussion points

- **Elected member questions/comments on Petone Wharf:**
 - How is it possible to rationalise not including the Petone Wharf in the consultation document?
 - Although Council decided not to reinstate the Petone Wharf, Councillors would still like to hear community feedback on this decision and would like it included in the consultation document.
 - Petone Wharf needs to be included in the consultation document so that Councillors are clear on whether the community wants money spent on fixing the wharf or demolition.
 - The Petone Wharf needs to be included in the consultation document so the community can be involved in the decision.

- **Officer responses:**
 - Officers are including the Petone Wharf in the Long Term Plan (LTP) document, but not the consultation document. Officers had instead focussed on priority areas that were still open to community feedback.
 - Consultation priorities in the Long Term Plan need to be supported by clear options with a link between challenges and the proposed projects.

Therefore, a yes/no question on Petone Wharf would not be appropriate. If Councillors want a steer from the community on Petone Wharf other engagement methods would be more appropriate.

- The challenges Council is currently facing and the limited tools available to deal with them need to be clear in the consultation document. It is important the public understands the limitations and that financial challenges are a New Zealand wide problem.
- Councillors and community leaders will be given a toolkit from which they can choose modular information that would be most effective for the group they are engaging with.
- It needs to be clear that a food and green organics collection is a government requirement and there is no option to not go ahead with the project.
- Include the service cuts and other cuts Council has made to keep rates low. It is important to be transparent and list them in the consultation document.
- There will be a section of the consultation document that outlines all other decisions not being consulted on that will affect the rates. It needs to be clear Council is not asking for feedback on these.
- Officers always include a question on the rates increase in the Annual Plan and LTP consultation documents so people can be prompted to suggest how to achieve a lower rates increase.
- Officers coordinate the communications and engagement calendar, so the community is not overloaded by consultations. There are no other consultations running at the same time as the LTP consultation.

Next steps

Council will approve a content version of the consultation document in February 2024.

Briefing materials

Attachment 1 – Presentation: LTP Consultation document update

The briefing closed at 5.17 pm