

Taupō District Council

Notes of Council and Committees Workshop

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| Group | Council and Committees |
| Date | Tuesday 21 May 2024, 10.30am – 11.04am |
| Venue | Council Chamber |
| Topic | Long-term Plan (LTP) 2024-34 for Appointed Members to Council Committees – Preparation for Consultation in June |
| Facilitated by | Senior Community Engagement Advisor (G Smith) and Team Leader Corporate Planning (A Smith) |
| Elected Members present | Deputy Mayor Cr Kevin Taylor (in the Chair), Cr Duncan Campbell, Cr Karam Fletcher (via MS Teams), Cr Sandra Greenslade, Cr Danny Loughlin, Cr Anna Park, Cr Christine Rankin, Cr Rachel Shepherd, Cr Kirsty Trueman, Cr Yvonne Westerman, Cr John Williamson Appointed members present: Mr Tim Brittain (via MS Teams), Mr Pat Kane, Mr Te Moananui Rameka (via MS Teams), Mr Anthony Byett (via MS Teams) |
| Officers present | Acting Chief Executive (S Matthews), General Manager People and Community Partnerships (L O'Brien), Acting General Manager Organisation Performance (L Chick), General Manager Strategy and Environment (W Zander), Iwi and Co Governance Manager (D Rameka), District Customer Relations Manager (T Russell), Environmental Services Manager (J Sparks), Community Engagement and Development Manager (H Tattle), Executive Manager Mayors Office (J Later), Senior Community Engagement Advisor (G Smith), Team Leader Corporate Planning (A Smith), Iwi Engagement Partner (TW Walker), Co-Governance Management Partner (H Oneroa), Community Engagement Advisor Northern Taupō District (C Dredge), Souther Lake Taupō Engagement Partner (M Isherwood), Community Engagement Advisor (R Prisk), Team Leader Communications (D Beck), Digital Content Creator (C Hollinger), Policy Advisor (A Wilson), Governance Quality Manager (S James) |
| Public / media present | No public or media present. |
| Documents either pre-circulated or tabled | Items tabled at the workshop: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Long-term Plan 2024-34 PowerPoint Presentation (A3557205)• Long-term Plan 2024-34 engagement flyer (A3559914) |
| Public or closed¹ | Public |

¹ Workshops are public (and are always advertised whether public or closed), unless there is a good reason(s) for information to be withheld and there is no overriding public interest in holding the workshop in public. Withholding grounds set out in the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA) are a guide. If closed, cite relevant LGOIMA section.

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Notes²

The purpose of the workshop was to brief elected and appointed members on the Long-term Plan 2024-34 (LTP).

The LTP process was very important as it was a chance to influence Taupō District Council's (TDC) services and facilities. The LTP covers everything TDC does, changes to facilities, outcomes of services that would be achieved, how much services and projects would cost and how it would be funded.

It was currently difficult financial times across New Zealand which meant TDC would not be able to do it all and there would likely be some tough decisions being made. By knowing what communities valued as the most important things would lead decision-makers to make better decisions.

Audit New Zealand were reviewing the draft consultation document and supporting information and public consultation was scheduled for the month of June 2024.

The key changes and options in the consultation document were:

- Switch from current rubbish and recycling collection to wheelie bins
- How to deal with wastewater issues, disposal of wastewater in Tūrangi and northern side of the Waikato River
- Another Waikato River crossing in Taupō
- The plan for Tūrangi recreation centre and town centre
- Supporting working families into housing
- Changes to funding for community grants
- Planned investments including renewals for roads, waters, and parks and reserves

The financial impact of these would be highlighted, including the impact on rates, debt and fees and charges. This document would be available at the beginning of June, and it would set out the key aspects, include a table of planned expenditure, key things happening in each representative area would be highlighted.

Iwi and Hapū Engagement

The Iwi and Co Governance Manager explained LTP engagement with Iwi partner entities had begun late May and would continue throughout June 2024. Staff would support Iwi/hapū through this process. In answer to a question, he explained the Iwi and Co Governance Team made it clear to Iwi partners that Taupō District Council representatives wanted to do their best to honour their long-standing relationships with Iwi and hapū in the district and part of this was early and effective engagement. A lot of information had been provided to hapū in the past few months, but it was noted that it was a more restrictive time for hapū to respond than they would like. Hapū had shared any concerns with projects planned.

Community Engagement Events

The Senior Community Engagement Advisor noted the following points:

- Community events would commence 4 June until 5 July.
- The events would be held all around the district, the events would be various styles, but they would all be inclusive and meaningful.
- Feedback from the community regarding early engagement indicated these events worked very well so the same style of events would be held again.
- Story boards would be set up at the events explaining what TDC does, what the consultation document was, what questions TDC want the public to submit on and why submissions were so important.

² Workshops are not decision-making forums, therefore this document contains notes of key points discussed only, not decisions.

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- A QR code that the community could scan, and it would take them to the consultation document on the TDC website, would be at all events. Hard copies would also be available.
- The community engagement team wanted both elected members and staff to come along and support these events.

There would be five tiers of events:

1. Priority evening engagement events in Taupō, Kinloch, Mangakino and Tūrangi.
2. Representative Group meetings in the first week of July, story boards would be on display before or after the meeting.
3. Community pop up events across the district
4. Topic tours – there would be two wastewater tours that public could pre-book to attend. There would also be two East Urban Land tours.
5. A series of youth engagement sessions would be coordinated by the community engagement team.

Youth

The community engagement team explained that the purpose of the youth engagement sessions was to explain what TDC does, explain the LTP and purpose of it and how to make submissions. The team wanted to make it clear that you did not need to be a ratepayer or 18+ to make a submission. Civic education programmes had been done previously with two in Tūrangi and one at Taupō-nui-a-Tia College which had been well received. The team were happy to do this anytime at schools around the district. The plan was to go back to these schools in June when LTP engagement was being done.

An elected member explained that this was a wonderful opportunity to work with rangatahi as their voices could go unheard at times. He had attended the sessions in Tūrangi and found there were candid conversations held about the differences between central government and local government and the services each provided. He expressed it was great to have the community engagement team from TDC provide resources to support these conversations.

Making Submissions

The consultation documentation material would be available early June 2024. It was recommended to look at this early, discuss within the representative groups and contact staff at TDC early if you needed more information to support a submission, a basic template would be provided. The representative group meetings were scheduled for the last week of consultation, and this was an opportunity to sign off the submission as a group.

A member felt that there was a gap with the consultation process with non-resident ratepayers as they would be unable to attend events in person. Staff explained that there were more means of engagement that were not the in-person meetings shown today, this included work online through videos, social media etc.

In answer to a question, it was confirmed that one submission could be completed on behalf of a large number of people/communities but the submission needed to be clear about this and explain how you know that this is the view of the community, make it clear that you had spoken with X amount of people as this gives more weight behind the submission.

Elected and appointed members thanked staff for the presentation.

The workshop closed at 11.04am.