

1. Report: Whangarei District Council Briefing Thursday 25 February 2016

Report of a Briefing to the Whangarei District Council held in the Council Chamber, Forum North on Thursday 25 February 2016 at 1.00pm

Present:

Her Worship the Mayor S L Mai, Crs S J Bell, P A Cutforth, S J Deeming, S M Glen, P R Halse, C M Hermon, G C Innes, G M Martin, S L Morgan and J D T Williamson

Apology/Absent:

Cr S J Bretherton, C B Christie and B L McLachlan

Also present:

Bridget Rowse (Smoke free Advisor Northland District Health Board)

In Attendance:

Chief Executive (R Forlong), Group Manager District Living (P Dell), Community Services Manager (O Thomas) and Senior Meeting Co-ordinator (C Brindle)

1 Drafting a District-wide Smoke-free Policy

Facilitators: G Innes
P Dell

Power Point presentation: 16/14360

Her Worship the Mayor convened the meeting.

The purpose of the Briefing is to present and discuss the possible content for a draft Smoke free policy and hold a conversation about the extent of influence this document might have.

O Thomas covered the content of the Briefing as outlined in the power point presentation and agenda report.

To determine the extent of influence the draft policy three options were proposed for discussion. Mr Thomas outlined the pro's and con's of each option.

Option 1 (the status quo – consolidating existing policies)

- Council owned bus shelters and transport hubs
- Council-owned playgrounds, sports fields and neighbourhood reserves. *Recognising this may be superseded by a management plan approved under the Reserves Act 1977.*

<i>Pro's</i>	<i>Con's</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Already in place • No change required • Least amount of work for staff • Will align review date 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will make no difference • Will make little contribution to facilitating change • Implies we accept current health outcomes for our residents

Option 2 (Option 1 plus a few more public spaces)

- Public buildings and facilities owned by WDC
- All Parks and Reserves under the control of WDC
- Pedestrian areas within the CBD (The Town Basin and Cameron Street/James Street).

<i>Pro's</i>	<i>Con's</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Greatly increases coverage area• Greatly increases ability to influence change• Less harm through passive and active smoking• Less litter• More enjoyable experiences for non smokers• Makes a stronger statement• Supports people who are trying to quit• Reduces the visibility of smoking (influence on children)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Will cause some 'noise' from those affected• Will require a lot of signage• Will require some active education from City Safe Community Officers• It is a little unclear – not ok to smoke here but you can over here e.g. car park• Could be confusing• Most amount of work for staff

Option 3 (All public spaces, excluding commercial leases)

- All public land owned by the Whangarei District Council is considered to be Smoke free.

<i>Pro's</i>	<i>Con's</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• WDC step into a lead role• Makes a strong point of difference• Is a big contribution to WDC toward supporting, positive health outcomes• Blanket message lessens the pressures on signage• A lot less confusing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Some work for staff e.g. media

In their deliberations Councillors considered:

- Approach – more educational, promotional, balanced approach as opposed to regulatory not possible under current legislation (and don't want to marginalise or criminalise people).
- Monitoring – the community & council have a role
- Practicalities eg Option 3 - WDC doesn't control State Highways. And (in regards to both Options 2 & 3) – what about the potential effect on tourists/visitors to the district
- Alfresco Dining – should we consider making alfresco dining smokefree
- Government's goal is for NZ to become a smoke free nation by 2025 – where does WDC sit with that? In tandem or ahead of legislation?
- Commercial aspect – loss of revenue
- Consultation – important to discuss/engage with community.

Conclusion

It was decided to engage with the community on the proposed options – Option 1 being the status quo, Option 2 the next step on the journey and Option 3 the 'aspirational' goal. Staff would bring a further report back to a briefing before putting taking to Council for consideration.

The Briefing closed at 2.19pm