

## 8 Council Priorities for Te Karearea

**Reporting officer:** Rob Forlong (Chief Executive)  
**27 April 2017**

### 1 Purpose

To confirm Council's priorities for discussion with Te Kārearea

### 2 Recommendation/s

That Council;

- (a) agrees to base its priorities for Te Kārearea, on the concept of "fairness to all"
- (b) confirms the Whangarei District Council priorities below for discussion at the May Te Kārearea meeting:

#### **Council Draft Priorities**

8 points - Effective 2-way communication

6 points - Hihiaua Cultural centre

5 points - Focus on youth (joint initiative)

4 points equal

- Sincere early engagement (e.g. LTP/Rates Review/Blue Green Strategy)
- Explore co-governance models so we are ready (Management plans - areas)

3 points equal

- Water Quality issues (e.g. Otuihau)
- Cultural competency training (translation)
- Maori Commissioners (RMA) training/resource
- Working with under resourced communities
- National symposium on Maori representation and local government

2 points equal

- Joint effort to promote the district
- Possible transfer of land Otangarei Marae/Takahiwai
- Creating an understanding of council processes
- Maori housing/healthy homes

1 point equal

- Council protocol for mihi whakatau meetings etc.
- Understanding the history of significant areas to Maori in the District
- Observing the relevant legislation more than we do now

- Support Marae on same basis as community halls

#### Other Priorities

- Pilots for local Hapu to be contractors (e.g. Mokau Otangarei)
- Investigate employing more Maori staff at WDC
- Water Ownership and Management
- Papakaianga housing – making it happen
- Using Hapu Environmental Management plans better
- Waiata for councillors (appropriate for circumstance)
- Fixing naming mistakes
- Heritage trails Blue/Green -shared stories
- More in Maori language week/Matariki

### 3 Background

Te Kārearea Strategic Partnership Forum was formed late in 2012 between Te Huinga (as advocates of the hapū of Whangarei), and the Whangarei District Council. Following the local government elections late last year, Council agreed to continue to participate in Te Kārearea at the 30 March 2017 Council meeting.

Her Worship the Mayor Sheryl Mai and Councillors Sharon Morgan, Anna Murphy, Crichton Christie, Greg Innes, Sue Glen, Tricia Cutforth and Vince Cocurullo were appointed as the Council's representatives on Te Kārearea. Her Worship the Mayor Sheryl Mai was also re-appointed as the Co-Chair.

Council and Te Huinga are looking to identify priorities for the upcoming term, which will be discussed, amended if required and confirmed at Te Kārearea. On 30 November 2016, Council and Te Huinga held a workshop to start the discussion on these priorities for the upcoming term.

Council then held a further workshop on 13 April 2017 to identify Whangarei District Council draft priorities. At the first Te Kārearea meeting of the term, held on 19 April 2017, we briefly highlighted these draft priorities and advised that not all elected members were at the council workshop where these were formulated and that the priorities weren't formally ratified. Te Huinga are also meeting separately to discuss and identify their priorities.

Te Kārearea agreed the following steps to confirm our shared priorities:

1. Present the draft Whangarei District Council priorities to the April Council meeting for discussion, and possible confirmation
2. Te Huinga discuss and confirm their draft priorities at their next meeting on 4 May 2017
3. Both priority lists are presented to the next Te Kārearea meeting currently scheduled for 17 May 2017 for discussion and possible confirmation of shared priorities.

### 4 Discussion

Council discussed and identified the priorities overleaf at the 13 April workshop, using a points system. The system was designed to achieve a priority only, and does not indicate that lower ranked ideas would not be addressed. Some of the suggestions raised can be easily addressed and some are being actioned.

The overarching theme when discussing these priorities was the need to provide fairness to all.

## **Council Draft Priorities**

- 8 points - Effective 2-way communication
- 6 points - Hihiaua Cultural centre
- 5 points - Focus on youth (joint initiative)
- 4 points - Sincere early engagement (e.g. LTP/Rates Review/Blue Green Strategy)
- 4 points - Explore co-governance models so we are ready (Management plans - areas)
- 3 points - Water Quality issues (e.g. Otuihau)
- 3 points - Cultural competency training (translation)
- 3 points - Maori Commissioners (RMA) training/resource
- 3 points - Working with under resourced communities
- 3 points - National symposium on Maori representation and local government
- 2 points - Joint effort to promote the district
- 2 points - Possible transfer of land Otangarei Marae/Takahiwai
- 2 points - Creating an understanding of council processes
- 2 points - Maori housing/healthy homes
- 1 point – Council protocol for mihi whakatau meetings etc.
- 1 point - Understanding the history of significant areas to Maori in the District
- 1 point - Observing the relevant legislation more than we do now
- 1 point - Support Marae on same basis as community halls
- 0 points - Pilots for local Hapu to be contractors (e.g. Mokau Otangarei)
- 0 points – Investigate employing more Maori staff at WDC
- 0 points - Water Ownership and Management
- 0 points - Papakaianga housing – making it happen
- 0 points – Using Hapu Environmental Management plans better
- 0 points - Waiata for councillors (appropriate for circumstance)
- 0 points - Fixing naming mistakes
- 0 points - Heritage trails Blue/Green -shared stories
- 0 points - More in Maori language week/Matariki

Two key themes become apparent from these priorities:

- Relationship is important
- We need to do tangible things

## **5 Significance and engagement**

The decisions or matters of this report do not trigger the significance criteria outlined in Council's Significance and Engagement Policy, and the public will be informed via report publication on the website.