

LTP – PRE-ENGAGEMENT AND PROCESS UPDATE

To:	Council
Meeting Date:	Tuesday 27 June 2023
From:	Rhiannon Suter, Manager – Strategy and Policy
Approved:	Michael Day - Chief Executive
Approved Date:	Tuesday 20 June 2023
Open Agenda:	Yes

Purpose and Summary

This report provides an update for Council on feedback from the community through a pre-engagement campaign, along with an update on progress in delivering the Long-term plan (LTP). It also provides recommendations for direction for the Financial Strategy and Infrastructure Strategy.

Recommendations

That Council:

1. Receives the report “LTP – Pre-engagement and process update”.
2. Notes the feedback from the community outlined in the summary below and the full list of suggestions (A4612421).
3. Notes the update on progress in delivering the 2024 – 2034 Long-term Plan.
4. Notes the proposed change to the timing of the Strategic Projects workshop and the updates on engagement for strategic projects – Surrey Park Grandstand and Bluff Active Recreation Precinct.
5. Requests a review of appropriate development contributions policy in order to appropriately manage future growth, noted the limited potential nature of such a policy as a result of the three waters transition.
6. Notes the process to finalise and deliver growth and other fundamental assumptions to underpin the Financial and Infrastructure strategies.

Background

The LTP process is on schedule. Council has completed the strategic planning phase of the LTP along with pre-engagement, and is now moving into the activity planning, strategic option selection and budgeting phase of the process. The most significant risks to delivery now remaining are finalisation of business cases to support decision making on strategic projects, alignment of Council decision making with determined priorities, accuracy of assumptions as a result of economic volatility, availability of staff impacted through sickness and availability of Audit impacting consultation timeframes. A full report on risk will be provided to the Risk and Assurance meeting in July.

Pre-engagement

“Where’s your Heart? Tōkū Ngākau?”

There have been a range of opportunities for the public to korero with their councillors to share what wellbeing means to them and what they want for the future of the city.

The approach followed the principles of engagement set out by Council in the Significance and Engagement Policy, including through engaging people where they are and supporting access for people from a range of different backgrounds and interests to be part of the conversation. The programme was designed to reach people with specific interests in one or more areas of wellbeing as well as the wider public.

- Online at letstalk.icc.govt.nz
- Public transport discussion, 16 May 2023
- Stand outside Bluff 4 Square in Motupōhue, 21 May 2023
- Stand outside Countdown, 24 May 2023
- Youth Council discussion, 24 May 2023
- Stand outside Mitre 10, 28 May 2023
- Community stakeholder roundtable discussions, 31 May 2023
- Drop in event, Library, 31 May 2023
- Stand at Rotary Book Sale, Civic Theatre, 1 June 2023
- Stand at Kmart, 7 June 2023
- Combined Disability Network meeting, 14 June 2023

Council is working to organise a hui to support maata waka engagement and feedback will be brought back once this engagement is organised. In addition, a further meeting with Age Concern will be rescheduled. Engagement with the community at events was strong but there was limited online engagement which is an opportunity for improvement for the future.

The issues raised are discussed below, starting the in-depth discussions at the Community Stakeholder Hui. A record of all shared comments are provided as an appendix.

Social wellbeing

Feedback clustered around the following issues:

Community connection and resilience

The most frequently raised issue at the Community Stakeholder Hui was support for Council supporting greater community connection and resilience. Some of the themes included noting that our community is becoming more diverse, some people and families need more support and the important role Council operated spaces can play in supporting connection – including parks and the library. There was also feedback that more community hubs for young people and different ethnic groups are needed and that further support is needed for existing premises like marae.

The importance of cultural inclusion for both tangata whenua and maata waka and Council meetings its Te Tiriti ō Waitangi responsibilities were raised.

There was a recognition that it was not the role of Council to solve all the community's issues. Support needs to be focused on empowering and upskilling community leaders.

This feedback aligns with Council's community outcome for social wellbeing.

There are a number of programmes which Council is supporting which align with the feedback

Housing

Housing was felt to be one of the most significant issues facing the community. Just as there has been in Council's conversations a wide range of issues were raised from availability of rentals, to emergency housing and quality of housing stock.

Specific suggestions for Council to consider included:

- If Council reconsiders taking a role in provision of social housing, the need includes secure housing for people with domestic violence orders, disabled people and multi-generational whanau need.
- Council could support development of a partnership programme with developers to sub-divide sections and build new properties for existing homeowners whose properties are falling down with the remaining section provided for purchase by another family.

Health

Mental health was the most significant issue raised in the discussion of health, particularly in relation to the city's young people.

Specific suggestions for Council to consider included:

- Potential partnerships to support a cancer hub which could be placed on a Marae.
- Improved use of parks and other green spaces to support mental health – events promotion.
- Improved smokefree signage.
- Policy to not sell alcohol on Council premises.

Accessibility

Accessibility for people with disabilities, people on lower incomes, older people and people in isolated communities was highlighted. There was discussion how some aspects of the bus service are excluding people, including some accessibility features for disabled people, difficult to access bus information and payment technology excluding those not technology-confident.

Families

Many raised the importance of providing services and activities to support family wellbeing. Making enhanced use of parks to support children, young people, families and people with mental health abilities was a priority.

Safety

Various aspects of safety were important to people including safety on the beach, road safety and safety in the city centre, including through provision of CCTV.

Cost of living

Cost of living was raised by many participants at the community hui. There was recognition that people on lower incomes were struggling to pay for healthcare and other basic needs and that rates increases can have a significant impact on this group. Other issues raised included the role Council can take in supporting food resilience.

Cultural wellbeing

There were a number of clear themes in the area of cultural wellbeing:

Te Tiriti o Waitangi and co-governance

The importance of Māori culture at the heart of all Council does was highlighted. This included bringing Mataranga Māori into the centre of decision making, increasing engagement opportunities for Mata waaka and promoting Matariki as a universal festival.

Individual expression and multi-culturalism

Individual expression is at the core of cultural wellbeing. This includes ethnic and religious identity, as well as gender, different abilities and LGBTQIA+ identity. Suggestions for how Council could support this wellbeing includes increasing engagement and access to the democratic process for all groups and supporting groups to tell their stories and celebrate their culture to enhance understanding.

Community space/ hub

A space which is owned and open to all was highlighted. There was discussion as to whether the library was that space and what other spaces could be needed.

Council as enabler not doer

Council's role should be to facilitate people of all backgrounds and interests to participate and support their cultural wellbeing, not to be the primary driver behind events and projects.

Environmental wellbeing

Priorities for supporting environmental wellbeing included:

Recreation and utilisation of open spaces.

Issues raised ranged from improving the sustainability and biodiversity of our open spaces to increasing opportunities for people to undertake healthy activities such as cycling. The importance of re-establishing traditional Māori relationships with the land was discussed. Management of Ōreti Beach including issues of protecting the natural environment and reducing anti-social behaviour was raised. The opportunity for creating enhanced predator-free areas were suggested.

Climate change

Key aspects of climate change which were raised included measuring and reducing Council's emissions, supporting ways for the community to reduce emissions such as active transport and planning for impact of sea level rise and erosion in low level/ flood prone areas.

Waste

A range of specific suggestions were raised in the area of waste, including promoting composting, increasing recycling options, providing bin clips for Bluff where wind-blown waste from bins often pollutes the sea and considering ways to reduce the impact of heavy traffic on the Bluff-Highway. Waste from motorhomes and the impact of tourism was also discussed,

Planning

Planning related issues included promoting enhanced role for Mana whenua, enabling more innovative carbon-free and accessible home design, considering city design for a lower car ownership future.

Education

Opportunities for increased support for community education to support individual action were raised.

Economic wellbeing

Much of the discussion around economic wellbeing focused on the supporting role Council plays in creating an environment which is good for business, including the things people need in order to be economic productive – housing, health, training, youth mental health and need for community groups to have access to support and funding to support diverse communities.

The city and district physical environment

The importance of the centre of the city and additional activities which are needed to enhance its attractiveness were the primary focus, alongside additional support needed for the tourism industry including the Isite and enhanced facilities in Bluff.

Regional leadership

There is an opportunity for increased collaboration and enhanced community leadership to promote fair sustainable economic development.

Bluff

Specific issues raised within Bluff including access to basic services such as toilets and footpaths which was raised frequently due to the toilets being out of service on the day of engagement. Also a priority was a solution for the Club Hotel on the waterfront and the impact that was having on the community. People wanted to know what Council could do about old uninhabited houses and unkempt sections which were affecting pride in the town. The return of the Bluff Oyster Festival was raised and opportunities for enhanced facilities for tourists and

locals alike, with strategic focus to consider how to create a heart within the township. Others wanted enhanced access to social services.

City-wide public events

Feedback at the walk-up stands was often focused on specific facilities or needs the community saw.

There was a sense of positivity around the impact the community saw in the city centre and in progress in delivering the museum which was a marked change to community engagement at the last Long-term Plan.

The needs of young people came up frequently, from places to meet to improving safety by reducing speeds and dangerous driving on the roads. Accessibility for older and disabled people was also important.

Ideas for facilities included a larger spa pool, indoor skate park, more pump-track facilities and youth meeting place.

Disability hui

The most important issues to disabled people were enhanced inclusion of people with disabilities in project and programme design to help improve accessibility. Ideas included a disability sponsor on Council, enhanced focus on the disability policy and more regular feedback on progress on delivering on issues raised during engagement events.

Specific concerns were raised about health and safety issues caused by the rain gardens in Esk and Don St, accessibility of parks in both the city and the mall.

Youth Council

The Youth Council wanted support for economic activity, rates to be kept low to support people on low incomes and improve competitiveness. Also important were a cleaned up environment, more spaces for young people, better public transport, enhanced focus on mental health and celebration of all cultures.

Community engagement on strategic projects

Focused engagement is planned with interested stakeholders on two of Council's strategic projects: Surrey Park Grandstand and Bluff Active Recreation Precinct.

Surrey Park grandstand

Following Council's decision to refocus the Surrey Park Grandstand project to repair the existing grandstand to between 34% - 67% of National Building Standards (NBS) in order to stay within the budget envelope and allow for future strategic planning of leisure and recreation facilities, an information evening will be held with interested stakeholders.

Bluff Active Recreation Precinct

The Bluff Hill Motupōhue Active Recreation Precinct is a key concept of the 2020 Tourism Master Plan.

The Bluff Hill Motupōhue Active Recreation precinct plans to:

1. Increase the car parking capacity and beautifying the site as a destination recreation facility with rest area and the installation of a 3-pan mixed gender all accessible toilet block.
2. Enhance and upgrade existing trail infrastructure to improve sustainability, signage to improve wayfinding, quality cycling experiences and event hosting, along with the installation of trail counters.
3. Build a new walking trail and develop a dual trail to create a loop, creating connection with existing trails.

With the assistance of Tourism Infrastructure Funding received in July 2022 and funding set aside through the Long-term Plan, ICC has a total of \$1,528,380 million. The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment has allocated 18 months to complete the project. Logic Group Ltd has been appointed to deliver the project as two key milestones;

1. Extend the car park and provide toilets.
2. Design and build mountain biking and walking trails.

Logic Group, Invercargill City Council and Southland Mountain Bike Club have been working for many months now with Design Base Architecture and EngCo (Civil Engineers) on the car parking and toilet options. Southern Land and Dirt Dynamics have also prepared a concept design option for the mountain bike and walking trails.

We would now like to share these designs beginning Monday 3 July and invite the public to make any comments by 5pm, Friday 4 August, 2023.

A public drop-in session will be held 7-8pm on Thursday 13 July 2023 at the Bluff Senior Citizens Centre where members of the public can come along and ask any questions or provide comments on these drafts.

Once consultation is closed, all comments will be considered as part of finalised concept designs and construction will begin.

LTP Process

Date	LTP - Workshop Schedule 2022/2023	Key Actions Completed/ Commenced
November 2022	Strategic vision and planning	Vision, mission, strategic priorities and community outcomes confirmed Workshop schedule agreed
Tuesday, 21 February 2023	Our City With Heart – City Centre Focus Discussion of topics including: High level strategy for connecting our spaces, including connection to 1225 and Wachner Place	Wachner Place options to be brought to Finance and Projects Committee <i>Options for enhanced street cleaning, city beautification and lighting to come to Regulatory Process Activity workshop</i>

Date	LTP - Workshop Schedule 2022/2023	Key Actions Completed/ Commenced
	Creating inner city vibrancy, including understanding young people's needs, spaces for food trucks Options for City centre beautification	Strategy for foodtrucks to be developed in 2023/2024
Tuesday, 14 March 2023	Community wellbeing Discussion of topics including: One community - LOS - different communities Community development/ activation Safety (CCTV and role of Maori wardens) Safety – gravel roads What role can Council take to support mental health (e.g. use of green spaces) Leisure and Rec	Council priorities for community activation to support social wellbeing to inform community activation plan. Options for glass recycling to be developed Options for sealing of gravel roads to be developed Options for a bus to Bluff to be developed
Tuesday, 28 March 2023	Regional and environmental issues Discussion of topics including: District Plan and RMA planning issues Air quality Oreti Beach New River estuary/ Ocean Beach – monitoring of contaminants Regional Spatial Strategy Climate change Regional Land Transport Plan	Climate change principles to be taken forward into regional climate change strategy Prepare target and options for reduction of carbon Continued monitoring of New River Estuary Health to be included in the Solid Waste activity Determine whether to retain public transport plan responsibility or refer back to ES Agreement of priority areas for District Plan review and spatial planning to be included in Regulatory activity.
Tuesday, 18 April 2023	Housing Discussion of topics including: Beyond 2025 Regional Housing workstream Housing strategy Provision of Council housing for vulnerable people	Review of housing activity to identify funding requirements Further consideration of partnership opportunities including availability of land
Wednesday, 26 April 2023	Strategic projects high level options Discussion of topics including: Roadmap projects Other major projects – TBC by Council Alternative Water Supply/ Water Tower/ Branhholme – Three Waters	Strategic prioritisation framework finalised Options for consultation to be brought to next strategic projects workshop ACI and medium term arts solution to be rescoped for consideration Ōtepunī / other sculpture garden to be scoped Minimum requirements for a retained Tower to be determined. Bluff priority projects to be scoped.

Date	LTP - Workshop Schedule 2022/2023	Key Actions Completed/ Commenced
Tuesday, 2 May 2023	Options for optimisation/Disposal of non-strategic parks and property	<i>Papers on disposal/ optimisation to be brought to committees in August and September</i>
Tuesday, 16 May 2023	Revenue strategy Discussion of topics including: Commercial strategy/ areas for rationalisation/ collaboration; Appropriate fee for service Development contributions	Council direction to be determined – see resolutions in this paper.
Tuesday, 13 June 2023	Financial strategy and infrastructure strategy Discussion of topics including: Strategic approach Rating Policy	<i>Final decision on growth forecasts to meet housing need to be determined</i> <i>Review of decision on development contributions.</i> Draft Infrastructure Strategy prepared
Tuesday, 4 July 2023	LTP Asset and Activity Plans Roading Solid waste Property Passenger Transport Public toilets	First phase budgeting complete Key issues prepared for Council consideration
Tuesday, 11 July 2023	LTP Asset and Activity Plans Pools Parks Libraries Venues Arts and Culture	First phase budgeting complete Key issues prepared for Council consideration
Tuesday, 25 July 2023	LTP Asset and Activity Plans Housing Democratic Process Investments Corporate Services	First phase budgeting complete Key issues prepared for Council consideration
Tuesday, 15 August 2023	Strategic Projects Workshop Two	<i>Propose reschedule to 20 September with a focus on capital delivery and project phasing – options information on some projects will be delayed</i>
Tuesday, 12 September 2023	Economic wellbeing/ priorities Discussion of topics including: Great South work programme Beyond 2025	Indication of funding requirements requested from Great South
Tuesday, 26 September 2023	ICHL Strategic direction	
Tuesday, 10 October 2023	External grants and funding	Existing and identified potential funded organisations engaged
Tuesday, 28 November 2023	Financials Financial Strategy Revenue and Finance policy	

Date	LTP - Workshop Schedule 2022/2023	Key Actions Completed/ Commenced
	Rating policy Draft budget preparation Final strategic project options	

Preparation of Financial Strategy and Infrastructure Strategy

Following the workshop in June, the draft Financial Strategy, Infrastructure Strategy and Assumptions will be brought to the Council meeting on 28 November.

The primary element still to be determined is the final growth assumption. Inputs to the Beyond 2025 Strategy have been delayed, which includes population and economic assumptions from Infometrics and housing forecasts from Rationale. These need to be reviewed against Council's forecast previously completed by the same consultants. Financial assumptions including inflation and interest will be finalised as late as possible due to economic volatility. They may need to be revised again prior to adoption. Given councillor's concern about being appropriately prepared for growth and the impact it may have on Council, it is recommended to review again the policy for Development Contributions. It is important to note however that as a result of the three waters transition three waters elements will not be relevant for inclusion.

Confirmation of key elements underpinning consultation

Draft asset and activity plans, incorporating KPIs, policies, external funding allocations, Financial Impact Statements and issues for consultation will be brought to either the Council meeting on 28 November or 19 December. The draft consultation document will be provided informally to councillors before Christmas.

Audit timeframes are still being finalised. It is not yet known when the audit of asset plans will take place. Preferred consultation dates of 28 February – 28 March 2024 have been provided to Audit but it is not yet known if these will be achievable.

Adoption of the Long-term Plan will take place on 25 June 2024.

Next Steps

The next phase of the process is review of plans for activities, including Levels of service and KPIs and associated budget decisions during July and early August.

An update on risk to delivery and quality of the LTP will be brought to the Risk and Assurance meeting on 19 September.

Attachments

1. Feedback from Pre-engagement events (A4612421)
2. Bluff Active Recreation Precinct car park and toilet concept (A4663371)
3. Bluff Active Recreation Precinct trails concept (A4663371)