



Briefing: 2024 Infrastructure Strategy

11 October 2023 – 4.25pm

Attendees

Elected Members: Cr Briggs (via audio-visual link) Cr Dyer, Cr Edwards, Deputy Mayor Lewis, Cr Mitchell, Cr Morgan, Cr Parkin, Cr Shaw, Cr Stallinger, Cr Tupou and K Yung, Petone Community Board.

Staff: J Griffiths, Director Strategy and Engagement (via audio-visual link); A Geddes, Director Environment and Sustainability; A Blackshaw, Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods (via audio-visual link); J Kingsbury, Head of Transport; C Parish, Head of the Mayor's Office (via audio-visual link); H Singh, Advisor – Strategic Planning and Business; and J Randall, Democracy Advisor.

Apologies

Mayor Barry, M Henderson (Petone Community Board), T Harker (Wainuiomata Community Board)

Absent

Cr Barratt, Cr Brown

Presenter

R Hardie, Head of Strategy and Policy.

Key Objectives of the Briefing

The purpose of the briefing is to update Councillors on key elements of the Infrastructure Strategy, resident feedback, risks and timelines.

Introduction

The briefing will cover key infrastructure approaches and the timeline. Officers are taking a stewardship approach to infrastructure.

Presentation by R Hardie, Head of Strategy and Policy

Slide 1 (Header)

Slide 2 – The purpose of this presentation: The briefing will provide Councillors with a long-term view of the Infrastructure Strategy, (the Strategy) so that the approach and the risks are understood. The Strategy is referred to in the Long Term Plan, hence a 30-year view is needed.

Slide 3 – Council is required to develop an Infrastructure Strategy: Best practice will be at the core of the Strategy.

Slide 4 – What can we learn from other Councils' infrastructure strategies?

Officer advice is to think of infrastructure as both vertical and horizontal, the way it supports wellbeing and to keep in mind long term objectives. It will focus on the key funded water projects.

Slide 5 – The Infrastructure Strategy supports LTP 2024 priorities: The Strategy supports the Long Term Plan with consistent themes and messages. It will clarify how the Strategy links to strategic priorities.

Slide 6 – What residents have said about our infrastructure: There is general consensus from the community that providing infrastructure that is future-proofed against weather events is a priority. Council will need to

balance community desires with the need to prioritise investment according to its budget.

Slide 7 – Resident satisfaction with infrastructure is decreasing: Resident responses reflect the impact of increasingly extreme weather. Council has directed that infrastructure priorities should be strongly reflected in the Long Term Plan. This will come through clearly in the Strategy.

Slide 8 – The risks facing our infrastructure: Risks will form part of the Strategy's narrative.

Slide 9 – 2024 – A transitional Infrastructure Strategy: Changes to water reforms are possible, therefore Council might need to be responsible for water longer than had previously been envisaged. Officers are planning for uncertainty as they move to a transitional approach.

Slide 10 – The key elements of our proposed approach.

Slide 11 – Proposed vision and outcomes: There may be short-term discomfort for residents as infrastructure assets are designed and made fit for purpose.

Slide 12 – The elements of our stewardship approach to infrastructure.

Slide 13 – Building on what has been achieved since 2021: Council has increased investment in infrastructure since 2021. The growth in investment is evident in Council's trending capital expenditure. The Strategy will detail how Council will continue that trend and the work that still needs to be done.

Slide 14 – The provisional key water infrastructure projects: The Strategy will signal strategic water investment that will drive changes to the way residents receive water and increase their confidence in Lower Hutt's water infrastructure.

Slide 15 – The provisional key transport projects: None of the key transport projects are new initiatives – officers are focusing on priority investments that provide good outcomes.

Questions and discussion points

- **Question:** How can Councillors be assured that renewals will be done in a way that makes them more resilient to earthquakes and the increasing impacts of climate change, such as flooding? Are we still replacing ‘like-for-like’ or are different systems being used to better fit future events?

Response: The Head of Strategy and Policy agreed to respond to Councillors.

- **Question:** The presentation highlighted Council’s increased water pipe renewal capital expenditure. It would be helpful to see similar information on Council’s roading and transport expenditure so councillors can see whether there have been increases in investment.

Response: The Strategy will capture progress on roading. The new roading contractor will be able to provide good data on progress in this area. The contractor’s performance will be monitored closely to ensure service levels are met.

- It is important to ensure residents understand how critical it is to keep a future focus on water. Councillors offered assistance with this if it was needed.

Next steps

- Council will decide on recommended projects and their funding in November 2023.
- The final Strategy will be reported to Council on 12 December 2023. This will form the basis of the consultation in 2024.
- The Strategy will be part of the Long Term Plan consultation in 2024.

Briefing materials

Attachment 1 – Presentation: 2024 Infrastructure Strategy

The briefing closed at 4.55pm