



Briefing: Feedback on Early Long Term Plan Engagement

16 August 2023 4.00pm

Attendees

Elected Members: Cr Briggs, Cr Brown, Cr Dyer (via audio visual link) Cr Edwards, Deputy Mayor Lewis, Cr Mitchell, Cr Morgan, Cr Parkin, Cr Shaw, Cr Stallinger, Cr Tupou (part meeting via audio visual link); M Fisher, (Chair, Petone Community Board) and K Yung, (member, Petone Community Board).

Staff: A Blackshaw, Acting Chief Executive and Director Neighbourhoods and Communities; K Puketapu-Dentice, Director Economy and Development; A Geddes, Director Environment and Sustainability; K Stannard, Acting Director Strategy and Engagement; R Hardie, Head of Strategy and Policy; S Bascand, Advisor, Communications and Engagement; K Crandle, Head of Parks and Reserves; C Parish, Head of Mayor's Office (via audio visual link); A Doornebosch, Democracy Advisor (via audio visual link)

Apologies

Mayor Barry and Cr Barratt

Presenters

R Hardie and S Bascand

Key Objectives and Introduction

To outline early engagement undertaken to set the direction of the Long Term Plan (LTP). This is a preface for the more detailed results to be submitted to Council on 30 August 2023.

Slide 1 (Header) – Long Term Plan

Slide 2 – Strategic Priority Matrix

On 31 May 2023 elected members set their strategic priorities for the next 10 years to support a connected, resilient and inclusive city. The Strategic Priority Matrix represents these priorities and what early engagement will be focussed on.

Slide 3 – Purpose and objectives of early engagement

Elected members asked that representativeness be a goal for early engagement. To follow this directive officers met with as many individuals and groups as possible during the early engagement phase.

Slide 4 – Methodology

Officers focussed on community relationships held with rangatahi, seniors, migrant and ethnic communities, businesses and the disability sector. The Kōrero Mai 'have your say' page and an online survey were shared via the Citizens Panel and social media. A postcard promotion and dotmocracy posters were also provided in community hubs. This mixed-method approach resulted in a high response rate to consultation.

Slide 5 – Community Hui

Connected Communities facilitated kōrero with key communities over the engagement period. Many conversations centred around 'What is important to you?' Responses were fed into the various priority themes.

Slide 6 – Dotmocracy – Neighbourhood Hubs

The Engagement Team has worked with Neighbourhood Hubs to set up a 'Hub Engagement Champions' group.

Slide 7 – Survey sample representation

The survey results using the mixed methodology showed that this new method of consultation is starting to resonate with the community. Using these approaches has provided quantitative and qualitative data priorities for the community.

Slide 8 – Survey representation by ward

The 1,182 survey responses were much higher than anticipated. The survey generally aligned with population distribution except Wainuiomata which was less represented. The reasons for this are unclear and officers are considering ways to target this community more closely.

Slide 9 – Survey representation by gender

Slide 10 – Survey representation by disability

There was an 8% response rate to members of the community who identify as disabled. In context census data shows 6.5% of the population identify as disabled so 8% is a good response rate.

Slide 11 – Survey representation by ethnicity

Officers will work more closely with communities to obtain a broader input of all ethnic groups to consultation processes for the LTP.

Slide 12 – Survey representation by age

Officers will look to address the under-representation of young people in the survey.

Slide 13 – Survey representation by home ownership status

Slide 14 – Summary of survey responses

There was broad support for Council's proposed strategic focus for the LTP. There is some confusion about what Council's core business includes especially regarding wellbeing and infrastructure. Many participants highlighted that infrastructure was a key area of focus for them.

A key thing moving forward is understanding how wellbeing links in with infrastructure, the environment and financial considerations.

Slide 16 – ‘Financial sustainability’ should be a key area of focus for Council

Responses included concern about operating within budget limits, concerns around Council prioritisation and requests to focus on infrastructure and essential services. Feedback also included the importance of financial sustainability but that this shouldn't be pursued to the detriment of community wellbeing.

Slide 17 – ‘Supporting and enhancing the environment’ should be a key area of focus for Council

There was an appreciation for the environment in responses, but concerns were raised about potential costs. Respondents thought infrastructure and essential services should hold more importance than the natural environment.

Slide 18 – ‘Enabling a liveable city and vibrant neighbourhoods’ should be a key area of focus for Council

Many responses noted that liveability was linked to home ownership. Concerns included the density of current housing projects and the ability of infrastructure to keep up.

Slide 19 – ‘Promoting the wellbeing of all people’ should be a key area of focus for Council

A prevailing theme was that wellbeing needs to have a more precise definition. Officers will take this on board and consider how to structure this and provide additional information to members. Council will seek to measure its impact on community wellbeing and a robust process and monitoring system will be required once the LTP is adopted to track this and provide feedback.

Slide 20 – ‘Climate change’ should be a key area of focus for Council

Respondents asked for infrastructure development to be linked to climate change and drainage. General feedback emphasised pre-emptive action was needed and avoiding building in potentially vulnerable areas.

Slide 21 – ‘Working in partnership with stakeholders and our communities’ should be a key area of focus for Council

Feedback included emphasising the importance of partnerships and more inclusive engagement processes in assisting Council to meet its objectives.

These results suggest Council may be more effective empowering groups and delegating tasks to appropriate community groups and Mana Whenua.

Slide 22 – Key takeaways from the survey

- the community is broadly supportive of the strategic priorities;
- a clear area of consensus is that infrastructure should be the core of Council's duties and key priorities;
- it is clear many people don't understand what wellbeing means;
- many suggestions asked Council to take action in different areas such as preserving infrastructure to enable protection against climate change and supporting communities for a more liveable city.

Slides 23 and 24 – Next steps and Questions

Questions and discussion points

As a result of the targeted consultation approach there were significant increases in responses to the survey.

The 8,000 households selected for the survey were randomly selected from the electoral role. Wards were targeted where it was known there was under-representation.

Officers are aware of the differing states of wellbeing. The four legislated areas of wellbeing would be used to develop a framework. The ambition was to have an LTP that the community wanted to read and saw themselves included in.

Next steps

A final report from Public Voice will be available soon.

Officers will:

- provide further detailed analysis of responses from the survey;
- conduct a comparison of online responses against in person responses;
- prepare an LTP report for Council to be held on 30 August 2023 which would include approval of the final strategic framework;
- share survey results through Council's website, the Connected Communities Team and Community Hubs;
- use feedback to inform progress with LTP consultation and planning;
- consider using wellbeing as a key storytelling tool;

- engage with Mana Whenua, ethnic and youth community groups between now and April 2024 to ensure buy-in from those communities;
- build the narrative to encourage community groups to be involved and support elected members in this process;
- include the Welcoming Communities Coordinator in community engagement going forward; and
- consider different questions for different demographics and age groups within the community for future questionnaires and surveys.

Briefing materials

Attachment 1 – Presentation: Long Term Plan Early Engagement presentation

The briefing closed at 4.42pm