

TOWN CENTRE AND CONNECTORS TRANSFORMATION PROJECT - PRELIMINARY CONCEPT DESIGN

PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1 This report seeks the Kāpiti Coast District Council's ('the Council') acceptance of the Waikanae Preliminary Concept Design report, signalling the start of next public engagement phase.

SIGNIFICANCE OF DECISION

- 2 This report does not trigger the Council's Significance Policy.

BACKGROUND

- 3 The Town Centres Transformation Project is composed of four main work streams:

- Kāpiti Road
- Waikanae Town Centre
- Paraparaumu Town Centre
- SH1 reconfiguration

This report relates to the Waikanae Town Centre work stream.

- 4 The projects purpose is to advance the conceptual work to a level that allows the Council to develop an affordable implementation programme. This can then be included in the Long Term Plan ('LTP') process for adoption in 2015.
- 5 To ensure the 2015 LTP reflects each community's preferred concepts and ideas for their town centre and connecting roads, a comprehensive public engagement plan was adopted by the Council on 17 April 2014¹.
- 6 Since then, the project team held an 'Open Day' on 17 May 2014 seeking the community's feedback. Prior to this, engagement was sought through:
 - a pamphlet drop to all businesses and residents within or adjoining the town centre
 - the project newsletter
 - newspaper advertising

¹ IS-14-1155 Town Centres Transformation – Engagement Process, 17 April 2014.
<http://www.kapiticoast.govt.nz/Your-Council/Council-Meetings/Current-Triennium/2014-Agendas-Reports-Minutes/Council-Meetings/>

- radio advertisements and interviews
 - Council's web pages
- 7 During this process the project team developed a stakeholder register. Initial contact details were collected from Proposed District Plan submissions, Council records and from those indicating an interest. Over 1300 individuals and groups have now registered across all work streams.
 - 8 The project team met and received feedback from the following groups: Waikanae Business forum, Waikanae On One, Mahara Gallery, both local primary schools, individual land owners, Keep Waikanae Beautiful, NZ Transport Agency, an informal Mahara Place business group, individual businesses and residents.
 - 9 The Waikanae Community Board has been involved throughout the process. Before the 'Open Day' was held, they reviewed the information panels. They were briefed on the public's feedback after the open day, and again as part of the development of the conceptual ideas.
 - 10 The project is now about to start the next phase of the public engagement.

CONSIDERATIONS

Issues

- 11 Before the community engagement phase, the project team completed a Preliminary Information Review report² highlighting additional information required to help inform the final concept plans:
 - Cultural assessment
 - Sustainable retail floor area analysis
 - Cycleway, walkway and bridleway network analysis
 - Traffic modelling (post expressway)
 - Car parking utilisation survey
- 12 The car parking and floor area analysis is complete. The remaining tasks will be complete before the preferred concepts are finalised.
- 13 The traffic modelling and CWB analysis is programmed for completion in the next few months. The impact of this work is expected to have little effect on the overall approach taken. However, the results may affect some of the details within the final preferred concepts and implementation plan. This detail is programmed to be addressed in later phases of the project.
- 14 For the cultural assessment, the project team is actively working with Te Ati Awa Town Centre Working Group to better understand the cultural elements.

² *Kāpiti Town Centre Transformation Project – Preliminary Review Report:*
<http://www.kapiticoast.govt.nz/Projects/Town-Centres-Transformation/Project-Reports/>

Conceptual Ideas

- 15 The Waikanae public engagement began with an 'Open Day' held 17 May 2014. The project team received 335 suggestions from individuals, groups and organisations.
- 16 The concept options developed³ have taken account of this feedback. The design team has addressed the various issues identified by offering possible design solutions. There will be solutions other than design elements that may be included in the implementation plan later in the process. These may include amendments to the Proposed District Plan, promotion of Business Improvement Policy and rewarding best practice with financial incentives.

Planned Engagement

- 17 Once the preliminary conceptual ideas are accepted by the Council, the project team will start the next phase of the public engagement with a second 'Open Day' planned for 16 August 2014. This engagement phase is to look at these conceptual ideas and seek the public's thoughts and ideas. This will then help inform the future preferred concept plan and implementation programme.
- 18 The engagement process is being followed, as highlighted in the projects communication plan⁴ adopted by the Council on 17 April 2014.
- 19 Following this plan, the project team invited stakeholders to form three focus groups representing Emergency Service and Social Wellbeing, Transportation, and Businesses and Land Owners. These focus groups are being setup to look at the preliminary conceptual ideas and provide further focused feedback.
- 20 In addition, a district-wide flyer is being posted to all ratepayers seeking feedback on what the community feel is important about their town centre. This will be used to inform the selection of conceptual elements that will make up a preferred concept plan.
- 21 Following Council's decision on the preferred concept later in the year, another public engagement phase, planned for March 2015, will then lead into the formal consultation process of Council's next LTP.

Financial Considerations

- 22 There are no financial implications as the current project activities are within the current budgets.
- 23 The development of the projects implementation plan will feed into the Council's Long Term Plan process.

³ See appendix one – Waikanae Preliminary Concept Design Report, Beca, July 2014

⁴ IS-14-1155 Town Centres Transformation - Engagement Process, 17 April 2014, <http://www.kapiticoast.govt.nz/Your-Council/Council-Meetings/Current-Triennium/2014-Agendas-Reports-Minutes/Council-Meetings/>

Legal Considerations

24 There are no legal considerations.

Delegation

25 The Council has the authority to make this decision.

Consultation

26 The Waikanae Community Board and Council's partners⁵ have been briefed on the development of the Preliminary Concept Design report.⁶ The initial public engagement described above has informed the attached report.

27 The next phase of the work involves seeking public feedback on the conceptual ideas.

28 In addition to the planned open days, all interested stakeholders have received project newsletters and this will continue.

Policy Implications

29 There are no policy implications that relate to the approval of the attached report.

Tāngata Whenua Considerations

30 Te Ati Awa Town Centre Working Group has been consulted regarding the development of the attached report and further meetings are planned.

31 Further briefings will be provided to Te Whakaminenga o Kāpiti throughout the project.

Publicity Considerations

32 Acceptance of this report will begin the next phase of public engagement. A press release has been prepared.

⁵ Council's partners: Te Whakaminenga o Kapiti, Youth Council, Older Person Council and Kapiti Accessibility Advisory Group.

⁶ See appendix one – Waikanae Preliminary Concept Design Report, Beca, July 2014

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 33 That the Council accepts the attached Waikanae Preliminary Concept report (see Appendix 1 to report IS-14-1255) and allows the next phase of public engagement to commence for the Waikanae Town Centre Transformation project.

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Approved for submission
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ATTACHMENTS:

Appendix 1: Waikanae Preliminary Concept Design Report, July 2014