

14 May 2015

TO: Max Coyle

VIA: Email maxdilloncoyle@gmail.com

Dear Mr Coyle

Thank you for your email of 12 May 2015 and your comments concerning the engagement sessions conducted by Hamilton City Council. These are designed for members of the public and stakeholders to provide feedback on the Council's draft 10-Year Plan.

The ability for Councils to decide on alternative methods of feedback to the formal hearings process was made in changes to the Local Government Act 2002. This gave Councils the ability to use a wider variety of consultation techniques that may be better suited to different people and communities. Hamilton City Council elected to introduce more informal engagement sessions after receiving anecdotal feedback from members of the public who said they wanted the opportunity to share their views with councillors in a less formal setting.

The Council felt that engagement sessions would give the community the opportunity to interact with the Mayor and councillors in a more relaxed setting. We have structured these sessions to provide an opportunity for interactive discussion, debate and for questions to be posed directly to the Mayor, councillors and staff. They are a discussion forum and an opportunity for meaningful conversations and an exchange of views. Each session begins with an introduction from the Mayor, and a presentation from the Chief Executive. One or more councillors are at every table, along with a staff member who takes notes. All feedback is compiled and will be presented to councillors when they debate the 10-Year Plan options at an Extraordinary Council meeting on 4 June 2015.

In addition to the three engagement sessions held in the central, west and east areas of the city there was also an information session on city growth on Monday 20 April 2015. Two targeted engagement sessions were also organised for specific stakeholders and community organisations and a further three engagement sessions for the Maori community.

The opportunity to provide feedback is not limited to engagement sessions - there are also opportunities for the public to provide written feedback. Submission forms have been available online or from the city's libraries. The feedback process can be completed online, or submission forms can be completed and returned to the Council by 4pm on 15 May 2015.

For the first time, social media is also part of the feedback process. The public can give their views via Facebook or Twitter, using the relevant hash tags.

Several key issues have emerged during the consultation period. Groups which are responsible for generating large numbers of submissions on particular topics have been

identified and invited to the scheduled stakeholder events. Generation Zero is one of the groups identified as having a significant presence in the feedback process and subsequently invitations have been extended to the group to attend one of these sessions.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'BEBA' with a flourish at the end.

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