

Policy/Planning

Tabled Documents

14 February 2019

Item 7	Chairs Report
Item 12	Mechanic of voluntary programme for de-sexing cats – Power point
Item 14	Approach for 2019 Annual Residents Survey

Policy & Planning chairs report

February 2019

Good afternoon and welcome to the start of the new governance year for policy. Today's order paper is relatively light but I suspect that there is a steady workload just around the corner.

Of importance to all in our sphere of governance is the submission to the "Productivity commission's report on local governments funding and financing", the submission is due tomorrow so I hope you have all come armed with ideas.

Also over the Christmas recess there seemed to be a steady stream of incidents and reports around how the natural world and environment that we live in is doing what it has always done, eg. falling down, icing up, overflowing, burning down and many more and how the inhabitants and passer's by were shocked, dismayed and sometimes sadly died as a result. It certainly gave me pause for thought around our housing development and expansion plans and changes to the placement and design of our core infrastructure. Sometimes the fastest, cheapest and most profitable outcome is not always best if we turn a blind eye to the consequences of changes in the natural world that we live in, as ultimately someone will always pay the cost, and sometimes that cost just happens to be paid within the tenure or lifetime of the decision makers that made the decision, the CTV building in Christchurch is a case in point. Let's all do our best to make the best to make the best decisions for the rest of our time in this council, not just the most expedient one as ultimately changes in climate and the physical environment that impacts on us all are not easy issues to dodge.

Angus Gordon

Chairman

RDC Limited Reduced Rate Cat Desexing Programme

Situation

A week ago my Manager Johan Cullis and I met with Michael Hodder who advised us that Council were looking to possibly assist the community by offering limited, reduced rate, de-sexing for cats.

Amount discussed was 50%.

Additionally reduced microchipping could also be considered but wasn't discussed further.

- I would mention here that during the planning of this and speaking to the vets in Bulls and Feilding, their concern is that any short term investment in cat desexing does not work, and **New Zealand National Cat Management Strategy Discussion Paper 2017**, noted that for desexing to be effective, it must be long term.
- Other Councils – have conducted a desexing / microchipping programme and I have not been able to get their feedback on whether they felt it successful in achieving their aims or not.
- Organisations such as “Outpawed and Alley Cat Trust” also partner with vets to provide this service.

Perhaps they could be approached and Council support them with a financial donation?

Having experience planning and running the national dog desexing programme in 2017, I offer the following considerations for the conduct of the plan: These are generalisations and the mechanics would need to be fleshed out and further developed:

- **Promotion:** Advertising to be done in social media and local newspapers. Perhaps radio if considered necessary, however expensive.
- **Operation:** I am not “passing the buck” but cats are not an Animal Control function. We deal with stock and dog issues and have legislation to guide us. Cats are considered a pest and fall under Environmental Health.

The Plan

- I would suggest that the plan be controlled by Front of House staff because this is where the public would need to approach in the first instance,
- Once the plan has been fully developed, it becomes a matter of managing it
- An application form would have to be developed for the applicant(s) to complete to be considered for the programme.
- Selection would be for ***owners of domesticated companion cats only*** and not for stray, wild or feral cats.

Would Community Services card holders or Gold card holders be considered for another rate?

Interpretations

- **Companion cat:** a cat that lives with humans as a companion and is dependent on humans for its welfare.
- **Stray cat:** a companion cat that is lost or abandoned or born stray, and that is living as an individual or in a group (colony).
- Stray cats have many of their needs indirectly supplied by humans, and live around centres of human habitation.
- Stray cats are likely to interbreed with the un-desexed companion cat population.
- **Feral / Wild cat:** a cat that has none of its needs provided by humans. Feral cats generally do not live around centres of human habitation. Feral cat population size is self-sustaining and is not dependent on input from the companion cat population.

The Plan (Continued)

- Once selected, the FOH would make the appointment with the vet and advise the cat owner of their appt date and time.
- The owner would be assigned a “code” so this would allocated to them and advised to the vet so it would be referenced on the invoice for financial matching later.
- The owner would pay their portion of the fee upon arrival at the vet. If not **no operation**. This would all be stipulated on the form and advised verbally.
- Any **post care medicines** would be at the owner’s expense again stipulated on the application form.
- **Microchipping** (if considered) can be done while the cat is on the operating table) and would be registered on the Companion Animal Register. The cost of the microchip has yet to be discussed.

Finance

- A separate cost element would need to be assigned and Purchase Orders raised by Carol Gordon or her representative.
- Reverse finance procedure unfortunately as the invoice would be received prior to the P/O being raised as it was during the Dog Desexing Programme. We had to wait for the invoice so the “Customer Code” could be matched before completing a P/O.
- **Pricing received** - basically at cost– (incl GST) includes anaesthesia, pain relief and anti-biotics
- Totally Vets Feilding

a.	Neuter -	\$95.00
b.	Spey -	\$135.00
- 14. SRVS Bulls

a.	Netuer -	\$75.00
b.	Spey -	\$130.00

Rough Figures

	50%	25%	10%
Council Pays	\$65.00	\$32.50	\$13.00
\$130 – Customer Pays	\$65.00	\$97.50	\$117
No of Cats	77	153	384
Council Pays	\$37.50	\$18.75	\$7.50
\$75 – Customer Pays	\$37.50	\$56.25	\$67.50
No of Cats	133	266	665

Questions?

Memorandum

TO: Policy/Planning Committee

FROM: Blair Jamieson

DATE: 14 February 2019

SUBJECT: Approach for 2019 Annual Resident's Survey

FILE: 5-FR-1-4

TABLED DOCUMENT

Tabled at: Policy/Planning
On: 14/02/2019

1 Background

- 1.1 The outcomes from 'Annual Resident Survey' provide statistical weighting to the outcomes of actions set within the 2018-2028 Long-Term Plan (LTP).
- 1.2 Although undertaking an annual survey is not a legal requirement for Council, it is necessary to be undertaken until at least the formulation of the next LTP; as removal would trigger a significant amendment process.
- 1.3 Whilst the 2017/2018 'Annual Resident Survey' saw a total of 833 responses (being the highest recorded to date), in order to achieve this the following activities/expenses were undertaken (excluding Policy staff):
- Sending 10,100 letters (\$0.28 ea.) and prepaid-postage (\$1.20 ea.) envelopes to registered voters within the district;
 - Acquiring the services of other in-house staff for approximately 45 hours;
 - Temporarily employing the services of additional staff for approximately 60 hours;
 - Purchasing the electoral role for the district;
 - Promoting the survey in local media;
 - Acquiring external support for the review and reporting of the results.
- 1.4 The estimated costs associated for the 2017/2018 'Annual Resident Survey' above (excluding Policy staff input) were \$22,936.00; costing Council \$27.53 per response.
- 1.5 The 2017/2018 process highlighted a number of areas for improvement and alongside reviewing the processes undertaken by other councils, learnings have also been taken from the recent 'Rubbish and Recycling' consultation.

2 Proposed Approach

2.1 In alignment with 1.5, the following activities/expenditure is proposed for the 2018/2019 'Annual Resident Survey':

- Sending an information postcard (with online survey and hardcopy request links) to every dwelling in the district. This would be designed in-house in the same sized and format as the 'Rubbish and Recycling' consultation. The cost of such is \$0.05 (+GST) per card and \$0.08 (+GST) per item delivered in residential areas. Rural delivery will cost \$0.425 (+GST) each;
- Policy & Community Planning team staff (through the appropriate networks and avenues) to promote and to conduct off-site/streetside on-line surveys. This is the avenue of choice for increasing/targeting youth/younger resident engagement;
- Promoting the survey in local media;
- Policy & Community Planning staff, potentially alongside external support, review and report on the results.
- (Optional) Computer-Assisted Telephone Interviewing, such as the services provided by Versus Research, see *Appendix 1*.

2.2 The estimated costs associated for the 2018/2019 'Annual Resident Survey' above (excluding Policy staff input) are estimated to be around \$6000.

3 Recommendations

3.1 That the memorandum 'Approach for 2019 Annual Resident's Survey' be received.

3.2 That the Policy/Planning Committee endorses the activities/expenditure for the 2018/2019 'Annual Resident Survey' as listed in the memorandum 'Approach for 2019 Annual Resident's Survey'.

Blair Jamieson
Strategy & Community Planning Manager

Appendix 1



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To:
Subject:
Attachments:

Natalie Richards <natalie@versus.co.nz>
Thursday, 14 February 2019 11:56 AM
Blair Jamieson
Indicative costs for resident survey
Council Community Satisfaction Surveys VERSUS RESEARCH 2019.pdf

Hi Blair,

Thanks for your time on the phone just now. As a rough guide, the cost to complete a survey similar to that which Whanganui completes would be roughly as follows:

Sample size of n=500 @ 12 minute survey duration \$19,500 + GST

Sample size of n=500 @ 15 minute survey duration \$20,300 + GST

Sample size of n=500 @ 18 minute survey duration \$21,100 + GST

This is based on using a mixed method approach to interviewing (telephone and online survey).

Whanganui also has a presentation of the results. This is option and would add around \$2,000 + GST (the bulk of which is travel expenses, flights etc.)

As mentioned, I've also attached a memo that we wrote for another city council , it just points out a few trends that we have seen in local government community views surveys the last few years.

Hope this helps, please give me a call if you have any further questions.

Kind regards,

Natalie Richards

Managing Director | VERSUS RESEARCH

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