

Annual Plan Consultation Document

2017/18



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HE KŌRERO NĀ TE KAHIKA

Whakahihī pai ana taku ngākau ki te noho ki Horowhenua. He taurikura hei wāhi noho, hei wāhi whakatipu tamariki.

Ia toru tau ka whakawhiti kōrero te Kaunihera me te hapori mō ngā kaupapa me ngā mahi ka whāia i roto i te ngahuru tau kei mua i te aroaro. I waenga i ērā toru tau, ka whakawhiti kōrero te Kaunihera mō ngā panonitanga e tino whaitake ana i roto i ngā Mahere ā-Tau.

Ko tā te pukapuka nei he whakawhiti kōrero mō te Mahere Tau 2017/2018. Koia tēnei ko te Mahere ā-Tau whakamutunga i mua i te Mahere Tūroa e haere ake nei. Kua mana te nuinga o ngā kaupapa, hāunga ētahi mahi me ētahi whakaritenga hou.

E hiahia ana mātou ki ōu whakaaro mō ēnei take:

- Te waihanga Ara Pāpori kōtuitui;
- Te Tauira Kaupapa Here Whakapāpā (e aro ana ki tā mātou whakawhiti kōrero me te hapori);
- Te whakatū kaupapa tiaki i ō tātou whare puiaki, wāhi matahiapo anō hoki

Kua whakahekea te pikinga reiti e whakaarohia ana i mua, mai i te 7.72% ki te 5.64%, me te mau tonu ki ngā paerewa ratonga o nāiane.

Ko tētahi o aku mahi hei Kahika hou, he whakapau werawera kia hoki mai te hapori ki roto i ngā nekeneke a te Kaunihera. Kei te manawareka ahau i te tuarea o te iwi e whai wāhi mai ana ki ngā hui a te Kaunihera, ā-tinana mai, ā-ipurangi mai.

Waingōhia ana te ngākau ki ngā mahi whakatū i tētahi Rūnanga Tohutohu ā-lwi, mā reira e pai ake ai te hononga o te Kaunihera me te Tangata Whenua.

He nui ngā take o te wā hei whakaaroaro mā tō tātou rohe me ōna hapori, pērā i te tiaki i te taiao, te pupuri me te whakapiki i ngā ratonga, te whakamahere whanaketanga, me te whai anō kia iti tonu te pikinga reiti.

Ā tērā tau ka haere ngā whakawhitiwhiti kōrero mō te Mahere Tūroa. He mahi whakamiramira tēnei, ā, ka piki ake tā te Kaunihera whakapā kōrero, rapu kōrero, kia rangona ngā whakaaro o te hapori whānui.

Mō tēnei wā, me āta whakaaroaro ngā kaupapa whakawhiti kōrero e toru, ka tuku mai ai i ōu whakaaro ki te Kaunihera.



MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

I'm proud to call Horowhenua home. Our District is a great place to live and raise a family.

Every three years, Council talks to the community about the projects and plans that will be undertaken over the next ten years. During the in between years, we have Annual Plans, and Council consults with you on these when significant changes are being considered.

This Consultation Document is for the Annual Plan 2017/18. It is the last Annual Plan before the next Long Term Plan. The majority of the projects have already been approved except for a few new projects and policies.

We need to hear your thoughts and opinions on:

- Creating a network of Shared Pathways
- The draft Significance and Engagement Policy (which focuses on how we engage with you)
- Introducing Heritage Incentives (to help protect our historical buildings and sites).

The previously projected rates income increase for next year has been reduced from 7.72% to 5.64%. Council has managed to do this while maintaining the current levels of service.

As the new mayor, I've been working hard to bring community back into Council and have been heartened by high attendances at Council meetings both in person and online.

I'm pleased that an Iwi Advisory Committee is being established as it will help improve Council's relationship with Tangata Whenua.

Our District and our communities face many issues, including how we improve our environment, maintain and improve our services, plan for growth and keep rate increases as low as possible at this stage.

Next year, Council will consult with you on the Long Term Plan. This will be a significant conversation and require a higher level of communication by Council to ensure we hear from all sectors of our community.

In the meantime, please consider the three consultation topics and let Council know what you think.

RATES ILLUSTRATION

RATES ILLUSTRATION

PROCESS / CONSULTATION

What's the Consultation Document about?

This document is all about getting your feedback to help us make planning decisions for this District over the next financial year.

It highlights some of the activities that Council will be focusing on over the coming 12 months, including some of the key projects that we will be delivering.

What we will be doing in 2017/18 is in line with what we committed to do as part of the 2015-2025 Long Term Plan. However, you will notice as you work your way through this document that there are three key topics that we are particularly keen to get your feedback on. These topics are Shared Pathways, the Significance and Engagement Policy and Heritage Incentive Funding, and each topic has several options for you to consider. Two of these options (Shared Pathways and Heritage Incentive Funding) would involve funding not currently identified for Year three of the Long Term Plan 2015-25.

**Have
your say!**

**We want to hear
your thoughts
on what we are
proposing for
2017/18.**

You can fill in the submission form at the back of this document or



Do it online just visit www.horowhenua.govt.nz/consultationdoc and fill in the online submission form.

What's happening when?

10 March 2017
Submissions open

March 2017

Drop in tables

Tables run by elected members to answer Annual Plan questions

17 & 29 March; Levin Mall
25 March; Holben Pavilion, Foxton Beach
31 March; TeTakere

Public information sessions

21 March; Foxton (Masonic Village Hall)
23 March; Levin (Te Takere)
30 March; Shannon (Memorial Hall)

The sessions each start at 7:00pm and go for 1.5 hours.

10 April 2017
Submissions close

3 and 4 May 2017
Hearings

24 May 2017
Deliberations

21 June 2017
Adoption of the Annual Plan

Need more information?

This document outline provides an overview of what we are planning to do for 2017/18. If you would like more information on any of the three key topics; any of Council's activities; fees and charges; or Council's proposed financial statements then you can view it:



Online at www.horowhenua.govt.nz/consultationdoc



In hard copy at Council Office in Levin or libraries in Levin, Foxton and Shannon.



OVERVIEW OF THE YEAR AHEAD

Rates increase for 2017/18 will be lower than expected

This Annual Plan focuses on the 2017/18 financial year which is 'Year three' of Council's 2015-2025 Long Term Plan. The majority of Council's revenue to pay for the services it provides (e.g. water supply, rubbish collection or building consents) comes from three sources which are: rates; fees and charges; and grants or subsidies.

In the 2015-2025 Long Term Plan (amendment), Council had signalled that rates income would increase by 7.72% in 2017/18. Although this would be a higher than normal increase in rates, it was considered to be necessary to ensure that Council was appropriately funding asset renewals, and to balance the budget and achieve an on-going surplus from Year 4 (2018/19) of the Long Term Plan.

The proposed average rates income increase for 2017/18 has now been reduced to 5.64%. Council has been able to achieve this reduction while continuing to work towards the projects that it committed to do in the 2015-2025 Long Term Plan, without having to reduce any of its current levels of service. This reduction is largely due to Council being able to take advantage of lower interest rates, a slight reduction in depreciation funding (while maintaining financial prudence), and a small increase in some of Council's fees and charges.

Rates increases will vary between properties

While 5.64% is the projected average increase in rates income for 2017/18 it is important to highlight that the actual increase varies between properties. This is driven by a number of factors including the property revaluations that were undertaken last year, and the ten year journey Council is on to amend the differentials for the General Rate.

The rating revaluation that was carried out last year will form the basis of Council's rates for 2017/18 (as well as the succeeding two years). Rating revaluations are undertaken every three years, and they aim to identify the value of a property at the time based on the likely sale price of a property as well as its 'best use'.

As a result of the rating revaluations, many of the properties within the District have experienced increases in values. However, as these increases are not uniform across the District (e.g. the value of properties in Levin generally increased by more than the value of properties in Foxton), this leads to some variances in increases in rates between properties in different parts of the District.

In relation to the journey Council is on to amend the General Rate differentials: Council is now in year nine of a ten year journey to phase out all differentials with the exception of the Rural Differential. This is to ensure that the rates charged for properties throughout the District are relative to the benefits/services available to each property. This will result in some properties receiving a higher or lower increase in rates.



Major projects we're delivering in 2017/18

Here is an overview of some of the major projects that Council will be focusing on delivering in 2017/18.

Foxton Main Street Upgrade

The upgrade of Main Street in Foxton is currently underway, with works having commenced on the southern end of Main Street. Following the completion of further consultation on the northern section of Foxton's Main Street, Council is aiming to be able to complete this project in 2017/18.

Improvements to North-East Levin Stormwater

In 2017/18 Council will continue work on the North-East Levin stormwater upgrade. This project includes improvements to the Easton Way - Market Garden Drain and construction of additional attenuation ponds and wetland areas between Fairfield Road and State Highway 57, as well as other minor erosion protection works in the drain as necessary/required by consent. These works will reduce the risk and frequency of flooding in this area, and also prepare for future development to occur around Fairfield Road and south of Roslyn Road.

Completion and Opening of Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom

Council is aiming to complete and open Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom in 2017/18. Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom will serve as a community centre for Foxton and the surrounding area. It will offer a range of facilities including a library, cultural and heritage activities, visitor information, community development and bookable community spaces.

Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom is a collaboration between the Council, Te Taitoa Māori o Te Awahou and the Dutch Connection Museum Trust. Ngāti Raukawa ki te Tonga will display in Piriharakeke Generation Inspiration Centre significant taonga and tell their migration story. The national Dutch community will come together in Oranjestad, sharing their stories of migration and much of the innovation they brought with them to New Zealand.

Upgrade of Foxton's Wastewater Treatment Plant

Currently, all of the treated wastewater from the Foxton Wastewater Treatment Ponds is being discharged in the Foxton Loop of the Manawatū River. Council is committed to doing its part to help improve the quality of the Manawatū River, and this includes upgrading the Foxton Wastewater Treatment Plant, so that treated wastewater is discharged to land rather than the River. Subject to obtaining the appropriate consent, Council hopes to be able to carry out the upgrade in 2017/18. This would mean that 100% of the District's treated wastewater will be discharged to land.

Levin Water Reticulation Renewals

Council will be replacing water reticulation assets that have reached the end of their useful life. The renewal works will reduce leakage from Levin's water supply system and will ensure that Levin's water reticulation network can continue to function effectively now and in the coming years.



**Have
your say!**

Tell us what other projects or ideas you think we should be looking into and/or considering in 2018/19 and beyond

What's changed since the 2015-2025 Long Term Plan?

A key change for 2017/18 from the 2015-2025 Long Term Plan is that as of 1 July 2017 Council will no longer be responsible for the Rural Fire Activity. Last year, Central Government announced that changes would be made to urban and rural fire services throughout New Zealand.

As of 1 July the New Zealand Fire Service and the National Rural Fire Authority will amalgamate and 'Fire and Emergency New Zealand' will be established. At which time this single, amalgamated organisation will be responsible for the management of urban, rural, volunteer and paid firefighting forces in New Zealand.

Another change for 2017/18 is that Council has built in some additional capacity to support and respond to the anticipated growth and to help our business be more resilient. This includes Council beginning to transition its computer systems to the 'Cloud' which would provide us with better disaster recovery and business continuity.

Where to for 2018 and beyond?

In the lead up to the development of the 2018-2028 Long Term Plan, Council will be considering a wide range of issues and potential projects which may influence or be influenced by the higher-level of growth that has been projected for our District. These issues or projects include:

- Roads of National Significance - Ōtaki to North of Levin
- Levin Town Centre Redevelopment Project
- Assessment of sports and recreation facilities across the District and whether they are meeting our communities current and future needs
- Consideration of the future of Target Reserve
- Restoring flow to the Foxton Loop of the Manawatū River
- Review of the District's Solid Waste Management
- Development of a Shared Pathways network
- Assess the need, benefit and cost of extending services (water and/or wastewater) to future growth areas and currently un-serviced towns, including exploring artesian bore opportunities
- Shannon Community Centre
- Development of boat access from the upper section of the Manawatū River (within this District)
- Explore opportunities for public transport including considering a future feeder service from Shannon and Foxton to Levin Railway Station or bus terminal and connections to the south
- Stormwater Management
- Potential growth related changes to the District Plan

SHARED PATHWAYS

Overview

A shared pathway network is a series of pathways that can accommodate multiple users (e.g. walkers, runners and cyclists). Shared pathways provide excellent recreational opportunities for both existing and future residents of the Horowhenua, as well as visitors to the District.

Council released a 'Shared Pathways Strategy' in March 2016 which provides a framework for the development of shared pathways in the Horowhenua District. This Strategy was the result of significant work from the 'Horowhenua Shared Pathways Network' group (which Council is a partner to).

The development of shared pathways not only involves the installation of new pathways, but also upgrading existing ones to ensure there is a consistent 'look and feel' across the pathways that make up the network.

Over the coming months, Council will commence works on a number of minor shared pathways projects, including installation of signage in Cousins Avenue Reserve and upgrading an existing path at Kimberley Reserve.

In 2017/18 Council would like to undertake further works to develop our local shared pathways network. We intend to take a 'mixed' approach to this, which would include developing shared pathways:

- Within parks and reserves;
- Between parks and reserves (connecting these to create loops for people to enjoy);
- Within our local towns; and
- Connections between towns (including connections to the north or south of the District).

In order to advance the development of shared pathways in the Horowhenua (beyond the odd small project) either \$100,000 or \$250,000 could be set aside to undertake some more substantial works in 2017/18. The Horowhenua Shared Pathways Network group will support Council in determining what shared pathways are best developed with the funding available.

During 2017/18 a process to guide decision-making on future pathway projects will also be developed which will help Council to prioritise shared pathway projects

Options

Option 1

Maintain the Status Quo. Carry out minor maintenance of existing paths and minor improvements to the network within existing budgets. There is no change to levels of service or financial implications associated with this option.

Option 2

Allocate \$100,000 for the development of shared pathways for 2017/18. The extra funding will allow for some additional or upgraded shared pathways to be developed. This option will lead to a slight increase in levels of service. Financial implications are outlined on page 13.

Option 3:

Allocate \$250,000 for the development of shared pathways for 2017/18. The extra level of funding will allow for additional or upgraded shared pathways to be developed. This option will lead to an increase in the level of service. Financial implications are outlined on page 13.

going forward. On-going funding for future projects is likely to be included in the 2018-2028 Long Term Plan to help achieve an enhanced Shared Pathways network.

Our preferred option and why?

Council's preferred option is **Option 3** which is to allocate \$250,000 for the development of shared pathways for 2017/18. The increase in funding will allow us to undertake some initial (or pilot) projects that we otherwise would not have been able to do, and to really start developing our local shared pathways network while also planning the development of the network over the long term.



Financial Implications – What does this mean for your rates?

If money is allocated in 2017/18 towards Shared Pathways it is anticipated that it would be loan funded meaning there would be no rate impact until 2018/19. Council will consider different funding options such as a targeted rate. However, if working on the current rating structure the potential rate implications for 2018/19 would be as follows:

Option 1

No financial implication.

Option 2

Allocation of \$100,000 would be equivalent to a 0.03% rates increase or \$0.57 per household.

Option 3

Allocation of \$250,000 would be equivalent to a 0.07% rates increase or \$1.43 per household.

The above rates implications and costs per household for option 2 and 3 are based on a loan and associated interest being repaid over a number of years. Using the proposed 5.64% rate increase for 2017/18 as a baseline, the estimated percentage increase in rates shown above would be additional to that increase.

Need more information?

If you have any questions about this topic then contact Council and ask to speak with Sean Hester, Property and Parks Lead (North).



(06) 366 0999

The Shared Pathways Strategy is available on Council's website at:



www.horowhenua.govt.nz/consultationdoc

HERITAGE INCENTIVES

Overview:

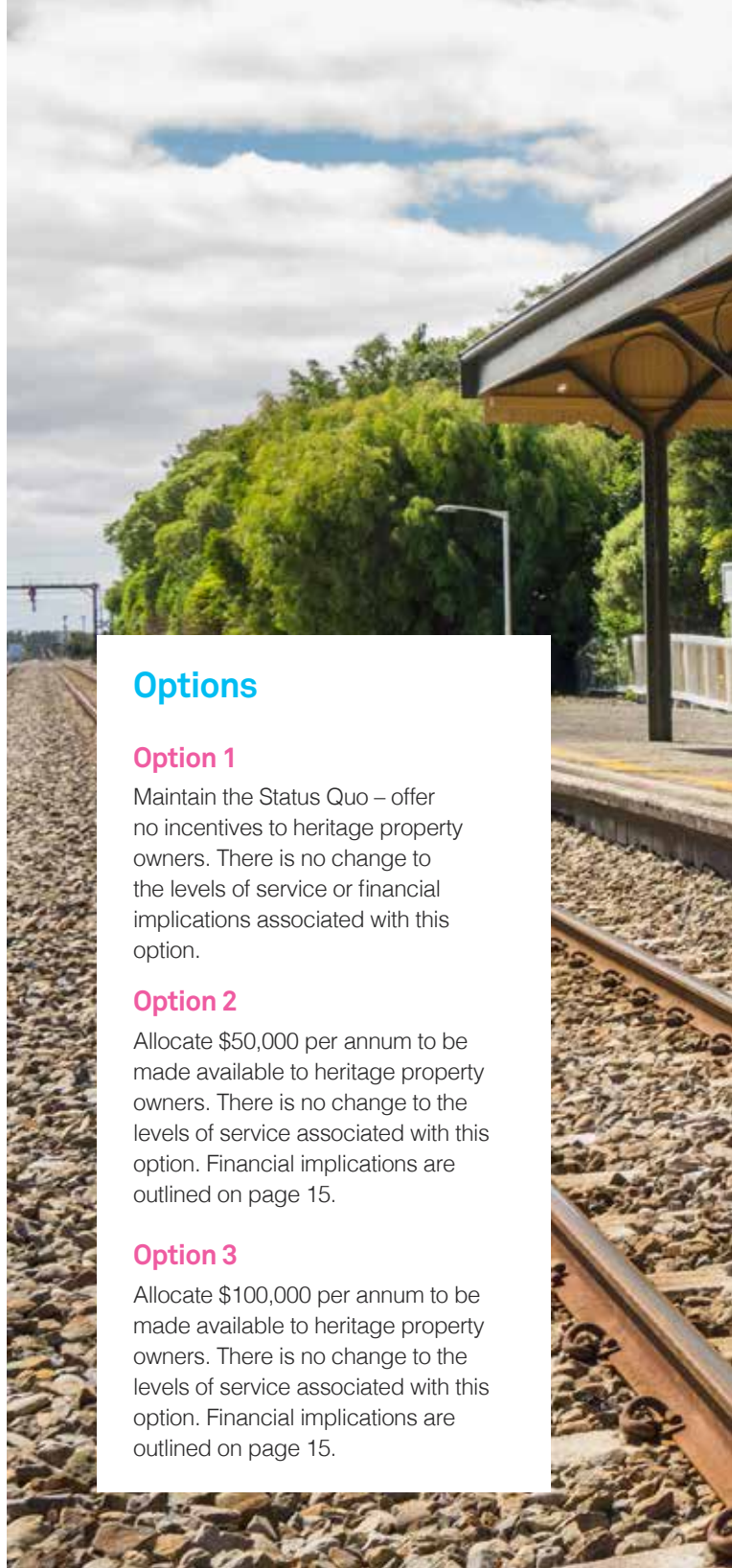
The Horowhenua District has a rich and diverse history. Many of the more significant historical buildings, structures or sites are listed in Schedule 2 of the District Plan. This offers a level of protection for these buildings, structures or sites to help ensure that they are retained for future generations to appreciate.

Although Council is required by legislation to protect significant local heritage from inappropriate use or development, there is also a public good element. Significant heritage buildings, structures and sites help to tell the story of how our District has developed over time which gives our communities a sense of place. These buildings, structures and sites are finite resources which means that once they are gone they cannot be replaced.

In order to protect the historical significance of the buildings, structures and sites the District Plan places additional restrictions on what property owners can or cannot do with them. For example, an owner of a heritage building, structure or site is required to obtain a resource consent to alter or add to their property. They may also be required to get expert advice, use certain materials or in some instances even amend their designs to protect the most significant heritage values of their property. This can be a burden for a property owner.

Many Councils throughout New Zealand offer some form of incentive to heritage property owners to recognise the public good benefit and burden associated with their property being listed in a District Plan for its historical significance. The incentives can also be to encourage them to retain and enhance their property.

Horowhenua District Council does not currently provide any form of incentive for heritage property owners. However, Council could set aside an annual amount of perhaps \$50,000 or \$100,000 to be made available for heritage property owners. There are many types of incentives that Council could offer including waiving consent fees, a discretionary fund or provisions of rates remissions. The type of incentive(s) that can be offered depends on the amount of money (if any) that the public is comfortable to commit.



Options

Option 1

Maintain the Status Quo – offer no incentives to heritage property owners. There is no change to the levels of service or financial implications associated with this option.

Option 2

Allocate \$50,000 per annum to be made available to heritage property owners. There is no change to the levels of service associated with this option. Financial implications are outlined on page 15.

Option 3

Allocate \$100,000 per annum to be made available to heritage property owners. There is no change to the levels of service associated with this option. Financial implications are outlined on page 15.

Our preferred option and why?

Option 2 is Council's preferred option. This option would allow Council to provide some form of incentive to heritage property owners to encourage them to retain or enhance the historically significant parts of their property and, to recognise that an additional burden has been placed on them for the public good.



Financial Implications – What does this mean for your rates?

If money is allocated for Heritage Incentive Funding and we assume that Council would loan fund the money allocated, the financial implications would occur in 2018/19 (and beyond) and they would be as follows:

Option 1

No financial implication.

Option 2

Allocation of \$50,000 would be equivalent to a 0.015% rates increase or \$0.29 per household.

Option 3

Allocation of \$100,000 would be equivalent to a 0.03% rates increase or \$0.57 per household.

The above rates implications and costs per household for option 2 and 3 are based on a loan and associated interest being repaid over a number of years. Using the proposed 5.64% rate increase for 2017/18 as a baseline, the estimated percentage increase in rates shown above would be additional to that increase.

Furthermore with the money being allocated per annum there would be an on-going cost associated with providing the funding. This would be similar to the costs outlined above; however, there may be slight fluctuations depending on interest rates etc..

Need more information?

If you have any questions about this topic then contact Council and ask to speak with Tiffany Williams, Strategic Planner



(06) 366 0999

A list of the Schedule 2 Heritage Buildings, Structures and Sites is available on Council's website at:



www.horowhenua.govt.nz/consultationdoc

SIGNIFICANCE AND ENGAGEMENT POLICY

Overview:

Big issues, big conversations!

By law, Councils are required to have a Significance and Engagement Policy. The objectives of this Policy are:

- To establish a process for determining the significance of a decision
- To support public involvement in significant decision-making
- To ensure that Council meets all legislative requirements regarding consultation and community engagement.

Every three years, Council reviews its policy, engagement activities, community feedback and looks at what is happening elsewhere around the country. The information gathered is incorporated into a revised or 'draft Significance and Engagement Policy' which is then made available for public comment.

Currently, Council has both a Significance and Engagement Policy and a Community Engagement Strategy. These documents overlap and as such Council has merged them into the draft Significance and Engagement Policy. This is to make it easier for you to understand Council's commitment to you, and for Council officers to understand what they are required to do to fulfil that commitment.

Proposed changes to the Significance and Engagement Policy:

- Inclusion of community engagement principles
- Centralisation of engagement record keeping
- An updated list of strategic assets (e.g. including Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom)
- Explanation of when Council might not engage (i.e. during a civil defence emergency)
- Highlighting legislative requirements
- Highlighting Council's effort to improve engagement with Māori
- Making provision for social media posts to be considered

Options

Option 1

Maintain the Status Quo (retain the existing Policy). There is no change to the level of service and cost implications are minimal. However, a review of the current Community Engagement Strategy is due.

Option 2

Adopt the draft Significant and Engagement Policy and rescind the Community Engagement Strategy. There are no cost implications or any change to current levels of service.

Option 3

Update the draft Significance and Engagement Policy following feedback from the community and adopt it. Also, rescind the Community Engagement Strategy. There are no cost implications or any change to current levels of service.






Our preferred option and why?

Option 3 is Council's preferred option as it provides greater clarity to public and Council employees about when and how engagement will occur. And, the policy will be strengthened by the consideration of submissions from the public.

Need more information?

If you have any questions about this topic then contact Council and ask to speak with Lacey Wilson, Communications Lead

 (06) 366 0999

The draft Significance and Engagement Policy is available on Council's website at:

 www.horowhenua.govt.nz/consultationdoc



**Have
your say!**

**We want to hear your
thoughts on what we are
proposing for 2017/18.**



SUBMISSION FORM

ANNUAL PLAN 2017/18 CONSULTATION

Submissions can be:

**Delivered to:**

Horowhenua District Council,
126 Oxford Street, Levin

**Posted to:**

Horowhenua District Council,
Private Bag 4002, Levin 5540

**Emailed to:**

annualplan@horowhenua.govt.nz

**Completed online at:**

www.horowhenua.govt.nz/consultationdoc

**Faxed to:**

(06) 366 0983

Submissions must be provided to Council by no later than **5:00pm on Monday, 10 April 2017**

Contact Details (You must provide your contact details for your submission to be considered)

Title (e.g. Mr/Mrs/Miss/Dr):

Full Name:

Name of Organisation:

Address for service:

Post code:

Telephone:

Mobile:

Email:

Hearing of Submissions (please indicate your preference)

Do you wish to present your submission to Council at a Hearing? Yes No

Sign language interpretation required? Yes No

If YES then would you prefer to speak on – **Wednesday 3 May** OR **Thursday 4 May**

Would you prefer to present your submission in the – **Daytime** OR **Evening**

Note: It is not guaranteed that every submitter will get their preferred time to present.

2017/18 ANNUAL PLAN CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

Horowhenua District Councillors



Michael Feyen
(Mayor)



Wayne Bishop
(Deputy Mayor)



Neville Gimblett



Christine Mitchell



Ross Brannigan



David Roache
(Chair)



Tricia Metcalf
(Deputy Chair)



David Allen



Ross Campbell



Barry Judd



Victoria
Kaye-Simmons



Jo Mason



Piri-Hira Tukapua



Bernie Wanden



John Girling



Jenny Lundie

Foxton Community Board





Contact Us

Horowhenua District Council
126 Oxford Street, Levin 5510
Private Bag 4002, Levin 5540

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enquiries@horowhenua.govt.nz

For more information go to
www.horowhenua.govt.nz

