

3 March 2021

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Response - Official Information Request

I refer to your request for information received on 24/02/2021. Your request has been considered under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA) and I provide the following information.

During the recent workshop on Development Contributions, the Finance Officer stated he 'hadn't had an opportunity to do a full review of the Revenue and Finance Policy'. This is concerning given HDC is about to release the LTP for public consultation which involves major finance.

This is a LGOIMA QUESTION - How can HDC have prepared a LTP without a review of the Revenue and Finance Policy? How can HDC produce costings for the LTP if it has not reviewed its finance policy? How often is HDC required to do this review and when was the last time this was performed?

A Revenue and Financing Policy (R&FP) is required by S102 of the local Government Act 2002 (LGA), however, S103, LGA specifies what it must contain. The R&FP relates to a council's policy in respect to funding of operational and capital expenditure, i.e. which sources of income it plans to use to fund these expenditure items. As such it does not relate specifically to the expenditure or how council goes about the budgeting process to arrive at the expenditure.

The R&FP remains in force at all times, so the lack of a full review does not mean HDC cannot continue to produce an LTP using the existing policy parameters. The "Finance Officer" was replying to a suggestion that the whole R&FP be reviewed (basically starting from scratch).

This would take some time and involve its own consultation process etc. As such, it was discussed with Council at the beginning of the LTP process and decided that a full review was not feasible due to time constraints. However, certain aspects of the R&FP were reviewed and will appear in the LTP Consultation Document to be released this month.

A review of the Policy is required every three years; however, the extent of any review is not specified.

If you have any queries regarding this information, please contact Nicki Brady, Deputy Chief Executive on 06 366 0999 or email nickib@horowhenua.govt.nz

Horowhenua District Council publishes responses to Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA) requests that we consider to be of wider public interest, or which relate to a subject that has

been widely requested. To protect your privacy, we will not generally publish personal information about you, or information that identifies you. We will publish the LGOIMA response along with a summary of the request on our website. Requests and responses may be paraphrased.

Yours sincerely,



Lisa Slade
Executive Sponsor - LGOIMA