

Notice is hereby given that an ordinary meeting of the Horowhenua District Council will be held on:

Date: Tuesday 25 May 2021
Wednesday 26 May 2021
Thursday 27 May 2021
Time: 1.00 pm
Meeting Room: Council Chambers
Venue: 126-148 Oxford St
Levin

Council OPEN AGENDA

MEMBERSHIP

Mayor	Mr Bernie Wanden	
Deputy Mayor	Mrs Jo Mason	
Councillors	Mr David Allan	
	Mr Wayne Bishop	
	Mr Ross Brannigan	
	Mr Todd Isaacs	
	Mr Sam Jennings	
	Mrs Victoria Kaye-Simmons	
	Mr Robert Ketu	
	Mrs Christine Mitchell	
	Ms Piri-Hira Tukapua	
Reporting Officer	Mr David Clapperton	(Chief Executive)
Meeting Secretary	Mrs Karen Corkill	

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Full Agendas are available on Council's website
www.horowhenua.govt.nz

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Horowhenua District Council Service Centre, 126 Oxford Street, Levin
Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom, Foxton,
Shannon Service Centre/Library, Plimmer Terrace, Shannon
and Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō, Bath Street, Levin

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1 Apologies

2 Late Items

To consider, and if thought fit, to pass a resolution to permit the Council to consider any further items which do not appear on the Agenda of this meeting and/or the meeting to be held with the public excluded.

Such resolution is required to be made pursuant to Section 46A(7) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, and the Chairperson must advise:

- (i) The reason why the item was not on the Agenda, and
- (ii) The reason why the discussion of this item cannot be delayed until a subsequent meeting.

3 Declarations of Interest

Members are reminded of their obligation to declare any conflicts of interest they might have in respect of the items on this Agenda.

4 Confirmation of Minutes

1.1 Meeting minutes Council, 11, 12 & 13 May 2021

5 Announcements

File No.: 21/199

Adoption of Fees and Charges 2021/2022: Animal Control

1. Purpose

To seek a resolution of Council to adopt fees and charges in respect of Animal Control for the 2021/22 year, being 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022.

2. Executive Summary

This report is necessary to set the fees and charges in relation to Dog Control activities that must be set through resolution of Council, and does not require public consultation. Fees and charges in relation to dog control must only take effect at the commencement of the year, with the dog registration year commencing 1 July.

It is also prudent and administratively practical to resolve other animal control related fees and charges at the same time.

3. Recommendation

- 3.1 That Report 21/199 Adoption of Fees and Charges 2021/2022: Animal Control be received.
- 3.2 That this matter or decision is recognised as not significant in terms of S76 of the Local Government Act.
- 3.3 That Council adopts the Schedule of Animal Control Fees and Charges, attached as Attachment A to apply in the Horowhenua District from 1 July 2021 for the 2021/22 year.
- 3.4 That on adoption, Council gives public notice of its fees and charges as required by s37(6) of the Dog Control Act 1996.

4. Background / Previous Council Decisions

- 4.1 Section 37 of the Dog Control Act 1996 allows a Territorial Authority to set dog registration fees, including a penalty late payment fee of up to 50%, by resolution, and furthermore that those fees shall be reasonable for the registration and control of dogs in the District, and shall come into effect at the commencement of that year.
- 4.2 Council has previously adopted the dog registration classification structure, making changes in the meeting on 29 May 2019. No further changes are proposed to the classification structure.

5. Discussion

- 5.1 In previous years, fees and charges in relation to dog control activities have been resolved outside of the Annual Plan/LTP process to facilitate the preparation and processing timelines for dog renewal notices.
- 5.2 Taking advantage of the need to resolve the fees and charges in relation to the dog control activity, the other animal control related regulatory fees and charges have been included in this report to reduce additional administration time.
- 5.3 Dog Control fees and charges set must be balanced against the 'ability to pay' together with the requirement to ensure that the fees and charges are reasonable for both the registration and control of dogs in the District, as required by section 37(1) of the Dog Control Act 1996.

- 5.4 The dog component of the Animal Control activity has a 70% - 80% Private: 20% - 30% Public Good split. The draft LTP proposes that the dog control activity expenditure will be \$696,000.00, and as a consequence the private good income required to meet the funding policy is in the range of \$487,200.00 to \$556,800.00, with the balance of costs to be met from rates (20% - 30%).
- 5.5 The proposed fees and charges are expected to realise registration fees within the range stated above, however due to the grouping of the Animal Control Activity and the Dog Control Activity in the Revenue & Funding Policy, it is not expected to meet the funding split for all of Animal Control.
- 5.6 The proposed fees includes a 10% increase in most dog fee classes, with 0 increase proposed for disability assist dogs, working dogs and stock dogs; and includes a 3% increase to the hourly rate for animal control officer charges. Despite the proposed increases, the dog registration fees for Horowhenua will continue to be comparative to our neighboring local authorities. The increase in fees necessary to keep up with the increasing costs of delivering the dog control service.
- 5.7 Changes have been proposed to the graduated scale of fees for the repeated impounding of the same dog (or hoofed animal), where the second and third subsequent impound fees are proposed to increase by 15% and 28% respectively.
- 5.8 The proposed fees include a number of new fees. The new fees account for the recovery of administration costs, such as the new responsible owner application fee and the recovery of costs relating to dog impounding; or where the Act requires Council to provide items to the public, such as the new dog lead and dog collar fees.
- 5.9 The proposed changes to the fees and charges are included in the Long Term Plan 2021-41 (LTP) income budget for the dog control activity. If Council proposes to adopt changes to the fees that have been proposed, a corresponding change to the LTP income budget will need to be made prior to the LTP being audited and finalized for Council adoption.
- 5.10 Council made the decision to have no fee increases for 2020/21 financial year.

6. Options

There are primarily only two (2) options, being to accept or decline the recommendations. The preferred option is to resolve the recommendations as presented which will ensure that fees and charges set are in place for the ensuring year and are at a level that meets operational requirements.

For Dog Control fees to be able to be charged for 2021/22 a resolution of Council is required.

6.1 Cost

There are no costs associated with this report.

6.1.1 Rate Impact

There are no rate impacts arising.

6.2 Community Wellbeing

There are no negative impacts on Community Wellbeing arising.

6.3 Consenting Issues

Not applicable to this report.

6.4 LTP Integration

There is no LTP programme related to the options or proposals in this report, however the fees recommended are factored into the activity budgets incorporated in the first year of the LTP income budget. A decision to change the fees from what has been proposed will require a corresponding adjustment to the LTP income budget before the LTP documents are audited and finalized for adoption by Council.

There are no Special Consultative Processes required.

7. Consultation

There is no consultation requirements.

8. Legal Considerations

The only legal requirement to be met is in respect of the giving of notice on fees and charges as it relates to Dog Registration – see Recommendation 3.4.

9. Financial Considerations

As reported in part 6.4 with regards to LTP income budgets.

10. Iwi Considerations

No Iwi consultation considerations identified.

11. Climate Change Considerations

There is no climate change impact.

12. Environmental Considerations

There are no Environmental considerations.

13. Health & Safety Considerations

There is no Health & Safety impact.

14. Other Considerations

There are no other considerations.

15. Next Steps

In the event the proposed fees and charges are adopted by Council the next step is to give public notice as required by the Dog Control Act 1996 (see recommendation 3.4); publish on the Council website; and arrange for publication in the Community newspaper.

16. Supporting Information

Strategic Fit/Strategic Outcome N/A
Decision Making N/A
Consistency with Existing Policy N/A
Funding N/A

Risk Area	Risk Identified	Consequence	Likelihood	Risk Assessment (Low to Extreme)	Managed how
Strategic					
Financial	Unable to meet the revenue and financing policy funding split	Higher percentage of general rate use to fund the activity	Likely	Low	To be addressed in the review of the Revenue & Financing Policy.
	Failing to set the fees in time to arrange annual dog registration invoices to be sent in June.	Fees cannot be increased for the 2021/22 year	Unlikely	Low	Fees will be set at the same rate as 2020/21
Service Delivery					
Legal					
Reputational					


Confirmation of statutory compliance


In accordance with section 76 of the Local Government Act 2002, this report is approved as:

- a. containing sufficient information about the options and their advantages and disadvantages, bearing in mind the significance of the decisions; and,
- b. is based on adequate knowledge about, and adequate consideration of, the views and preferences of affected and interested parties bearing in mind the significance of the decision.

17. Appendices

No.	Title	Page
A	Attachment A - Draft Animal Control Fees and Charges for 2021/22	11

Author(s)	Vaimoana Miller Compliance Manager	
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Approved by	David McCorkindale Group Manager - Customer & Strategy	
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Animal Control				
Dog Registration		2020/21	Proposed 21/22	Variance
Disability Assist Dog	Class 12	0	0	Nil
Selected Owner / Responsible Owner	Class 15	\$60.00	\$66.00	\$6.00
NZKC Registered Status	Class 8	\$60.00	\$66.00	\$6.00
Racing Greyhound Registered Status	Class 6	\$60.00	\$66.00	\$6.00
De-sexed Pet (Urban & Rural)	Class 3, 9, 17	\$72.00	\$79.00	\$7.00
Entire Pet (Urban & Rural)	Class 10, 11, 14	\$120.00	\$132.00	\$12.00
Working Dog	Class 2	\$58.00	\$58.00	Nil
Stock (Farm) Dog	Class 16	\$58.00	\$58.00	Nil
Puppy	Class 13	\$50.00	\$55.00	\$5.00
NZ Super Owner	Class 1	\$72.00	\$79.00	\$7.00
Dangerous Dog De-sexed	Class 5	\$108.00	\$118.50	\$10.50
Dangerous Dog Entire	Class 4	\$180.00	\$198.00	\$18.00
Late Fee if Paid after 31 July		Plus 50%	Plus 50%	Nil
Other				
Animal Control Officer Hourly Rate		20/21	Proposed 21/22	Variance
Hourly Rate		\$155.00	\$160.00	\$5.00
Registration Discs		20/21	Proposed 21/22	Variance
Transfer from Another Local Authority		Free	Free	Nil
Replacement Disc (first replacement tag)		\$5.00	\$6.00	\$1.00
Replacement Disc (any subsequent replacement tag)		*New	\$12.00	New Fee
Dog Lead		*New	\$15.00	New Fee
Dog Collar (small)		*New	\$10.00	New Fee
Dog Collar (large)		*New	\$15.00	New Fee
Dog Impounding		20/21	Proposed 21/22	Variance
First Impound, fee per dog		\$80.00	\$80.00	Nil
Second Impound, fee per dog		\$130.00	\$150.00	\$20.00
Third and subsequent impound, fee per dog		\$180.00	\$230.00	\$50.00
Daily Fee Cost, Per Dog		\$10.00	\$12.00	\$2.00

Costs associated with impounding of dog (vet costs, supplementary feeding, whelping and the like)	*New fee	Cost +20%	Cost + 20%
Officer charges in relation to impounding of dogs (per hour fee)	\$95.00	Charged at Officer hourly rate	\$65.00
Dog Surrender Fee	\$50.00	\$80.00	\$30.00
Micro-chipping fee (following impoundment)	\$30.00	\$40.00	\$10.00
Stock Impounding (any four-legged, hooved animal)	20/21	Proposed 21/22	Variance
First impound fee	\$80.00	\$80.00	Nil
Second impound fee	\$130.00	\$150.00	\$30.00
Third and subsequent impound fee	\$180.00	\$230.00	\$50.00
Officer charges in relation to impounding of stock (hourly rate)	\$95.00	Charged at Officer hourly rate	\$65.00
Daily Fee Costs, Per Head	\$7.00	\$10.00	\$3.00
Associated Costs (Transportation, Hay and the Like)	Cost + 20%	Cost + 20%	Nil
Feline	20/21	Proposed 21/22	Variance
Cage Deposit (50% Refundable)	\$24.00	\$40.00	\$16.00
Other	20/21	Proposed 21/22	Variance
NZKC/Greyhound application	\$30.00	\$30.00	Nil
Additional Dog Licence application	\$30.00	\$30.00	Nil
Responsible owner application	*New Fee	\$30.00	New Fee

Adoption of Fees and Charges 2021/2022 Food Act Premises and Resource Consenting (Planning)

File No.: 21/205

1. Purpose

To seek a resolution of Council to adopt fees and charges in respect of Food Act Premises and Resource Consenting for the 2021/2022 year.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That Report 21/205 Adoption of Fees and Charges 2021/2022 Food Act Premises and Resource Consenting (Planning) be received.
- 2.2 That this matter or decision is recognised as not significant in terms of S76 of the Local Government Act.
- 2.3 That the Schedule of Fees and Charges attached as **Attachment A** (Food Act Premises) and **Attachment B** (Resource Consenting (Planning)) be adopted as operative fees and charges for the 2021/22 year, effective 1 July 2021.

3. Background/Previous Council Decisions

- 3.1 At the 14 April 2021 meeting, Council resolved to consult on proposed fees and charges in respect of Food Act Premises and Resource Consenting, using the special consultative process. The report to that Council meeting outlined the proposed changes and rationale for these changes.
- 3.2 The proposed fees and charges in relation to both Food Act businesses and Resource Consenting (Planning) attracted no public submissions.
- 3.3 Therefore, a resolution of Council is sought to adopt the schedule of fees and charges as Attachment A (Food Act Premises) and Attachment B (Resource Consenting) as operative fees and charges for the 2021/2022 year, effective 1 July 2021.

4. Issues for Consideration

There are no issues requiring the consideration of Council other than the adoption of the fees and charges proposed – due process has been followed in respect of the setting of these fees. If Council proposes to adopt changes to the fees that have been proposed, a corresponding change to the Long Term Plan 2021-41 (LTP) income budgets for these activities will need to be made prior to the LTP being audited and finalized for Council adoption.

Attachments




Confirmation of statutory compliance

In accordance with section 76 of the Local Government Act 2002, this report is approved as:

- a. containing sufficient information about the options and their benefits and costs, bearing in mind the significance of the decisions; and,
- b. is based on adequate knowledge about, and adequate consideration of, the views and preferences of affected and interested parties bearing in mind the significance of the

decision.

Signatories

Author(s)	Megan Leyland Consents Manager	
	Vaimoana Miller Compliance Manager	
Approved by	David McCorkindale Group Manager - Customer & Strategy	

Description	Fee/Charge 2020/21	Fee/charge 2021/22	Variance From previous year
Registering a Food Control Plan that is based on a MPI template	\$250.00 fixed fee	\$255.00 fixed fee	+2% +\$5.00
Registering a business under a national programme	\$250.00 fixed fee	\$255.00 fixed fee	+2% +\$5.00
Renewing the registration of a Food Control Plan that is based on a MPI template	\$200.00 fixed fee	\$204.00 fixed fee	+2% +\$5.00
Renewing the registration of a business operating under a national programme	\$200.00 fixed fee	\$204.00 fixed fee	+2% +\$4.00
Amendment to registration	Charged at hourly rate of \$150.00 per hour	Charged at hourly rate of \$160.00 per hour	+7% +\$10.00
Verification of a Food Control Plan that is based on an MPI template	\$150.00 fixed fee (for up to 1 hour) then additional time charged at \$150.00 per hour	\$160.00 fixed fee (for up to 1 hour) then additional time charged at \$150.00 per hour	+7% +\$10.00
Verification of a National Programme	\$150.00 fixed fee (for up to 1 hour) then additional time charged at \$150.00 per hour	\$160.00 fixed fee (for up to 1 hour) then additional time charged at \$150.00 per hour	+7% +\$10.00
Compliance and Monitoring	Charged at hourly rate of \$150.00 per hour	Charged at hourly rate of \$160.00 per hour	+7% +\$10.00
Charges for travel outside of Horowhenua District - <i>*Applicable where a verifier is required to travel outside of the Horowhenua District to verify a template Food Control Plan or a National Programme business.</i>	Cost + 20%	Cost + 20%	Nil

Description	Fee/Charge 2020/21	Fee/Charge 2021/22	Variation from previous year
Resource Consent Application Deposits			
Land Use Consent (non-notified)	\$1,000.00 deposit	\$1,500.00 deposit	Increase deposit to reflect actual costs
Subdivision Consents (non-notified)	\$1,200.00 deposit	\$1,800.00 deposit	Increase deposit to reflect actual costs
Combined Land Use and Subdivision (non-notified)	N/A	\$2,000.00 deposit	New deposit type to reflect actual costs
Limited Notification of Land Use or Subdivision Consent	\$1,115.00 deposit	\$3,000.00 deposit	Increase deposit to reflect actual costs
Public Notification of Land Use or Subdivision Consent	\$2,230.00 deposit	\$5,000.00 deposit	Increase deposit to reflect actual costs
Fast Track (10 Day) Land Use Consents	\$1,000.00 fee	\$3,000.00 deposit – all fees and charges are charged at double the hourly rates outlined below	Increase deposit and fees to reflect premium level of service
Other Applications/Certificates			
Boundary Activities	\$350.00 fixed fee	\$350.00 deposit	Changed to deposit to allow for additional charges when processing take longer than the average application
Marginal or Temporary Activities	\$500.00 deposit	\$500.00 deposit	Nil
s125 Extension of Time	\$750.00 fee	\$750.00 deposit	Changed to deposit to allow for additional charges when

			processing take longer than the average application
s127 Application to Change or cancellation of conditions/consent notice	\$600.00 deposit	\$1,000.00 deposit	Increase deposit to reflect actual costs
s221 Preparation of Consent Notice	\$210.00 fee	\$210.00 fee per s224 application	Nil
s221 Consent Notice Amendment and/or cancellation	\$600.00 deposit	\$600.00 deposit	Nil
S223 Approval of Land Transfer Plan	\$150.00 fee	\$250.00 fee	Increase to reflect actual costs
s224(c) or (f) Application – 0 to 3 Lots	N/A	\$500.00 deposit	New deposit, previously captured under a general category
s224(c) or (f) Application – 4 Lots or more	N/A	\$800.00 deposit	New deposit, previously captured under a general category
S226 Certification to allow a certificate of title to be issued for a separate allotment	N/A	\$600.00 deposit	New deposit, previously captured under a general category
Any other application or certificate under the RMA 1991	\$300.00 deposit	\$300.00 deposit	Nil
Road Naming	N/A	\$500.00 deposit	New deposit, previously captured under a general category
S139 Certificate of Compliance	\$600.00 deposit	\$1,000.00 deposit	Increase deposit to reflect current costs
Existing Use Certificate	\$600.00 deposit	\$1,000.00 deposit	Increase deposit to reflect current costs

Creation of a Right of Way under Section 348 of the Local Government Act 1974 or s243 RMA	N/A	\$500.00 deposit	New deposit, previously captured under a general category
Cancellation of an easement under section 243(e) of the RMA 1991	N/A	\$300.00 deposit	New deposit, previously captured under a general category
Notice of requirement to designate land - non-notified	N/A	\$1,500.00 deposit	New deposit, previously captured under a general category
Notice of requirement to designate land notified	N/A	\$3,000.00 deposit	New deposit, previously captured under a general category
Alteration to designation (non-notified)	N/A	\$1,000.00 deposit	New deposit, previously captured under a general category
Outline Plan of works	N/A	\$1,000.00 deposit	New deposit category – was previously captured together with outline plan waiver
Outline Plan waiver	\$600.00 deposit	\$600.00 deposit	Nil
Any other application under provisions of LGA 1974 not repealed	\$500.00 deposit	\$500.00 deposit	Nil
Private Plan Change	N/A	\$10,000.00 deposit	New deposit category
Processing & Monitoring Fees & Hourly Rates			
Resource Management Planner	\$155.00 per hour	\$170.00 per hour	Increase to reflect current costs
Internal Specialist (e.g. DEs and EHOs)	\$155.00 per hour	\$170.00 per hour	Increase to reflect current costs
Consent administration fee	N/A	\$160.00 fee	New fixed fee to cover application

			lodgement and administration
Bond Preparation	\$200.00 fee	\$300.00 fee per bond document	Increase to reflect actual costs
Bond Refund (excludes permitted activities)	N/A	\$150.00 fee per bond	New fee to reflect actual costs
Digital Capture Levy (applies to hard copy consent applications only)	\$200.00 fee	\$200.00 fee	Nil
Digital Capture Levy (applies to applications received by email only)	N/A	\$50.00 fee	Fee to reflect costs
Land Use Consent Initial Monitoring Fee	N/A	\$160.00 fee	New fee to reflect costs
Resource Consent Monitoring	\$155.00 per hour	\$170.00 per hour	Increase to reflect costs
Review of and Approval of Monitoring Reports & Other information submitted to satisfy consent conditions	N/A	\$170.00 per hour	New fee for clarity
Minor Engineering Approvals	N/A	\$850.00 deposit	New deposit
Complex Engineering Approvals	N/A	\$1,700.00 deposit	New deposit

NOTES:

1. Hourly rates cover all work associated with resource consent processing, internal referrals and peer reviews, site visits, review of documents, monitoring visits/inspections (including hold point inspections), approval of engineering plans, report writing, meeting attendance, communication with applicants & agents, and hearing attendance – and any other work related to an applications under the Resource Management Act 1991.
2. Minor engineering approvals are for specific and less complex work, such as service connections for a development, renewal of public infrastructure pipes to same grade and alignment, isolated rehabilitation of existing pipe or manhole, raising or lowering a public manhole lid and small scale developments and/or up to 3 Lot subdivision.
3. Complex engineering approvals are for works such as public stormwater, wastewater or water supply extension/system, public road or road widening, relocation of public drainage or water supply system, public stormwater

pond or wetland, public stormwater catchpit, soak hole, public swale or raingarden, bulk earthworks and large scale developments and/or 4 or more Lot subdivision.			
Miscellaneous Fees			
Pre-application Meeting(s) – all application types and designations	N/A	Two hours free then \$170.00 per hour, charged against application when submitted	New fee to reflect costs
External Specialist Review of submitted information (either at application or monitoring stage)	Cost + 20%	Cost + 20%	Nil
Consultant s42A planning reports	Cost + 20%	Cost + 20%	Nil
Specialist Reports	Cost + 20%	Cost + 20%	Nil
Mileage	AA rate applicable	AA rate applicable	Nil
Disbursements	Cost + 20%	Cost + 20%	Nil
Pre-Hearing Meetings	Cost + 20%	Cost + 20%	Nil
Hearing Costs/Deposits			
Council Hearings Committee sitting collectively without an independent commissioner	\$3,200.00 deposit based on 6 hour hearing	\$3,200.00 deposit Charges based on elected member hourly rates	Existing fee reworded for the sake of clarity
Independent commissioners	At cost	At cost	Nil
Council Hearings Committee sitting with an independent commissioner(s)	\$3,200.00 deposit based on 6 hour hearing	\$3,200.00 deposit Charges based on elected member hourly rates plus independent commissioners' costs	Existing fee reworded for the sake of clarity
s357 Lodgement of Objection & Assessment	\$550.00 deposit	\$550.00 deposit	Nil

Reintroduction of Development Contributions and the Draft Development Contributions Policy 2021 Deliberations

File No.: 21/218

1. Purpose

To present to Council for deliberation, the submissions received on the reintroduction of Development Contributions and the draft Development Contributions Policy.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That Report 21/218 Reintroduction of Development Contributions and the Draft Development Contributions Policy 2021 Deliberations be received.
- 2.2 That this matter or decision is recognised as not significant in terms of S76 of the Local Government Act
- 2.3 That Council acknowledges, with thanks, all who have submitted on the draft Development Contributions Policy.
- 2.4 That Council adopt Option 1: reintroduction of a development contributions policy under the Local Government Act 2002, with development contributions to be used in conjunction with all other available sources of growth infrastructure funding, with regular monitoring and reporting of development contributions revenue, the projects funded and any resulting positive or negative effects on growth.
- 2.5 That Council adopts Option 1: Retain the activities listed in Section 2.2 of the draft Development Contributions Policy 2021 of roading, water supply, wastewater treatment, stormwater and community infrastructure for funding using development contributions.
- 2.6 That Council retains the catchment approach listed in Section 2.3 of the draft Development Contributions Policy 2021 using district-wide catchments for roading and community infrastructure and scheme-by-scheme catchments for water supply, wastewater treatment and stormwater, and any growth areas with major expenses related specifically to them, paying an additional contribution for those expenses.
- 2.7 That Council adopts option 1: Retain the time of payment approach set out in Sections 2.11 and 3.5 with tracked changes of the draft Development Contributions Policy 2021, requiring the payment of development contributions.
- 2.8 That Council adopts Option 2: Amend the reductions within draft Development Contributions Policy 2021 with track changes:
 - a) Narrowing the scope of reductions; and/or
 - b) Better defining terminology around significant public benefit and significant affordability issues; and/or
 - c) Establishing tighter criteria and thresholds for considering reductions in certain cases; and/or
 - d) Increasing the visibility and transparency of the reductions process
- 2.9 That Council considers tracked changes within the Draft Development Contributions Policy (report attached) from the discussions at hearings and submissions received.

3. Topics for Consideration

Topic 1	Infrastructure Funding – Development Contributions
Topic 2	Activities
Topic 3	Catchments
Topic 4	Time of payment
Topic 5	Reductions
Topic 6	Other matters raised

Executive Summary

The Council is required by section 102(2) of the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA), to provide predictability and certainty about sources and levels of funding by adopting a number of policies, including a policy on development contributions or financial contributions.

The Council first adopted a development contributions policy in 2006 as part of its Long Term Plan and this was reviewed and adopted in 2009 and 2012. In 2015, as part of the Long Term Plan 2015-25 process, the Council decided, in the context of very low growth occurring in the District at the time, to cancel the development contributions policy.

In keeping with the statutory requirement in section 102(2) of the LGA, to have a policy for funding growth infrastructure, on 1 July 2015, the Council adopted a draft financial contributions policy to be put forward as a change to the District Plan. As it must be reviewed at least every 3 years, the financial contributions policy no longer has effect.

On 17 March 2021, the Council resolved to adopt the draft Development Contributions Policy for public consultation to occur simultaneously with notifying the Long Term Plan 2021-2041 Consultation Document.

260 submissions were received on Topic 2 of the Long Term Plan Consultation Document – Infrastructure Funding: Development Contributions. The general weight of submissions is in favour of using development contributions as the key source of funding for growth infrastructure in combination with various other funding sources.

This report discusses the content of submissions. As well as the question of re-introducing a development contributions policy, it covers the findings of various questions asked of submitters about the contents of a policy.

Officer recommendations are made to reconsider the question of reductions to development contributions assessed on developments, if requested by the applicant and to reconsider the units of demand proposed for the retirement village sector.

Background / Previous Council Decisions

The Council is required by sections 102(1) and (2) of the LGA 2002, to provide predictability and certainty about sources and levels of funding by adopting a number of policies, including a policy on development contributions or financial contributions.

Previous development and financial contribution policies

The Council first adopted a Development Contributions Policy in 2006 as part of its Long Term Plan and this was reviewed and re-adopted in 2009 and 2012. In 2015, as part of the Long Term Plan 2015-2025 process, and in the context of very low growth occurring in the District at the time, the Council resolved to cancel the Development Contributions Policy.

In keeping with the statutory requirement in section 102(2) of the LGA 2002, to have a policy for funding growth infrastructure, on 1 July 2015, the Council adopted the Financial Contributions Policy 2015. This was to be put forward as a change to the District Plan. However, in 2017, pursuant to section 175 of the Resource Legislation Amendment Act 2017, the Council found that it would no longer be able to require financial contributions after 18 April 2022. The plan change to reintroduce Financial Contributions in the District Plan was therefore not advanced and in keeping with section 106(6) of LGA 2002, to review a Financial Contribution Policy within 3 years of adoption, the policy ceased to have effect.

In developing its Long Term Plan 2018-2038, the Council again considered the options for funding growth infrastructure and as a result of matters raised in submissions resolved to explore different growth infrastructure options as part of the Annual Plan 2019/2020 process. The Strategy Committee meetings in 2018 concluded that it was not necessary to charge development contributions at the time but that Council should continue to explore the introduction of policy tools such as development contributions to help fund infrastructure options going forward.

The Long Term Plan 2021-2041 process and workshop series

In its Annual Plan 2020/2021 deliberations, Council resolved to consider developing and consulting on funding options for growth as part of the Long Term Plan 2021-2041 process. This decision was taken in the context of increasingly strong growth being seen in the District since 2014. In late 2020, the Council adopted population growth assumptions for Long Term Plan 2021-2041 of 2.6% per year for the first decade and 2.9% per year for the second decade.

Elected members attended an introductory workshop on development contributions on 2 December 2020. Although the workshop focused mainly on development contributions, in keeping with the requirements to have such a policy in section 102 of LGA 2002, it also covered other sources of funding. These included targeted rates, grants, subsidies, developer agreements and other third party funding, asset sales and user charges.

On 11 February 2021, a second elected members' workshop was held. It looked at various aspects of policy content but looked in more detail at alternative sources of funding, in particular:

- the issues with using financial contributions (which were reintroduced in the 2020 amendment to the Resource Management Act), including the need for a plan change to the District Plan to re-instate the lapsed 2015 policy;
- the pros and cons of using Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) levies under the Infrastructure Funding and Financing Act 2020; and
- the way in which other sources of funding can be used in combination with development contributions to avoid sole reliance on this source.

The third elected members' workshop was held on 17 February 2021. This workshop concluded with a range of directions from elected members on the contents of a draft Development Contributions Policy.

On 3 March 2021, the fourth and final elected members' workshop was held to consider the contents of the draft Development Contributions Policy 2021. Amendments were sought by elected members to various parts of the draft Policy.

Adoption of draft Horowhenua Development Contributions Policy 2021

On 17 March 2021, the Council received the Report 21/76 Adoption for Consultation: Draft Development Contributions Policy 2021. The draft Policy, with the amendments required at

¹ Section 107 of the Resource Management Amendment Act 2020, subsequently repealed section 175 of the Resource Legislation Amendment Act 2017, reintroducing the ability to require financial contributions after 18 April 2022.

the fourth workshop, was attached to the report. The Council was presented with two options as follows:

- Option 1: Adopt the draft Development Contributions Policy 2021 for Public Consultation;
- Option 2: Request Officers to undertake further refinements to the draft Development Contributions Policy 2021, for future consideration by Council.

The Council resolved to adopt the draft Policy for public consultation to occur simultaneously with notifying the Long Term Plan 2021-2041 Consultation Document.

The Consultation Document

The report also noted the possible reintroduction of a Development Contributions Policy as a key topic in the Long Term Plan 2021-2041 Consultation Document. The draft Consultation Document was adopted at the same meeting under Report 21/77 Adoption of the Long Term Plan 2021-41 Consultation Document.

The Consultation Document (Pages 42 to 45) discusses the various sources of funding for growth infrastructure and presents two options to be put to the community on the possible reintroduction of a development contributions policy.

The Long Term Plan 2021-2041 submission form also includes a number of questions on the content of the draft Development Contributions Policy 2021.

Discussion

The draft Development Contributions Policy 2021 and the Consultation Document, accompanying the draft Long Term Plan 2021-2041, were opened for community feedback on 18 March 2021. Discussions on development contributions were held across the two days 29 and 30 March 2021 at Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-po and Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom respectively.

By the closing date for submissions 19 April 2021, 256 submissions had been received on the development contributions topic. A further 4 late submissions were received by 22 April 2021. Of the total 260 submissions, 229 submitters did not wish to be heard. 27 submitters wished to be heard by the Council. 4 submitters did not respond to the question.

Hearings on the development contributions topic were held on 11 May 2021 in Levin. The following 15 submitters gave evidence:

G Kane (36), B Judd (153), D D Berry (188), J Webby (199), B Eccles (266), S Russell (274), A Thomas (289), B & A Thomas (298), D Roache (344), M Kay (350), J & J Brown (385), K & S Prouse (452), G Schibli (456), R Truebridge (457), and C Rudd (469).

In the Consultation Document (Pages 44 and 45), members of the community were asked to express their opinions on two options for the funding of growth infrastructure in the future. These are:

- Option 1 – Using development contributions as the key source of funding for growth infrastructure, in combination with other sources; and
- Option 2 – Not using development contributions for funding growth infrastructure, and increasing rates instead.

In the event that a Development Contributions Policy is adopted for the district, the community was also asked to give its views on a number of matters relating to policy content reflected in the draft Policy, namely:

- The activities considered appropriate for funding using development contributions;
- The catchments (funding areas) into which the district could be divided to share the costs of growth infrastructure;

- The timing of payments of development contributions at various points in the development process; and
- The reduction of development contribution amounts in cases where development proposals generate significant public benefit or where affordability is a significant concern.

A number of submissions raised matters other than those listed above. These are discussed in this report.

Topic 1: Infrastructure Funding – Development Contributions

Option 1 - Using development contributions as the key source of funding growth infrastructure

Submissions

Soxxy (2), A Anderson (4), E Pond (7), N E Roberts (25), D Nugent-O’Leary (26), D Pick (27), P Richardson (29), T Whitehouse (30), J Ellen (31), R Barton (32), V Millman (33), A Leadbetter (34), S Arnold (35), G Kane (36), D B Eaton (39), J J Baird (40), M Hyndman (42), M Shepherd (43), S Cole (44), Unknown (45), A Hunt (46), F Munro (47), A Donegan (48), C L Torrington (49), S Martin (51), M Jenkins (52), R & K Rawlings (53), D Cross (54), P Bolton (58), L Benner (59), J Naylor (60), P Naylor (61), C Douglas (62), B J Long (66), N Koot (67), Anonymous (68), Anonymous (69), A Burton (70), C Rhodes (71), S Fields (72), M Hall (73), G Bowman (74), M Dowling (75), R Mouzouri (78), T Reisinger (79), C Archer (80), P Smitheram (82), A & K Kirk (83), R Watkins (84), G Morgan (85), M Moore (86), D & P MacIntyre (88), M Wilson (89), M Simmons (90), J Damley (91), M Wood (92), F R Newman (93), R Vallar (94), A Briones (95), C Burr (96), D Hurlimann (99), R Nuico (100), K Vallar (101), M Briones (JR) (103), M Owen (104), K Marshall & A Smith (105), G Bevan (107), C Chapman (108), C Yates (110), Ebs (111), R Heyburn (124), W B Cardiff (125), R McGell (126), B Rollinson (127), L Everton (128), D Canvin (129), C Eves (130), G Holmes (131), D Thompson (132), J Van Der Berg (134), A Burns (135), I Haggarty (136), G Downing (138), C Marshall (140), H Cardiff (141), L Praat (143), L Whiti (144), M Tuhau (147), B Andrew and J Robson (149), M Fletcher (150), M Staples (151), G Heyward (152), B Judd (153), L A van Soest (154), M Astley-Jones (155), S Paquier (156), K Henry (157), R West (164), K Cole (165), S Freebairn (167), J McMaster (168), G Good (169), W S A Saunders (175), J Leckie (176), S Jagana (179), A Granger-Ellison (180), M Ford (181), V McCall (182), F Roache (183), K Wilson (184), D D Berry (188), J Hall (189), P Bolton (190), D Murphy (191), A Owen (192), P A Young (193), A D Morgan (194), D Gray (195), R Fisher (196), G Spencer (197), B Walsh (198), J Webby (199), A Parkin (201), L Takitimu (203), T Huria (205), A Cotter-Hope (206), C Flatley (207), C Avery (208), J Rose (209), P Halcrow (210), K Laursen (211), N Hori Te Pa (215), P Lavo (216), M Z Cushnahan (218), C Aitken (219), C Carlyle (223), J Urbahn (226), E Robinson (227), P & J Davies (228), R S Lyons (229), D & S Hagland (230), D Rix (231), B May (232), P E May (233), E (Ted) Melton (246), J Smart (252), B Williamson (254), K Hodson (256), M Haggland (257), T Hinder (258), D Thomson (264), B Eccles (266), R Hyde (267), L Rohlf (271), J Campbell (272), S Russell (274), P Watson (276), S Bailey (277), E Swanson (282), C Curley (283), J Tike (284), D Adin (285), M Krieger (287), A Thomas (289), B & A Thomas (298), S Ferguson (299), S Williams (300), P Everton (303), W Norton (309), A Henare (312), C Moriarty HDRRA Inc (332), K McHugo (334), A Kent (336), C Petterson (340), D Roache (344), P Robinson (347), C Paton (349), M Kay (350), J Flatley (354), C Pollock (355), B Tyson (364), W & B Kilsby (365), A Buchanan, (366), G & G Phelps (367), B Hailwood (368), G Williams (369), C Dyer (370), R Williams (371), G Ellis (372), S Haggland (373), H S van Ryn (375), G Fox (381), H Bentall (383), P Wickremasinghe (384), J & J Brown (385), C Matena (389), N Vandermade (391), H Brown (392), W Dixon (393), D Paul (394), P Metcalfe (397), Te Kenehi Teira (412), C Burgess (444), J Olifent (445), P & S Davis (446), V Bold (447), K & S Prouse (452), E Rodie (453), D Tukapua (454), L Browne (455), G Schibli (456), R Truebridge (457), G Ritchie (458), K Miles (459), J Alenkna (460), E Walker (462), D Timms (473), T Benefield (477), R Mackenzie (478), S Hart (479), S Chambers (480), K Hari (481), K

Read (482), J Girling (484), T Phillips (487), N & J Savage (488), B Pacey (492), A Paddison (494), C Philpott (495), M & J Monk (496), A Mulay (497).

Option 2- Not using development contributions as the key source of funding growth infrastructure, and increasing rates instead

Submissions

M Lepper (1), A Clark (3), J Povey (5), P K Ferrier (50), J Hood (63), T Clifford (148), J Hopkirk (163), S Rofo (166), P Roache (259), P Wall (260), K Fleming (268), R Boyle (273), T Peters (278), B Forth (342), S Elliot (345), A Coats (415), M Conroy (461).

Other – Supporting both options

Submissions

D Eaton (39), G Gunther (204).

Summary of Submissions

A general theme among submitters supporting **Option 1** is that development contributions are necessary to avoid an increasing rates burden on an ageing population, many of whom are on fixed incomes. Submitters feel that developers should factor development contributions into their project costings.

One submitter considers that if developers pass costs on to property purchasers, the value of infrastructure funded by contributions is an investment in itself and stays with the property when it is on-sold in future. Another suggests that major Government investment, in transport projects coming north from Wellington and at Tara-Ika, are already incentivising development. Development contributions, if reintroduced, should not discourage new development.

A number of submitters believe development contributions should not have been done away with in 2015.

While there is good support for re-introducing development contributions, there is also concern by some submitters around the risks and uncertainties of reliance on development contributions as the key source of funding.

Other submitters stress the need to utilize a mix of funding sources through developer funded infrastructure, (targeted) rates, SPV levies, developer partnerships and Government funding. Submitter 271 gives qualified support to Option 1 but believes the other sources need to be identified, quantified and specifically consulted on. Government initiatives to remove the three-waters services from direct Council management and funding, and to dedicate \$3.8 billion to infrastructure provision for housing construction, make long term planning rather academic and fraught with risk.

One submitter asks what the effect on rates will be without development contributions and another asks how contributions are calculated.

The predominant view from those supporting **Option 2** is that growth benefits the whole community by creating additional homes and that the cost of growth needs to be shared evenly using the rating system. In the hearing, there was discussion on the potential deterrent effect of development contributions on growth and that if the country moved into recession, revenue expected from development contributions would not be recovered. There should be close monitoring of development contributions revenue, how it is being spent and any signs that development contributions are stifling growth.

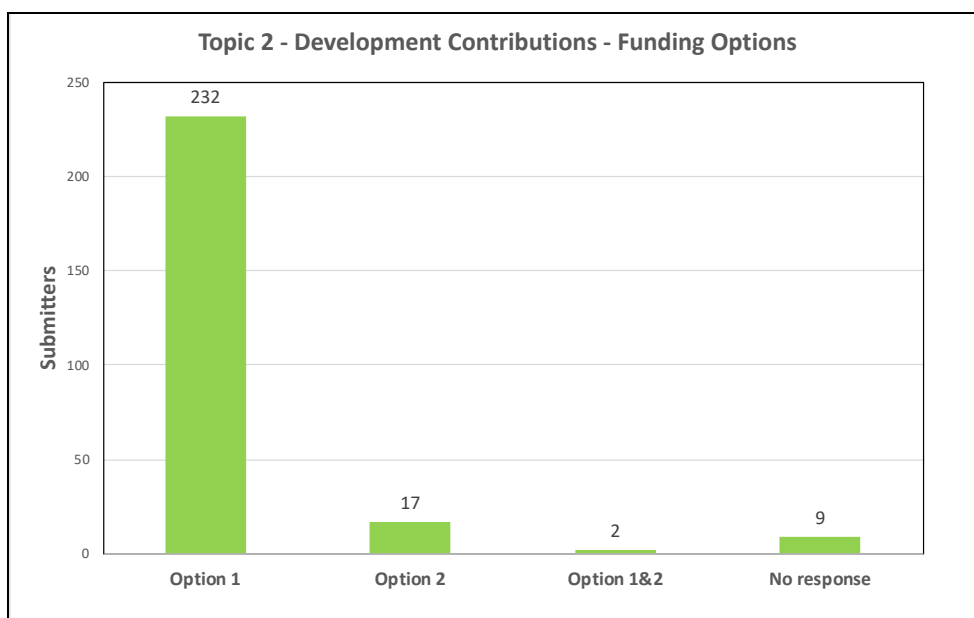
A further commonly expressed view is that developers should not be penalised and that development contributions are likely to discourage new development. The costs of consents

already make building and subdivision prohibitive to many. Any added cost will stunt new growth even further. Development contributions are just another tax. The increase in rates provides long term annuity income for the Council to cover asset development and maintenance. The view is expressed that borrowing money has never been cheaper. One submitter notes that Government is already providing significant amounts for infrastructure needs. Rules are already in place to make developers provide their own infrastructure.

Officer Analysis

In response to the question on the two options for growth infrastructure funding, of the 260 submissions received on Topic 2:

- 232 (89.2%) support Option 1 - the use of development contributions as the key source of funding, in combination with other sources;
- 17 submitters (6.5%) support Option 2 - not to use development contributions and to rely on rates increases instead;
- 2 submitters (0.8%) suggest a combination of the two funding options; and
- 9 submitters (3.5%) did not respond to the options question or offered comments.



There is good support by submitters for re-introducing a development contributions policy. Under the LGA 2002, The Council is required to have a policy on development or financial contributions. Its 2015 financial contributions policy has lapsed and it faces considerable growth as evidenced in the last 3 years and as now projected in the draft Long Term Plan 2021-2041. Major Government investments in the northern corridor from Wellington and at Tara-Ika are expected to incentivise on-going growth. This presents the Council with a considerable challenge as existing infrastructure comes under pressure.

The effect on rates of not having development contributions is illustrated on Page 45 of the Consultation Document, with an anticipated increase of 7.3% over and above the 6.7% expected in Year 1 and several years in the future, where rates will need to be increased to fund growth infrastructure.

In response to the question of calculating development contributions, these are calculated directly from the capital programme in the draft Long Term Plan 2021-2041. Projects which have a direct connection with growth are identified. In some cases, projects will provide both capacity for growth and also renew assets or improve levels of service to the existing community. In such cases, estimates are made of the cost split between the existing and growth communities. All growth related costs are then assigned to catchments (funding areas) and divided by the units of growth expected in each catchment. The approach is highly transparent and direct connections can be made between developments and itemised infrastructure, avoiding the concept of another tax.

In response to Submitter 271 on other sources of funding, some sources such as NZTA subsidies on roading projects, and grants such as at Tara-Ika are known. The value and drawdown timing of these have already been built into the development contribution amounts in the draft Policy – reducing development contribution amounts. There is still uncertainty as to whether SPV levies will be initiated and if these or targeted rates are ever proposed for an area, they will be consulted upon. If implemented, then development contributions on the same projects will have to be reduced accordingly. Additionally, when more is known about three waters funding or Government's infrastructure funding budget, the development contribution policy may need to be amended to recognise any resulting funding inflows.

Recommendations

That Council adopts Option 1: reintroduction of a development contributions policy under the Local Government Act 2002, with development contributions to be used in conjunction with all other available sources of growth infrastructure funding, with regular monitoring and reporting of development contributions revenue, the projects funded and any resulting positive or negative effects on growth.

Topic 2 – Activities

Submission numbers: favoured funding of all five activities in the draft Policy by development contributions:

30, 33, 42, 44, 46, 51, 52, 54, 61, 62, 63, 66, 71, 74, 78, 79, 83, 84, 88, 90, 108, 130, 131, 132, 135, 136, 138, 140, 149, 150, 156, 180, 182, 184, 188, 189, 191, 197, 198, 199, 201, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 211, 213, 215, 218, 219, 223, 247, 266, 267, 268, 271, 274, 276, 282, 283, 299, 300, 334, 344, 347, 350, 354, 355, 357, 364, 365, 368, 370, 371, 373, 375, 381, 383, 384, 385, 389, 391, 394, 444, 452, 455, 457, 458, 460, 462, 484, 494, 496, 497.

Submission numbers: Favoured funding of three or four activities:

4, 7, 27, 29, 31, 32, 34, 35, 39, 40, 45, 47, 48, 53, 58, 59, 60, 67, 69, 70, 72, 80, 82, 85, 86, 89, 91, 94, 95, 99, 100, 101, 103, 104, 105, 107, 110, 111, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 134, 141, 147, 151, 155, 169, 175, 176, 179, 183, 193, 195, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 254, 256, 257, 258, 264, 269, 272, 277, 278, 284, 285, 289, 298, 303, 340, 366, 367, 369, 376, 392, 393, 397, 446, 447, 454, 456, 459, 473, 478, 481, 487, 488, 495.

Submission numbers: Favoured funding just one or two activities:

1, 2, 3, 24, 25, 26, 36, 49, 50, 68, 73, 75, 92, 93, 96, 144, 148, 152, 154, 157, 181, 190, 194, 196, 203, 210, 287, 309, 336, 412, 453, 461, 479, 480, 492.

Summary of Submissions

Some general themes emerging on activities are:

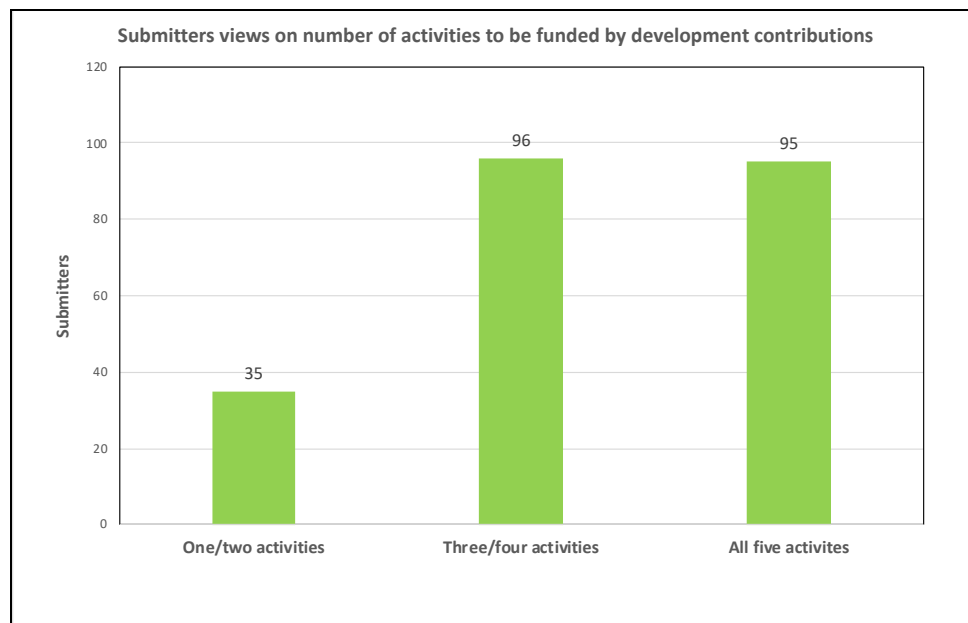
- Of those submitters favouring the funding of all five activities in the draft Policy, a common view in comments is that development needs all of these infrastructure types - even community infrastructure. One submitter feels that developers should not be made to hand

over (vest) park land. Like any other activity Council should budget to buy park land and sportsfields, buy it off a developer if necessary and recover the costs through development contributions.

- Those who favoured funding of just three to four activities by development contributions focused on the need for Council to stick to its core activities (roading and waters) and in some cases just the three waters. Some feel that community infrastructure should be funded by rates or user charges. One submitter feels that some (not all) community infrastructure projects should be put on the 'back burner' and not funded by development contributions.
- Submitters favouring the funding of just one or two activities by development contributions narrowed the core services even further to just water and wastewater. However, a good number of these submitters would like to see community infrastructure as the only or one of two activities funded by development contributions. Submitter 412 believes that the community infrastructure activity should include costs associated with the preservation of historic buildings in Foxton.

Officer Analysis

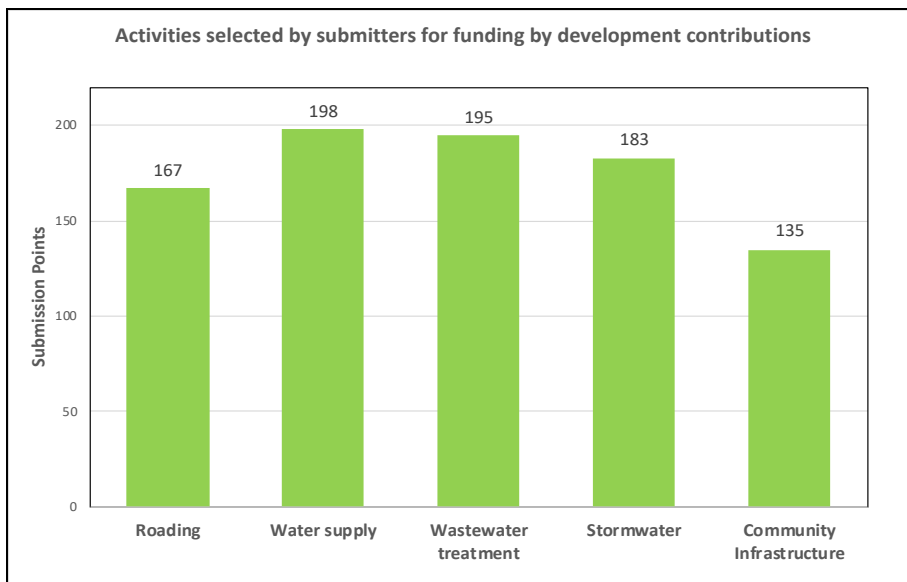
Of the 226 submitters responding to the question on activities to be funded by development contributions, 95 (42.0%) want to see all five activities funded, 96 (42.5%) want to see at least three or four activities funded and 35 (15.5%) want to see just one or two activities funded.



No submitters listed any further Council activities that would warrant funding through development contributions.

The number of times each of the five listed activities were selected by the responding 226 submitters is shown in the following chart. The chart shows the emphasis placed by submitters on funding the core Council activities of roading and the three waters, with a particular emphasis on the three waters.

Despite this, a good number 135 (59.7%) of the 226 submitters still want to see community infrastructure funded by development contributions.



Like any of the other activities, community infrastructure facilities can become overloaded as growth takes place. Libraries, sports fields, community centres, playgrounds and other public amenities can become crowded and in time require the Council to incur expenditure to replace lost capacity. The LGA 2002 allows development contributions to be levied for community infrastructure and the incoming growth community is expected to derive a clear benefit from this infrastructure and should contribute a share of capital spending in the long term plan. However, the Council needs to be cautious on using development contributions for renewal and refurbishment of community facilities. Contributions can be used for funding additional capacity in community infrastructure as a result of growth but not for renewal and refurbishment of existing facilities such as historic buildings. These should be funded using rates or other sources.

Recommendations

That Council adopts Option 1: Retain the activities listed in Section 2.2 of the draft Development Contributions Policy 2021 of roading, water supply, wastewater treatment, stormwater and community infrastructure for funding using development contributions.

Topic 3: Catchments

Submission numbers: Favoured Option 1: District-wide contributions for roading and community infrastructure. Scheme-by-scheme contributions for the three waters. Growth areas pay for major expenses related to them.

2, 3, 4, 25, 27, 29, 30, 31, 39, 40, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 60, 61, 63, 68, 70, 71, 79, 80, 84, 85, 86, 88, 90, 91, 92, 94, 95, 96, 99, 100, 101, 103, 105, 110, 124, 125, 127, 128, 129, 131, 134, 135, 136, 138, 141, 147, 150, 151, 154, 155, 156, 157, 169, 175, 176, 182, 183, 189, 190, 191, 193, 196, 197, 198, 199, 201, 204, 205, 206, 208, 209, 211, 213, 215, 216, 218, 219, 223, 227, 230, 231, 232, 233, 247, 254, 256, 257, 258, 264, 268, 269, 272, 276, 277, 278, 282, 283, 285, 287, 342, 344, 355, 365, 366, 367, 369, 370, 373, 376, 381, 383, 391, 394, 444, 446, 447, 452, 454, 455, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 478, 480, 481, 482, 484, 488, 494

Submission Numbers: Favoured Option 2: District-wide contributions for roading and community infrastructure. Scheme-by-scheme contributions for the three waters. Growth areas do not pay for major expenses related to them, these being spread out over the rest of the scheme.

7, 58, 59, 62, 69, 73, 75, 78, 83, 111, 132, 144, 179, 180, 207, 210, 229, 393, 397, 453, 479.

Submission Numbers: Favoured Option 3 Harmonisation: all required contributions are the same across the District.

1, 5, 26, 33, 34, 49, 66, 67, 72, 82, 89, 93, 104, 107, 108, 126, 130, 148, 149, 152, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 181, 184, 192, 203, 266, 284, 289, 298, 299, 300, 309, 336, 340, 350, 357, 364, 368, 385, 392, 412, 445, 456, 462, 492, 496.

Submission Numbers: Favoured Option 4: Other (please specify) two combined Options 1/3 and 3/4.

32, 36, 271, 347, 375, 384, 415, 497, 487.

Summary of Submissions

Some general themes emerging on catchments are:

- Of the submitters favouring Option 1, there is a view that developers in growth areas should pay their way for large items of infrastructure needed to get bulk services and roads into the area. They should also pay toward plant and traffic upgrades outside the growth area that benefit them. One submitter considers none of the options ideal but thinks Option 1 is the most favorable. There are concerns that scheme-based charges could see smaller centres faced with high costs, unaffordable for local communities.
- One submitter favors Option 1 initially, but would like to see a return to Option 3: Harmonisation in later years.
- There are some concerns about using scheme-based development contributions. Submitter 389 Federated Farmers wants to ensure development contributions are only sought when there is a direct link to Council services. Development contributions should not be required for any perceived or possible future benefit of Council services.
- Submitters supporting Option 2 consider that growth areas bring people and business to the district and should not be unduly penalised. They should simply pay development contributions toward the scheme within which they fall.
- Submitters supporting Option 3: Harmonisation believe it has worked in the past and helps to avoid smaller communities facing large debt and costs. It also makes for simpler administration of development contributions.
- Submitters suggesting other catchment options consider that development contributions should be applied case-by-case. For example, smaller settlements that place less demand on the roading network should pay lower contributions. Another submitter suggests Harmonisation, using a standard district-wide charge with growth areas and high-density developments being rates loaded to meet additional costs.

At the hearing there was considerable discussion on the possibility of applying a uniform contribution charge to new development across the district. There was concern that high development contributions amounts at Tara-Ika could seriously deter development and other growth areas should also be paying the higher costs of connecting and reticulating them. Higher densities should also be incentivised with lower development contribution amounts.

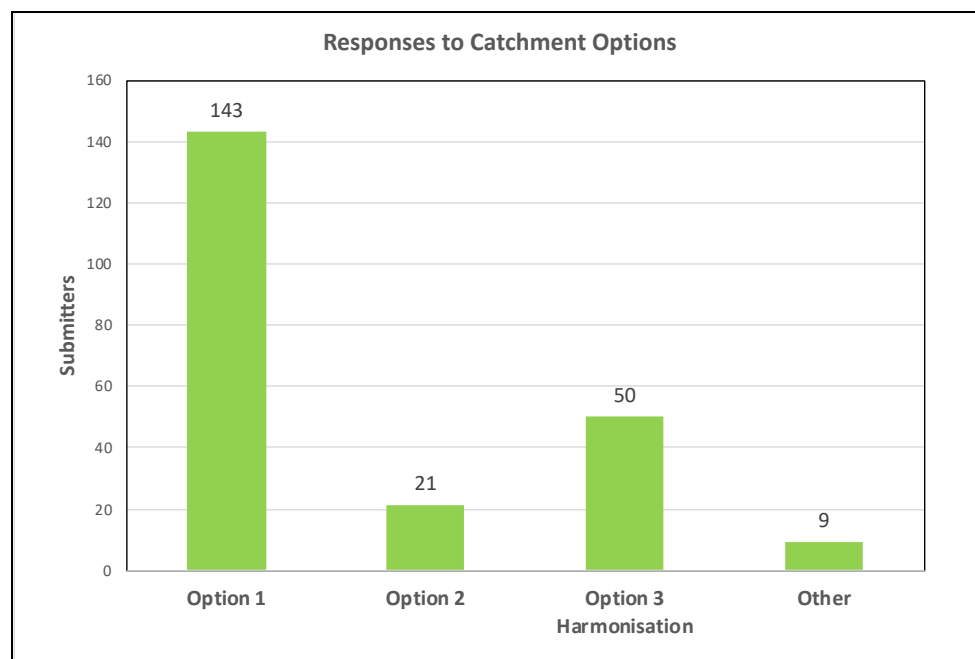
The counter view expressed was that areas with lower contributions have good surplus infrastructure capacity and lower expected capital spending going forward. Development there should be encouraged to make use of that capacity by reflecting a lower unit price. They should not be subject to higher charges subsidising the main growth areas.

Officer Analysis

Of the 223 submitters on the catchments question, 143 (64.1%) support Option 1, which is that currently proposed in Section 2.3 of the draft Development Contributions Policy 2021. Some of the concerns about unaffordable development contribution costs in smaller centres may be allayed by generally lower scheme contributions in those centres in Table 1 of the draft Policy. Concerns raised in submissions about the high relative costs at Tara-Ika, could be partly addressed by refining the capital projects list to ensure any costs associated with Levin North are separately allocated to that catchment.

The issue of incentivising higher densities raised at the hearing, is partly covered in the draft Policy. Table 3 of the Policy assigns lower units of demand to 1-bedroomed and studio units, retirement sector units and for stormwater, multi-unit and multi storey developments.

Concerns by Federated Farmers (389) that development in rural areas will pay toward water supply, wastewater and stormwater are resolved by using a scheme-by-scheme approach. Rural development outside the scheme boundary will not be liable for three waters contributions. In fact any development that does not connect to a Council water supply or wastewater network will not be liable for paying these contributions.



Option 2 is favoured by 21 submitters (9.4%) for reasons stated in the summary of submissions above. This option is similar to Option 1 but will see major expenses in growth areas being absorbed into the relevant scheme area (for the three waters) or into the district-wide roading and community infrastructure catchments. This will have the effect that development anywhere in a scheme area (for example the Levin wastewater scheme area) will pay toward these major expenses, placing an unfair burden on developers outside the growth area.

Option 3: Harmonisation, with single district-wide charges for each activity, is supported by 50 submitters (22.4%). While harmonisation has been a recognised approach in the district, the LGA 2002, discourages large catchments unless an activity (such as roading) serves a district-wide network function. This is particularly the case if capital spending varies between different parts of schemes around the district. The Council may find the Policy open to challenge if it requires higher development contributions in areas that are less costly to service than other parts of the district.

Option 4 (Other) approaches suggesting case-by-case contributions, based on demand or usage – not on availability, will be extremely complex to administer. A harmonisation approach using district-wide flat-rate charges may be open to challenge under LGA 2002. In combination with a targeted rate for particular areas, this may be complex to administer.

Recommendations

That Council adopts to retain the catchment approach listed in Section 2.3 of the draft Development Contributions Policy 2021 using district-wide catchments for roading and community infrastructure and scheme-by-scheme catchments for water supply, wastewater treatment and stormwater, and any growth areas with major expenses related specifically to them, paying an additional contribution for those expenses.

Actions

Option 1 requires amendments to the development contributions model and Table 1 of the draft Policy showing any additional development contributions in growth areas other than Tara-Ika.

Topic 4: Time of payment

Submission Numbers: Agree with the approach in the draft Policy:

1, 2, 3, 7, 26, 29, 30, 31, 33, 34, 35, 36, 39, 42, 43, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 51, 52, 53, 54, 58, 59, 62, 63, 66, 67, 68, 69, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 78, 79, 82, 83, 86, 88, 90, 91, 92, 94, 95, 96, 99, 100, 101, 103, 104, 107, 108, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 134, 138, 140, 141, 147, 149, 151, 154, 156, 157, 165, 167, 169, 175, 176, 179, 181, 183, 189, 191, 192, 195, 196, 197, 199, 201, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 213, 215, 216, 218, 219, 223, 226, 229, 230, 231, 247, 254, 256, 257, 258, 264, 268, 269, 276, 277, 278, 283, 284, 285, 287, 299, 300, 309, 334, 336, 340, 342, 344, 347, 357, 365, 366, 367, 369, 370, 371, 375, 376, 381, 383, 384, 393, 394, 397, 444, 445, 447, 452, 453, 456, 458, 459, 461, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 484, 488, 492, 495, 497.

Submission Numbers: Did not agree with the approach:

4, 25, 27, 32, 40, 44, 50, 60, 61, 70, 80, 84, 85, 110, 132, 135, 136, 144, 148, 155, 164, 166, 168, 180, 182, 184, 190, 193, 198, 227, 228, 232, 233, 266, 267, 271, 272, 274, 282, 289, 298, 345, 350, 355, 363, 364, 373, 385, 391, 392, 412, 415, 446, 454, 455, 460, 462, 487, 494.

Other

Submitter 457 agrees with charging on subdivisions at the time of granting the section 224(c) certificate but does not agree with delaying charging on a building consent until first inspection.

Summary of Submissions

Of the submitters agreeing with the approach to time of payment in the draft Policy, a number raise the importance of cashflows to project viability. They believe the proposed approach will encourage developers to invest in the district. Some submitters agree with the approach as long as Council can pay for infrastructure in advance and will not incur holding costs until developers pay their contributions.

Some submitters seek an even more lenient approach, with payments over 3 stages or delaying payments until as late as the point of sale of lots or buildings.

Submitters opposing later payment in the case of subdivision and building consents express views that:

- not recovering development contributions at the time of granting consent, as allowed by LGA 2002, runs the risk of Council never being able to recover its costs;
- ratepayers will be underwriting the risk of holding costs if developers pay at the later times or fail to pay contributions;
- efficient developers should be able to manage their cashflows, build in contingencies or have lines of credit enabling them to do so, and if they do not, then they should not start the development; and
- development contributions should be required when a building consent is applied for.

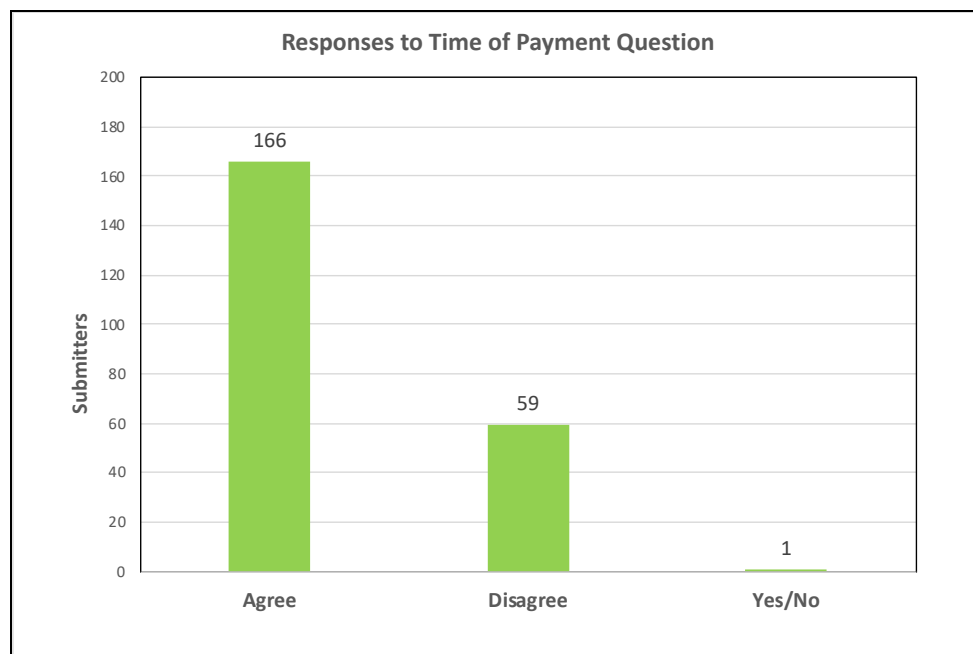
Submitter 322, Summerset Group Holdings Limited raises the following specific points on time of payment:

- that where both land use resource consents and building consents are required in a staged development, the activity should be assessed for development contributions based on the relevant policy applicable at the time the resource consent is lodged; and
- that development contributions on a building consent should be payable on the issue of the code compliance certificate rather than at the time of the first building inspection. This is on the basis that only when buildings can be occupied will the development start to place additional demand on infrastructure.

Officer Analysis

Of the 226 submitters on the time of payments question, 166 (73.5%) agree with the approach in the draft Development Contributions Policy 2021 to allow later payment times than allowed for in LGA 2002, in the case of subdivision and building consents.

59 submitters (26.1%) disagree with the time of payment approach being proposed and 1 submitter (0.4%) only wants to see later payment on subdivision consents and not on building consents.



The Policy as drafted, is an attempt to strike a reasonable balance between the statutory requirements and the realities of the development process. It is based initially on provisions in sections 198(1) and 198(4A) of LGA 2002, that allow the Council to require payment of a development contribution when granting consents. However, Council recognises that in the case of

subdivision and building consents, there can be a considerable time between granting consents and lots and buildings being ready for sale. At the same time, Council should not delay payments until *after* the points in time it can act against any failure to pay by withholding a section 224(c) certificate, a code compliance certificate or a service connection. The risk of any failure to recover development contributions then falls to the ratepayer. Staging payments over 3 stages could be useful but could also be administratively complex.

The points raised by Submitter 322 Summerset Group Holdings Limited are noted. To clarify, Section 3.1.4 of the draft Policy states that a development contribution assessment and invoice must be consistent with the contents of *the policy in force at the time the application for the resource consent, building consent or service connection was accepted*. This is consistent with section 198(2A) of LGA 2002. The submitter's proposal would 'lock in' all subsequent building consents on a large multi-stage development such as a retirement village to the contribution amounts applicable at the date of the first resource consent. Over time, the development contribution policy will be reviewed to reflect a changing capital programme and revised growth estimates. Later building consents lodged under a revised policy will have to be consistent with that policy or be in breach of section 198(2A).

On the matter of invoicing a building consent development contribution at the time of issuing the code compliance certificate, this is not required by the LGA 2002, and in some cases, builders may not request code compliance, thereby avoiding the payment 'trigger'. The requirement to pay on first inspection as proposed in the draft Policy is considered a reasonable balance, recognising that with building underway, the developer is nearing the point when the building can be sold.

Submissions suggesting that a development contribution be required when a building consent is applied for cannot be accepted as this is not possible under the LGA 2002.

Recommendations

That Council adopt option 1: Retain the time of payment approach set out in Sections 2.11 and 3.5 with tracked changes in the draft Development Contributions Policy 2021, requiring the payment of development contributions.

Topic 5: Reductions

Submission Numbers: Agree with the reductions approach proposed:

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 29, 30, 31, 33, 34, 35, 39, 40, 48, 49, 50, 54, 58, 59, 62, 63, 66, 67, 68, 71, 73, 74, 75, 80, 82, 86, 88, 91, 92, 94, 95, 96, 99, 100, 101, 103, 105, 108, 126, 127, 128, 130, 131, 132, 134, 135, 138, 140, 141, 144, 147, 148, 153, 154, 165, 166, 169, 175, 179, 181, 183, 184, 189, 190, 191, 193, 195, 196, 199, 201, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 213, 219, 223, 227, 229, 231, 247, 256, 257, 278, 282, 283, 284, 299, 300, 309, 334, 336, 340, 342, 344, 365, 366, 367, 369, 371, 383, 393, 394, 397, 444, 452, 453, 458, 461, 478, 480, 481, 484, 492, 495, 496, 497.

Submission Numbers: Disagree with the scope of reductions:

25, 26, 27, 32, 36, 42, 44, 46, 47, 51, 52, 53, 60, 61, 69, 70, 72, 78, 79, 83, 84, 85, 89, 93, 107, 110, 124, 125, 129, 136, 149, 150, 151, 152, 155, 156, 164, 167, 168, 180, 182, 192, 197, 198, 215, 216, 218, 228, 230, 232, 233, 254, 258, 264, 266, 268, 271, 272, 274, 276, 277, 285, 287, 289, 298, 345, 347, 350, 355, 357, 364, 375, 376, 381, 384, 385, 391, 392, 412, 415, 445, 446, 454, 455, 456, 459, 460, 462, 479, 487, 488, 494.

Other

Submitter 447 did not respond Yes or No to the question but commented that the environment and the community need help, indicating support for reductions in cases of significant public benefit.

Summary of Submissions

Comments behind supporting submissions are on the basis that allowing reductions in cases of significant public benefit and affordability issues, will encourage development and see more houses built.

There is however considerable opposition to the reductions proposal in comments made. Several submitters made submissions on each of the following themes:

- The scope for reductions is too subjective and open to interpretation. It opens the door to developers with arguments on affordability and the viability of their developments. There should be one rule for all.
- Ratepayers should not be left to fund any shortfalls when reductions are given. With current debt levels, the Council is in no position to forego income and too much revenue has been lost already in the absence of a development contributions policy.
- If developments require reductions, then they are not viable. Government should subsidise affordable housing on social grounds, or developers should look to private sources to fund shortfalls.
- Developments giving significant environmental or community benefits could warrant reductions but reductions on the basis of affordability are not warranted.
- Reductions should not be considered on big developments but could be considered on single lot subdivisions in existing urban centres.

Some submitters believe that if reductions are to be allowed for, then criteria and thresholds tightened, to avoid subjectivity. Cross checks need to be in place to ensure shortfalls are funded and do not fall to the ratepayer. The reduction process needs to be highly open and transparent.

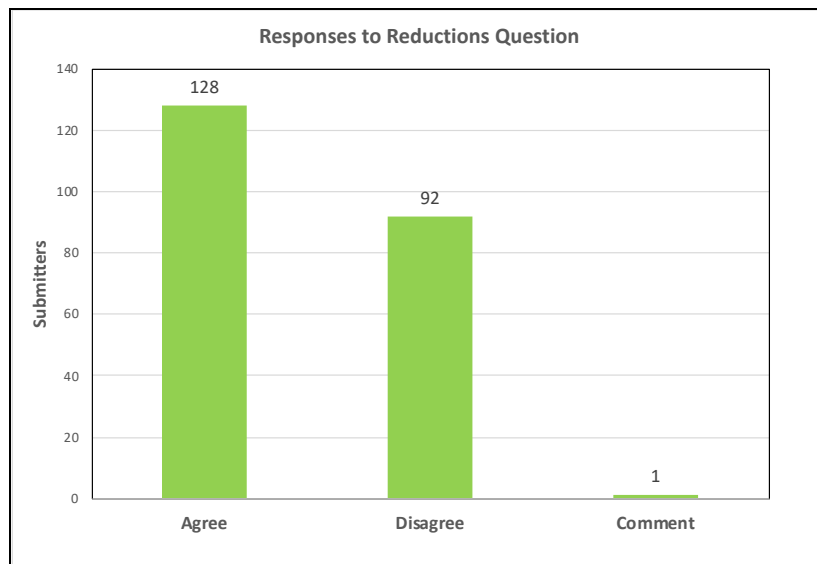
The matter of reductions was raised by a number of submitters at the hearing, reiterating matters such as the definitions of significant public benefit and significant affordability issues, tighter thresholds and criteria and transparency.

Officer Analysis

Of the 221 submitters on the reductions question, 128 (57.9%) agree with the approach in the draft Development Contributions Policy 2021, to reducing the amount of development contributions (on request) in circumstances of significant public benefit or significant affordability issues.

Although this shows a strong interest in allowing for reductions, a significant number of submitters 92 (41.6%) disagree with the approach and raise a range of concerns in their comments.

There appears to be some latitude in cases where developments bring a significant public benefit but there are strong views on the issue of affordability, believing that it is for the Government or other sources to fund any shortfalls in affordable housing provision and not for the ratepayers to underwrite. If and when reductions are to be considered, the view is that criteria must be tighter than in the draft Policy and there need to be provisions to ensure the community is aware of the process.



Recommendations

That Council adopts Option 2: Amend the reductions within draft Development Contributions Policy 2021 with tracked changes to:

- e) Narrowing the scope of reductions; and/or
- f) Better defining terminology around significant public benefit and significant affordability issues; and/or
- g) Establishing tighter criteria and thresholds for considering reductions in certain cases; and/or
- h) Increasing the visibility and transparency of the reductions process

Other matters raised in submissions

The following submitters made submissions on other matters relating to the draft Development Contributions Policy 2021, that have not already been covered in this report.

Submission number

Submitters 125 (W B Cardiff), 456 (G Schibli), 322 (Y Yoon & A Small for Summerset Group Holdings Limited), 415 (A. Coats for Proarch Consultants Limited agent for FRP Investments Limited, FRP Agricultural Limited and Heritage Estates (2000) Limited), 452 (K & S Prouse).

Summary of Submissions

Submitter 125 wishes to see historical development contributions recovered, that were by-passed from 2015 when the previous development contribution policy was allowed to lapse.

Submitter 456 is keen to ensure that development contributions should not apply to building consents already permitted at 1 July 2021, when the new Policy comes into force.

Submitter 322 Summerset Group Holdings Limited considers that the draft Policy, does not adequately distinguish between comprehensive care retirement villages and their significantly lower demand profile when compared with lifestyle retirement villages. The submitter seeks:

- A separate demand rate being set for retirement villages, consistent with policies of other councils. This should distinguish between retirement units and aged care rooms and provide separate rates for each.
- Water and wastewater contributions being set at the resource consent stage set against those for a normal household unit.
- Stormwater contributions being set at the resource consent stage based on the site-specific stormwater management proposed and demonstrate a causal connection between any public stormwater infrastructure and demand directly attributable to the retirement village.
- The following unit of demand factors applying to aged care rooms and retirement units.

Development type	Activity	Units of Demand
Retirement unit	Transport	0.3 HUE per unit
	All others	0.1 HUE per unit
Aged care room	Transport	0.2 HUE per room
	Community infrastructure	0.1 HUE per room

Submitter 415 requests that development contributions should not apply to building consents on fully serviced brownfield sites.

Submitter 452 is concerned that if the Council receives a major Government grant for Tara-Ika, then development contributions should not be charged with Council, in effect, being paid twice for the same infrastructure. In the hearing, the submitter was also concerned that where a developer is required to provide infrastructure, that the Council does not charge for the same infrastructure through development contributions.

Officer Analysis

Submitter 125. The LGA 2002 prevents the Council from seeking historical development contributions for the time that a development contributions policy was not in force. Section 198(2A) of the Act states that a development contribution *must be consistent with the content of the policy that was in force at the time that the application for consent was submitted*. For all applications submitted between 1 July 2015 and 30 June 2021, *no policy has been in force* against which to assess those applications. Under the draft Policy, a development contribution cannot be applied retrospectively to lots or development where the application is dated on/prior to 30 June 2021.

The concern of Submitter 456 that the new Policy should not apply to building consents already permitted before 1 July 2021 can be allayed by the same Section 198(2A) of LGA 2002. The policy applying is a *policy in force at the time the building consent application was submitted*. In the absence of a development contributions policy up to 1 July 2021, no contribution can be required on that building consent. Only building consents submitted after 1 July 2021 will be liable for development contributions under the new Policy.

This matter of retrospective contributions was also raised at the hearing. A number of submitters were concerned that when a developer comes to build a house on an existing lot, contributions will be required retrospectively for the lot by charging a contribution on the first dwelling. Section 2.1.3 of the draft Policy specifically *deems any existing lots or development already legally established on the site, to have paid a contribution already*. In the example, the lot will be deemed to have paid a contribution so that when the first dwelling is built on it – no contribution will be payable. If however a second dwelling is consented, that second dwelling will pay a contribution for the extra demand it is creating over and above that of the first dwelling and lot.

In response to Submitter 322 Summerset Group Holdings Limited, the following points can be made:

- The draft Development Contributions Policy does distinguish between retirement units and aged care rooms, by definition in Appendix 3 – Glossary of Terms and in Table 3 where the expected units of demand from a development can be determined.
- The units of demand requested by the submitter are compared to those in the draft Policy in the table below. The shaded areas show the main points of difference. The draft Policy applies higher units of demand for water and wastewater than Submitter 322. The reason for this is that the draft Policy uses the 2018 Census dwelling occupancy of 2.6 persons for the district and compares this with occupancies of:
 - an average 1.3 persons ($1.3/2.6=0.5$) per unit for retirement units
 - 1 person ($1/2.6=0.4$ UoD) per room for aged care rooms.
- These unit/ room occupancies are the same as those suggested in paragraph 9 of the submission but Submitter 322 considers that a lower demand per occupant should also apply.
- The draft Policy attributes zero demand from either retirement units or aged care rooms for community infrastructure, while Submitter 322 suggests a demand factor of 0.1.
- The draft Policy accepts that retirement villages typically provide recreation facilities on site and persons in aged care rooms place little or no demand on any community facilities.

Development type	Activity	Submitter 322 Units of Demand	Draft Policy 2021 Units of Demand
Retirement unit	Transport	0.3 HUE per unit	0.3 UoD per unit (same)
	All others		
	Water supply	0.1 HUE per unit	0.5 UoD per unit
	Wastewater	0.1 HUE per unit	0.5 UoD per unit
	Stormwater	Calculation at consent	Calculation using impervious area
	Community Infrastructure	0.1 HUE per unit	0 HUE per unit
	Aged care room	Transport	0.2 HUE per room
Water supply		0 HUE per unit	0.4 UoD per unit
Wastewater		0 HUE per unit	0.4 UoD per unit
Stormwater		Calculation at consent	Calculation using impervious area
Community infrastructure		0.1 HUE per unit	0 UoD per room

- On the matter of stormwater, the draft Policy calculates demand on the basis of impervious area. The submitter refers to the Council having to demonstrate a *causal connection* between any public stormwater infrastructure and demand directly attributable to the retirement village. This is the case and in Section 3.1.1, when considering any consent

application, the Council has to test if the proposal is a 'development' for the purposes of each activity, including stormwater. If for example there was no run-off from the site, the Council would have difficulty regarding the proposal as 'development'. However, importantly, Section 197 (AB)(1)(c) of LGA 2002 allows an equal consideration of *benefit*. If, for example, a retirement village is to directly benefit from works that prevent flooding or improve drainage in the surrounding urban area, reducing risk to the village and allowing residents to more easily access amenities, shops and doctors, then a development contribution may be justifiable.

In response to Submitter 415, seeking no development contributions on fully serviced brownfield sites, it is reasonable to expect that additional homes or businesses built on existing fully serviced sites still consume capacity in infrastructure. Cumulatively, this can have a substantial effect and start leading to infrastructure failures – congestion, low water pressure, wastewater and stormwater overflows. The requirement in the draft Policy for contributions on additional dwellings on existing fully serviced brownfield sites is considered to be justifiable.

Submitter 452 can be assured that the amounts and expected drawdown dates for Government grants for Tara-Ika, have been included in the Development Contribution Policy and model. The contribution amounts that will be charged at Tara-Ika have been reduced accordingly. In addition, it would be unlawful under section 200(1) of the LGA 2002 to include in a development contribution, the costs of works funded by a developer (for example as a condition of resource consent) or any third party.

Recommendations

That Council considers tracked changes within the Draft Development Contributions Policy (report attached) from the discussions at hearings and submissions received.

Attachments

No.	Title	Page
A	Development Contributions - Part 1 - Marked up changes for deliberations - Part 1	41

Confirmation of statutory compliance

In accordance with section 76 of the Local Government Act 2002, this report is approved as:

- a. containing sufficient information about the options and their advantages and disadvantages, bearing in mind the significance of the decisions; and,
- b. is based on adequate knowledge about, and adequate consideration of, the views and preferences of affected and interested parties bearing in mind the significance of the decision.

Signatories

Author(s)	Jacinta Straker Chief Financial Officer	
Approved by	Nicki Brady Deputy Chief Executive	

3.8 Contributions not paid	2423	Field Code Changed
3.9 Information requirements	2524	Field Code Changed
3.10 Statement on GST	2524	Field Code Changed
Appendix 1 – Development Contribution Activity Catchments	2625	Field Code Changed
Map 1 – Tara-Ika Growth Area	2726	Field Code Changed
		Field Code Changed
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Draft

Horowhenua District Development Contributions Policy – 2021-2041

Part 1 – Introduction, policy decisions and practical application

This development contributions policy is in two parts. **Part 1** gives context to the policy and sets out the decisions the Council has taken in making the policy. It then describes the steps to be followed when applying the policy to development applications.

Part 2 is a separate document setting out the legislative matters the Council has had to consider, the method of calculating the contributions, significant assumptions, and other supporting material.

This policy is operative from 1 July 2021, and is based on capital expenditure proposed in the Long Term Plan 2021-41. It takes direction from Council's Revenue and Financing Policy on which activities are to be funded by development contributions. The various sections of the policy cover:

- **Section 1** - the purpose of the policy, the growth and infrastructure context and a comparison between development contributions and other sources of funding.
- **Section 2** - the decisions the Council has taken in making this policy.
- **Section 3** - the way the policy will be applied in practice.
- **Section 4** – the legislative matters the Council has considered.
- **Section 5** – the way in which development contributions are calculated.

Section 1 - Introduction

1.1 Purpose

1.1.1 The Horowhenua Development Contributions Policy 2021-2041 is made under the Local Government Act 2002 (the Act). The Council has to manage its financial dealings prudently and in the current and future interests of the community¹. In doing so, it must be sure about the sources and levels of funding it will use for the activities it carries out². There are various funding sources available to the Council. To use these, it has to adopt a number of financial and funding policies, one of which is a policy on development contributions or financial contributions³.

1.1.2 The policy is based on capital expenditure proposed in the Long Term Plan 2021-2041 and is adopted as one of the source documents that will meet some of the funding needs in the long term plan.

1.1.3 The purpose of this policy is to:

- a) provide predictability and certainty to developers that the Council can give them the infrastructure they need to support their investments;

¹ Section 101(1)

² Section 102(1)

³ Section 102(2)(d)

- b) ensure developers know what they are paying for and that development is not discouraged by high infrastructure costs; and
- c) ensure the existing community is not burdened by the costs of growth, but does contribute to growth infrastructure when it provides a clear benefit to them by improving their existing levels of service, renewing aging assets or helping them meet new legislative standards.

1.2 Why have this policy?

- 1.2.1 When growth in population and business takes place, new development is carried out to accommodate it. The extra traffic, water consumption, wastewater generation and stormwater run-off from that development, all take up spare capacity in Council's infrastructure. Unless provision is made, that capacity can be used up over time and networks start to fail. Traffic congestion, low water pressure or quality, wastewater overflows and flooding can all signal a failure to keep up with growth. In some cases, parks, libraries and other public amenities can become crowded as the capacity they were designed for is used up.
- 1.2.2 To avoid this, the Council plans ahead and puts capital spending in its budgets to provide more capacity to service growth when it is needed.
- 1.2.3 While the community may welcome growth, it should not be expected to fund extra infrastructure, particularly when it is already at the right levels of service.
- 1.2.4 In New Zealand, financial and development contributions are the two main sources of growth funding available to local authorities.

1.3 Other sources of funding growth related capital spending

- 1.3.1 Financial contributions are usually used for local infrastructure directly associated with a new development – that is, within, nearby or linking it to wider public networks. Council will not normally get involved financially with this local infrastructure. It expects developers to provide it and vest it with Council once it is completed to the right standard, with no financial contribution required.
- 1.3.2 In some situations though, it may be best for Council to become financially involved. It can decide to enable development by building a piece of local infrastructure and then charging financial contributions to recover its costs. Typically, this happens where multiple developers are involved and it is not fair or practical for one developer to provide local infrastructure ahead of others who will also benefit from it. Financial contributions are a good funding source in this situation.
- 1.3.2 The Horowhenua Financial Contribution Policy (2015), was adopted at a time when little or no growth was taking place. It does not summarise the total cost of growth-related capital spending or the proportion to be funded by financial contributions. Until it is reviewed, it will not be a viable source of funding for growth.
- 1.3.4 In making this policy, the Council has considered other sources of funding, so as not to unduly burden and potentially discourage development with development contributions. These sources include:

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[021 67555 Development Contributions - Part 1 - Marked up changes for deliberations - Part 1 - 19 May 2021 With comments removed V3\[2\]40240616-DGP-Part 1-.docx](#)

- a) grants and subsidies – principally Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency subsidies for the district's roading activity and also Crown Infrastructure Partners (CIP) grants for supporting infrastructure for the Tara-ika development at Levin;
- b) targeted rates payable under the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002;
- c) levies payable under the Infrastructure Funding and Financing Act 2020;
- d) user charges; and
- e) asset sales.

1.4 What are development contributions used for?

1.4.1 Development contributions are a good way of funding public network and bulk infrastructure that the Council has already provided, or plans to provide to support growth. Local authorities typically provide trunk sewers, water mains, wastewater and water supply treatment plants, collector and arterial roads, public transport assets, libraries, sports fields, parks and other public amenities.

1.4.2 These are usually of such a scale and cost that no one developer can fund them alone, even where they need them to make their development viable and marketable.

1.4.3 Development contributions provide the ideal funding tool to collect money from large and small-scale developments and pool them to fund 'big ticket' infrastructure. Even small-scale developments can, cumulatively, put pressure on our networks over time.

1.5 Development agreements

1.5.1 In some cases, developers may be able to build large items of public infrastructure, that Council would normally provide itself but is not yet ready to. Developers may also offer the Council land it wants to acquire for public projects.

1.5.2 To enable a development to go ahead, the Council can enter into a development agreement with the developer. Commitments can be made to offset development contributions or reimburse the developer directly once the infrastructure is built to standard or land is transferred to Council.

1.6 The approach to growth in our District

1.6.1 Horowhenua District is growing steadily and in some places strongly. The Council is responding pro-actively to this by:

- a) adopting a 95-percentile growth projection for the long term plan;
- b) moving to increase the supply of developable land; and
- c) including a strong growth element in its capital spending programme.

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1.7 How is our District growing?

- 1.7.1 The population of Horowhenua District remained almost constant at just on 31,000 people in the decade 2000 to 2010. In the 4 years to 2014, the District began to experience notable growth. On this basis, Long Term Plan 2015-2025 and Long Term Plan 2018-38 each projected a steepening growth curve. Long Term Plan 2018-2038 projected annual growth of 1.2% and 1.1% respectively in each of the next two decades. In fact, growth since 2018 has exceeded projections, running at an average 2% per annum. Sense Partners⁴ projects the resident population to grow from 36,708 in 2019 to 62,716 in 2041 in the range 2.6-2.8% per annum. This population growth is expected to be accompanied by strong dwelling growth.
- 1.7.2 There is some uncertainty around business growth⁵ in the District as a result of the pandemic but the positive effects on the construction and service sectors, as a result of strong immigration, may assist the economic recovery.
- 1.7.3 To account for any slowdown in business activity a lower business growth rate has been built into the policy in the first three years of the long term plan. After 2024, the policy assumes business growth keeping pace with the strong population and dwelling growth expected. This assumption will be reviewed over the next 3 years.
- 1.7.4 In general, the growth outlook is positive for Horowhenua with factors such as the influence of Wellington and increasingly strong transport links to the capital at play. However, there is a degree of uncertainty around long-term sustained growth. Growth projections supporting this policy need to be constantly monitored and the timing and scale of development-related capital expenditure moderated accordingly.

1.8 The infrastructure response

- 1.8.1 In response to the strong growth outlook, a number of capital projects have been identified and costed into Long Term Plan 2021-41, to enable and support growth. These include:
- a) Major road intersection upgrades and connections in Levin in to meet expected traffic increases from the Tara-ika growth area;
 - b) Subsidised road improvement, footpath, cycleway and shared path programmes

⁴ Sense Partners. Horowhenua Socio-Economic projections, Summary and methods, Projections update report, May 2020, p2

"Horowhenua's strong population growth is driven by a continued substantial inflow of migrants from other parts of New Zealand. We are forecasting a net inflow of 650 domestic migrants per year over the next 10 years. This is a substantial upward revision, from 270 migrants per year in our 2019 forecasts." Sense Partners puts this down to a combination of factors including:

- *"Improved accessibility from the expressways have been built to the south of the District*
- *Increased costs of living, especially house price inflation, in most urban centres including Palmerston North and Wellington."*

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- across the district, increasing the capacity of the existing network to deal with traffic growth, as well as extending it into new growth areas;
- c) Forward-looking strategic wastewater treatment plant upgrade or effluent disposal option projects, in expectation of growth at Foxton/Foxton Beach, Waitare Beach, Tokomaru and Levin (including those dealing with the increasing wastewater volumes generated by Tara-Ika);
 - d) Specific large-scale capital expenditure on the Tara-Ika wastewater trunk network in the early years of the long term plan to enable the development to go ahead;
 - e) Growth-related reticulation upgrades in Levin itself and for the Levin north east growth area;
 - f) Wastewater plant and reticulation renewal⁸ programmes across the district, that are expected to include additional capacity to cater for growth;
 - g) Water treatment plant and reticulation renewals across the district, expected to include additional capacity for growth;
 - h) Specific Levin water supply capital projects to deal with growth (infill and new areas) with specific funding in Year 2 of the long term plan to extend trunk reticulation into Tara-Ika to enable it to proceed;
 - i) A major project to secure and implement an alternative water source for Levin to deal with existing level of service issues but also to serve growth into the future;
 - j) A project to deal with stormwater from the Levin north east growth area to enable it to develop;
 - k) An on-going district-wide programme of reserve improvements and play equipment installation, as demand from growth requires more facilities;
 - l) Specific provision for Tara-Ika reserve acquisition as development gets underway;
 - m) Staged aquatic centre redevelopments with increased capacity provided for growth during redevelopment;

1.8.2 The Central/Local Government Three Waters Reform Programme, announced in 2020, will change the way three waters capital projects are delivered to the community in future. This could affect the timing and scope of a number of the projects above. The expectation is that any new entities will still deliver the assets needed to support the growth of Horowhenua District.

The report notes that the results of the 2018 Census warrant the further upward revision of Horowhenua's population projections.

⁸ Sense Partners p3 predicts "a sharp, but reasonably short-lived economic shock, based on the New Zealand Treasury's Budget Economic and Fiscal Update (May 2020)" with rising national unemployment, recovering again from mid-2021 and falling GDP recovering from 2022.

⁹ Infill development is starting to put pressure on networks and in carrying out renewal projects, the Council will take the opportunity to add capacity to the networks to cope with growth.

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Section 2 - Policy decisions

2.1 Requiring contributions for 'development'

- 2.1.1 The Council, using its powers under the Act⁷ has decided that it may require development contributions at the times set out⁸ for activities it undertakes in the geographic areas described in this policy. It will only do this when 'development'⁹, as defined in the Act, takes place. Development is any activity that generates demand for reserves, network infrastructure or community infrastructure. In so doing it requires new or additional assets, or assets of increased capacity, and causes the Council to incur capital expenditure. Once it collects contributions, the Council will use them for the purposes specified, in the areas collected¹⁰.
- 2.1.2 Before assessing and requiring a development contribution, under Section 3, the Council will apply a test to ensure the activity for which a consent or authorisation has been applied for, meets the definition of 'development'.
- 2.1.3 The Council has decided that it will not seek development contributions for any existing lots or development already legally established on the site. It will deem all existing lots and development to have paid a contribution. It will not require the applicant to show that a development contribution, financial contribution or any other capital charge has been paid in the past.
- 2.1.4 When calculating a development contribution, the Council will assess the extent of lots or development on completion of the development and deduct the extent of lots or development existing when granting the consent or authorisation for a service connection.
- 2.1.5 This allowance is still subject to conditions set out in Section 3.

2.2 Activities

- 2.2.1 The Council has met its obligations under the Act¹¹ when making its Revenue and Financing Policy and has determined that development contributions are an appropriate source of funding to meet the growth-related component of capital expenditure on the following activities:
- Roading;
 - Water supply;
 - Wastewater treatment;
 - Stormwater management;
 - Community infrastructure activities including, libraries, swimming pools, events centres, sports fields, recreation reserves and public toilets.

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⁷ Section 199(1)

⁸ Section 198 and section 200(4)

⁹ Section 197(1)

¹⁰ Section 197AB(1)(d)

¹¹ Section 101(3)(a) and (b)

- 2.2.2 Once a review of the solid waste management activity has been completed, the Council may consider the use of development contributions to fund this activity and possibly other activities supporting growth.
- 2.2.3 Unless identified reserves, open spaces and accessways are listed in the long term plan, as part of the community infrastructure activity, the Council will not require a blanket development contribution for reserves under this policy.
- 2.2.4 It may review this position and signal an approach to reserve acquisition and rationalisation. In the interim it will focus on reserve land identified in the long term plan or rely on developers to provide smaller local reserves as conditions of resource consent.
- 2.2.5 The Council is aware of other sources of funding for growth-related capital spending. It will not look to replace development contributions with those sources, but will factor those other sources into the development contribution calculation on a project-by-project basis. Where appropriate and where the amounts are known, it will reduce development contribution amounts.
- 2.2.6 In particular the Council will look to using special purpose vehicle (SPV) levy orders, targeted rates, asset sales, subsidies and grants to avoid the dependence on development contributions as the sole source of growth capital funding.
- 2.3 Catchments
- 2.3.1 The Council has considered the geographic distribution of growth-related capital expenditure in the district and the grouping of developments¹² into catchments. It has determined to:
- a) minimise the use of district-wide catchments for the recovery of development contributions, but to still use district-wide catchments for:
 - i. roading and for community infrastructure activities serving the whole District;
 - ii. non-specific programme funding for water supply, wastewater treatment and stormwater management assets that can be directed to any area in the district in response to development initiatives;
 - b) use scheme-by-scheme¹³ water supply, wastewater treatment and stormwater management catchments because it considers it unreasonable to transfer costs between schemes where significant differentials in cost exist;
 - c) use additional catchments in major growth areas, where significant capital expenditure is proposed that is not expected to benefit the wider community.
- 2.3.2 In the case of water supply and wastewater treatment, the Council may review its position and use larger combined catchments where development contributions between schemes

¹² Section 197AB(1)(g)

¹³ The Central/Local Government Three Waters Reform Programme may, in due course, see scheme based catchments replaced with district-wide or sub-regional charges with common charges applying across them.

are similar. Development contributions will be payable only where the service is available and only by those new households, businesses or other developments connecting to the networks concerned or with the ability to connect to the network.

2.3.3 The catchments used in this policy are summarised in **Appendix B**.

2.4 Limitations on costs included

2.4.1 The Council will ensure that any project going forward for inclusion in the development contribution meets the 'test' under section 197(AB(a) of the Act, that additional capacity has or will be provided by the project and as a result, Council has or will incur capital spending.

2.4.2 This policy and the methodology to calculate contributions ensures that a development contribution for a reserve, network infrastructure, or community infrastructure will exclude any funding for the same purpose provided by the developer, by a development contribution already required or by a third party.¹⁴

2.5 Asset capacity provided in the past

2.5.1 Under the Act,¹⁵ the Council can require development contributions for any surplus capacity provided in the past in anticipation of development. It recognises however that many assets provided in the past, in a time of slow or no growth, were not expressly provided with development in mind. It will not seek to recover any part of the costs of those assets through development contributions. It will reconsider this position in the next review of this policy by which time assets provided between 2021 to 2024, in anticipation of development, will have spare capacity for the future.

2.6 Period of benefits

2.6.1 The Council considers that capital expenditure on infrastructure during the long term plan period should be recovered over the full take-up period of each asset, from all development that created the need for that expenditure or will benefit from capacity it provides, including development occurring after the long term plan period¹⁶.

2.6.2 The Council has determined that:

- a) new development occurring in the long term plan period will contribute only to that proportion of additional asset capacity that it is expected to consume;
- b) future development occurring after the long term plan period will contribute toward the remaining surplus capacity in assets at the end of that period.

2.6.3 In keeping with its policy to exclude the value projects provided in past years, the Council will set a start date for the period of benefits of 1 July 2021.

¹⁴ Section 200(1)

¹⁵ Section 199(2)

¹⁶ Section 197AB(1)(b) and Schedule 13

2.6.4 The Council has also decided to include capital expenditure on a number of assets that will be built after the 20 year period covered by the long term plan¹⁷. These are identified in the Schedule of Assets in **Appendix 5**.

2.6.5 Following these considerations, the Council has decided to use a *development contributions calculation period* extending from 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2051 – 30 years after the adoption of this policy to ensure more equitable attribution under the Act. This future outlook is to take account of major infrastructure projects in the current long term plan period that may retain spare capacity for up to 30 years.

2.7 Cost allocation¹⁸

2.7.1 With its capital projects for the next 20 years listed in the long term plan, the Council has identified:

- a) projects that are needed to meet the needs of the existing community to improve its levels of service, meet newly legislated standards or renew aging assets;
- b) capital projects that will service both new development and the existing community; and
- c) capital projects that will be done purely to meet the demands of new development.

2.7.2 The Council has decided that only projects with a clear connection to growth, will go forward for possible funding by development contributions.

2.7.3 Each project's cost is shared between those parties causing the project to be undertaken and those benefitting from the projects. In some cases while growth may cause a project to be carried out, the existing community may also benefit from it in some way. In other cases the existing community may cause a project to be built to replace an old asset but, in doing the project, new development can benefit from any additional capacity provided.

2.7.4 The Council will:

- a) work out the share of cost that will serve new development. This is commonly called the 'growth cost' or 'additional capacity (AC) cost', the balance to be funded by the existing community, by subsidies or other sources;
- b) share the 'growth cost' among all development expected in the next 10, 20 or 30 years, depending on the 'capacity life' of the project; and
- c) work out a cost that each unit of development projected in coming years needs to meet by way of a development contribution.

2.8 Interest and inflation

2.8.1 The Council has decided¹⁹ to include:

- a) provision for inflation in the development contribution amounts; and

¹⁷ Schedule 13 1(2)

¹⁸ Section 197AB(1)(c)

¹⁹ Section 197AA

- b) provision for interest on capital spending on projects in the long term plan, to be recovered through those contributions.

2.8.2 This policy and the supporting development contributions calculation methodology, takes account of the fact that a number of projects will be funded in part by interest free loans negotiated as part of the Council's arrangements with Crown Infrastructure Partners (CIP).

2.9 Development contribution amounts²⁰

2.9.1 Table 1 shows the schedule of development contributions payable for each activity type in each part of the district. The amounts exclude GST.

2.9.2 Table 1 shows water supply and/or wastewater development contribution amounts for areas without one or both services (Ohau and Waitare Beach), although capital spending is planned in the future to enable connection. Development contributions will only apply when the service becomes available and new and existing properties start to connect.

Commented [AH1]: Removal of Levin North – Was an error in the draft. No financial change or impact

	Land Transport		Community Infrastructure		Stormwater		Water Supply			Wastewater Treatment			TOTAL	
	Taxable	District	Taxable	District	Taxable	System	District	Taxable	System	District	Taxable	System		District
Levin	\$499		\$1,547		\$124		\$433	\$3,719	\$0		\$7,563		\$0	\$13,388
Tararua	\$2,559	\$499	\$1,547	\$1,817	\$124	\$433	\$0	\$3,719	\$0	\$1,840	\$7,563	\$0	\$0	\$19,829
Palmyra	\$499		\$1,547		\$0	\$433		\$499	\$0		\$436		\$0	\$2,975
Palmyra Beach	\$499		\$1,547		\$79	\$433		\$1,489	\$0		\$471		\$0	\$4,969
Makarewa/Mangamoa	\$499		\$1,547		\$0	\$433		\$0	\$0		\$0		\$0	\$2,684
Takapuna	\$499		\$1,547		\$0	\$433		\$0	\$0		\$0		\$0	\$2,684
Waiwaka Beach	\$499		\$1,547		\$0	\$433		\$3,080	\$0		\$1,949		\$0	\$7,011
Ohau	\$499		\$1,547		\$0	\$433		\$1,900	\$0		\$1,830		\$0	\$6,168
Wairua	\$499		\$1,547		\$0	\$433							\$0	\$2,684

2.9.3 Table 2 of this policy summarises growth-related capital expenditure that Council expects to incur and the proportion of that expenditure to be funded from various sources including development contributions.

	2021-41 LONG TERM PLAN				
	TOTAL CAPITAL PROJECT COSTS	DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTIONS (NEW)	DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTIONS (FUTURE)	RATES	SUBSIDIES / GRANTS
Land Transport	\$ 316,283,643	\$ 9,363,286	\$ 8,258,893	\$ 113,932,097	\$ 184,711,578
Community Infrastructure	\$ 174,490,365	\$ 17,952,946	\$ 17,956,153	\$ 139,831,261	\$ -
Water Supply	\$ 142,532,897	\$ 21,932,897	\$ 51,238,448	\$ 69,773,433	\$ 2,587,594
Wastewater	\$ 231,329,933	\$ 40,492,896	\$ 59,772,711	\$ 129,017,788	\$ 5,028,539
Stormwater	\$ 27,281,441	\$ 8,811,212	\$ 5,881,789	\$ 12,787,230	\$ 2,001,210
Other Activities	\$ 69,358,700	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 69,358,700	\$ 33,000
TOTAL	\$ 961,298,887	\$ 95,975,237	\$ 142,258,989	\$ 528,937,198	\$ 194,379,423

Insert Table 2

2.10 Units of demand

²⁰ Section 197AB(1)(e) and (f), section 201, section 202

- 2.10.1 The Council has considered a range of development types that it expects to see in the district.
- 2.10.2 It has determined that units of demand generated by different land use types will be those shown in **Table 3** of this policy. **Table 3** shows the demand expected from a range of different residential types, including demand expected from accommodation units and the retirement sector²¹.
- 2.10.3 The different *units of demand* generated by a unit of commercial or industrial activity, as compared with a unit of residential activity, arise mainly from the scale and nature of activity. This Policy uses *gross business area* in the case of business development as a proxy for assessing the different *units of demand* on services, likely to be generated respectively by residential and business activity.
- 2.10.4 The policy assumes that business activity has the potential to place greater demands on services as compared to residential activity, (e.g. as a result of higher and heavier traffic volumes and larger *impervious areas*). This policy incorporates multipliers (*unit of demand factors*) that are intended to take account of the likely additional effect of business activity on service infrastructure.
- 2.10.5 **Table 3** does not distinguish between different types of commercial and industrial development. This is based on the principle that the active business area or impervious area (for stormwater) of any business development will, in most cases, reflect the demand it is expected to place on infrastructure. Once a development contribution is paid, no further contribution will be required, if the nature of business activity changes over time. If further development occurs on the site however, another contribution may be required.
- 2.10.6 Although this policy does not distinguish between business types in **Table 3**, to comply with the Act, the Council will allow applicants to have their developments assessed by **special assessment**.
- 2.10.7 **Table 3** lists certain activities that fall outside the definition of 'development' in the Act. These are considered not to generate any demand on one or more infrastructure types.
- 2.10.8 **Table 3** also allows the demand from activities not specifically listed in **Table 3** to be dealt with by **special assessment**. **The Council accepts that some activities listed in Table 3, by virtue of type of activity or measures provided on the site, may cause less demand on Council infrastructure, while still benefitting from the wider networks around them.**
- 2.11 When are development contributions ~~paid~~ assessed and invoiced?
- 2.11.1 Developers can be made to pay development contributions at times allowed for in the Act²² when granting different types of consent. The Council recognises that it can be some time between consenting and development being completed and able to generate income. The Council has decided to ~~bring~~ delay some contribution payment timings closer to the point when a development generates revenue.

²¹ Schedule 13 2

²² Section 198(1)(a), (b) and (c) and section 198(4A)

Commented [KB2]: 522 Summerset measures taken on site boreholes, stormwater detention reduce causal connection.

2.11.2 The Council's policy is to ~~issue an assessment of invoice~~ development contributions at the times allowed by the Act, in the case of:

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- a) a resource consent for land use, when granting the consent;
- b) in the case of a service connection, at the time of ~~granting an~~ authorisation of a service connection; and
- c) ~~in the case of a certificate of acceptance, at the time of granting the certificate (but only if a development contribution would have been required had a building consent been granted for the same building work in respect of which the certificate is granted);~~

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~~and issue an invoice for development contributions 14 working days after granting these consents, authorisations or certificates.~~

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2.11.3 The Council's policy is to ~~issue an assessment of invoice~~ development contributions ~~when granting a subdivision consent or building consent and issue an invoice at later times than allowed by the Act,~~ in the case of:

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- a) a subdivision consent, at the time of granting a certificate under section 224(c) of the Resource Management Act 1991; and
- b) a building consent, at the time the first building inspection is carried out.

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2.11.4 These times of payment may be postponed in accordance with conditions and criteria in Section 3.

2.11.5 Regardless of when it requires a development contribution, the contribution amounts must be consistent with the policy in force at the time the application for the consent or service connection was accepted²³.

2.12 Remissions, postponements and refunds

2.12.1 In addition to the rights to reconsideration and objection provided for in the Act²⁴, the Council will consider applications for remission, reduction or postponement of development contributions when it applies this policy. This will be subject to the conditions and criteria²⁵ in Section 3.

2.13 Development agreements

2.13.1 The Council recognises the benefits that development agreements can provide for both developers and the Council itself. To enable development, it intends to enter into agreements from time to time with developers for the provision, supply, or exchange of infrastructure, land, or money to provide network infrastructure, community infrastructure, or reserves in the district or any part of it.

²³ Section 198(2A)

²⁴ Section 199A, section 199B and section 199C

²⁵ Section 201(1)(c)

2.13.2 In entering into a development agreement, the Council will comply with all the requirements under the Act²⁸ and ensure that:

- a) all normal procurement procedures are complied with;
- b) works carried out or land provided by a developer represent good value for money and could not be provided by the Council itself or any third party at a lower cost;
- c) works carried out or land provided by a developer and used to offset development contributions are ones that:
 - i. would normally be provided by the Council;
 - ii. are included in the Council's capital programme; and
 - iii. are included in the amount of development contributions in this policy.

Draft

²⁸Section 207A to section 207F

Section 3 – Practical application

Section 3 sets out the steps the Council will take when processing consents or authorisations for development and requiring development contributions. The steps reflect policies adopted by the Council in Section 2 on matters such as activities, catchments, units of demand, timing of payment, remissions, reductions and postponements.

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3.1 Requirement for development contributions – test for 'development'

3.1.1 When granting:

- a) a resource consent under the Resource Management Act 1991;
- b) a building consent under the Building Act 1991(2004);
- c) an authorisation for a service connection;
- d) a certificate of acceptance under section 98 of the Building Act 2004;

Council will first determine whether the activity to which the consent or authorisation relates is a 'development' under the Act, that:

- a) has the effect of requiring new or additional assets or assets of increased capacity (including assets which may already have been provided by Council in anticipation of development); and
- b) as a consequence, requires (or has required) Council to incur capital expenditure to provide appropriately for those assets; and
- c) that capital expenditure is not otherwise funded or provided for.

3.1.2 Once it has determined that the activity is a 'development', Council may require a development contribution to be made towards the activity associated with that development, according to the catchment in which the development is located, including:

- (a) Roading;
- (b) Wastewater treatment;
- (c) Water supply;
- (d) Stormwater; and
- (e) Community infrastructure.

3.1.3 Council will calculate the development contribution payable at the time of granting the consent or authorisation and issue an invoice or, in the case of a subdivision consent or building consent, an assessment, for the amounts payable assessment of the development contributions payable.

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3.1.4 That invoice or assessment as the case may be, must be consistent with the contents of the policy in force at the time the application for resource consent, building consent, or service connection was accepted²⁷.

3.2 Determining units of demand

²⁷ Section 198(2A)

- 3.2.1 The Council has decided to use a standard table to determine units of demand for most common types of development. This is to ensure practicality and administrative efficiency in attributing demand to particular developments or types of development, and that this is done on a consistent and equitable basis[#].
- 3.2.2 Council has determined that units of demand generated by different types of development are those set out in **Table 3**.
- 3.2.3 Demand for infrastructure capacity may come from:
- a) new lots (*lot units of demand*) that are required to be serviced in advance of their occupation; and
 - b) the use and development of lots (*activity units of demand*), including the intensification or expansion of activity on those lots.
- 3.2.4 The assumptions used in this policy to derive the unit of demand factors for business development in **Table 3**, are described in **Appendix 4**.

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[#] Schedule 13 2

Lot Unit of Demand	Units of demand
One residential or rural lot.	1.0
One commercial or industrial lot with an area of 1,000m ² or more, except when calculating the community infrastructure development contribution	1.0
One commercial or industrial lot with an area of less than 1,000m ² , except when calculating the community infrastructure development contribution	Lot area divided by 1,000 per square metre.
One mixed-use residential/commercial/industrial lot, except when calculating the community infrastructure development contribution	1.0
For the purposes of calculating community infrastructure development contributions only , one commercial, industrial or mixed use lot.	0
For the purposes of calculating water supply and wastewater development contributions only , any <u>existing</u> legally established lot not connected to either the water supply network or the wastewater network as the case may be, excluding any existing legally established lot for which a targeted rate or SPV levy to fund capital costs for the scheme has been paid or will be paid.	0
For the purposes of calculating water supply and wastewater development contributions only , any <u>proposed</u> lot not to be connected to either the water supply network or the wastewater network, as the case may be.	0
One lot: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> wholly covenanted in perpetuity as provided for by section 22 of the Queen Elizabeth the Second National Trust Act 1977 the title or nature of which prevents any form of development on the lot 	0
Activity Unit of Demand	Units of demand
One dwelling unit or accommodation unit of two or more bedrooms per unit.	1.0
One commercial or industrial unit, including the commercial or industrial part of any mixed use development, except when calculating the community infrastructure development contribution.	The gross business area on the lot (or in the case of calculating contribution for stormwater, the impervious area) multiplied by the applicable unit of demand factors in this table.
For the purposes of calculating community infrastructure development contributions only , any commercial or industrial unit, including the commercial or industrial part of any mixed use development.	0
Any dwelling unit or accommodation unit of one or fewer bedrooms per unit.	0.5
Any retirement unit for purposes of calculating the road ing contribution only.	0.3
Any retirement unit for purposes of calculating the water supply and wastewater contributions only .	0.5
Any aged care room for purposes of calculating the road ing contribution only.	0.2
Any aged care room for purposes of calculating the water supply and wastewater contributions only .	0.40.1
Any aged care room for purposes of calculating the community infrastructure contribution only .	0
Any development including dwelling units or accommodation units, situated in	For stormwater ONLY, the

Commented [RB3]: Acceptance of 122 Summerset submission that aged care room occupants average age of 81 years use less water per person – etc shorter less frequent showering, communal cooking

Commented [RB4]: 122 Summerset sought inclusion to clarify the policy position as notified but which was not listed in Table 3.

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Table 3 Units of Demand Generated by Subdivision and Development	
attached or multiple storey complexes of more than three units and any retirement unit or aged care rooms.	impervious area multiplied by the applicable unit of demand factor in this table.
For the purposes of calculating water supply and wastewater development contributions only, any existing legally established development not connected to either the water supply network or the wastewater network as the case may be, excluding any existing legally established development for which a targeted rate or SPV levy to fund capital costs for the scheme has or will be paid.	0
For the purposes of calculating water supply and wastewater development contributions only, any proposed development not to be connected to either the water supply network or the wastewater network, as the case may be.	0
Network infrastructure, including pipes, lines and installations, roads, water supply, wastewater and stormwater collection and management systems.	0
Farm buildings associated with normal farming operations including sheds, barns, garages and buildings for indoor poultry livestock and crop production.	0
Other activity (Activity not specified elsewhere in this table) or if listed in this table, of such an unusual-type that it does not reflect the demands normally expected of the activity or where measures taken on the site demonstrably reduce demand on Council infrastructure.	Special assessment
Unit of Demand Factors Commercial or Industrial Development	Calculated in Appendix 4
Roading	0.0014 per square metre of gross business area on the lot used principally for commercial or industrial purposes.
Water Supply	0.00467 per square metre of gross business area on the lot used principally for commercial or industrial purposes.
Sewerage	0.00467 per square metre of gross business area on the lot used principally for commercial or industrial purposes.
Stormwater	0.00278 per square metre of the impervious area on the lot.

Commented [RB5]: 322 Summerset – special assessment

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3.3 Special assessments

3.3.1 When in **Table 3**, a special assessment is required, the Council will consider the nature and scale of the development and its relative demand on infrastructure capacity under any Council activity, as compared to other development types listed in **Table 3** and the *units of demand* attributed to them.

3.3.2 In carrying out a special assessment, the Council will consider, **and give equal weight to the following:**

a) ~~the~~ The proposed traffic, water supply, wastewater and stormwater flows of the development and, where applicable, its demand on community infrastructure. It will compare these with the demands expected from one standard dwelling of 2 or more bedrooms (1 Unit of Demand) and assess the demand of the proposed development relative to that.

a)b) The benefit that the development and its occupants will still derive from other Council funded growth infrastructure in the wider networks.

3.3.3 In doing so, the applicant will provide all information requested on projected traffic, wastewater and water demand, impervious area and occupancy of the development. In the absence of that information the Council will not be obliged to carry out the special assessment.

3.4 Amount of contribution

3.4.1 In keeping with its policy in **Section 2**, the Council will not seek development contributions for any existing lots or development already legally established on the application site. It deems all existing lots and development to have paid a contribution. The formula below deducts the demand already generated by any existing lots or development on the application site from the demand expected after the consented development is completed.

3.4.2 The total amount of development contribution payable when **issuing-granting** any consent or authorisation for subdivision or development, will be the sum of the development contribution payable for each activity, calculated as:

$$[(a) \times (\text{Sum of } (n) - \text{Sum of } (x))] + \text{GST}$$

Where:

(a) = the applicable development contribution amount per *unit of demand* determined from **Table 1** and the *catchment* for each type of community facility in which the subdivision or development lies.

(n) = for each *lot* at the completion of the consent or authorisation application, the total *lot units of demand* OR the total *activity units of demand*, determined by **Table 3**, whichever is the greater.

(x) = for each *lot in existence* (or for which a section 224 certificate under the Resource Management Act 1991 has been **issued-granted**) prior to the date of the consent or authorisation application, the total *lot units of demand* OR the total *activity units of demand* for the existing development, determined by **Table 3**, whichever is the greater.

Commented [R04]: 312 Summerset – changes to use special assessment if it uses a borehole or stormwater detention but this recognises it is not just demand on the immediate network but also benefit from other funded works in the area – town centre parking, flood prevention, intersection safety measures etc

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[D21 67555 Development Contributions - Part 1 - Marked up changes for deliberations - Part 1 - 19 May 2021 With comments removed V3\[2\]40240616-DCP-Part 1-.docx](#)

3.5 Assessments and invoicing

3.5.1 The Council ~~will~~ can invoice require development contributions at the times allowed by the Act¹⁹, in the case of:

- a) a resource consent for land use, when granting the consent under the Resource Management Act 1991;
- b) in the case of a service connection, at the time of granting an authorisation of a service connection; and
- c) in the case of a certificate of acceptance, at the time of granting the certificate of acceptance under the Building Act 2004, but only if a development contribution would have been required had a building consent been granted for the same building work in respect of which the certificate is granted.

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3.5.2 The Council will ~~first issue an assessment of development contributions payable upon granting consent and only at these times and will invoice~~ development contributions, in the case of:

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~~a) a resource consent for land use, an authorisation for service connection or a certificate of acceptance, 14 working days after the granting the consent, authorisation or certificate.~~

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~~a) b) a subdivision consent, at the time of granting a certificate under section 224(c) of the Resource Management Act 1991; and~~

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~~b) c) a building consent under the Building Act 2004, at the time the first building inspection is carried out.~~

3.5.3 A development contribution may be paid at any time from the date of issuing an assessment up to the date when the contribution is required to be paid as a result of the Council issuing an invoice.

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3.6 Remissions, reductions, postponements and refunds

Nothing in this policy diminishes from the rights of reconsideration or objection provided for in the Act²⁰. In addition to these rights, the Council will consider applications for the remission, reduction or postponement of development contributions.

3.6.1 Remissions and reductions

3.6.1.1 The Council may, at the request of an applicant, remit or reduce any development contribution assessed on a development where:

- a) it is expected to provide a significant community benefit; or
- b) the applicant has provided and/or funded the same infrastructure that a development contribution is being required for.

~~The Council may, at the request of an applicant:~~

¹⁹ Section 198(1)(a), (b) and (c) and section 198(4A)

²⁰ Section 199A, section 199B and section 199C

3.6.1.2 Where a remission or reduction is requested under 3.6.1.1 a), the Council must be satisfied that it can fund the reduction or remission from other sources and one of the following criteria can be met:

- c) ~~The applicant is a provider of social housing and proposes to sell homes to purchasers at a price below the annual district median house price; or~~
- d) ~~The applicant is an incorporated Society defined under section 4(1) of the Incorporated Societies Act 1908 or a Charity defined under section 4(1) of the Charities Act 2005; and~~
 - i. ~~the applicant is not funded substantially by Central Government or any parent organisation or other party that provides it with income over and above its own sources such as donations, membership fees or income from sales and services it provides; or~~
 - ii. ~~the development itself contributes to the health and safety or alleviates hardship, vulnerability, cruelty in the district community; or~~
 - iii. ~~financial records show that the proposed development will not be able to proceed without a reduction or remission of development contributions.~~

3.6.1.3 Where a remission or reduction is requested under 3.6.1.1 b), the following criteria must be met:

- a) ~~consider remitting or reducing any development contribution payable by an applicant whose developments are expected to provide a significant public benefit or address significant affordability issues. These considerations will be carried out on a case-by-case basis on their merits. Before granting any remission or reduction, the Council will ensure that alternative sources of funding are obtained to meet any resulting development contributions shortfall.~~
- b) ~~review the contribution payable and grant a remission or reduction of the development contribution where the applicant has provided and/or funded the same infrastructure that a development contribution has been required for. That The remission or reduction will be limited to the cost of infrastructure provided or funded and be subject to Council procurement procedures.~~
- c) ~~In cases where the cost of infrastructure provided or funded exceeds the development contribution payable, the Council will meet the excess costs by separate agreement with the applicant, also subject to the Council's procurement procedures.~~

~~3.6.1.2 If it grants a remission or reduction, the Council may do so on whatever terms it thinks fit.~~

3.6.2 Postponements

3.6.2.1 Council will consider applications for a postponement of the payment of a development contribution in the case of a subdivision consent only, which would normally be invoiced on ~~issuing-granting~~ the section 224(c) certificate.

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[021 67555 Development Contributions - Part 1 - Marked up changes for deliberations - Part 1 - 19 May 2021 With comments removed V3\(2\)20210516-DCP-Part 1-.docx](#)

3.6.2.2 The application must be made ~~when a development contribution assessment is issued and~~ before the Council ~~issuing grants~~ the certificate and invoice. If it grants a postponement, the Council may do so on whatever terms it thinks fit, including that it may:

- a) ~~issue grant~~ a certificate under section 224(c) of the Resource Management Act 1991, prior to the payment of a development contribution; and
- b) register the development contribution under the Land Transfer Act 2017, as a charge on the title of the land in respect of which the development contribution was required.

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3.6.2.3 In registering a statutory land charge, the Council will require payment of the development contribution when each lot or a specified number of lots in the subdivision is transferred.

3.6.3 Requests for review

3.6.3.1 ~~Upon receiving a development contributions assessment, An an~~ applicant may formally request Council to review the development contribution required and remit, reduce or postpone the development contribution payment.

3.6.3.2 Any such request will be made in writing no later than ~~15-14~~ working days after the date on which Council issues an ~~invoice/assessment~~, setting out the reasons for the request.

3.6.3.3 Prior to accepting any such request for review, Council will require the applicant to provide specific details of the manner in which its proposals qualify for a remission, reduction or postponement.

3.6.3.4 ~~In undertaking the review, Council will appoint an independent party.¹⁴ who~~ ~~The Council Hearings Committee will consider any request for review of a development contribution and in doing so:~~

- a) will, as soon as reasonably practicable, ~~publicly notify and~~ consider the request;
- b) ~~will determine whether to hold a hearing for the purposes of the review and if it does,~~ give at least five working days' notice to the applicant of the date, time and place of the hearing;
- c) ~~may, at that party's~~ discretion uphold, remit, in whole or in part, or postpone (as the case may be) the original development contribution ~~required/assessed;~~
- d) ~~and the Council~~ will advise the applicant in writing of the decision within ten working days of the decision being made.

3.6.3.5 The Council may charge a fee as determined in its annual schedule of fees, to consider a request.

¹⁴ An independent party may include:

- a) a hearing commissioner, in the register of approved development contribution commissioners kept by the Minister under section 199E of the Act, or
- b) the Hearings Committee of the Council, which will have the right to draw on any expertise relevant to the subject of the review, including a commissioner on the register in a) above.

3.6.4 Refunds

3.6.4.1 The Council will refund development contributions in accordance with the requirements of sections of the Act³². The Council may retain any portion of a development contribution, to a value equivalent to the costs incurred by it in relation to a development or building, in the case where a development is discontinued and the Council is required to refund the development contribution³³.

3.7 Reconsideration process

3.7.1 An applicant who is required to make a development contribution, may request a reconsideration of that requirement if they believe that:

- a) the development contribution was incorrectly calculated or assessed under this policy; or
- b) the Council incorrectly applied this policy; or
- c) the information used to assess the applicant's development against this policy, or the way the Council has recorded or used it when requiring the development contribution, was incomplete or contained errors³⁴.

3.7.2 Any request for reconsideration will be made in writing, no later than 10 working days after the date on which the applicant receives notice from the Council of the level of development contribution required.

3.7.3 Any request for review must include the reasons for reconsideration and provide sufficient information to enable the Council to reconsider the development contribution.

3.7.4 The Council ~~(or an independent party if one is delegated)~~ will limit its considerations to matters set out in the Act³⁵ and will within 15 working days of receiving the request and all relevant information, advise the applicant of the outcome³⁶.

3.8 Contributions not paid

3.8.1 If contributions are not paid at the times required, the Council may³⁷:

- (a) withhold a certificate under section 224(c) of the Resource Management Act 1991 in the case of a subdivision;
- (b) prevent the activity commencing in the case of a land use consent;
- (c) withhold a code compliance certificate in the case of a building consent;

³² Section 209 and section 210

³³ Section 209(2)

³⁴ Section 202A, section 199A

³⁵ Section 199A

³⁶ Section 199B(1)

³⁷ Section 208

- (d) withhold a service connection to the development;
 - (e) withhold a certificate of acceptance under section 98 of the Building Act 2004;
 - (f) in each case register a charge on the land under the Land Transfer Act 2017.
- 3.8.2 If, after exercising its powers to prevent a development proceeding, any development contribution remains unpaid, the Council may take debt recovery action to recover that development contribution. A development contribution is recoverable as a debt⁵⁰.
- 3.8.3 If a grantee of consent is in possession of two development contribution invoices for different consents relating to the same development, both invoices will continue to have effect until payment is made of one of those invoices. When the first invoice is paid, the second invoice will be withdrawn. Any excess balance of development contributions still payable for the subdivision or development relating to the second invoice will be re-assessed.
- 3.8.4 If any development contribution is payable on re-assessment, a new invoice will be issued.
- 3.8.5 Except as provided for, no consented activity or building work will commence prior to the payment of the development contribution and where such activity or work has commenced prior to such payment, Council will require this to cease until payment has been made.
- 3.9 Information requirements
- 3.9.1 The applicant for any consent or authorisation will provide all information necessary for Council to calculate the amount of a development contribution, including the *gross business area* and the *impervious area* of the development if required for purposes of an assessment under **Table 3**.
- 3.9.2 If required, the applicant will be responsible for providing proof of the legal establishment of existing units of demand for purposes of an assessment under **Table 3**.
- 3.9.3 Existing units of demand may include legally established buildings and structures existing when this policy became operative on 1 July 2021, but that have since been demolished.
- 3.10 Statement on GST
- 3.10.1 Any development contribution referred to in this policy or in the accompanying development contributions model and any development contribution required in the form of money, pursuant to this Policy, is exclusive of Goods and Services Tax.

⁵⁰ Section 252

Appendix 1 – Development Contribution Activity Catchments

Community Facility	Catchment	Development to which Development Contribution Applies
Roading	District	Development anywhere in the District
Roading	Tara-ika growth area	Development in the Tara-ika Growth Area (Map 1)
Community infrastructure	District	Development anywhere in the District
Wastewater Treatment	District	Development anywhere in the District where the service is available
	Scheme	Development anywhere in the District where a specific wastewater scheme is available
	Tara-ika growth area	Development in the Tara-ika Growth Area (Map 1)
Water Supply	District	Development anywhere in the District where the service is available
	Scheme	Development anywhere in the District where a specific water supply scheme is available
	Tara-ika growth area	Development in the Tara-ika Growth Area (Map 1)
Stormwater Management	District	Development anywhere in the District where the service is available
	Scheme	Development anywhere in the District where a specific stormwater scheme is available
	Tara-ika growth area	Development in the Tara-ika Growth Area (Map 1)

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Map 1 – Tara-Ika Growth Area



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Long Term Plan 2021-2041 Deliberations - Community Facilities

File No.: 21/215

1. Purpose

To present to Council for deliberation, the submissions received on the Long Term Plan 2021-2041 in relation to Council's Community Facilities activity.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That Report 21/215 Long Term Plan 2021-2041 Deliberations - Community Facilities be received.
- 2.2 That this matter or decision is recognised as not significant in terms of S76 of the Local Government Act
- 2.3 That Council acknowledges, with thanks, all who have submitted on the Community Facilities activity
- 2.4 That based on the community feedback, direction set by the Horowhenua Aquatics Strategy, growth projections adopted at the 95th percentile and strong preference indicated by the Foxton Pool Feasibility Study, Council proceed with Option 1 with a \$9.4m build cost and \$44.53 rate impact per annum. Noting adopting option 1 results in a build cost increase of \$6.8m and rate increase impact of \$17.92 to the Draft LTP 2021/41.

3. Topics for Consideration

Topic 1	Foxton Pool
Topic 2	Jubilee Park
Topic 3	Te Takeretanga o Kura-Hau-pō Youth Space

Community Facilities

Topic 1 – Foxton Pool

A large number of submissions (373) were received on the Foxton Pool LTP 2021-2041 Consultation Document Topic. There were five options outlined in the Consultation Document for submitters to consider and choice from and these were:

- Option 1: Indoor and Outdoor Leisure Pool
- Option 2: Basic All-year Pool
- Option 3: Seasonal Outdoor Leisure Pool
- Option 4: Seasonal Outdoor Leisure Pool
- Option 5: Permanently Close Facility

The submissions received for each of the five options have been summarised and analysed by Officers; with a final summary and then Officer recommendation outlined at the end.

Option 1: Indoor and Outdoor Leisure Pool.

Submitter and Submission numbers

Anna Clark (#3), Alison Anderson (#4), Jon Povey (#5), Foxton Surf and Lifesaving Club, Daniel Cudby (#11), L Dias (#24), Phillip Richardson (#29), Greta Esther McGahan (#28), Andrea Leadbetter (#34), Steven Arnold (#36), David Brent Eaton (#39), Steve Cole (#44), Fraser Munro (#47), Alannagh Donegan (#48), Sarah Martin (#51), Christine Margaret Douglas (#62), Joanne Hood (#63), Adriana Burton (#70), Patricia St John (#76), Robyn Mouzouri (#78), Athol and Kay Kirk (#83), Dave and Patti MacIntyre (#88), Juliette Darnley (#91), Ruel Vallar (#94), Apolonia Briones (#95), Bruce Imrie (#97). Daniel Pond (#98), St Marys School, Dianne Hurlimann (#99), Romualdo Nuico (#100), Katrina Vallar (#101), Marcelo Brionnes Jr (#103), Marilyn Owen (#104), Amy Nickin (#106), Capri Chapman (#108), Sylvia Kavanagh (#109), Charlotte Yates (#110), Miss Ebs (#111), Randal and Lisa Peni (#114), Lorraine Loveridge (#116), Julia Becker (#117), Suzanne Williams (#121), Charlie Pedersen (#122), Amber Taylor (#123), Robyn Heyburn (#124), William Cardiff (#125), Maureen Lister (#133), Iona Haggerty (#136), Kay Davies (#137), Gregory Downing (#138), John and Helen McKinnel (#139), Helen Cardiff (#141), Louise Praat (#143), Tony Clifford (#148), Barry Andrew and Janice Robson (#149), Glenda Heyward (#152), Jo Hopkirk (#163), Keith Cole (#165), Joanne McMaster (#168), Wendy Saunders (#175), Amber Granger-Ellison (#180), Megan Ford (#181), Foxton Ta Awahou Lions Club inc., Frances Roache (#183), Alis Russel (#185). Peter Bolton (#190), Diana Murphy (#191), Anthony Owen (#192), Patricia Young (#193), Alana Morgan (#194), Tracey Crombie (#200), Andrew Parkin (#201), Stacey Smart (#202), Gordon Gunther (#204), Thomas Huria (#205), Ashley Cotter-Hope (#206), Christine Avery (#208), Jenny Rose (#209), Peter Halcrow (#210), Kushla Laursen (#211), Heather Gregg (#212), Leisha De'Ath (#213), Nina Hori Te Pa (#215), Chantelle Aitken (#219), Helen Bedford (#222), Chelsea Carlyle (#223), Joycelyn Urbahn (#226), Emma Robinson (#227), Michelle Bambery (#236), Naiomi Whalley (#237), Sue Mortensen (#238), Simon Broad (#239), Finn Pedersen (#242), Judith Patricia Graham (#244), Charlotte Howard (#245), Edward (Ted) Melton (#246), Gaston Velez (#247), Pauline Ellis (#248), Avalon Moffatt (#249), Foxton Beach Progressive Association, Janine Smart (#252), Adrienne VanOpdorp (#253), Susanne Taylor (#255), Kate Hodson (#256), Margaret Haggland (#257), Pauline Roache (#259), Pene Wall (#260), Amanda Jackson (#261), Kurt Jackson (#262), Shona Potaka (#263), Katrina Flemming (#268), Alice Klensman (#269), Shannon Progressive Association, Janette Campbell (#272), Sue-Ann Russel (#274), Michelle Connor (#275), Andy Woodwark (#279), Roger Clement (#280), Linda Burling (#281), Emma Swanson (#282), Christina Curley (#283), Debra Adin (#285), Ngaire Adin (#286), Meredith Krieger (#287) Andrea Marion Rodie (#288), Susan Woodwark (#292), Tracy Stanley (#293), Maata Beattie (#294), Jane Sandilands (#295), Tiana Reid (#297), Sharon Williams, (#300), Alison Wallbutton (#302), Nicole and Jamie Graham (#305), Jahmia Mehaba (#306), Roger Clement (#323), Jenny Benfell (#324), Ina Kleinsman Hill (#328), Jason McCaskie (#329). Emma Clarke (#331), Randal and Lisa Pene (#334), Adam Radich (#335), Surf Life Saving New Zealand, Andy Kent (#336), Keith McCartney (#337), Foxton Community Board, David Roache (#344), Michael Kay (#350). A Richardson (#353), Belinda Hailwood (#368), Glenn Williams (#369), Ruth Williams (#371), Shane Haggland (#373), Graeme Fox (#381), Cathy McCartney (#382) Melinda Vandermade (#391), Wendy Dixon (#393), Te Waiora Community Health Services, Desiree Paul (#394), Patricia Metcalf (#397), Foxton Historical Society, Te Ripō o Hinemata Trust, Ngati Ngarongo, Te Kenehi Teira (#412), Colleen Burges (#444), Sonja Hart (#479), Sarah Chambers (#480), Kevin Hari (#481), Karyn Read (#482), Deyna Halidone (#483), John Girling (#484), Kyrah Lyndon (#485), Chris Fleming (#486), Neil and Jan Savage (#488), Monette Conlan (#489), Vicky Roache (#490), Judith Brunskill (#491), Bruce Pacey (#492), A J Paddison (#494), Maria and John Monk (496), Anita Mulay (#497), Callum Herring (#498), Cody Pedly (#501), Gin Campbell (#506), Hoana Blackman (#509), Hutch Hodges (#510), Kasey Johnstone (#514), Madison Leong (#517), Shane Sayle (#534), Aja Harlen (#540), Ake Tarawa (#541), Alyssa Read (#542), Ashley Snow (#544), Blake Rausmussen (#546), and Danny Wanoa (#560).

Summary of Submissions

Submitter #5 indicates a preference of Option 1 but believes that Option 1 or Option 2 are the only acceptable options for consideration. The submitter highlights the fact that there is very little for young people to do during winter in Foxton and the importance an all year round facility will play within the community.

Submitters #11, #104, #226, #227, #239, #274, #292, and #371 believe that the Foxton Community needs a facility to teach water safety and swimming all year round.

Submitters #24, #63, #91, #99, #116 #190, #202, and #293 highlight the importance of all year round swimming and providing leisure opportunities for the community.

Submitter #63 is a current pool user and uses the pool for recovery and health; they have noted the cost of having to travel to Levin during the winter.

Submitters #28, #62, #106, #209, #210, #219, #237 #242, 255 # 275 #283 #295, and #393 believe that adults and children would benefit from Option 1 and believe this option would be a popular attraction across the district now and into the future. Submitter #62 talks about the rising building costs and believes to cut costs now would ultimately cost ratepayers more in the future.

Submitters #36, #98 #121, #175, #211, #222, #244, #245 #249, #252, #255, #263 #268, #275, #302, #305, #324, #329, #33, #336, and #344, #350 and #394, believe that Option 1 will attract more visitors to Foxton and cater for the projected population growth.

Submitters #4, #300, and #491 are supportive of Option 1 and believe that Foxton Pool plays an important role across the district and this option would provide better long term benefits. They have also commented on the importance of the building being fit for purpose and built to appropriate standards.

Submitters #34, #269, #280, #288, #323, and #382 are supportive of Option 1 due to the positive social and educational benefits for the wider community that this type of facility would provide for.

Submitter #78 states that Council is responsible for the current facility not being fit for purpose.

Submitter #83 has highlighted the health benefits of Aquatic Facilities particularly for an aging population.

Submitters #88, #114, #117, #212, #244, and #334 are supportive of Option 1 and have indicated they are happy to pay more in support of better facilities in Foxton.

Submitter #97 states that any option other than Option 1 would be obsolete in 10 years' time due to the projected population growth.

Submitter #98 indicates that all staff and students (240 in total) at Coley Street School are supportive of Option 1 and that Option 2 does not provide an enjoyable facility that children will want to use.

Submitter #122 indicates that Option 1 will increase the appeal of the current facility and encourage greater use. Providing children the opportunity to gain water confidence and be safe in water is vital in reducing New Zealand's drowning toll.

Submitters #133 and #136, believe that patronage will increase with Option 1 and that year round operation would benefit the local schools. The submitter is a current pool user and states older people in particular benefit from the classes provided. Submitters believe that an onsite gym would provide further opportunities for older people.

Submitter #143 believes that Foxton is in desperate need of an all year round facility, that the current environment is unpleasant and that the addition of the multipurpose room would be a popular addition.

Submitter #141 is supportive of Option 1, however has suggested that the front area be used for parking and a multipurpose room should be built over the changing rooms.

Submitter #148 supports Option 1 provided it is only paid for by Foxton residents.

Submitter #163 believes a fully provisioned aquatic facility would benefit the local retailers and contribute to Foxton being a year round destination. They also highlight how important this type of facility is given the anticipated growth of Foxton and the district.

Submitter #208 believes that a special entry rate should be applied to ratepayers.

Submitters #213 and #349 are supportive of Option 1 and believe it would be a great facility for a growing community. They have stated that it demonstrates a good strategic approach at a moderate annual cost.

Submitter #238 has highlighted the needs of those less able when considering a facility design particularly in terms of access to the facility.

Submitter #246 believes that Option 1 responds to the projected population growth and that providing a full aquatic experience will appeal to users. Other options under consideration will be obsolete in the near future.

Submitter #328 would like to see the bombing pool large enough to accommodate Aqua Deep Classes and Aqua Jogging.

Submitter #335 is supportive of Option 1 and indicates that Foxton SLSC would continue to use the facility if it operated all year round. They believe the addition of a Splashpad will be a welcome attraction for the district.

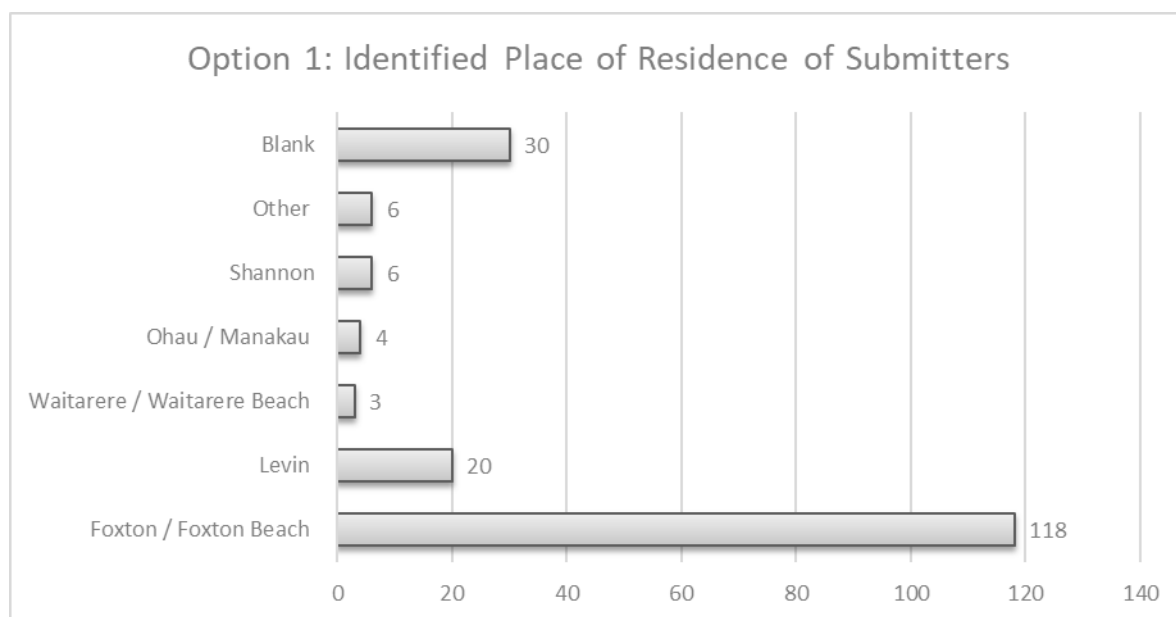
Submitters #185 and #381 are supportive of Option 1 but have made some suggestions to improve functionality.

Submitter #279 believes that Option 1 is the best choice from a quality of life perspective and most closely aligns with the Council community outcomes. They state that any facility which increases the opportunity for people to improve their health and wellbeing can only be a good thing.

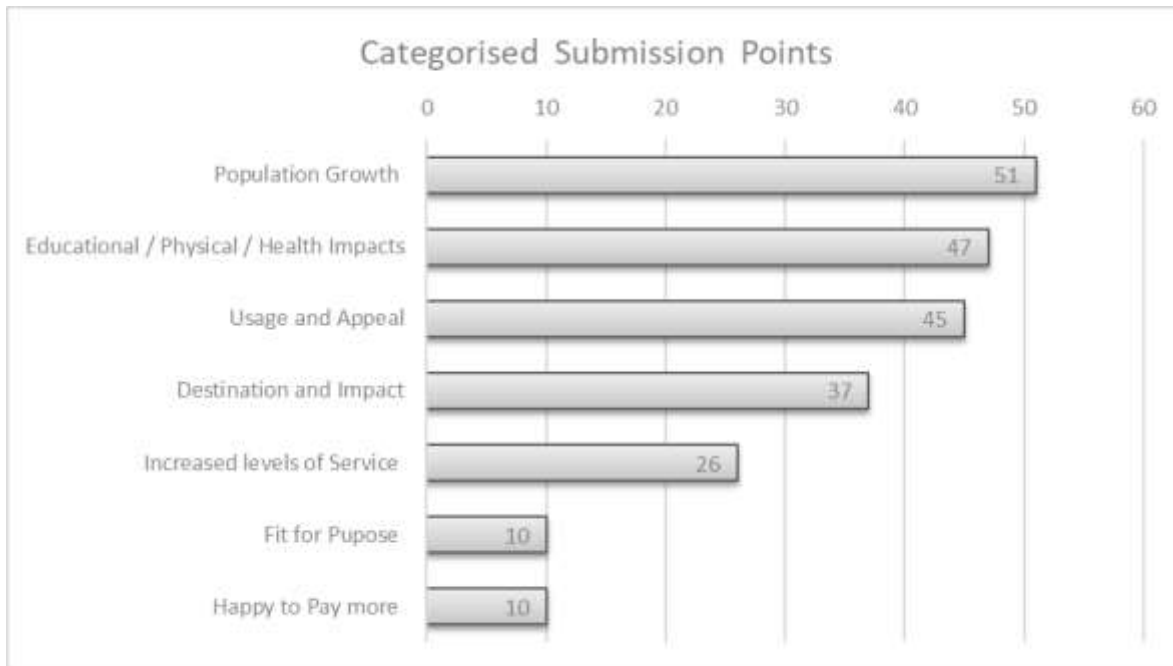
Submitter #397 is a pool user and has commented about the current environment. They have stated that the build cost does not take into account any external funding opportunities however regardless of this, believes Option 1 is the best option.

Officer Analysis

A total of 187 submissions were received in favour of Option 1. Of those submissions 102 provided comments to support their submission. 85 did not provide supporting commentary. As shown in the below graph the majority of submitters in support of Option 1 are Foxton/Foxton Beach residents.



The comments that were provided in the submissions in support of Option 1 can be categorised into common themes as illustrated in the graph below. Each of these themes has been discussed in within the report below:



Population Growth

The Horowhenua Aquatic Facilities Strategy (2020) outlines the projected population growth is expected to drive increased aquatic demand. And that a key conclusion is the district will require increased water capacity.

Ideally by 2043, the district should have approximately 1,900m² of water space, which would require approximately 1,000m² of additional water space.

The Foxton Pool's catchment is expected to grow from 9,100 to 14,500 over the next 20 years (over 60% growth). The growth is expected across all age groups. The ethnic breakdown of the catchment is not expected to change, with mainly European and Māori residents. The catchment size and profile support the need to provide opportunities for water-play, learning, fitness and relaxation (warm water).

Children and families are typically strong users of aquatic facilities. The number of children, youth and families is expected to grow, with the overall population becoming progressively younger. This is expected to translate into growing demand for aquatic leisure and aquatic learning. With the exception of the Hydroslide at the Levin Aquatic Centre there is no dedicated leisure provision across the aquatic network in the district. This was identified as a significant gap in provision across Horowhenua in the Aquatic Facilities Strategy. Providing leisure opportunities within the aquatic network is expected to increase the appeal for families and children. Greater participation by families and children supports improved water confidence outcomes and exposes these participants to aquatic learning and fitness opportunities.

There is currently a significant proportion of older people living in Foxton. While the district will become progressively younger, the older age cohorts will continue to grow in number. This is expected to translate into increasing demand for warm-water and hydrotherapy spaces in aquatic facilities.

To accommodate potential demand from population growth, Foxton Pool could be expanded up to 450m² of water-space (from 300m² currently). This would assist in providing increased aquatic capacity for the Foxton catchment and also support the district provision by accommodating some of the demand pressures that Levin Aquatic Centre is currently facing.

Positive Educational / Physical / Health impacts

Play, active recreation and sport make a significant contribution to the health and wellbeing of all residents of the Horowhenua district, contributing to happier, healthier people and connected communities.

Sport Manawātū (#311) and Sport New Zealand's (#333) LTP submissions highlight the importance of "play" and the many benefits for children, families and the wider community of providing these opportunities. Option 1 directly addresses this need by providing year round dedicated provision of unstructured play for all ages. This is currently missing across Horowhenua's existing aquatic network. By prioritising some of the Horowhenua district's water-space as dedicated play space reinforces the value of play within every-day lives.

Multiple studies document the benefits of water-based exercise and our users have commented on how Foxton Pool has had a positive impact on their wellbeing:

- Low impact exercising in water means a person can exercise longer without additional wear and tear on muscles and joints.
- Water-based exercise can help people with chronic diseases (e.g. arthritis, heart disease) and people with limited mobility.

The therapy market is an increasingly important component of aquatic facilities, with more people with mobility issues and a growing population of older people seeking low-impact health and wellness opportunities. This user group typically want to use the facility in off-peak periods, which is beneficial for improving the use of public aquatic facilities. Both Levin and Foxton Pools have seen increased use from the therapy market. Security of an all-year facility will enable Foxton residents to participate in this activity all year round.

Learn to Swim and education is a very important outcome for aquatic facilities contributing to national outcomes to increase water confidence and swimming ability. Learn to Swim is also an important revenue generator for aquatic facilities. The Learn to Swim programme at Foxton Pool has continued to grow over the past few years. While the catchment analysis for Levin Aquatic Centre does attract users from Foxton and Foxton Beach, and it is known many of the Foxton Pool Learn to Swim users do not attend lessons in the winter when Foxton Pool closes for the season. With all year round provision at Foxton, it is anticipated Learn to Swim numbers will continue to grow and the inclusion of deep water within the facility will provide additional opportunities for to provide water safety and survival programming.

Water Safety New Zealand and Otago University released a report "Assessing Water Survival Skills Competency of Children" in 2017 which showed:

- 62% of children in the study were not able to swim 100m unaided.
- Primary school children had low levels of survival skill competency.

Above all, aquatic facilities are popular places for communities to connect and socialise, through play, sport, fitness, learning and events. Some of our older users have told us that their only social interaction occurs at Foxton Pool.

Usage and Appeal

Foxton Pools serves a local catchment including Foxton, Waitārere, Himatangi and Shannon. It currently attracts an average of 2,000 visits per month / 17,000 for the 8-month season. Best practice suggests visits for similar facilities are around 20,000 to 25,000 visits, equivalent to approximately 3,300 to 4,000 per month. The estimated annual visits for option one is 59,000.

The current facility is predominantly used for structured activities like Learn to Swim, fitness programmes and aquatic sport club hire. The structured nature of the facility combined with condition issues are contributing factors around the low usage.

Option 1 provides an opportunity to maintain these current users groups and also increase the appeal for families, young people, and older people by providing better opportunities for water play,

therapy, and relaxation alongside the learning and fitness outcomes which are already provided. This should enable Foxton Pools to expand to a wider cross-section of the community.

Submitters have told Council that improved play provision would attract more children and families and attract a broader cross-section of the community to the facility. Similarly, providing warm water / spa will attract the growing older population. Maintaining provision of learning and fitness functions is equally important.

Destination and Impact

Option 1 will provide the community with an aquatic facility which is attractive to the local community first, but which is also more attractive for visitors, offers a point of difference to Levin Aquatic Centre and will contribute to strategic objectives to grow visitors as part of the Foxton Futures Economic and Destination Development Plan.

Changes to State Highway 1 over the next 10 years will potentially increase the number of visitors to Foxton and the provision of a quality aquatic facility could contribute to the overall attractiveness of Foxton and Horowhenua as place to live, work, play and visit.

Increased Levels of Service

Many submitters have told Council they believe they would use the Foxton Pools more if it was more accessible to them, providing the opportunities they want in their local area rather than travelling out of Horowhenua district to use aquatic facilities with specific opportunities.

Option 1 and Option 2 both increase the current levels of service by offering an all year round facility and increasing the hours to be open before and after work. Option 1 is the only option which increases the level of service through all-year operation and providing a wider choice in the type of aquatic activities on offer.

Fit for Purpose

The current pool building was constructed without a vapour barrier, thermal insulation, or mechanical ventilation. This design directly contributes to high condensation and variable internal temperatures. Excessive condensation has led to high moisture, promoting the risk of fungi and structural decay. The building is performing poorly, accelerating the deterioration of the structure, plant, and equipment. While not a current risk, in time it will become a safety issue.

Correspondence between Council and the engineer during the design of the facility indicate that critical future proofing elements were eliminated from the original design in order to ensure the project was delivered within budget.

“These changes will provide a basic translucent covered pool without “future proofing” and with all the normal inherent characteristics of these enclosures. There will be excess condensation with internal “fog and rain” at times and excessive internal temperatures at others.”

In considering the future of Foxton Pools, it is important to ensure the facility is sized and provides the appropriate aquatic functions for the local catchment population. The potential expansion of the Foxton Pool facility from 300m² up to 450m² is informed by expected population growth and takes into consideration other local aquatic centre provisions, and how they should function together to provide appropriate aquatic provision in Horowhenua.

In terms of aquatic functions, at a local level the core requirements are play, fitness, learning and relaxation. Providing these functions should ensure the facility appeals to a wide cross-section of the community. Improved play provision would be beneficial to attract more children and families and attract a broader cross-section of the community. Similarly, providing warm water / spa should attract the growing older population. Maintaining provision of learning and fitness functions is equally important.

It is critically important that any future development follows best practice guidelines for Aquatic Facilities to ensure that the facility is functional long into the future.

Happy to Pay More

There were a small number of submitters who indicated that they were happy to pay an additional \$44.53 per year on their rates for Option 1 and some submitters noting the opportunity to develop is now as the rising costs of construction/building would make it more expensive in the future to address an expansion.

Option 2 - All Year Basic Facility

Submitter and Submission numbers

Mr Soxxy (#2), Darnelle Nugnet-O'Leary (#26), Tracey Whitehouse (#30), Jeremy Ellen (#31), Robert Barton (#32), Vicky Millman (#33), Geoff Kane (#38), John James Baird (#40), Margaret Hyndman (#42), Neville MacFarlane Currie (#41), Unknown (#45), Charmaine Leone Torrington (#49), Ruth and Kevin Rawlings (#53), Phillip Bolton (#58), Luke Benner (#59), Bernard John Long (#66), Michael Dowling (#75), Thomas Reisinger (#79), Pauline Smitheram (#82), Raymond Watkins (#84), Marion Moore (#86), Andrew Beauchamp (#87), Mary Wilson (#89), Malcom Wood (#92), Collette Burr (#96), K Marshall and A Smith (#105), George Bevan (#107), Christina Brenton (#113), Debs Hayward (#115), John and Carolann Wood (#119), Barry Rollinson (#127), Lucy Everton (#128), Celia Eves (#130), Geoffery Holmes (#131), Dean Thompson (#132), J Van der Berg (#134), Andrew Burns (#135), Catherine Marshall (#140), Mike Fletcher (#150), Merlyn Astley-Jones (#155), Herd by Horses NZ Ltd, Kelly Henry (#157), Foxton Beach Primary School, Hamish Stuart (#159), Robyn West (#164), Sharon Freebairn (#167), Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society inc Joan Leckie (#176), Janet Hall (#189), David Gray (#195), Rick Fisher (#196), Bryan Walsh (#198), Judy Webby (#199), Christine Flatley (#207), Jane Harris (#214), Megan Cushnahan (#218), Perry and Jane Davies (#228), Rachel Lyons (#229), David and Susan Hagland (#230), Dave Rix (#231), Annette Davis (#240), Trevor Hinder (#258), Dean Thompson (#264), Bruce Eccles (#266), Rhea Hyde (#267), R Boyle (#273), Pauline Watson (#276), Sandra Bailey (#277), Horowhenua Farmers Ratepayers Group, Ann Thomas (#289), Janet Wutzer (#290), Brian Thomas and Ann Thomas (#298), Shelia Norton (#309), Brad Cassidy, Sport Manawatū (#311), Arthur Henare (#312), Himatangi Transport Sport New Zealand, Colin Stone (#333), Susan Pedersen (#338), Brian Forth (#342), Paul Robinson (#347), Jon Flatley (#354), Cathryn Pollock (#355), Wendy and Bryan Kilsby (#365), Andrew Buchanan (#366), Graham and Gillian Phelps (#367), Carol Dyer (#370), Graeme Ellis (#372), Totally Vets, Hugh Bentall (#383), John and Jeny Brown (#385), Allan Day (#390), Helen Brown (#392), John Olifent (#445), Deanna Paki (#449), Karen and Stephen Prouse (#452), Evangeline Rodie (#453), Dean Tukapua (#454), Gwyneth Schibli (#456), Kevin Miles (#459), Mark Mc Conroy (#461), Eric Walker (#462), Diana Josephine Timms (#473), Rhonda MacKenzie (#478), Tony Philips (#487), Cole Campbell (#502), Dakota Berg (#504), Hayla-Jane McIlwee (#507), Hermione Petersen (#508), Jorja Duncan (#512), Kaamaleigh Haturini (#513), Keighley Fielding-Woodmass (#515), Mason Jones (#518), Miles Harrington (#519), Natasha Haigh (#521), Nathaniel Cottle (#522), Nikita Burlace (#523), Noah Watters (#524), Oceanah (#525), Oliver Easton (#526), Ruby Marshall (#531), Ryan Goodall (#532), Samuel Hason (#533), and Abby Kemp (#539).

Summary of Submissions

Submitters #26, #86, #333 believe that the basic all year round facility will meet the needs of the community.

Submitters #30, #32, and #164 believe the pools are an asset to Foxton and needs to be kept.

Submitter #31 outlines that this option will correct the issues that were created when the facility was built and that the current facility is too good to dispose of.

Submitter #82 is a regular user of the facility and would support all year operation. The submitter believes that pool is an asset and increased promotion would lead to greater use.

Submitters #113, #115, #119, and #370 believes that Foxton Pool should be used all year round.

Submitter #130 supports option 2 due to all year provision and believes that this option will future proof the facility for the next 10 years.

Submitter #155 has questioned the need to spend this money given the facility is 13 years old.

Submitter #159 has indicated that if Foxton Pool is open year round they would use it frequently and would look to close their school pool due to the high maintenance costs associated with running it for a short period over Summer.

Submitters #167, #266, and #462 believe the sensible option is to rebuild the facility ensuring that it is fit for purpose without significantly impacting rates. There should be allowances in the future for future development.

Submitter #229 states that all children should be able to learn how to swim and many do not have the ability to get to Levin during the winter months.

Submitter #234 believes the minimum standard is that children should have access to swimming lessons all year round.

Submitter #273 indicates that Foxton residents should have the same access to sport and leisure activities as larger areas and that there is little point in having a pool that cannot be used all year round.

Submitter #240 would like to see the bombing pool retained with Option 2 and the splashpad relocated to the front of the facility. They believe a new facility would add to Foxton's appeal.

Submitter #264 supports this option provided it is fit for purpose.

Submitters #289 and #298 believe this is a good interim option to provide Foxton with a year round facility, the submitter raised concerns regarding additional wages and running costs being factored into the cost.

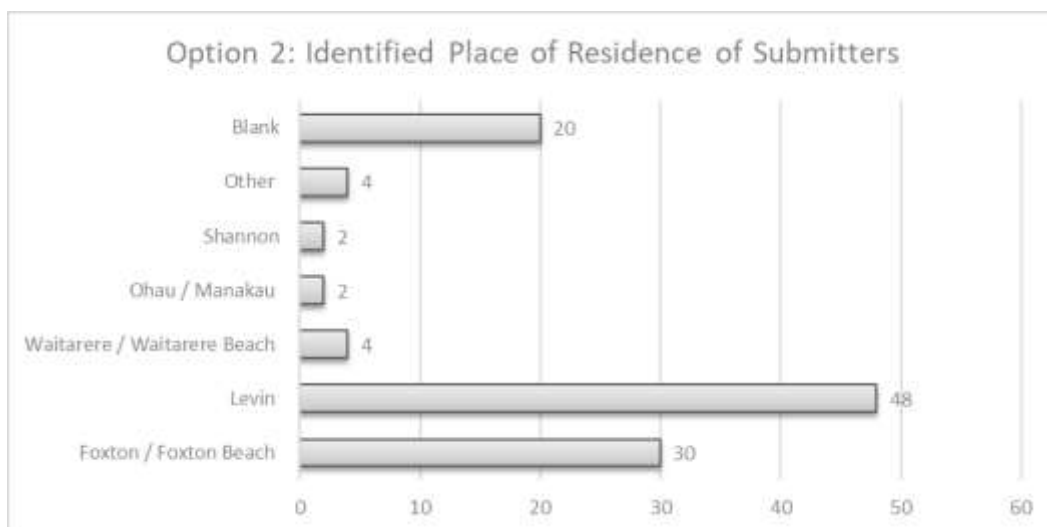
Submitter #290 indicates that Foxton needs an all year round facility and that the development should connect to Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom and the Manawatū River Loop.

Submitter #390 is in favour of Option 2 with the aim of working towards Option 1 when funds allow.

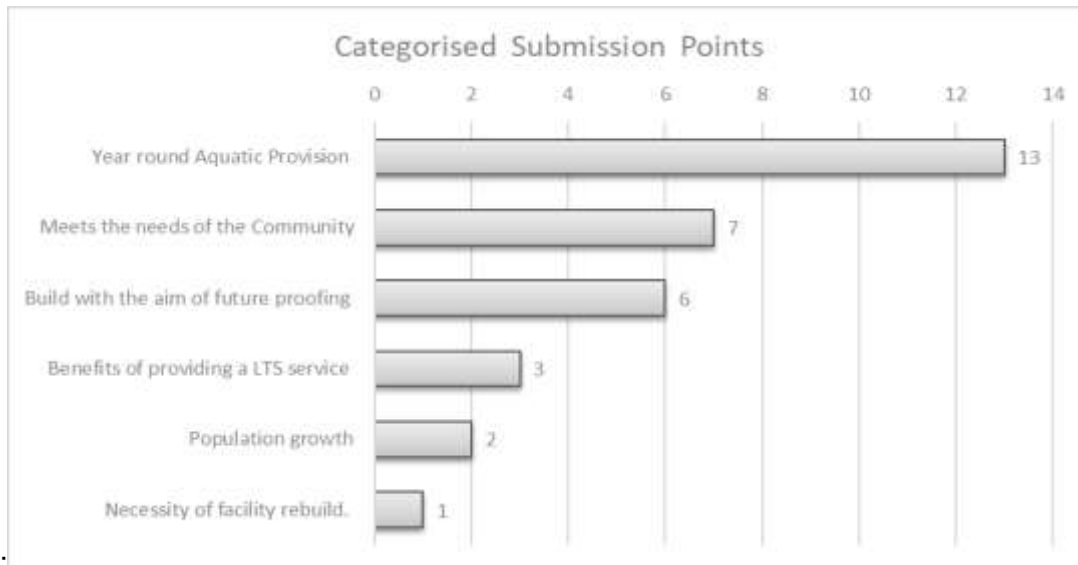
Submitters #456 and #473 believe that Option 2 is the best value for money and that Levin Aquatic Centre is in need of a future upgrade and highlights that debt is a problem if a more expensive option is chosen.

Officer Analysis

A total of 110 submissions were received in favour of Option 2. Of those submissions 29 provided comments to support their submission and 81 did not provide supporting commentary. Officers note that the majority of submitters in support of Option 2 are Levin residents.



The comments that were provided in the submissions in support of Option 2 can be categorised into common themes as illustrated in the graph below. Each of these themes has been discussed within the report below.



Year Round Aquatic Provision

Many submitters have told Council they believe they would use the Foxton Pools more if this facility was more accessible to them, providing the opportunities they want in their local area rather than travelling out of the Horowhenua district to use aquatic facilities.

Option 1 and Option 2 both increase the current levels of service by offering an all year round facility and increasing the hours to be open before and after work.

Foxton Primary School have indicated that they would consider closing their school swimming pool if Foxton Pool was available 12 months of the year, due to the high costs associated with running the school pool for a limited period of the year.

Meets the needs of the Community

A small number of submitters have indicated that Foxton Pools are too good of an asset to dispose of and that it is an important part of the Foxton community.

While there are significant construction issues that need to be addressed, the tanks and membranes are only 13 years old and in reasonable condition for their age. The pool tanks that were constructed in 2007 are of concrete construction and are overlaid with a Myrtha pool membrane. While the membrane will typically need replacing every 10-15 years it is not uncommon to expect 50 years life from the concrete pool tanks. There is a lot of life and value left in these assets given the initial investment 13 years ago.

The fundamental issue with Foxton Pool facility is the building, not the pool tanks themselves. In the development options considered as part of the LTP 2021-2041 (Options 1-4) the existing pools remain as they currently are.

Build with the aim of future proofing

Some submitters have indicated that Option 2 should be pursued and once the demand increases in line with predicted population growth, then the facility can be extended and other leisure elements included.

This approach is a possibility, however there are cost and design efficiencies gained by incorporating the additional elements when addressing the abandoned outdoor pool. With the rising costs of building materials any future development costs would likely be higher than they are currently. This would also need careful design consideration and provision for future expansions is

not factored into the capital cost estimate of Option 2. Another consideration is the history of Foxton Pool and the community appetite when it comes to future facility development given the decisions made in the past.

Benefits of providing a Learn to Swim service

Learn to Swim and education is a very important outcome for aquatic facilities contributing to national outcomes to increase water confidence and swimming ability. Learn to Swim is also an important revenue generator for aquatic facilities. The Learn to Swim programme at Foxton Pool has continued to grow over the past few years.

While the catchment analysis for Levin Aquatic Centre does attract users from Foxton and Foxton Beach, and it is known many of the Foxton Pool Learn to Swim users do not attend lessons in the winter when Foxton Pool closes for the season. With all year round provision at Foxton, it is anticipated Learn to Swim numbers will continue to grow.

Population Growth

Option 2 does not propose any increase in water space and therefore unlikely to provide the opportunity to accommodate any increased demand arising from population growth. While in the short term there is spare capacity at Foxton Pool due to the low use, over time, demand is likely to exceed supply. This could result in two scenarios 1) there is tension around the use of the pools at Foxton between structured activities and casual play or 2) demand for casual play and warm water will continue to be focused at Levin Aquatic Centre rather than being accommodated at Foxton Pools. This is likely to compound issues at Levin Aquatic Centre and create demand issues across the district. This will be particularly prevalent for children and families who want to participate in more play/leisure focused opportunities.

Necessity of Facility Rebuild

The current pool building was constructed without a vapour barrier, thermal insulation, or mechanical ventilation. This design directly contributes to high condensation and variable internal temperatures. Excessive condensation has led to high moisture, promoting the risk of fungi and structural decay. The building is performing poorly, accelerating the deterioration of the structure, plant, and equipment. While not a current risk, in time it will become a safety issue.

Option 3: Seasonal Outdoor Leisure Pool

Submitter and Submission numbers

Emily Pond (#7), David Paick (#27), Donald Cross (#54), Stuart Fieldes (#72), Marjori Hall (#73), Cecily Archer (#80), Tessa Parlato (#118), Rachel McGill (#126), Derek Canvin (#129), Murray Staples (#151), Luke Anton van Soest (#154), Simon Paquier (#156), Garry Good (#169), Gary Spencer (#197), Leanne Takitimu (#203), Sarah Whiteman (#240), Reretua Moses (#243), Tara Peters (#278), John Tike (#284), Reihana Adlam (#291), Kathy Mitchell (#304), Shelia Norton (#309), Glynis Peal Easton and John Douglas Easton (#363), Chris Loyd (#376), Geoff Ritchie (#458), Charlette-Victoria Taylor-Thomson (#499), Claire West (#500), Lilly de Kort-Woodmass (#516), Paradise Biddle (#528), Penelope Tulloch (#529), Sione Aholoka (#535), Tahlia Rowe (#536), Willow Thomsen (#537), Akina Ryersson (#543), and Caitlin Hanson (#548).

Summary of Submissions

Submitter #80 supports Option 3 as it provides an interesting facility and the rates impact is reasonable.

Submitter #118 believes Option 3 is a fun facility and would be available in summer when people want it most.

Submitter #151 believes that Option 3 is best for community use.

Submitter #155 believes Option 3 is a unique attraction and a point of difference to Levin Aquatic Centre. It could also be upgraded in the future as growth and demand permits.

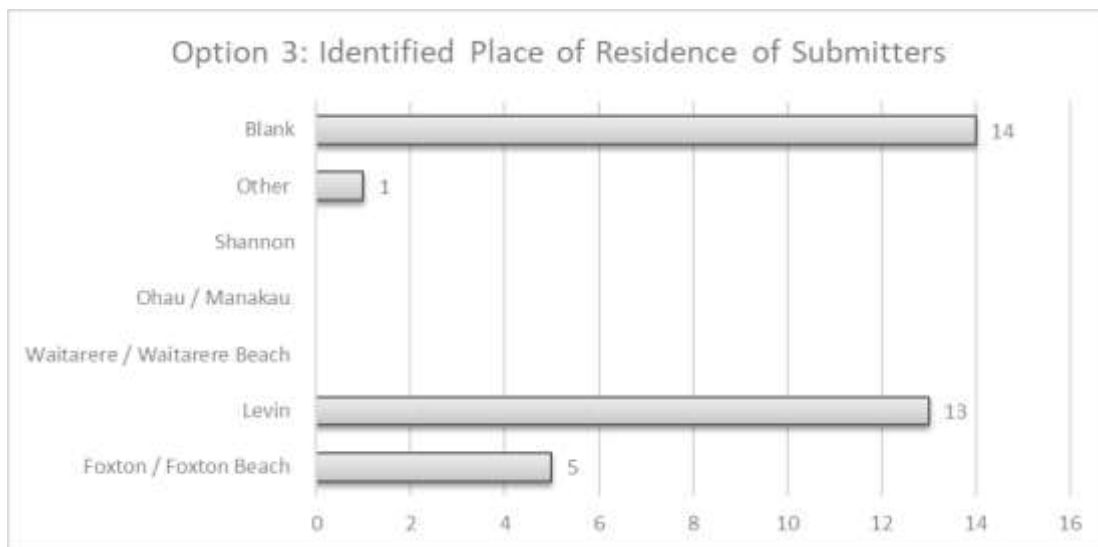
Submitter #240 would ultimately like to see Option 1; however has chosen Option 3 as they believe it is a better facility than Council currently has for a lesser impact on rates.

Submitter #376 states there is already a year-round pool in the district.

Submitter #302 believes that Foxton Pool is not used enough to justify an all year round pool.

Officer Analysis

A total of 33 submissions were received in favour of Option 3. Of those submissions 7 provided comments to support their submission and 26 did not provide supporting commentary. As shown in the below graph the majority of submitters in support of Option 3 are Levin residents.



The shorter operating season means there are fewer operational costs compared to an all-year facility, however the outdoor heated pools result in higher energy costs to heat. The inclusion of the leisure style pools are estimated to provide stronger revenue compared to a basic facility but it is important to note that outdoor pools will be subject to highs and lows associated with variable weather patterns.

Option 3 will increase the appeal for families and children by providing dedicated leisure opportunities and a deep water pool.

The inclusion of a spa and access to warmer water will appeal to older people however there may be a group of older people who find this option less appealing due to it being an outdoor facility.

Option 3 provides the core aquatic functions by providing play, learning, fitness and relaxation and will likely provide opportunities for revenue generation during the summer season. It is likely to appeal to a cross section of the community as it is a point of difference to what is currently on offer.

The seasonal nature of this option would likely create demand issues for Levin Aquatic Centre during the 'off season' particularly as the population continues to grow.

Evidence tells Council that staffing seasonal pools can be challenging, particularly towards the end of the season.

Option 4: Basic Seasonal Pool

Submitter and Submission numbers

Margaret Shepherd (#43), Linda Whiti (#144), Barry Judd (#153), Swetlana Jagana (#179), Valerie McCall (#182), Kerryn Wilson (#184), Brian May (#232), Pauline May (#233), Colin Petterson (#340), Bridget Tyson (#364), Henriette Stella van Ryn (#375), Phillipa Vickremasinghe (#384), Federated Farmers of New Zealand, Coralee Matena (#389), Philip and Shona Davies (#446), Vivienne Bold (#447), and Chris Philpott (#495).

Summary of Submissions

Submitter #144 also believes that Shannon and Levin Pool should be upgraded.

Submitter #375 believes this option will keep the pool going at a minimal cost until the demand warrants the Capex spend and will allow time for the community to fundraise for any future development.

Submitter #389 believes no investment should be made until there is certainty regarding other aquatic development throughout the district (Levin Aquatic Centre).

Submitter #447 states that if the pool is permanently closed Council should fund a bus to and from Levin for swimming.

Officer Analysis

A total of 22 submissions were received in favour of Option 4. Of those submissions 4 provided comments to support their submission and 18 did not provide supporting commentary. The majority of submitters in support of Option 4 are Levin residents.



While Option 4 retains a pool in Foxton, this development is likely to see reduced usage, utilisation and efficiency when compared to other development options under consideration. This is predominantly due to fact that Option 4, provides no additional appeal and use, there are no opportunities for increasing revenue generation and limited scope for programming.

Existing users have told Council that they are not supportive of an outdoor facility and this would detract them from using the facility.

While some submitters have made the suggestion this option should be constructed as a starting point and future developments happen in line with demand, the reality is this option is likely detract from the current usage trends of Foxton Pool.

A Feasibility Study is in progress with potential development opportunities for Levin and these recommendations will be factored into future planning. When looking at aquatic provision it should be noted Officers are considering the district aquatic network and that decisions or recommendations are not made in isolation. All options for Foxton Pool that have been considered as part of the LTP 2021-2041 have been developed with the knowledge of potential future facility developments at other aquatic sites within the district.

Option 5: Permanently Closing Foxton Pool

Submitter and Submission numbers

Matthew Lepper (#1), Nevelle E Roberts (#25), John Naylor (#60), Prudence Elaine Naylor (#61), Guy Morgan (#85), Frank Newman (#93), Steve Rofe (#166), Byron Williamson (#254), Christina

Paton (#349), Leone Brown (#455), Jan Alkena (#460), D J Vake (#503), Ethan Money (#505), Owen Winstanley (#527), Zyran Hirst (#538), Ben Storey (#545), Brooke Rollinson (#547), and John Lawrence (#552).

Summary of Submissions

Submitters #85 and #455 believe that Council should invest in a district wide bus service to make Levin Aquatic Centre and other services more accessible.

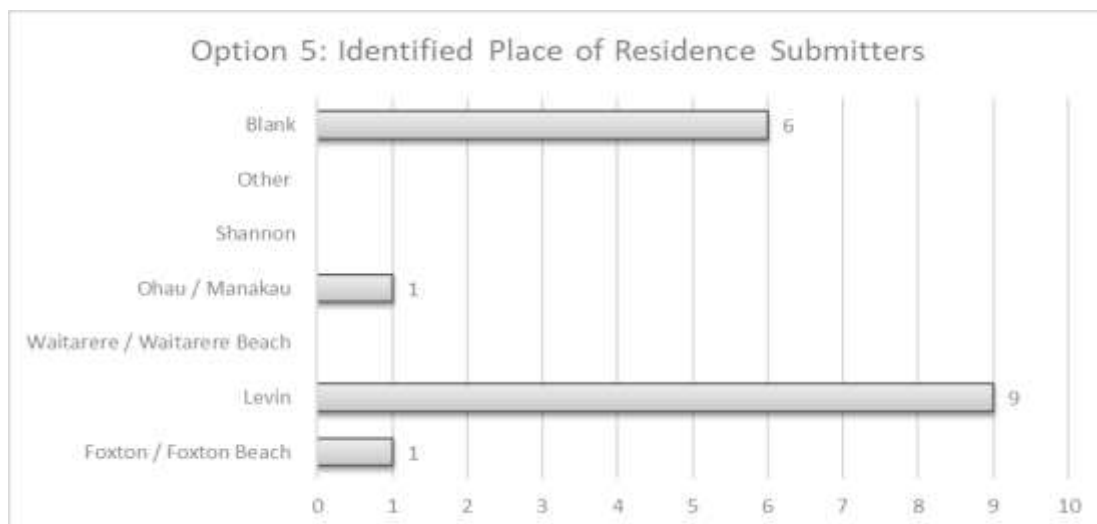
Submitter #166 states that most cities only have 1 pool per district based on population and that Horowhenua pools within 15 minutes of each other is unjustified.

Submitter #254 believe the focus needs to be keeping rates down.

Submitter #349 states that patronage is very low; costs are high for maintenance and or renewal. Poor to nil research offered. No statistics supplied as to private/school ownership of pools in the Foxton/Foxton Beach area.

Officer Analysis

A total of 17 submissions were received in favour of Option 5. Of those submissions 5 provided comments to support their submission and 12 submitters did not provide commentary. The majority of submitters in support of Option 5 are Levin residents.



A districtwide bus service to and from Levin Aquatic Centre is unlikely to be supported by current users as it difficult to prepare a timetable which would suit all users.

Permanently closing Foxton Pool would add additional demand pressure to Levin Aquatic Centre and a significant facility redevelopment would need to be fast tracked in order to meet the district's increasing aquatic demand.

Supporting information including the full Feasibility Study completed by Visitor Solutions limited who are highly regarded experts in the Sport and Recreation Sector was available to assist community members in their submission, this was available throughout the whole consultation period and the Feasibility Study was printed and supplied to submitter #349.

Other Submissions: Foxton Pool Topic

Submitter and Submission numbers

Anne Hunt (#46), Peter Ferrier (#50) Mid Central Health, Robert Holdaway (#220), Ruth Ruddock (#250), Hokio Progressive Association, Geoff Keith (#310), and Charles Rudd (#469).

Summary of Submissions

Submitter #46 does not indicate a preference in terms of an option but recommends robust planning to avoid the repetition of past mistakes.

Submitter #50 is supportive of all options except closure.

Submitter #220 opposes the closure of Foxton Pool and lists the benefits of a community swimming pool to the local community.

Submitter #250 is supportive of a pool redevelopment and lists preferences of what they would like to see, however they does not specify a specific option.

Submitter #310 states that Foxton pool should remain open.

Submitter #469 asks if the Kerekere Ward community is surveyed on the Foxton Pool.

Officer Analysis

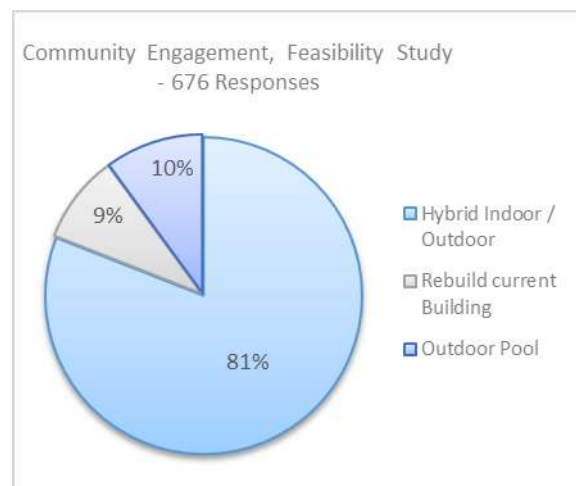
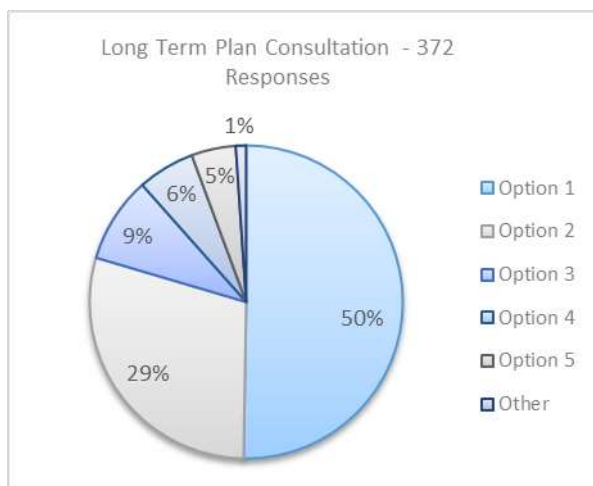
The submitters are against the closure of the Foxton Pool and see the benefits of a local Aquatic Centre in Foxton. While they have not directly selected a preferred option they emphasise that Foxton Pool should not be permanently closed.

In response to Submitter #469, Kerekere Ward residents have been 'surveyed' in respect to Foxton Pool as part of the Feasibility Study on the future of Foxton Pool. The feedback via this process directly shaped the options that Council is consulting on at present.

Summary of Officer Analysis of Options 1-5

The future of Foxton Pool has been tested with the community through consultation on this LTP and also through the community engagement component of the Foxton Pool Feasibility Study. In both instances the community preference was for an improved facility that provided improved opportunities rather than a basic rebuild of what is currently in place.

The initial engagement with the community through the feasibility study identified the most important factors for consideration in thinking about the future of Foxton Pool. Having a pool that operates all year round was one of the most important factors with 71% of respondents seeing this as important. This is further emphasised in the responses received as part of the LTP 2021-2041 consultation with 80% of submitters in favour of Options 1 or 2.



Option 1 aligns most closely to the best practice principles identified in the 2015 National Aquatic Facilities Guidelines and will provide a facility that has been carefully designed to meet the needs of the community now and into the future and providing for the widest cross-section of the community. Incorporating the multi-purpose facility will provide opportunities for flexible programming development and also provide a source of revenue-generation.

Option 1 addresses gaps in provision that were identified by the Aquatic Facilities Strategy by providing dedicated aquatic leisure and warm water opportunities; operationally it provides the best opportunities to diversify aquatic programming and provide the best option to increase income generation.

A Feasibility Study on Foxton Pool has assessed the current state, strategic context, demographic trends and needs analysis. Based on this evaluation, Option 1 is considered the strongest overall option. While Option 1, providing an all-year round indoor/outdoor leisure facility, has the highest capital cost and higher operational costs (compared to current state), the improvements to the facility will deliver positive benefits to a wide cross section of the community and visitors by:

- Providing an all-year round facility which the community supports.
- Improving the appeal of the facility which the community supports.
- Providing new leisure and relaxation opportunities which expands the appeal of the facility across the community and to visitors.
- Helping reduce demand pressure on Levin Aquatic Centre and accommodate increasing demand arising from population growth.
- Increasing the efficiency of the water-space (through forecasted increased users).
- Including a flexible fitness space which will help drive revenue.

The Foxton Pool Feasibility Study concluded Option 1 provides the strongest overall option as it will provide an all-year facility, improve appeal, increase visits, increase efficiency and grow revenue streams. This is due to the inclusion of the leisure pool, spa and multi-purpose space which are expected to increase visits and grow revenue, potentially beyond what is forecast.

While submission responses indicate a clear community preference for Option 1, Option 2 (rebuild the facility and remediation of the defunct outdoor pool area into a grass space) will ensure the facility is operational all-year round which is an important benefit.

Option 2 will address the underlying issues with the building and restore the building to like new condition. However, as the Feasibility Study outlines, Option 2 is unlikely to increase appeal of the facility across the community, to increase revenue beyond current revenue streams, or to increase flexibility of the facility and what it can offer as there would have been nothing added.

When analysing the operational impact of all the options put forward for consideration, Option 2 has the most expensive operational cost and the least potential to grow revenue and visits due to the limited increased appeal of this facility.

Operational modelling suggests Option 3 is the most efficient option compared to the other options under consideration. While this option did not receive high levels of community support, it does provide an interesting facility and greater revenue generation opportunities compared to the current facility for a mid-range capital cost.

Options 3, 4 and 5 have very little community support and in light of the impact on the aquatic network and community, Officers believe these options should be discounted from further consideration.

Recommendations

Based on the community feedback, direction set by the Horowhenua Aquatics Strategy, growth projections adopted at the 95th percentile and strong preference indicated by the Foxton Pool Feasibility Study, Officers recommend that Council proceed with Option 1.

The Draft 2021/41 LTP is based on Option 2 with a build cost of \$2.6m (across the first two years) and rate impact of \$26.61 (per annum).

Officers recommendation of Option 1 has a build cost of \$9.4m (staged across the first three years) and rate impact of \$44.53 (per annum). Refer to below extract from the consultation document.

Option 1 results in a build cost increase of \$6.8m and rate increase impact of \$17.92 to the Draft LTP 2021/41.

Option 1
Indoor and Outdoor Leisure Pool

Building Changes <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Demolish and rebuild building.• Extend building at front for multi-purpose room.• Extend building at rear to include new leisure pool.• No change to existing pools.• Add indoor leisure pool.• Add splashpad and landscaping at rear.• Upgrade change rooms.	Operational Changes <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 12 month operation.• Increase in operating hours: 6am-7pm weekdays and 8am-6pm weekends.• Expected to increase use of the pool by residents and visitors to Foxton.	
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Build cost: \$9.4 million across the first three years of the LTP (2021 – 2024).

Rates Impact: \$44.53 per year from 2024/25

Topic 2 – Jubilee Park Splashpad

Submitter and Submission numbers

MidCentral District Health Board's Public Health Service, Robert Holdaway (#220), Horowhenua District Residents and Ratepayers Association Inc., Christine Moriarty (#332), and Wildlife Foxton Trust, Nola Fox (#387).

Summary of Submissions

Submitter #220 raises some reservations regarding the development of splashpads and associated health risks.

Submitter #332 believes that most submitters in last year's Annual Plan wanted the old Jubilee Park pool removed rather than replaced with a splashpad and that water in an unsupervised facility is an unacceptable liability.

Submitter #387 opposes the construction of a splashpad due to water shortages in Levin.

Officer Analysis

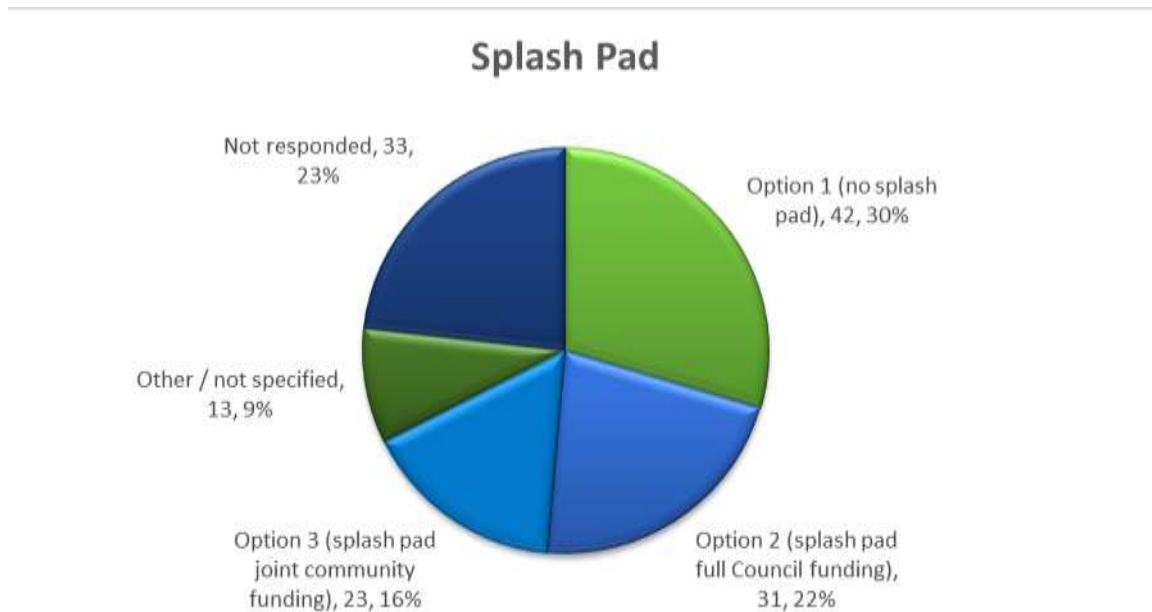
Council consulted with the community through the Annual Plan 2020/2021 process on whether a splashpad should be constructed at Jubilee Park to replace the paddling pool which is nearing the end of its life.

Council received a total of 142 submissions on the draft Annual Plan 2020/2021, and of these submissions 109 provided a response about the splashpad. The community was asked to specify which option they preferred:

- Option 1: Remove the paddling pool, but have no splashpad.
- Option 2: Remove the paddling pool and build a splashpad (full Council funding).
- Option 3: Remove the paddling pool and build a splashpad, but only if Council subsidises its construction with grants.

The results from the submissions are illustrated below. Of those who submitted, 30% chose Option 1, 22% Option 2, 16% Option 3, and a further 9% did not select an option but provide some comment on the splashpad.

On this basis, 38% of submitters were supportive of a splashpad (in some form) while 30% did not support a splashpad.



The

Annual Plan 2020/2021 resolved that the Horowhenua District Council:

- supports the construction of a community splashpad.
- allocates \$50,000 Capex funding in the Annual Plan 2020/2021 to undertake a feasibility study.
- following completion of the above, the Horowhenua District Council considers allocating a Capex budget of up to \$400,000 for the construction of a Community splashpad as part of the preparation of the 2021-2041 Long Term Plan.

Jubilee Park Splashpad Preliminary Options Report.

Council resolved to undertake a three-way feasibility study to explore future options for Foxton Pools, Levin Aquatic Centre and Jubilee Park Paddling Pool. The feasibility study for Jubilee Park is almost complete but this is somewhat dependent on other decisions in the aquatic network. An interim Preliminary Options Report has been prepared to summarise the analysis completed to date, and to help inform the Council's decisions as part of upcoming Long Term Plan deliberations. Once these decisions are made, the feasibility study for Jubilee Park splashpad will be completed. Some key points from this report are:

- A detailed site investigation has been undertaken for Jubilee Park, to understand the presence and extent of potential soil contamination arising from historical land use of the site. If a splashpad was to be developed, a Controlled Activity Consent is recommended to appropriately control earthworks at the site.
- The content of community submissions was further analysed to understand community views. Overall, the submissions indicate there is a good level of community support for a splashpad. However, 40% of those that submitted, highlighted concerns regarding the overall cost of construction.
- The provision of a splashpad needs to be considered in conjunction with the development of Levin Aquatic Centre to ensure the aquatic network is cohesive, and the two facilities do not compete against each other.
- A splashpad design has not been developed for Jubilee Park as it was felt this is best undertaken once the budget had been committed. If the budget is confirmed Officers will undertake a formal "request for proposal" process with splashpad supply companies, where there is a competitive and transparent opportunity to compare potential providers.

Council Officers initially signaled a total of \$400,000 for the construction of a splashpad via the 2020/21 annual plan. Taking into account the feedback from the community regarding the cost and potential future development at Levin Aquatic Centre, the report recommends the construction of a small scale splashpad catering for a younger age group be constructed at Jubilee Park at an indicative cost of \$250,000 – \$300,000

Example of a Small scale splashpad suitable for Jubilee Park



Example of a large scale indoor splashpad suitable for Levin Aquatic Centre



Water Consumption of Splashpad

The splashpad would be designed as a fully recirculated system and water will be treated to New Zealand Standard 5825:2010. The design would also incorporate UV as secondary disinfection measure to ensure the water is treated to the highest possible standard. The system will allow the water quality to be monitored remotely. Because the splashpad water treatment system will operate as a closed recirculated system, this significantly reduces water consumption. Therefore, the splashpad should not contribute to water shortages during the summer months. Further, it is possible to adjust the operating hours of the splashpad to minimise use and water consumption during any extreme water shortage periods.

A splashpad is zero depth and has no standing water. This eliminates the risk of drowning and the need to supervise the site with lifeguards. As with any playground for young people it would be recommended that parents actively supervise their children.

The submitter's comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the Long Term Plan 2021-2041.

Actions

Upon confirmation of the budget, Officers undertake a formal "request for proposal" process with splashpad supply companies, to ensure a competitive and transparent opportunity to identify a preferred supplier for the construction of the splashpad.

Topic 3 – Te Takeretanga o Kura-Hau-pō Youth Space.

Submitter and Submission numbers

Callum Herring (#498), Charlette-Victoria Taylor-Thompson (#499), Claire West (#500), Cody Pedley (#501), Cole Campbell (#502), DJ Vaele (#503), Dakota Berg (#504), Ethan Money (#505), Gin Campbell (#506), Kayla-Jane McIlwee (#507), Hermione Peterson (#508), Hanoa Blackman (#509), Hutch Hodges (#510), Jemal Daly (#511), Jorja Dustin (#512), Kaamaleigh Haturini (#513), Kasey Johnstone (#514), Lily de Kort (#516), Madison Leong (#517), Mason Jones (#518), Miles Harrington (#518), Minnie Collins (#520), Natasha Haigh (#521), Nathaniel Cottle, (#522), Nikity Burlace (#523), Noah Watters (#524), Oceanah (#525), Oliver Easton (#526), Owen Winstanley (#527), Paradise Biddle (#528), Penelope Tulloch (#529), Ruby Marshall (#531), Ryan Goodall (#532), Samuel Hanson (#533), Shayne Sayle (#534), Sione Aholoka (#535), Tahlia Rowe (#536),

Willow Thomsen (#537), Zyran Hirst (#538), Abby Kemp (#539), Aja Harlen (#540), Ake Tarawa (#541), Alyssa Read (#542), Anika Ryersson (#543), Ashley Snow (#544), Ben Storey (#545), Blake Rausmussen (#546), Brooke Rollinson (#547), and Caitlin Hanson (#548).

Summary of Submissions

Submitter #548 states that the Youth Space is boring.

Submitter #512 would like the Youth Space to be more welcoming to all cultures.

Submitter #506 would like to see a quiet space where youth can study and read incorporated into the Youth Space.

Submitter #543 would like to see more hot food options in the Library Café that are affordable for youth.

Officer Analysis

Members of the Youth Empowerment Project (yEP) created a survey that was distributed amongst their peers and completed by approximately 50 people. The survey specifically asked a question about the Youth Space at Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō. Participants were given an option to tick their preferred options from the list below and provide additional comments.

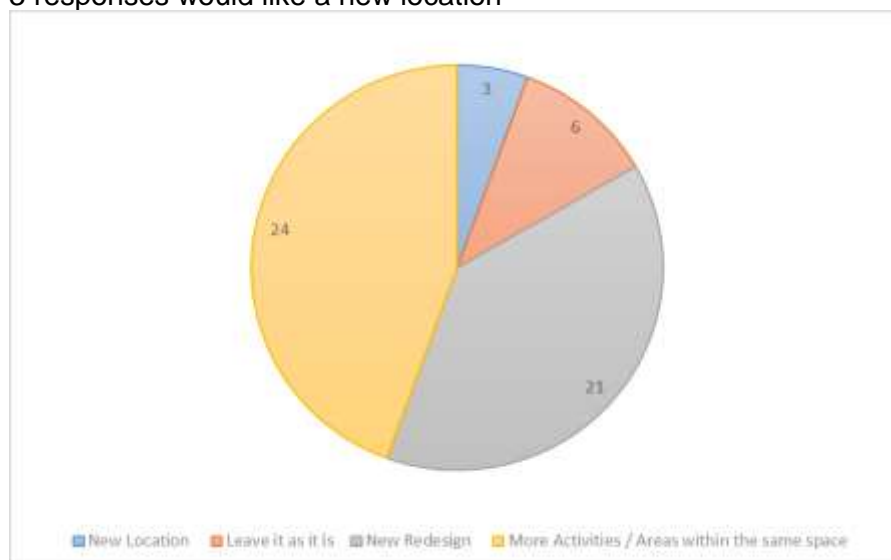
“What should be done to improve the Youth Space?”

- *New redesign*
- *Leave it as it is*
- *New location*
- *More activities / areas within the same space*
- *Other*

“Any further ideas? i.e. what could be improved in the youth space, comments...”

The results of the survey provided by the Youth Empowerment Project (yEP) showed that:

- 24 responses would like to see more activities / areas within the space
- 21 responses would like to see a redesign of the Youth Space
- 6 responses would like the space to stay as it is
- 3 responses would like a new location



There is currently \$150,000 in Year 2 of the Long Term Plan allocated to Youth Space renovation. Officers signalled this renovation based on prior feedback from current users of the space, and youth who do not currently use the space but were happy to provide feedback on what changes could be made to encourage them to do so.

The submitters indicate a strong preference for more activities and areas within the space redesign, which is consistent with prior feedback received. It is recommended that Council Officers engage with yEP, survey respondents and users of the space to better understand what activities and programmes interest them, and to test the need for any future spaces created in the Youth Space.

The submitter's comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the Long Term Plan 2021-2041.

Actions

That Council Officers engage with yEP, survey respondents and users of the space to better understand what activities and programmes interest them, and to test the need for any future spaces created in the Youth Space. This engagement will commence in Year 1 of the LTP in advance of the Youth Space being renovated.

Attachments



There are no attachments for this report.

Confirmation of statutory compliance

In accordance with section 76 of the Local Government Act 2002, this report is approved as:

- a. containing sufficient information about the options and their advantages and disadvantages, bearing in mind the significance of the decisions; and,
- b. is based on adequate knowledge about, and adequate consideration of, the views and preferences of affected and interested parties bearing in mind the significance of the decision.

Signatories

Author(s)	Brent Harvey Community Facilities & Events Manager	
Approved by	Nicki Brady Deputy Chief Executive	

Long Term Plan 2021-2041 Deliberations - Finance

File No.: 21/216

1. Purpose

To present to Council for deliberation, the submissions received on the Long Term Plan 2021-2041 in relation to Council's Finance activity

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That Report 21/216 Long Term Plan 2021-2041 Deliberations - Finance be received.
- 2.2 That this matter or decision is recognised as not significant in terms of S76 of the Local Government Act
- 2.3 That Council acknowledges, with thanks, all who have submitted on the Finance activity.
- 2.4 The Council adopts Option 1 – remove differential and that officers change the classifications in the Rating Information Database to recognise the change.
- 2.5 That Council adopts Option 1 – Creating a farming differential but also adding vacant lifestyle and vacant residential rating units to the Farming differential definition.

3. Topics for Consideration

Topic 1	Land Transport Rate Differential
Topic 2	General Rate Differential
Topic 3	Rates Remission Policy
Topic 4	Financial Strategy
Topic 5	General finance related submissions
Topic 6	Rating System Equity

Topic 1- Land Transport Rate Differential

Submitter and Submission numbers

Matthew Lepper (#1), Mr Soxy (#2), Anna Clark (#3), Alison Anderson (#4), Jon Povey (#5), Emily Pond (#7), Neville Roberts (#25), Darnelle Nugent-O'Leary (#26), David Pick (#27), Phillip Richarson (#29), Tracey Whitehouse (#30), Jeremy Ellen (#31), Robert Barton (#32), Vicky Millman (#33), Andrea Leadbetter (#34), Steven Arnold (#36), David Eaton (#39), John Baird (#40), Neville Currie (#41), Margaret Hyndman (#42), Margaret Shepherd (#43), Steve Cole (#44), Anne Hunt (#46), Fraser Munro (#47), Alannagh Donegan (#48), Charmaine Torrington (#49), Peter Ferrier (#50), Sarah Martin (#51), Mark Jenkins (#52), Ruth and Kevin Rawlings (#53), Donald Cross (#54), Phillip Bolton (#58), Luke Benner (#59), John Naylor (#60), Prudence Naylor (#61), Christine Douglas (#62), Joanne Jood (#63), Bernard Long (#66), Neil Koot (#67), Adrianna Burton (#70), Carolyn Rhodes (#71), Stuart Fieldes (#72), Marjori Hall (#73), Michael Dowling (#75), Robyn Mouzouri (#78), Thomas Reisinger (#79), Cecily Archer (#80), Pauline Smitheram (#82), Athol and Kay Kirk (#83), Raymond Watkins (#84), Guy Morgan (#85), Marion Moore (#86), Davie and Patti MacIntyre (#88), Mary Wilson (#89), Nicola Simmons (#90), Juliette Darnley (#91), Malcolm Wood (#92), Frank Newman (#93), Ruel Vallar (#94), Apolonia Briones (#95), Collette Burr (#96), Dianne Hurlimann (#99), Romualdo Nuico (#100), Katrina Vallar (#101), Marcelo Briones JR (#103), K Marshall and A Smith (#105), George Bevan (#107), Capri Chapman (#108),

Charlotte Yates (#110), Miss Ebs (#111), Robyn Heyburn (#124), Rachel McGell (#126), Barry Rollinson (#127), Lucy Everton (#128), Derk Canvin (#129), Geoffrey Holmes (#131), Dean Thompson (#132), Jaque Van Der Berg (#134), Andrew Burns (#135), Lola Haggarty (#136), Gregory Downing (#138), Catherine Marshall (#140), Linda Whiti (#144), Maxwell Tuhan (#147), Tony Clifford (#148), Barry Andrew and Janice Robson (#149), Mike Fletcher (#150), Murray Staples (#151), Glenda Heyward (#152), Barry Judd (#153), Luke van Soest (#154), Merlin Astley-Jones (#155), Simon Paquier (#156), Jo Hopkirk (#163), Robyn West (#164), Keith Cole (#165), Steve Rofe (#166), Sharon Freebairn (#167), Joanne McMaster (#168), Garry Good (#169), Wendy Saunders (#175), Joan Leckie (#176), Swetlana Jagana (#179), Amber Granger-Ellison (#180), Megan Ford (#181), Valerie McCall (#182), Frances Roache (#183), Kerryn Wilson (#184), Douglas Berry (#188), Janet Hall (#189), Peter Bolton (#190), Diana Murphy (#191), Patricia Young (#193), David Gray (#195), Rick Fisher (#196), Gary Spencer (#197), Bryan Walsh (#198), Judy Webby (#199), Andrew Parkin (#201), Leanne Takitimu (#203), Thomas Huria (#205), Ashely Cotter-Hope (#206), Christine Flatley (#207), Christine Avery (#208), Jenny Rose (#209), Peter Halcrow (#210), Kushla Laursen (#211), Leishia De'Ath (#213), Nina Hori Te Pa (#215), Megan Cushnahan (#218), Chantelle Aitken (#219), Chelsea Carlyle (#223), Jocelyn Urgahn (#226), Emma Robinson (#227), Perry and Jayne Davies (#228), Rachel Lyons (#229), David and Susan Hagland (#230), Dave Rix (#231), Brian May (#232), Pauline May (#233), Bryon Williamson (#254), Katie Hodson (#256), Trevor Hinder (#258), Dean Thomson (#264), Bruce Eccles (#266), Katrina Fleming (#268), Alice Kleinsman (#269), Lew Rholff (#271), R Boyle (#273), Pauline Watson (#276), Sandra Bailey (#277), Tara Peters (#278), Emma Swanson (#282), Christine Curley (#283), John Tike (#284), Debra Adin (#285), Meredith Krieger (#287), Ann Thomas (#289), Brian and Ann Thomas (#298), Sam Ferguson (#299), Sharon Williams (#300), Peter Everton (#303), William Norton (#309), Jeremy Brockhouse (#327), Horowhenua District Residents and ratepayers Association Inc (HRRRAI) (#332), Kimbal McHugo (#334), Andy Kent (#336), Colin Petterson (#340), Brian Forth (#342), Foxton Community Board (#344), Sarah Elliot (#345), Rosalie and Bill Huzziff (#346), Paul Robinson (#347), Michael Kay (#350), Jon Flatley (#354), Cathryn Pollock (#355), Bridget Tyson (#364), Wendy and Bryan Kilsby (#365), Andrew Buchanan (#366), Graham and Gillian Phelps (#367), Glenn Williams (#369), Carol Dyer (#370), Shane Hagglund (#373), Henriette van Ryn (#375), Chris Lloyd (#376), Graeme Fox (#381), Hugh Bentall (#383), Phillioa Wickremasinghe (#384), John and Jenny Brown (#385), Federated Farmers (#389), Melinda Vandermade (#391), Helen Brown (#392), Wendy Dixon (#393), Desiree Paul (#394), Patricia Metcalf (#397), Foxton Historical Society, Te Ripō o Hinemata Trust, Ngati Ngarongo (#412), Proarch Consultants Limited (agent for FRP Investments Limited, FRP Agricultural Limited and Heritage Estates (2000) Limited (#415), Colleen Burgess (#444), John Olifent (#445), Philip and Shona Davis (#446), Vivienne Bold (#447), Evangeline Rodie (#453), Dean Tukapua (#454), Leone Brown (#455), Gwneth Schibli (#456), Geoff Ritchie (#458), Kevin Miles (#459), Jan Alenkna (#460), Mark Conroy (#461), Eric Walker (#462), Fred van Iddekinge (#474), Graeme Lindsay (#475), RW MacKenzie trading as Bramber NZ Ltd (#478), Kevin Hari (#481), John Girling (#484), Tony Phillips (#487), Neil Warren and Jan Savage (#488), Bruce Pacey (#492), AJ Paddison (#494), Chris Philpott (#495), Anita Mulay (#497) and John Lawrence (#552).

Summary of Submissions

Submitters #27, #47, #149 and #375 are suggesting that as businesses make profits and can claim a tax deduction for rating costs their differential should be retained and set at a level higher than non-business so supports Option 2 Status Quo.

Submitter #32 suggests Capital Value should be looked at by Government and that Council's put rates up at its convenience.

Submitters #44, #83, #91, #147, #199, #332, #350, #381, #383, #389 - argue that businesses should get a lower rate and/or differential as they generate economic benefits (i.e. Option 1 Remove Differential), or that it is more equitable to remove the differential.

Submitters #232, #276, #299, #340, #345, #375, #415, #460 and #487 argue for Option 2 Status Quo as businesses derive more benefits than residential from the Land Transport Rate, or the decision should be delayed until next LTP (#299).

Officer Analysis

In total Council received 134 submissions in support of Option 1 (Remove Differential) and 85 for Option 2 - Status Quo.

Generally the taxation status of the ratepayer is not used to determine rating policy, this is supported by various rating inquiries.

Capital values are set by Quotable Value (QV) under valuation rules and legislation, councils can use them for rating purposes at their discretion and rates are increased by councils when they require more income.

There is some misunderstanding as to what Horowhenua District Council intends to do. Some submitters opting for Status Quo are also arguing that business growth should be encouraged. Even arguing under Status Quo, for a higher percentage paid by businesses. Other submitters, (#381) argue extra benefits to business but chose Option 1 (Remove Differential).

In its submission, the Horowhenua District Ratepayers and Residents Association Inc. (HDRRAI) suggests that rural businesses make up 30% of the capital value (CV). However, the fact is all businesses (rural and urban) make up 30% of the CV. Officers also note that the pie chart on page 10 of submission #332, does not have an urban residential slice. As urban residential is a large slice of the pie and is missing, it is not clear from the submission if this is suggesting that these ratepayers should be paying nothing.

Submission #340 talks about bare land rates increasing, confusing the General Rate differential change with the Land Transport Rate differential change.

Submitter #350 argues that forestry companies should pay more while suggesting the removal of the differential. There is no practical rating option to do as he suggests; however, a differential could be set for forestry use or categories.

Recommendations

The Council adopts Option 1 – remove differential and that Officers change the classifications in the Rating Information Database to recognise the change.

Topic 2 – General Rate Differential

Submitter and Submission numbers

Matthew Lepper (#1), Anna Clark (#3), Alison Anderson (#4), Jon Povey (#5), Emily Pond (#7), Neville Roberts (#25), Darnelle Nugent-O’Leary (#26), David Pick (#27), Phillip Richardson (#29), Tracey Whitehouse (#30), Jeremy Ellen (#31), Robert Barton (#32), Vicky Millman (#33), Andrea Leadbetter (#34), Steen Arnold (#36), Geoff Kane (#38), David Eaton (#39), John Baird (#40), Neville Currie (#41), Margaret Hyndman (#42), Margaret Shepherd (#42), Anne Hunt (#46), Alannagh Donegan (#48), Charmaine Torrington (#49), Peter Ferrier (#50), Mark Jenkins (#52), Ruth and Kevin Rawlings (#53), Donald Cross (#54), Phillip Bolton (#58), Luke Benner (#59), John Naylor (#60), Prudence Naylor (#61), Joanne Hood (#63), Bernard Long (#66), Neil Koot (#67), Adrianna Burton (#70), Carolyn Rhodes (#71), Marjori Hall (#73), Michael Dowling (#75), Robyn Mouzouri (#78), Thomas Reisinger (#79), Cecily Archer (#80), Pauline Smitheram (#82), Athol and Kay Kirk (#83), Raymond Watkins (#84), Guy Morgan (#85), Marion Moore (#86), Dave and Patt MacIntrye (#88), Mary Wilson (#89), Juliette Darnley (#91), Malcom Wood (#92), Frank Newman (#93), Ruel Vallar (#94), Apolonia Briones (#95), Collette Burr (#96), Dianne Hurlimann (#99), Romualdo Nuico (#100), Katrina Vallar (#101), Marcelo Briones JR (#103), K Marshall and A Smith (#105), George Bevan (#107), Capri Chapman (#108), Charlotte Yates (#110), Miss Ebs (#111), Robyn Heyburn (#124), Rachel McGell (#126), Barry Rollinson (#127), Lucy Everton (#128), Derk

Canvin (#129), Celina Eves (#130), Dean Thompson (#132), Jaque Van Der Berg (#134), Andrew Burns (#135), Lola Haggarty (#136), Gregory Downing (#138), Catherine Marshall (#140), Linda Whiti (#144), Maxwell Tuhan (#147), Tony Clifford (#148), Barry Andrew and Janice Robson (#149), Mike Fletcher (#150), Murray Staples (#151), Barry Judd (#153), Luke Anton van Soest (#154), Merlin Astley-Jones (#155), Simon Paquier (#156), Jo Hopkirk (#163), Keith Cole (#165), Steve Rofe (#166), Sharon Freebairn (#167), Joanne McMaster (#168), Garry Good (#169), Wendy Saunders (#175), Royal Forest & Bird Protection Society Inc (#176), Svetlana Jagana (#179), Amber Granger-Ellison (#180), Megan Ford (#181), Valerie McCall (#182), Frances Roache (#183), Kerryn Wilson (#184), Janet Hall (#189), Peter Bolton (#190), Diana Murphy (#191), Patricia Young (#193), Rick Fisher (#196), Gary Spencer (#197), Bryan Walsh (#198), Judy Webby #199, Andrew Parkin (#201), Leanne Takitimu (#203), Gordon Gunther (#204), Thomas Huria (#205), Ashely Cotter-Hope (#206), Christine Flatley (#207), Christine Avery (#208), Jenny Rose (#209), Peter Halcrow (#210), Kushla Laursen (#211), Leishia De'Ath (#213), Nina Hori Te Pa (#215), Piero Lavo (#216), Megan Cushnahan (#218), Chantelle Aitken (#219), Chelsea Carlyle (#233), Emma Robinson (#227), Perry and Jayne Davies (#228), Rachel Lyons (#229), David and Susan Hagland (#230), Dave Rix (#231), Brian May (#232), Pauline May (#233), Edward Melton (#246), Bryon Williamson (#254), Katie Hodson (#256), Trevor Hinder (#258), Dean Thomson (#264), Waitare Beach Progressive & Ratepayers Association (WBPR) Beach Progressive & Ratepayers (#266), Katrina Fleming (#268), Louise Miles (#270), R Boyle (#273), Pauline Watson (#276), Sandra Bailey (#277), Tara Peters (#278), Emma Swanson (#282), Christina Curley (#283), John Tike (#284), Debra Adin (#285), Meredith Krieger (#287), Horowhenua Farmers Ratepayers Group #289, Brian and Anne Thomas (#298), Sam Fergusson (#299), Sharon Williams (#300), Peter Everton (#303), William Norton (#309), Hokio Progressive Association (#310), Jeremy Brockhouse (#327), Emma Clarke (#331), Horowhenua District Residents and Ratepayers Association Inc (#332), Kimbal McHugo (#334), Andy Kent (#336), Geoff Kane (#339), Colin Petterson (#340), Brian Forth (#342), Foxton Community Board (#344), Sarah Elliot (#345), Rosalie and bill Huzziff (#346), Paul Robinson (#347), Julie Palmer (#348), Michael Kay (#350), Cathryn Pollock (#355), Wiki-Hamiti Trust (#362), Glynis and John Easton (#363), Bridget Tyson (#364), Wendy and Bryan Kilsby (#365), Andrew Buchanan (#366), Graham and Gillian Phelps (#367), Belinda Hailwood (#368), Glenn Williams (#369), Shane Haggland (#373), Buckley Golf Club (#374), Henriette van Ryn #375, Chris Lloyd (#376), Graeme Fox (#381), Hugh Bentall (#383), Phillipa Wickremasinghe (#384), John and Jeny Brown (#385), Federated Farmers (#389), Melinda Vandermade (#391), Helen Brown (#392), Wendy Dixon (#393), Te Waiora Community Health Services (#394), Andrew Paddison (#395), Patricia Metcalf (#397), Amanda Coats for FRP Investments #415, Colleen Burgess (#444), John Olifent (#445), Philip and Shona Davis (#446) Vivienne Bold (#447), The TenderTips Co Ltd (#451), Karen and Stephen Prouse (#452), Evageline Rodie (#453), Dean Tukapua (#454), Gwyneth Schibli (#456), Geoff Ritchie (#458), Kevin Miles (#459), Jan Alekna (#460), Mark Conroy (#461), G+DJ Timms / Timms Farm Ltd (#473), Fred van Iddekinge (#474), RW MacKenzie trading as Bramber NZ Ltd (#478), Sonja Hart (#479), Sarah Chambers (#480), Kevin Hari (#481), John Girling (#484), Neil Warren and Jan Savage (#488), Bruce Pacey (#492), AJ Paddison (#494), Chris Philpott (#495), Anita Mulay (#497) and John Lawrence (#552).

Summary of Submissions

Submitters #32, #53, #276, #348, #393, and #478 believe that because there is no water and sewer reticulation the current differential should remain i.e. Option 2 - Status Quo

Submitters #38, #276, #345, #348, and #389 argue that the lack of services to rural properties should be taken into account and therefore they also opt for status quo i.e. Option 2 - Status Quo

Submitter #46 is under the impression that Council are reintroducing a differential rather than refining the scope and calculation of an existing differential.

Submitters #53 and #71 support the creation of a Farming differential.

Submitter #177 suggests changing the percentage split of the current differential rather than setting up a new Farming differential and calculation change.

Submitters #199, #283, #350, #383, and #460 are in favour of the change i.e. Option 1 - Creating a Farming differential.

Submitters #289, #298, #303, #331, #347, #365, #381, #385, #389, #392, #451, #456, and 473 support Option 1 – Creating a Farming differential, but are concerned about vacant lifestyle land and leased Māori land where these are grazed or used for farming purposes. It is noted that some of these lots are contiguous with farms, others are stand-alone but used by farmers which the submitters believe may affect the ratio. Some suggest a remissions policy to narrow down those that deserve the lower rates.

Submitters #83 and #147 see the benefit of higher rates for vacant residential or lifestyle properties receiving a higher rate, to encourage such properties to be developed and less likely to be land banked and therefore support Option 1 - Creating a Farming differential.

Submitter #90 has not made a choice but believes the General Rate is set using Capital Values.

Submitter #271 makes no selection but considers such a decision can only be made after a “comprehensive, first principles review of the entire rating policies”. The submitter also can see “no evidence” of the current differential not sharing the growth benefits.

Submitters #332 and #455 suggests removing the General Rate differential completely but are also advocating for “community-led discussions involving rural and urban businesses, HDRRAI, Grey Power, budgeting services and others (bottom-up) to find solutions to ensure the rating system is fair, equitable and affordable for all residents and ratepayers with proposals to be put for consultation of the general public before 1 December 2021”.

Submitter #147 points out that properties should be closely evaluated to ensure they are in fact farms but supports Option 1 - Creating a Farming differential.

Submitters #150 and #393 are already in the “other differential” so are not adversely affected by the proposal but opt for Option 2 - Status Quo.

Submitters #154, #224, #270, #309, #310, #327, #339, #340, #346, #362, #375, #384, #389, #393, #415, and #474 generally support Option 2 - Status Quo but see no benefit to vacant lifestyle properties where they are grazed or used for farming purposes; some are contiguous with farms, some are Māori freehold land. Most of these submitters want vacant lifestyle properties to be left in the Rural differential or added to the Farming differential.

Submitter #346 contends that Council has a policy to “urbanise” the district.

Submitter #364 argues that as the definition of a farming property is crucial, Council has failed to consult properly. “...only removing the rural differential...where such properties are not being used for farming or horticultural purposes”.

Submitter #374 argues higher rates under Option 1 - Creating a Farming differential will be unfair for not-for-profit organisations that do not fit within the current Community Group definition for a rates remission.

Submitter #395 and #494 is firm in their opposition to the change and supports Option 2 - Status Quo. The increase in Separately Used or Inhabited Part (SUIPs) of 178 [paragraph (a)] is valid and reflected the growth at the time the LTP Consultation Document was written. However, the math in paragraph (c) is queried by Officers. The Farming differential will not yield \$1.9 billion.

Submitter #447 suggests a universal rate based on Capital Value. This is something for Council to consider in the future.

Submitter #474 is suggesting Council may be looking to phase out the differential or indeed go to a uniform fixed charge rate on all rating units.

Submitter #478 is a farming property but is opting for Option 2 - Status Quo against their own best interests, “Farmers are having more and more costs loaded on them. They do not have water or sewage and pay for that themselves and they feed people”.

Officer Analysis

Of the submissions received for this topic, 128 submitters have opted for Option 1 - Creating a Farming differential (the proposal for the ratio) and 79 chose for Option 2 - Status Quo.

There is a common misunderstanding in the submissions that rural properties are also rated for water and wastewater and as such should all get a reduced General Rate under the current differential and so opt for Option 2 - Status Quo.

Whereas others argue that the perceived lack of services should be recognised, and therefore, the current differential should be retained.

There is a lack of understanding by some submitters of the proposal as essentially a change in the scope and calculation of an existing differential. Some houses on lifestyle properties are already rated the same as urban houses for the General Rate.

Others believe the General Rate is set using Capital Values (#90).

Officer notes that vacant lifestyle and other small holdings (including Māori Land) that are used for farming but classified as vacant lifestyle would move to the District Wide differential under the proposal. This is because of their best use category and their small footprint.

- As the ratio between the two differentials is currently, \$1 to 50c (which is also the proposal) the General Rate doubles for these properties.
- A lot of these properties have low total rates due to them being contiguous or receiving the bare land remission.

There are 824 vacant lifestyle and residential rating units. These rating units currently return \$351,888 in General Rates. The proposal would increase this to \$720,652, an increase of \$368,764 or 104.79%. The current average \$427 would go to an average of \$875, an increase of \$448. Of the 824 rating units;

- 275 are contiguous in common ownership
- 11 contiguous but not in common ownership rate remission
- 11 have the bare land rate remission.

All these rating units (a total of 297) would have no fixed charge targeted rates applied to them. Incidentally, the total rates (including all the targeted rates) for these rating units are currently \$847,832 proposed to go to \$1,252,427, an increase of \$404,595 or 47.72%.

The proposed ratio between the Farming Differential and the District Wide Differential would be unaffected if these properties were put into the proposed Farming Differential.

The \$368,764 increase General Rates (as described above) would increase the rates to all those rating units in District Wide differential by a small amount. However, this would also further increase the rates for rurally based businesses that are to be moved out of the current Rural Differential. Submitter #374 identified that community groups are sometimes not eligible under part 1 of Council's current remissions policy. Officers can advise that this is due to the fact they have a liquor licence or are sports clubs rather than "organisations involved in support services".

Submitter #389 contends that "Rates are a charge for services, and they are supposed to reflect the access to, and benefit derived by ratepayers from council services". Council, the local government community, as well as many court cases would suggest that rates are essentially a tax. Even targeted rates for the 3 waters on fixed charges are a tax in that they do not match precisely the use or consumption of a service with the rates cost incurred.

The submitter also argues that rurally based businesses do not benefit from the General Rate as much as urban businesses. This assumption is not supported with any analysis or reasoned arguments to support this view.

Officers would like to clarify that submitter #474's suggestion that Council may be looking to phase out the differential or indeed go to a uniform fixed charge rate on all rating units, is not the intention of Council.

Officers recommend that Council adopts Option 1 – Creating a farming differential. If Council does this then Officers recommend that it adds vacant lifestyle and vacant residential rating units to the Farming differential. This is preferred because the alternative ways of identification of farming using “actual use” grouping in the District Valuation Role (DVR) is not accurate, and a remissions policy would add unnecessary complexity and costs to administer.

Recommendations

That Council adopts Option 1 – Creating a farming differential but also adding vacant lifestyle and vacant residential rating units to the Farming differential definition.

Topic 3 – Rates Remission Policy

Submitter and Submission numbers

Neville Roberts (#25), David Pick (#27), Phillip Bolton (#58), John Naylor (#60), Prudence Naylor (#61), Trevor Hinder (#81), George Bevan (#107), Garry Good (#169), Valerie McCall (#182), Christine Avery (#208), Leishia De’Ath (#213), Byron Williamson (#254), Alice Kleinsman (#269), Lew Rohloff #271, Sandra Bailey #277, Emma Swanson #282, Meredith Krieger (#287), Horowhenua Farmers Ratepayers Group (#289), Brian and Anne Thomas (#298), Sarah Elliot (#345), Graeme Fox (#381), Hugh Bentall (#383) Phillipa Wickremasinghe (#384), John and Jeny brown (#385), Foxton Historical Society (#412) and Foxton District Budget Service (#493)

Summary of Submissions

Submitters #27 and #254 object to any form of rates remission.

Submitters #60 and #61 complain about no information being made available for them to comment.

Submitter #81 objects to Part 11 allowing remissions of fixed charges on unsold subdivision lots.

Submitters #107, #213, #269, #277, and #287 believe religious organisations (all) and charity organisations (#107) should pay full rates. Especially if the religious group is run as a business (277).

Submitter #271 requests a remissions policy on “hardship” grounds.

Submitters #282 and #381 are confusing rates remissions with rates rebates and (#381) lobbying central government to get amounts raised in line with valuations not Consumer Price Index (CPI).

Submitter #289 wants a remissions policy to cover vacant lifestyle properties if used as farms, should Council proceed with the General Rate differential proposal as stated in the LTP 2021-2041 Consultation Document.

Submitters #298 and #385 are advocating for the retention of Part 7 rates remission on rezoned land.

Submitter #345 is looking for closer scrutiny re: “commercial operations that are not equally contributing regarding their blanket entitlements”.

Submitter #384 is looking for certainty for the Part 7 rates remission.

Submitter #412 asking that a wetland at Koputaroa continues to get a rate remission.

Submitter #493 is requesting a rates “rebate” (presumably remission) for their specific organisation.

Overall 16 submitters believe changes need to be made while 2 do not.

Officer Analysis

To date Council have allowed 17 Part 11 remissions on unsold sub divisional lots totalling \$12.6k.

Officers can advise that religious places of worship are non-rateable (except for water and wastewater) under Schedule 1 of the Local Government (Rating) Act.

The Part 7 Remission on rezoned land could now be incentivising owners to remain with their original use and not make the land available for development. This land, by definition, would be in a district planning zone set up for development.

Councils do not normally set up a remissions policy for a specific organisation (Foxton District Budget Service 493). Part 1 of the current policy should apply to this organisation.

The submitters' comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the Long Term Plan 2021-2041.

Actions

That the review of Part 7 of the Rates Remission Policy is placed on the Finance Team's forward work programme.

Topic 4 – Financial Strategy

Submitter and Submission numbers

Neville Roberts #25, David Pick #27, Robert Barton #32, Vicki Millman #33, Geoff Kane #38, John Baird #40, Steve Cole #44, Unknown #45, Fraser Munro #47, Alannagh Donegan #48, Ruth and Kevin Rawling #53, John Naylor #60, Prudence Naylor #61, Christine Douglas #62, Carolyn Rhodes #71, Guy Morgan #85, Marion Moore #86, Juliette Darnley #91, Frank Newman #93, George Bevan #107, Mike Fletcher #150, Simon Paquier #156, Sharon Freebairn #167, Wendy Saunders #175, Douglas Berry #188, Janet Hall #189, Bryan Walsh #198, Judy Webby #199, Christine Flatley #207, Christine Avery #208, Leishia De'Ath #213, Nina Hori Te Pa #215, Roma Trust, Megan Cushnahan #218, Emma Robinson #227, David and Susan Hagland #230, Dave Rix #231, Brian May #232, Pauline May #233, Byron Williamson #254, Trevor Hinder #258, Dean Thomson #264, Bruce Eccles #266, Lew Rohloff #271, R Boyle #273, Pauline Watson #276, Sandra Bailey #277, Kelly Tahiwī #280, Meredith Krieger #287, Horowhenua Farmers Ratepayers Group #289, Brian and Anne Thomas #298, Sam Ferguson #299, Sharon Williams – Hāpai Te Hapori #300, Peter Everton #303, Hokio Progressive Association #310, Atutahi Henare #312, Horowhenua District Residents and Ratepayers Association Inc #332, Sarah Elliot #345, Michael Kay #350, Wendy and Brian Kilsby #365, Henriette van ryn #375, Anonymous #378, 379,380, Graeme Fox #381, Hugh Bentall #383, Federated Farmers #389, Helen Brown #392, Amanda Coats #415, Vivienne bold #447, Deanna Paki #449, Leonne Brown #455, Gwyneth Schibli #456, Geoff Ritchie # 458, Jan Alekna # 460, Tracey Benefield #477, and Neil and Jan Savage #488

Summary of Submissions

Submitters #25, #27, #60, #61, #62, #107, #167, #188, #189, and #207, all object to above inflation rate increases.

Submitters #32, #45, #93, #189, #198, #271, #300, #310, #381, #383, #455, #460, and #488 mention lack of affordability for proposed rates increases.

Submitters #85, #93, #167, #227, #266, #276, #287, #345, #375, #381, #389, #415, and #477 object to the high levels of debt "and putting problem in the hands of the next generation" (227), "so perhaps time to say no to growth and get our infrastructure fixed with rates truly affordable with council back to supporting current residents, not future ones." (381)

Submitters #33, #44, #48, #188, and #258 believe that Development Contributions and/or ratepayer growth together should cover growth project costs with no need for debt and rate increases.

Submitters #27, #53, #156, #189, #232, #233, #289, #298, #303, #332, #365, #392, #455, and #456, object to the proposed increase in the net debt to revenue covenant from 195% to 250%; some describe this as reckless or unduly risky in the current economic environment.

Submitter #91 agrees with the increase in the debt covenant.

Submitters #38, #60, #61, #85, #198, #264, #266, #277, #289, #298, #300, #303, #350, #365, #389, #392, and #460 believe Council should cut costs and/or stick to 'core business' or reduce "frivolous and unnecessary spending" to reduce rate increases and debt. Some specifically mention whether both Donnelly Park and Foxton Beach Reserve improvements are necessary.

Submitters #86, #91, #175, #199, #208, #231, #273, and #299 believe Council have the rates increase/debt balance right or trust Council to get it right and adhere to the targets set within the strategy.

Submitter #150, believes the 3 Waters Reform should have been factored into the LTP 2021-2041 to see if the rates and debt levels would reduce to more acceptable levels.

Submitter #254 "I don't think this is the time to be building new facilities. It's also not the time for any unnecessary infrastructure. How about we put a hold on everything unnecessary until our population increases significantly?"

Submitters #280, #312, #378, #379, #380, #414, and #449 agree with audit over the external funding of the Tara-Ika development.

Submitter #350 suggests cutting managerial staff to reduce costs "Stripping out managerialism, the reports, team leaders, consultants, planners. To have a hands on roll up your sleeves work force that's carried this masterclass."

Officer Analysis

Some submitters believe that certain growth projects should be delayed until the new ratepayers can help pay for them. Unfortunately, these submitters do not explicitly link the delivery of these projects to the facilitation/realisation of growth.

Other submitters believe Development Contributions will return more income than Council has budgeted for.

It is not clear within the submissions that there is a general understanding of the balance between rates and debt, specifically if neither rates or debt increase that projects and/or operational costs would need to be reduced. It will be a consideration for Officers in the future as to how information can be presented in different ways to improve understanding of it.

Affordability of rates, especially from those on benefits is a common theme. The Affordability Assessment currently underway within the Finance forward work programme will provide further insight into this for Council.

A lot of submissions are calling for reductions in operational costs and doing only the essential projects dropping the "nice to haves".

Most submitters (that submitted on the Financial Strategy) are against the increase in the debt limit to 250% of income.

A total of 100 submitters indicated that the balance between rates and debt is right, while 91 do not, and 3 are unsure. This result does not reflect the subsequent comments in many cases.

The submitter's comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the Long Term Plan 2021-2041.

Topic 5 - General finance related submissions

Submitter and Submission numbers

Trevor Hinder #81, Frank Newman #93, Hospitality NZ # 173, Douglas Berry #188, Lew Rohloff #271, Sue-Ann Russell #325, Horowhenua District Residents and Ratepayers Association Inc #332, Leone Brown #359, Federated farmers #389, William Kimber #471, and Graeme Lindsay #475

Summary of Submissions

Submitter #81 asks some questions about the financial statements.

Submitter #93 raises issues of perceived intergenerational inequity “Why should today’s residents pay for infrastructure for tomorrow’s residents.”

Submission #173 appears to be a letter addressed to all New Zealand councils and talks about targeted rates on the hospitality industry.

Submitter #188 is asking for a discount on rates for pensioners.

Submitter #271 believes we have not complied with section 14 (1) (c) of the Local Government Act “Principles relating to local authorities”.

“when making a decision, a local authority should take account of—

- (i) the diversity of the community, and the community’s interests, within its district or region; and
- (ii) the interests of future as well as current communities; and
- (iii) the likely impact of any decision on each aspect of well-being referred to in section 10:”

The submitter also comments on the prudential bench mark graphs, saying they are misleading.

Submitter #325 raises issues over the accountability around the “shovel ready” and other projects where third party funding is available. The submitter has raised this issue in the Finance Audit and Risk (FAR) Committee context also. The reporting around these projects has been improved.

Submitter #332 asks for all manner of mathematical and other evidence to support assumptions and statements within the LTP 2021-2041.

The submitter requests that immediately after the LTP is accepted, “Councillors propose community-led discussions involving rural and urban businesses, HDRRAI, Grey Power, budgeting services and others (bottom-up), to find solutions to ensure the rating system is fair, equitable and affordable for all residents and ratepayers with proposals to be put for consultation of the general public before 1 December 2021.”

Submitters #332 and #359 are calling for the introduction of Capital Value rating.

Submitter #389 is asking why utility companies are receiving a decrease while rural commercial are facing an increase.

The submitter is also worried that 3 Waters infrastructural costs may end up being funded by farmers’ rates. This has occurred elsewhere in New Zealand.

Submitter #471 argues against Capital Value rating but using an example that would most likely help the person in the house on the large section, unless the house was of significant value.

Submitter #475 is looking for evidence of prioritising project expenditure using return on investment criteria. The submitter also advocates for rural properties contributing to the stormwater rate.

Officer Analysis

In regards to submission #81, it is difficult to work out what the submitter is referring to without page references and figures, a possible reason for the “apparent” discrepancies is that the 2021 figures are based on the Annual Plan that has a different forecast year end. Short-term borrowing (i.e. those loans repayable within a year) are hard to predict beyond 1 year so an assumption is made for subsequent years.

In response to submitter #173, Horowhenua District Council does not have targeted rates on the hospitality industry.

Submitter #271 comments that the prudential bench mark graphs are misleading. These graphs are set by regulation.

In response to submitter #389’s query, the reason that utility companies are receiving a decrease is that the General Rate Differential change is based on land values; utilities have no land values,

while the Land Transport Rates, based on capital value, is reducing impacting mainly on utilities because of their high Capital Values.

“Discounts” as requested by submitter 188 are not legally possible. Only remissions or, in many cases, postponement policies are able to be used for this purpose. Council does not currently have the necessary policies to achieve this.

Submitter 271’s assertion that we are not compliant with section 14 of the Local Government Act is noted. This is an opinion, however, a good reminder of Council’s obligations under the Act.

Officers will work with Horowhenua District Residents and Ratepayers Association Inc #332 to help them understand aspects of the LTP financials.

The call for Capital Value rating (332 and 359) will be covered in the up-coming Revenue and Financing Policy review.

Council will review its Revenue and Finance Policy in 2021/22 and will engage with the community and key stakeholder groups as part of this process.

In regards to submitter 475, while a review was not done using return on investment methodology, prioritisation was carried out on the basis of Activity Management Plan criteria on urgency of replacement to ensure continuity of service and maintaining service levels.

The submitter’s comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the Long Term Plan 2021-2041.

Topic 6 – Rating System Equity

Submitter and Submission number

Christine Moriarty, Horowhenua District Residents and Ratepayers Association Inc (#332)

Summary of Submission

The submitter requests that immediately after the LTP is accepted,” Councillors propose community-led discussions involving rural and urban businesses, HDRRAI, Grey Power, budgeting services and others (bottom-up), to find solutions to ensure the rating system is fair, equitable and affordable for all residents and ratepayers with proposals to be put for consultation of the general public before 1 December 2021.”

Officer Analysis

Council will review its Revenue and Finance Policy in 2021/22 and will engage with the community and key stakeholder groups as part of this process.

The submitter’s comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the Long Term Plan 2021-2041.

Attachments



There are no attachments for this report.

Confirmation of statutory compliance

In accordance with section 76 of the Local Government Act 2002, this report is approved as:

- a. containing sufficient information about the options and their advantages and disadvantages, bearing in mind the significance of the decisions; and,
- b. is based on adequate knowledge about, and adequate consideration of, the views and preferences of affected and interested parties bearing in mind the significance of the decision.

Signatories

Author(s)	Doug Law Chief Financial Officer	
Approved by	Nicki Brady Deputy Chief Executive	

Long Term Plan 2021-2041 Deliberations - Three Waters

File No.: 21/213

1. Purpose

To present to Council for deliberation, the submissions received on the Long Term Plan 2021-2041 in relation to Council's Three Waters activity.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That Report 21/213 Long Term Plan 2021-2041 Deliberations - Three Waters be received.
- 2.2 That this matter or decision is recognised as not significant in terms of S76 of the Local Government Act.
- 2.3 That Council acknowledges, with thanks, all who have submitted on the Three Waters activity.

3. Topics for Consideration

Topic 1	Water Quality: Lake Horowhenua and Hokio Stream
Topic 2	Water Quality: Manawatū River/Estuary and River loop
Topic 3	Tara-Ika and North East Levin Stormwater
Topic 4	Drinking Water
Topic 5	Water Supply
Topic 6	Water Conservation for New builds
Topic 7	Water Meters/rates
Topic 8	Three Waters reform
Topic 9	Foxton Township flood protection
Topic 10	Funding for Environmental Aspects and the formation of an Environment Committee
Topic 11	Environmental Education
Topic 12	Use of Sustainable Green Stormwater Management/Catchment Management Plans
Topic 13	Three Waters Asset Management
Topic 14	Levin Wastewater Treatment Plant Masterplan
Topic 15	Location of Levin Wastewater Treatment Plant
Topic 16	Wastewater Discharge
Topic 17	The Pot

Topic 1 – Water Quality: Lake Horowhenua and Hokio Stream

Submitters and Submission numbers

Thomas Thomas Reisinger, (#79), Charlotte Yates (#110), Geoff Keith on behalf of WECA, (#142), Kelly Tahiwī (#280), Atutahi Henare (#312), Anon (#312), Anon (#378), Anon (#380), Eugene Henare (#414), Deanna Paki (#449), Geoff Keith on behalf of Hokio Progressive Association (#310), Trevor Hinder (#81), Sue-Ann Russell (#274 & #280), Christine Moriarty on behalf of Horowhenua District Residents and Ratepayers Association Inc (#332), Leone Brown (#358), Michael McCartney, Horizons Regional Council (#388), Robert Holdaway on behalf of MidCentral District Health Board's Public Health Service (#220)

Summary of Submissions

Submitter #79 states that cleaning up the lake will add to tourist attractions.

Submitter #110 requests to please fix Lake Horowhenua.

Submitter #142 feels that the current sewage treatment station site on the bank of Lake Horowhenua is a disgrace to Māori cultural values and needs to be re-sited.

Submitters #280, #312, #378, #379, #380, #414, #449, state that Lake Horowhenua is their biggest asset or taonga, and that for several decades it has not been respected, protected or treated with the mana it deserves. They are concerned that there is insufficient provision in the LTP for the lake. Submitters #280, #312, #449 would also like to see plans to restore and maintain healthy rivers, lakes and Moana for future generations. The submitters state that it is important to understand the connection Muaūpoko have with their lake, based on their whakapapa and believe that it is long overdue for local government to apologise for the mismanagement and negligence of Lake Horowhenua. For that reason, they believe that there needs to be a concerted environmental effort to prioritise eco-friendly work to move the lake from being one of the seven worst lakes in New Zealand into a tourist attraction. They feel that Council money needs to be spent wisely on the things that matter, like 3-waters solutions and improving the greatest natural asset in the district, Lake Horowhenua.

Submitter #310 believes that contaminated water from the older, unlined tip, on the Levin Landfill site, is continually flowing across land and into the Hokio stream. The submitter states that the Hokio stream is polluted and unable to be used as mahinga kai resource.

Submitter #310 states that contaminated water from Levin flows through all the major town drains into Lake Horowhenua without consent. The submitter also states that the Lake is polluted and unable to be used for mahinga kai.

Submitter #274 states that the Lake Horowhenua needs to be clean, water going into it needs to be pollution free and that pollution policies are not included anywhere.

Submitter #325 believes that the National Policy Statement for freshwater Management 2020 will be the future instrument for controlling Lake Horowhenua contamination and that HDC has not taken the Stormwater Activity seriously. The submitter continues with the following note 'no allowances for pollution or treatment of the stormwater and the contaminants that end up in the Lake Horowhenua or out to sea'. The submitter also believes that Lake Horowhenua needs urgent attention due to excessive pollution and drain off from the surrounding areas and that 'this has been occurring for far too long'.

Submitters #280, #312, #414, #449 believe that the LTP lacks the intention to review the continued measuring of water quality parameters, which has little or no impact on improving water quality, at a cost to the ratepayer.

Submitter #280 strongly opposes the 20-year LTP that HDC are seeking, in terms of all storm-water, catchment and undertakings that HDC operate that drain straight into Lake Horowhenua. Submitter #280 also opposes all resource consents mentioned in the LTP in reference to the Levin Global Stormwater System.

Submitter #332 questions whether the Tara-Ika development will pollute the lake.

Submitter #332 also requests that discharge compliance is sorted for the Queen Street drain and the industrial drains polluting Lake Horowhenua. Also that Pakitei and Arawhata stream restoration and clean-up is carried out. The submitter would also like non-compliant businesses that are causing pollution to be found, fined, and made to get compliance.

Submitter #358 states that currently there is no consent to operate the Queen Street drain and all stormwater continues to pour into the Lake and asks, 'How Come?'. The submitter states that Council has spent millions of dollars on so-called lake restoration, with no resolution, while it continues to be polluted by an unconsented stormwater drain and that millions more is planned in the Lakes restoration. The submitter questions whether this makes sense while pollutants affect the lake from stormwater and horticulture/agriculture/ dairying runoff. The submitter questions why currently there is no consent for the Koputaroa Stormwater discharge, yet residential new builds are going up at speed and questions how can this occur when a consent does not exist.

Submitter #388 states that 'Three Waters - Ensure sufficient resource is allocated to three waters infrastructure in the context of the National Policy Statement – Freshwater Management 2020, noting current set of stormwater consent application'. The submitter also recommended that 'highlight the significant Central Government funding Horizons has available for work in Waiopahu/Horowhenua freshwater management unit.'

Submitter #81 believes that 'Higher standards will be imposed on the quality/quantity of treated wastewater discharged to land' and asks why was this not "future proofed" in the recent consent extension.

Submitter #220 agrees with Horowhenua District Council's approach towards stormwater plans. The submitter states that as has been mentioned for wastewater, they also agree that improved resilience of stormwater infrastructure is required, mitigating the public health risk posed by flooding and contamination. The submitter agrees that such improvements are required as part of climate change adaption, as the frequency of intense rainfall events is predicted to increase and that stormwater contamination adversely affects water quality, especially in freshwater environments. The submitter also states that as well as the potential of such contamination creating a public health risk for users, contaminated stormwater will adversely affect Te Mana o te Wai.

Officer Analysis

Lake Horowhenua:

Horizons Regional Council (Horizons) applied to the Covid-19 recovery fund for environmental enhancement projects and successfully secured funding for some projects. One of the projects that secured funding was the Lake Horowhenua Water Quality Interventions Project, which received \$11.2 million. As such, Horizons are leading the Lake Horowhenua Water Quality Interventions Project.

Below is a brief description of the project taken from Horizons' website:

'This project proposes a wetland complex as a major water quality intervention, as well as a linked programme of catchment works that include sediment traps, wetlands and drainage system upgrades to improve water quality. The main target for the wetland complex is reduced nitrogen concentrations, and the wider project will target a range of water quality measures including sediment, phosphorus and bacteria. The initial idea has been developed over time by an alliance involving a range of stakeholders including councils, horticulture growers, iwi and environmental groups. The project will further develop the wetland idea into a tangible set of water quality interventions across the Lake Horowhenua sub-catchment to improve water quality and aquatic health in Lake Horowhenua.

The website identified below has further information.

<https://www.horizons.govt.nz/managing-natural-resources/jobs-for-nature>.

Stormwater discharge consents are now required under the Horizons' One Plan, previously there was no consent for stormwater discharge. As such, Horowhenua District Council lodged a resource consent application for stormwater discharge into Lake Horowhenua in December 2018. Council has been developing a catchment management plan and undertaking water quality monitoring, at several different locations, to gather data to inform the consent application. Any resource consent granted for stormwater discharge will have to adhere not only to the One Plan, but also to the requirements of the National Environmental Standards for Freshwater, the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020 and take into account the principles of Te Mana o te Wai. The water quality targets for Council's discharge, for the Lake Horowhenua water management zone, will be those specified in Horizons' One Plan. For metals and other toxicants, the One Plan adopts the ANZECC guidelines. Water quality monitoring will continue after the granting of the stormwater resource consent to ensure ongoing compliance with the consent.

Council is currently developing plans for some in-network stormwater treatment trials. A project page with details of these trials will be posted on Council's website by the end of August 2021.

Council acknowledges that Lake Horowhenua has the potential to be a gem for the district and that it can play important part in the communities' wellbeing.

North East Levin development & stormwater:

Council have lodged a resource consent application for NE Levin's stormwater discharge and the expectation is that the consent's hearing will be held in late May 2021. The pipes installed to date, in both Fairfield and Roslyn Roads, are currently performing a water detention role, with the outlet throttled (by means of a penstock and small outlet pipe) so that the outlet dimension are currently no larger than that of the outlet pipes which were previously there. This means that the flow rate currently discharging is no greater than the flow rate prior to the installation of these pipes. The physical works undertaken so far have been carried out in the road corridor and, as such, the works are deemed to be a permitted activity, which do not need a resource consent. The outlet will remain throttled until the discharge consent is approved and any required mitigation works undertaken.

Council's District Plan requires each newly formed lot to have an on-site soakage pit for stormwater control with no direct stormwater connection into the stormwater network.

Improved resilience of stormwater infrastructure:

Council plans, over the period of this LTP, to improve the resilience of its stormwater infrastructure. The resilience improvements will take into account climate change, as the frequency and intensity of rainfall are predicted to increase. Council has completed, or are in the process of completing, Stormwater Catchment Management Plans for each settlement. Action plans from these Stormwater Catchment Management Plans will be developed into work programmes to be implemented.

Sufficient resource for Freshwater Management National Policy Statement 2020, NPS FM 2020:

Council anticipates that there will be implications of NPS – FM - 2020- for Three Waters and, as such, the requirements of NPS FM-2020 will be considered within the scope of all upcoming projects. However, it is not understood what the full expectations will be, until Horizons' One Plan is updated, which is not expected to be until sometime in 2024/2025.

Old Levin Landfill & Hokio Stream:

As part of the Levin Landfill resource consent conditions, there are four locations along Hokio Stream are sampled and tested on a monthly basis. These results reveal that the water quality upstream of the landfill is similar to the downstream water quality, indicating that the landfill is not having an adverse effect on the stream.

As part of the current consent conditions, and the landfill agreement, an assessment was carried out by consultant Tonkin and Taylor into options for reducing environmental impacts of the

leachate being discharged from the old closed landfill. This report is available on the council website.

<https://www.horowhenua.govt.nz/files/assets/public/levin-landfill/levin-landfill-summary-of-leachate-options-assessment-tonkin-taylot.pdf>

The list of options presented in the report is shown below;

Table 4.1: Options considered

Remedial option category	Option considered
Reduce leachate generation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Additional capping• Cover system surface water drainage improvements• Perimeter drain improvements
Collect leachate	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Leachate interceptor trench with pump and treat capability• Installation of wells in shallow aquifer and pump and treat shallow groundwater• Installation of a leachate collection system
Manage impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tatana drain improvements (wetland establishment, riparian planting)• Address/repair seeps

There is a requirement to implement the selected leachate option by 2023, as per the resource consent condition.

The submitter's comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the Long Term Plan 2021-2041.

Actions

Council Officers will provide an update on the progress of the Levin stormwater discharge resource consent application on its website by August 2021.

Topic 2 – Water Quality: Manawatū River/Estuary and River loop

Submitters and Submission numbers

Janine Smart on behalf of Foxton Beach Progressive Association (#252), Kelvin Lane on behalf of Manawatū Estuary Trust (#413)

Summary of Submissions

Submitter #252 feels that the community should be fully and continually informed of all water-quality testing results at Foxton Beach, the Manawatū River, and the Manawatū River Loop at Foxton. The submitter asks that Council actively supports the need to re-establish a healthy flow back into the Manawatū River Loop at Foxton, thus improving down-stream water quality and habitat. Also that all waters and pollutants entering the Ramsar site and Manawatū River must be of a high enough standard so as not to degrade the quality of the water and/or the natural environment.

Submitter #413 would like a trust formed for the protection of the Manawatū Estuary, and requests that HDC make every endeavour to prevent wastewater or stormwater from entering it.

Officer Analysis

Foxton Beach & Manawatu River:

Council has lodged a stormwater discharge resource consent application for Foxton Beach. Any resource consent granted for stormwater discharge will have to adhere not only to the One Plan, but also to the requirements of the National Environmental Standards for Freshwater, the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020 and take into account the principles of Te Mana o te Wai. The water quality targets for Council's discharge, for Foxton Beach, will be those specified in Horizons' One Plan. For metals and other toxicants, the One Plan adopts the ANZECC guidelines. Water quality monitoring will continue after the granting of the stormwater resource consent to ensure ongoing compliance with the consent.

An update of the Foxton Beach stormwater resource consent application will be made on Council's website as further information becomes available.

Manawatu River Loop in Foxton:

There is a project, currently nearing completion, to divert all discharge of treated effluent from the Foxton Wastewater Treatment Plant to a land irrigation field. Phase 1 of this project was completed in November 2020 and treated effluent discharge into the River Loop largely ceased at that time. Phase 2 of the project, which will achieve the complete cessation of treated effluent discharge into the River Loop, is on track to be completed by August 2021, ahead of its original schedule. There is a requirement for Council to carry out environmental water quality monitoring at the site, to establish compliance with the resource consent's conditions.

The submitter's comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the Long Term Plan 2021-2041.

Actions

Council will provide an update on the Foxton Beach stormwater discharge water quality monitoring, and the resource consent application progress, on Council's website by August 2021.

Topic 3 - Tara-Ika and North East Levin Stormwater

Submitters and Submission numbers

Christine Moriarty on behalf of Horowhenua District Residents and Ratepayers Association Inc (#332), Te Kenehi Teira on behalf of Foxton Historical Society, Te Ripo o Hinemata Trust, Ngati Ngarongo (#412), Trevor Hinder (#81)

Summary of Submissions

Submitter #332 raises several matters around Tara-Ika stormwater and feels that HDC should be working with Waka Kotahi for stormwater reticulation and storage. The submitter states that currently surface water from Tara-Ika flows through the Queen Street drains into Lake Horowhenua and asks whether this is to continue or will it be diverted into the Koputaroa Stream and states that neither of these currently have resource consent. The submitter asks where the stormwater from roads and paths will go and questions whether the Tara-Ika development will pollute the lake. The submitter wants to know what the mitigation is for Lake Horowhenua and the Koputaroa Stream.

Submitter #412 believes that Ngati Raukawa, and the hapu of Kereru, should be consulted on the northern expressway's stormwater effects into the Koputaroa Stream and that that Three Waters matters should be worked through with Hapu, as well as iwi.

Submitter #81 questions why projects have started before discharge consent has been received (Fairfield, Queen St.) and why unconsented discharges are not part of HDC's performance measurement.

Officer Analysis

Council Officers agree that a unified stormwater solution should be sought with WAKA KOTAHI, to manage water quality and runoff in the Ō2NL corridor. Council's Tara-Ika project team is actively working with WAKA KOTAHI's Ō2NL team to combine designs and optimise the long term management of stormwater. The intention is for nearly all stormwater to be stored within the Tara-Ika development. The majority of stormwater is intended to be held in wetlands and basins to manage the water quality, and eventually drain into the groundwater. Furthermore, the proposed District Plan Change includes the requirement for houses to have onsite stormwater tanks. The Tara-Ika design is required to manage stormwater in full compliance with not only Horizons' One Plan, but also the requirements of the National Environmental Standards for Freshwater, the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020 and take into account the principles of Te Mana o te Wai.

Notwithstanding the above, the Tara-Ika Plan Change allows for the development of a standalone system to treat water quality and manage runoff within the new development areas in advance of any longer term solution within the Ō2NL corridor. The current works on Roslyn Road and Queen Street comprise of renewals and upgrades of existing infrastructure and do not require consent.

Planning, design and construction of the Ō2NL expressway is managed by Waka Kotahi WAKA KOTAHI. They are carrying out wide-reaching consultation on their design development, including specific consultation with Iwi, Horowhenua District Council and Horizons Regional Council. Furthermore, the upcoming Three Waters reforms proposed by the Government include specific collaboration protocols with Iwi.

The submitter's comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the Long Term Plan 2021-2041.

Actions

None.

Topic 4- Drinking Water

Submitters and Submission numbers

Charmaine Torrington (#49), Leone Brown (#326), Nola Fox on behalf of Wildlife Foxton Trust (#387), Graeme Lindsay (#475).

Summary of Submissions

Submitter #49 believes that tap water quality needs improving.

Submitter #326 believes that there is an ongoing problem with water safety for drinking purposes. The submitter would also like explanation of how the figure of '1 complaint received' regarding drinking water 2021 - 2041 was arrived at and requests an explanation on why water taste and odour is not considered an urgent callout.

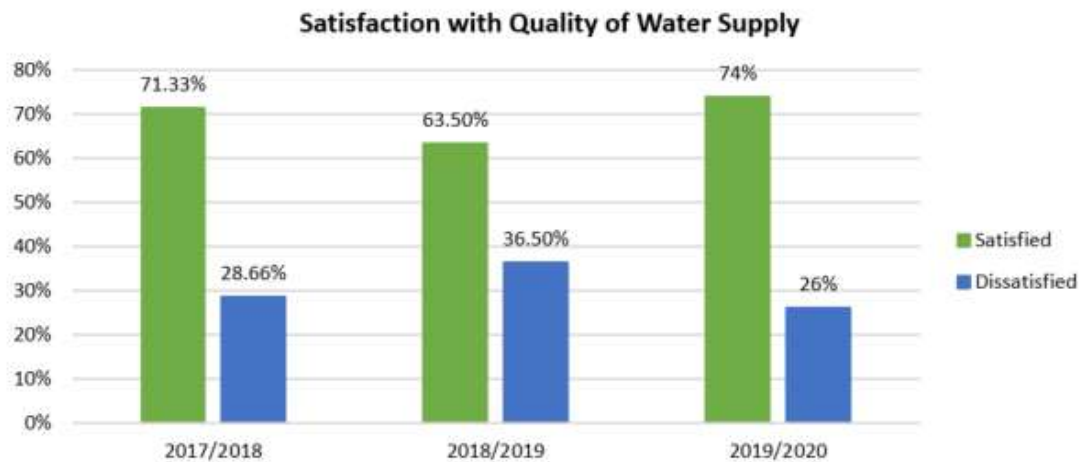
Submitter #387 feels that water quality at Foxton and Foxton Beach needs urgent improvement.

Submitter #475 would like Council to instigate a water loss control system.

Officer Analysis

Drinking water concerns:

The graph below, taken from data from Council's Annual Customer Satisfaction Survey, demonstrates that customer satisfaction has increased last year, however, this is still below Council's target of 84%.



The “1 complaint” mentioned by Submitter #326, alludes to the target (key performance indicator) of 1 complaint for every 1000 water connections used as a means of measuring various aspects of water supply. This was achieved in all areas measured, except in the area of drinking water pressure.

Drinking water is fully compliant across the district, with all Drinking Water Standards New Zealand met. Council has improved the quality of water in Foxton and Foxton Beach in recent years, with a significant reduction in complaints from these water supply areas.

It is very unlikely that drinking water odour or taste would require an immediate callout, or indicate a serious issue. Drinking water is treated at the District’s water treatment plants, which are electronically monitored 24 hours a day to ensure that compliance to the drinking water standards are continually met. Any parameter that may be unusual is notified immediately, then rectified when, and if, required. However, Council encourages customers to call its Customer Services Team if they have specific concerns and Council’s contractor will be directed to carry out investigations.

Council has already installed, as part of its water demand management plan, a new water pressure management system, which has improved the efficiency and monitoring of the District’s water supply network.

The submitter’s comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the Long Term Plan 2021-2041.

Topic 5 - Water Supply

Submitter and Submission number

Trevor Hinder (#81), Robert Holdaway on behalf of MidCentral District Health Board's Public Health Service (#220), Leone Brown (#326), Sharon Freebairn (#167)

Summary of Submissions

Submitter #81 questions why the Ōhau and Waitārere projects are on the table before an adequate water supply has been attained and states that all new properties in these areas should be forced to have large enough collection tanks to support the inhabitants.

Submitter #220 supports the option to improve water source capacity for Levin, as outlined in the Infrastructure Strategy 2021-2051, and states the provision of an adequate supply of safe drinking water is a critical public health measure. The submitter strongly supports that HDC prioritises the identification and development of an additional long-term water supply for Levin. The submitter also supports the implementation of a reticulated water supply for both Ōhau and Waitārere Beach, but would like the timeframe, for the implementation of these areas, pulled forward.

Submitter #326 has queries around Water Supply key risks and asks what systems, policies and procedures are in place to ensure consistency in strategic planning. Submitter #326 also asks why the Foxton resource consents, expiring in 2038, has budgeting starting for this in 2031/32, with funding over a five year period, and why Foxton Beach Reticulation Renewals have big jumps in the budget in some years. Submitter #326 also has some queries around the budget for Shannon's consent renewal and states that the figures presented for Three Waters capital expenditure need serious examination. Submitter #326 also requests an update on the Horowhenua Water Working Party.

Submitter #167 raised concerns about water supply to Waitārere Beach, and states that, with Waitārere Beach being the second biggest growth area in the Horowhenua, there should be more urgency with supplying reticulated water to the growing community.

Officer Analysis

Ōhau & Waitārere Beach water supply:

Both the Ōhau and Waitārere Beach areas are identified as growth areas and feasibility studies have been undertaken regarding supplying reticulated drinking water to residents. Currently, the majority of the Ōhau community is on 'trickle feed' water supply (restricted water supply – 1000 litres a day) into a buffer tank and many have rainwater tanks. The Waitārere Beach community have their own water tanks. The feasibility studies for these communities were completed a few years ago and the public was engaged through a survey. The result of the survey showed there was a split view within the communities, regarding the desire to have a water supply to these settlements. The feasibility studies will be revisited and updated in 5 to 8 years' time, or less, depending on sufficient raw water supply being available, the communities' desire to have a reticulated system and Council's affordability.

Water reticulation renewals:

Short to medium term reticulation renewals are founded on evidence based information, for example, pipe conditions identified through CCTV, leak detection works and other factors (asset criticality, growth and coordination with other works within vicinity) are taken into account and each factor is considered. However, for the medium to long-term reticulation renewal programme, for the purpose of setting the LTP budget, this is currently based on asset age. Council's Asset Management Team are presently undertaking an improvement to this process so that a more evidence based approach can be applied to the medium to long term renewal programme. The aim of these improvements are to ensure that renewals are carried out at the most optimal time and will have the added benefit of 'smoothing out' the annual expenditure.

Foxton water intake resource consent:

The Foxton water intake resource consent will require an extensive investigation and feasibility study, therefore, it requires a longer period and larger budget. The Shannon water intake resource consent is already underway and is expected to be finalised next year.

Business Continuity Plan:

Business continuity plans are developed for each activity. The basic principle is that critical assets are identified, consequence of that asset's failure are assessed and an acceptable duration (hours, days or weeks) of that asset being out of service determined. These assessment is reviewed periodically by Council Officers.

Horowhenua Water Working Party:

This working party has not been established to date.

The submitter's comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the Long Term Plan 2021-2041.

Topic 6 - Water Conservation for New builds

Submitter and Submission number

Charlotte Yates (#110), Geoff Keith on behalf of WECA (#142), Christina Curley (#283), Leone Brown (#357), William Kimber (#471)

Summary of Submissions

Submitter #110 states that mandatory rooftop or other tank capture for new builds might save some pressure on existing water demands.

Submitter #142 states that HDC must provide sufficient potable drinking water for the Horowhenua population, and that Council should offer residents a range of well-designed onsite water storage options alongside public supply.

Submitter #283 believes that there should be rainwater tanks for all new houses and shared her personal experience about the cost to add a rainwater tank for a new-build and stated that it was not prohibitive around an additional \$2,000 per house based on what it cost her to install hers. The submitter stated that it would increase network resiliency enormously in case of disaster, as well as reducing storm water runoff, wastewater and freshwater treatment costs and, that if the tanks were also plumbed in, could provide untreated water to flush the toilet with.

Submitter #326 emphasised that Tara-Ika development water tanks will have non-potable water not drinking water.

Submitter #471 stated that Council should require all new builds and major renovations to put in adequate rain water storage so that toilets are flushed with rain water.

Officer Analysis

Council actively promotes the installation of water tanks for residential dwellings, where suitable, to harvest rain water. The proposed District Plan Change includes the requirement for houses to have onsite stormwater tanks.

200 litre emergency water supply tanks can be purchased from Council's main service desk. These tanks hold enough water for a family of four over 16 days (longer if there is rain). They are a cheap and sustainable way to get families better prepared, and a handy alternate water source for vegetable gardens during peak summer months.

The submitter's comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the Long Term Plan 2021-2041.

Topic 7 - Water Meters/rates

Submitter and Submission number

Christina Curley (#283), Peter Everton on behalf of Lakeview Farm (#303), Leone Brown (#326), Graeme Lindsay (#475)

Summary of Submissions

Submitter #283 feels that water meters should be introduced to help people understand and monitor their usage.

Submitter #326 and #475 believes that water rates (Watermeters) should be introduced district wide.

Submitter #303 supports water meters being installed to every property in the district and that it would also encourage property owners to have their own water tanks for the likes of watering gardens/lawns and washing vehicles.

Officer Analysis

It is proven that water consumption is generally reduced when it is metered. It also helps with water leakage identification and the addressing of these leaks in a timely manner. Water metering is also a great tool for individuals to use to understand how much water they are using, which can help change behaviour toward water consumption.

Council has successfully established a water demand management system, which has helped with identifying water leakage and has decreased the water leakage rate in Levin. In Levin, water usage is monitored 24/7. Water demand management is being extended to other settlements within the district. It is a water intake resource consent condition.

Since December 2020, water meters are required for all new lots/dwellings as per Council's Water Supply Bylaw 2020. Universal water meter installation across the district may be a future consideration by Council.

The submitter's comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the Long Term Plan 2021-2041.

Topic 8 - Three Waters reform

Submitter and Submission number

Robert Holdaway on behalf of MidCentral District Health Board's Public Health Service (#220), Kelly Tahiwī (#280), Atutahi Henare (#312), Anon (#378), Anon (#379), Anon (#380), Eugene Henare (#414), Deanna Paki (#449)

Summary of Submissions

Submitter #220 acknowledges that with current legislative change there is uncertainty pertaining to some aspects of water supply, with the Water Services Bill yet to pass into law, and that if the Health (Fluoridation of Drinking Water) Amendment Bill pass into law, HDC drinking water supplies would likely also require fluoridation. The submitter acknowledges that there is uncertainty with the long-term management and operation of water services with the proposed creation of multiregional entities to deliver three waters functions and they support the rationale that until change is confirmed, three waters services are included in the Long Term plan.

Submitters #280, #312, #378, #379, #380, #414, #449 all believe that the LTP outlines the government's intention to make three waters reform decisions during 2021, but that it is short sighted in that it does not include a commitment towards developing an action ready plan in support of the 3-waters review.

Officer Analysis

As stated by all the above submitters, the decision about the Three Waters reform will be made during 2021. The Department of Internal Affairs has indicated that the decision for Councils is likely to be made in the last quarter of 2021. More information about Three Waters Reform Bill can be found here <https://www.dia.govt.nz/Three-Waters-Reform-Programme>.

As directed by Audit NZ, all councils across New Zealand had to make the assumption, when developing this LTP, that the Three Waters would remain within council's control. Horowhenua District Council, as are all the other councils across the country, is liaising closely with the Department of Internal Affairs regarding the future outcome of the Three Waters Reform.

If the Fluoridation of Drinking Water Amendment Bill is passed, Council will do what is required to become compliant with that legislation.

The submitter's comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the Long Term Plan 2021-2041.

Topic 9 – Foxton Township flood protection

Submitter and Submission number

Nola Fox on behalf of Wildlife Foxton Trust (#387)

Summary of Submissions

Submitter #387 raises concerns regarding flood protection under growing climate change conditions and feels that this is becoming urgent to avoid pollution, floods and spring tides.

Officer Analysis

Foxton flood protection (Foxton East Drainage Scheme) has been identified as part of Horizon's infrastructure climate resilience project and has secured funding from Central Government as part of the COVID -19 shovel-ready projects, see the link here for more information.

<http://www.horizons.govt.nz/flood-emergency-management/infrastructure-climate-resilience-projects>

A portion of funding will be provided by Horowhenua District Council. As part of the funding agreement with Central Government, this project is required to be completed by 2024.

The submitter's comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the Long Term Plan 2021-2041.

Actions

That Council to continue working collaboratively with Horizons to deliver the improvements to the Foxton East Drainage Scheme to ensure that best outcome is achieved for the community.

Topic 10 – Funding for Environmental Aspects and the formation of an Environment Committee

Submitter and Submission number

Leone Brown (#357 & #359)

Christine Moriarty on behalf of Horowhenua District Residents and Ratepayers Association Inc (#332), Geoff Keith on behalf of WECA (#142)

Summary of Submissions

Submitter #357 questions why there is no money in the Long Term Plan for the Environment and would like Council to form an environment committee made up of Councillors, Council staff and members from the community.

Submitter #332 states that there is no plan for funding expenditure to promote a safe environment and wants Council to change that.

Submitter #142 states that the LTP needs to include detailed analysis and cost projections for dealing with environmental damage and clean-up. The submitter also states that Council has sub-committees for just about everything but has yet to create an Environmental subcommittee.

Officer Analysis

The environmental impact of a project is assessed during the development of the project's procurement plan/business case. Projects, that do have an environmental aspect, have an allowance for that facet of the project allocated within the respective project's budget.

At present, Council has no plans to establish an environmental committee.

The submitter's comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the Long Term Plan 2021-2041.

Topic 11 – Environmental Education

Submitter and Submission number

Leone Brown (#326)

Michael McCartney (Horizons Regional Council), #388

Summary of Submissions

Submitter #326 feels that community education around the value of clean water is critical.

Submitter #388 states that Horizons Regional Council appreciates the opportunity to engage with Council staff, and to grow the relationships between HDC, Horizons and participating schools and centres, as well as the community, to deliver this mahi.

Officer Analysis

Council currently funds 'Enviroschools' for eight schools within the Horowhenua District, including two high schools, three primary schools and 3 ECEs. In recent months, staff from Council and Horizons Regional Council have been approaching additional schools to gauge their interest in joining this programme.

If there is interest from other schools to join the programme in coming years, Council will consider increasing funding for Enviroschools.

Schools in the district also have the option of signing up as a 'Friend of Enviroschools'. This allows schools to try a programme, without making a commitment, to see if it is something for which their school would be a good fit. As a 'Friend of Enviroschools', schools get an introduction to the programme, the opportunity to attend cluster workshops with other schools, and ad hoc support with their projects. However, they do not get the 1:1 facilitator support that comes with being an official Enviroschool.

In the Horowhenua District, primary and intermediate schools also have access to the 'Zero Waste Education' programme that is funded by council. This programme includes a number of different zero waste and sustainability units aimed at different age groups which are taught by an independent facilitator. In the last three years over fifteen schools in the district have taken part in this programme.

In 2020 there were 276 students educated in the zero-waste water conservation unit. Additionally, there were a total of 3,193 students received zero-waste education in 2020.

Council is also planning to organise school visits to its water and wastewater treatment plants, and to hold open days for the general public. The purpose of holding these school visits and open days is to educate and raise awareness about drinking water and wastewater.

The submitter's comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the Long Term Plan 2021-2041.

Actions

That Council continue promoting Enviroschools and general water conservation education.

Topic 12 – Use of Sustainable Green Stormwater Management/Catchment Management Plans

Submitter and Submission number

Robert Holdaway on behalf of MidCentral District Health Board's Public Health Service (#220), William Kimber (#471)

Summary of Submissions:

Submitter #220 supports in part the use of sustainable, green stormwater management systems in new subdivisions, so long as such systems minimise the creation of mosquito breeding habitat, where it is practicable, which could create a nuisance under section 29(q) of the Health Act 1956. Submitter #471 suggests minimising hard surfaces on developments so that rain can percolate down into soil rather than run off and that the use of green roofs on buildings would reduce the peaks from rainfall, thus the storm water system does not have to cope with big surges. The submitter believes that this particularly applies to large industrial buildings.

Officer Analysis:

Stormwater management systems to control Council stormwater, will be designed and built in accordance with current best practice.

Council's District Plan requires each newly formed lot to have an on-site soakage pit for stormwater control with no direct stormwater connection into the stormwater network.

The submitter's comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the Long Term Plan 2021-2041.

Topic 13 – Three Waters Asset Management

Submitter and Submission number:

Thomas Reisinger (#79), Trevor Hinder (#81), Geoff Keith on behalf of WECA (#142), Sharon Freebairn (#167), Robert Holdaway on behalf of MidCentral District Health Board's Public Health Service (#220), Kelly Tahiwī (#280), Geoff Keith on behalf of Hokio Progressive Association (#310), Atutahi Henare (#312), Leone Brown (#326), Eugene Henare (#414), Deanna Paki (#449)

Summary of Submissions

Submitter #79 states that the focus should be on ensuring fresh water supply, waste, sewage systems are upgraded.

Submitter #81 believes that urban growth, in the way put forward, will mean the loss of green space and habitat and that the policy of infill should be maintained with all existing brown field sites developed before embarking on large developments. The Submitter questions what will happen if the increase in wastewater and stormwater has not been adequately addressed.

Submitters #280, #312, #414, #449 raise concerns around Three Water assets due to how old and ageing the districts infrastructure is and believe that historically there has been an underfunding of renewals. The submitters question whether the condition of assets differs from what was expected from the age of the asset, or are renewals required earlier or later than planned.

Submitter #220 states that ongoing investment in wastewater infrastructure has intergenerational benefits for protection of the environment and for public health. The submitter agrees that improved resilience is required with regard to natural hazards and climate change, especially with the challenge of ageing wastewater infrastructure and increased demand with projected growth. The submitter also supports investment in projects to increase resilience of wastewater networks and treatment and supports the replacement of asbestos cement piping with more earthquake resilient materials to improve system and plant resilience.

Submitters #142 and #310 stated that a larger sewage treatment station is needed to meet the needs of increased housing, of sludge from the Levin Landfill and of all industrial effluents being disposed of there.

Submitter #167 is pleased to see that the Master Plan for Waitārere Beach includes an upgrade to the wastewater plant to cope with growth, but also the laying of new pumping stations and pipes in a more direct line to the wastewater treatment plant. Submitter #167 also expresses concern regarding firefighting and notes that provision has been made in the LTP to replace existing tanks in Waitārere Beach and Hokio but questions whether that is enough with the expected growth and the infill that is occurring at the beach. Submitter #167 also notes that there is nothing in the plan for stormwater outlets on Waitārere and believes that due to the rate of accretion there should be an allowance for this.

Submitter #326 notes that ageing infrastructure of water supply assets is identified as a challenge but questions why, if that is the case, Council consistently state when promoting the Tara-Ika Development that water, sewage and waste would be connected up to the existing Levin infrastructure.

Officer Analysis

Three Waters Forward Works:

Short to medium term reticulation renewals are founded on evidence based information, for example, pipe conditions identified through CCTV, leak detection works and other factors (asset criticality, growth and coordination with other works within vicinity) are taken into account and each factor is considered. However, for the medium to long-term reticulation renewal programme, for the purpose of setting the LTP budget, this is currently based on asset age. Council's Asset Management Team are presently undertaking an improvement to this process so that a more evidence based approach can be applied to the medium to long term renewal programme. The aim of these improvements are to ensure that renewals are carried out at the most optimal time.

Given the current growth being experienced within the district, there is a requirement to develop greenfield areas to ensure that there is a sufficient supply of sections to accommodate that growth. Infill alone is insufficient to accommodate such high growth and, infill in itself, can have an effect on the existing infrastructure.

The growth impact is assessed during reticulation renewal capital projects, where, if the existing pipeline requires upsizing, a proportion of project's cost may be attributed to growth. However, in some instances, for example building a non-residential building that requires high volume of water, or produces high volume of liquid waste, or if a new subdivision connect into it, a section of the reticulation network may need to be upgraded before renewal is due.

Water and wastewater treatment plants upgrades:

Master planning for both Levin water & wastewater treatment plants will be undertaken in near future. These master plans will determine a prioritised, staged approach for any upgrades required. LTP 2021-2041 has signalled indicative timeframes for when major upgrades may be required, however, the timeframes indicated may vary slightly once the master planning has been completed.

In parallel to the treatment plant's master planning, Council is re-calibrating both the water and wastewater network models to incorporate the significant growth the district is experiencing, and is actively assessing the impact of that growth, when developing the forward works programme for the reticulated network, to avoid upgrades being needed on the same asset in 5-10 years' time.

Waitārere Beach stormwater:

Council is developing Stormwater Catchment Management plans for each settlement, including Waitārere Beach, which have stormwater improvement plans. Work that is required on the stormwater outlets on the beach will be included in improvement plan. Work such as this is included in the districtwide improvement works budget and does not have a separate budget line.

Waitāreere Beach fire-tanks:

The current water tanks are at the end of their useful life and require replacement. Improvements to the firefighting level of service are likely to be made when, and if, the township gets a reticulated water supply in the future.

The submitter's comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the Long Term Plan 2021-2041.

Topic 14 - Levin WWTP Masterplan

Submitter and Submission number:

Trevor Hinder (#81), Robert Holdaway on behalf MidCentral District Health Board's Public Health Service (#220)

Summary of Submissions

Submitter #81 would like to know when the master plan for the Levin wastewater treatment plant will be available to the public.

Submitter #220 supports the development of a Wastewater Masterplan

Officer Analysis

The Levin wastewater treatment plant master-plan will be undertaken throughout the 2021/22 financial year and will take most of that year to produce. Once the report is finalised it will be released to the public.

The submitter's comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the Long Term Plan 2021-2041.

Actions

That Council Officers undertake the Levin wastewater treatment plant masterplan in the 2021/22 financial year.

Topic 15 – Location of Levin WWTP

Submitter and Submission number:

Charmaine Torrington (#49), Geoff Keith on behalf of WECA (#142), Geoff Keith on behalf of Hokio Progressive Association (#310)

Summary of Submissions

Submitter #49 states that Levin Wastewater treatment plant is on an iwi sensitive area.

Submitter #142 and #310 state that "The current sewage treatment station site on the bank of Lake Horowhenua is a disgrace to Maori cultural values and needs to be re-sited".

Officer Analysis

The current Levin wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) was built in the early 1960s. As most wastewater pipelines operate using gravity, it is necessary for the wastewater treatment plants to be built in a location lower than the settlement they serve. For Levin, this meant that the plant had to be in the vicinity of the lake. There is currently no consideration being given to relocating the WWTP.

All the ponds at Levin's WWTP are lined, so that there is no seepage into the groundwater, and banded, to prevent accidental discharges entering Lake Horowhenua.

The submitter's comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the Long Term Plan 2021-2041.

Topic 16 – Wastewater Discharge

Submitter and Submission number:

Trevor Hinder (#81), Christine Moriarty on behalf of Horowhenua District Residents and Ratepayers Association Inc (#332)

Summary of Submissions

Submitter #81 raises questions around wastewater discharge consents and also states that there have been “unintentional overflows of untreated wastewater”.

Submitter #332 would like wastewater treatment plants and wastewater discharge to be monitored consistently to establish science-based evidence.

Officer Analysis

Council has current resource consents for all six treated effluent discharges from its wastewater treatment plants. Council monitor all relevant consent conditions, and report against them, as required, to Horizons Regional Council to ensure compliance with those conditions.

The submitter's comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the Long Term Plan 2021-2041.

Topic 17 – The Pot

Submitter and Submission number:

Geoff Keith on behalf of WECA (#142), Geoff Keith on behalf of Hokio Progressive Association (#310), Leone Brown (#357 & #358)

Summary of Submissions

Submitter #142 and #310 stated that greater areas are required for waste water dispersal in order to meet the anticipated large increase in housing development. The submitter is also concerned that a nitrogen plume make its way through groundwater to the coast.

Submitter #357 questioned what the likely impact on the Pot will be due to the expected rise in growth and how will that be managed and monitored.

Submitter #358 questions a clean fill tip-site currently on land close to the pot and whether it has consent.

Officer Analysis

Treated effluent from the Levin Wastewater Treatment Plant is pumped to a pond at the Levin Wastewater disposal site, known as the “Pot”. From there it irrigated to a forestry plantation (the initial plantation has been harvested with new pine and native trees being planted). The current irrigation area has been optimised and a project is underway to automate the irrigation. The current irrigation area is scheduled to be extended, within the current area of 110 hectares. These measures are to help ensure that Council remains within the limits allowable in the consent conditions.

Nitrogen mitigation is also being researched by a PhD student at the Pot with various trials being developed. As part of the Levin wastewater master-planning, improvements to reduce Nitrogen concentration at the source (WWTP) will also be considered. All the parameters outlined within the resource consent conditions are monitored and reported to Horizons Regional Council.

There is not a clean fill site by the Pot. The submitter may be referring to the clean fill site by the Levin Landfill. If so, clean fill sites such as this come under Horizons Regional Council jurisdiction to inspect and take necessary steps, if required.

The submitter's comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the Long Term Plan 2021-2041.

Attachments



There are no attachments for this report.

Confirmation of statutory compliance

In accordance with section 76 of the Local Government Act 2002, this report is approved as:

- a. containing sufficient information about the options and their advantages and disadvantages, bearing in mind the significance of the decisions; and,
- b. is based on adequate knowledge about, and adequate consideration of, the views and preferences of affected and interested parties bearing in mind the significance of the decision.

Signatories

Author(s)	Asli Crawford Water & Waste Services Manager	
Approved by	Kevin Peel Group Manager - Infrastructure Operations	

Long Term Plan 2021-2041 Deliberations - Solid Waste

File No.: 21/208

1. Purpose

To present to Council for deliberation, the submissions received on the Long Term Plan 2021-2041 in relation to Councils Solid Waste activity.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That Report 21/208 Long Term Plan 2021-2041 Deliberations - Solid Waste be received.
- 2.2 That this matter or decision is recognised as not significant in terms of S76 of the Local Government Act
- 2.3 That Council acknowledges, with thanks, all who have submitted on the Solid Waste activity.

3. Topics for Consideration

Topic 1	Closure of Levin Landfill and associated costs
Topic 2	Environmental, Social and Cultural Impact of the Levin Landfill
Topic 3	Impact of Natural Disasters and climate change on Landfill
Topic 4	Solid Waste Consultation
Topic 5	Transfer Station Costs
Topic 6	Recycling
Topic 7	Waste Minimisation
Topic 8	Waste Minimisation and Management Plan
Topic 9	Enviroschools

Topic 1 – Closure of Levin Landfill and associated costs

Submitter and Submission numbers

Trevor Hinder (#81), Geoff Keith, WECA (#142), Peter Everton (#303), Geoff Keith, Hōkio Progressive Association (#310), Christine Moriarty, Horowhenua District Residents and Ratepayers Association (#332), and Leone Brown (#357).

Summary of Submissions

The submitters raised questions and concerns relating to the landfill closure timeframes.

Submitter #81 stated that running landfill to expiry of consents goes against promises made to groups within the Horowhenua District and questioned why early closure of the Levin Landfill was not a main strategy in the LTP.

Submitter #81 also noted that there does not appear to be a planned capital project for a new cell. He also noted that the landfill continues to operate at a loss after depreciation.

Submitter #303 questioned what the budget in LTP for the Levin Landfill is to be spent on, and when will the community know more about what is happening with the Levin Landfill.

Submitter #332 asked for a closure date for the Levin Landfill.

Submitter #357 stated an urgent decision needs to be made about the Levin Landfill closure.

Submitters #142 and #310 stated that a decision needs to be made to stop taking waste from the Kāpiti Coast District, while submitter #357 asked if there had been any progress in negotiations with Kāpiti Coast District Council regarding waste acceptance.

Submitter #357 asked what plans are in place for remediation of the landfill. Submitters #142 and #310 stated that the other closed landfills on site need to be remediated.

Submitter #332 stated that financing details show continuation of Levin Landfill because “Cap Shape Correction costs” are included in the 20-year plan cost \$1,131,065 (pp 85-86 2021-2041 LTP Activity Statement). They queried why is there a discrepancy in the outcomes of planning if the landfill is to close.

Officer Analysis

Landfill agreement and future of Levin Landfill

In 2019 Council signed an agreement with the Hōkio Environmental Kaitiaki Alliance Incorporated and s274 parties in relation to the Levin Landfill. As part of this agreement Council’s CEO agreed to recommend a closure of the Levin Landfill to Council prior to 31 December 2025.

Since then the following has occurred:

- The formation of the Project Management Group (PMG), where community representatives and Council meet on a regular basis.
- Tonkin and Taylor carried out an investigation into leachate remediation at the old, unlined Levin Landfill. This report is available on the Council website.
- A consultant has been engaged to develop a business case and carry out a Local Government Act 2002, Section 17A Review. As part of this review, four pillars are being considered which are; social, environmental, cultural and economic.
- The Council, and the Community Neighbouring Liaison Group (CNLG), are being updated on the business case progress.

At this stage, public consultation and a final Council decision on the future of the Levin Landfill is planned to be undertaken between September and November 2021.

LTP 2021-2041

Closure of the Levin Landfill has not been included as a main strategy in the LTP 2021-2041 because the business case process is ongoing to determine the future of the Levin Landfill. As mentioned above, public consultation and Council’s decision will be undertaken between September and November 2021.

There is a budget included in the LTP for landfill capital works including cap shape correction. The purpose of this budget is for it to be utilised for renewal and/or capital projects such as new gas wells, extension of landfill gas pipework network and the final capping on sections of the landfill that have been fill to maximum capacity. This work is required whether or not the landfill closes. In the 2020/21 financial year, a total of approximately \$718,000 was allocated for landfill development and cap shape correction.

Remediation

If Council’s final decision is to close the current Levin Landfill, then the landfill will be required to be capped and an aftercare management plan put in place. When the landfill closes, there will be a requirement for an ongoing capital budget for renewals (gas well and pipelines etc.) as well as an ongoing Opex budget (for the aftercare).

Kāpiti Coast District’s Waste

Waste from the Kāpiti Coast District is accepted to the landfill under an agreement between Midwest Disposals Limited and Horowhenua District Council. There is no direct agreement

between the Kāpiti Coast District Council and Horowhenua District Council regarding acceptance of waste from the Kāpiti Coast District at the Levin Landfill. Waste from the Kāpiti Coast District will continue to be accepted at the Levin Landfill up until expiry of this contract.

The submitters' comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the Long Term Plan 2021-2041.

Actions

That the Business Case including the Local Government Act 2002, Section 17A Review, currently being undertaken to determine the future of Levin Landfill is completed and will be available for Council's consideration by the end of 2021.

Topic 2 – Environmental, Social and Cultural Impact of the Levin Landfill

Submitter and Submission numbers

Geoff Keith, Hōkio Progressive Association (#310), Leone Brown (#357), and Vivienne Bold (#447).

Summary of Submissions

Submitters raised concerns around the environmental impacts of the Levin Landfill on the surrounding environment.

Submitters #310 and #447 raised concerns regarding the possibility of leachate from the old, unlined landfill entering the Hōkio Stream.

Submitter #357 asked for the height of the existing landfill and whether this has an effect on the gas plume. They also stated that the 'gas plume explosive level measure is 20, only 5 less than when the plume will explode' and asked what safety measures are in place if this occurs.

Submitter #357 stated 'The current Horowhenua District Council has inherited a region with a highly degraded environment and toxically high levels of community mistrust in the council. Particularly affected sectors of the community include the Hōkio community, Ngāti Pareraukawa, hapū of Muaūpoko, and environmental groups. The main sources of this conflict are; the wider history of colonisation and how it has played out in the Horowhenua, recent Council actions of intimidation and dishonesty, and a Council culture of interacting divisively with Māori communities. The historic apathy of the Manawatū-Whanganui Regional Council (Horizons) has also played a significant role. The Levin Landfill is a key environmental issue in the region.' *

*this section quotes the Social Impact document prepared by Bronwyn Kerr, Executive Summary, July 2020.

Officer Analysis

Groundwater

The current Levin Landfill on Hōkio Beach Road is a modern, lined landfill with both leachate and gas capture systems.

Leachate generated from the current landfill is captured and pumped directly to the Levin Wastewater Treatment Plant for treatment, which is a widely used practice. The older closed landfill on the site, which closed in the early 2000's, is unlined and does not have a leachate capture system in place.

Impacts of both the closed landfill and open landfill are monitored through 25 ground water bores, 4 sampling locations in the Hōkio Stream, and 1 sampling location in the Tatana Drain (located north-west of the landfill property). Monitoring is carried out in accordance with the consent conditions granted by Horizons Regional Council.

In some bores, down gradient of the landfill, there is slight elevation in leachate indicators, such as ammoniacal nitrogen, boron, conductivity and chloride. This gives an indication that trace amounts

of leachate from the old, unlined landfill is entering the groundwater. However, in the January 2021 monitoring round, none of the samples, from the bores hydraulically down gradient of the old landfill, exceeded the resource consent conditions.

As part of the resource consent conditions, there are four locations along Hōkio Stream have been sampled and tested on a monthly basis. These results reveal that the water quality upstream of the landfill is similar to the downstream water quality, indicating that the landfill is not having an adverse effect on the stream.

As part of the current consent conditions, and the landfill agreement, an assessment was carried out by consultant Tonkin and Taylor into options for reducing environmental impacts of the leachate being discharged from the old closed landfill. This report is available on the council website.

<https://www.horowhenua.govt.nz/files/assets/public/levin-landfill/levin-landfill-summary-of-leachate-options-assessment-tonkin-taylor.pdf>

The list of options presented in the report is shown below;

Table 4.1: Options considered

Remedial option category	Option considered
Reduce leachate generation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional capping • Cover system surface water drainage improvements • Perimeter drain improvements
Collect leachate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leachate interceptor trench with pump and treat capability • Installation of wells in shallow aquifer and pump and treat shallow groundwater • Installation of a leachate collection system
Manage impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tatana drain improvements (wetland establishment, riparian planting) • Address/repair seeps

There is a requirement to implement the selected leachate option by 2023, as per the resource consent condition.

Landfill Gas Flare

The landfill gas is collected via gas wells connected to a gas pipeline network which feed in to the landfill gas flare. These gas wells have been installed progressively as the landfill has been capped.

The flare enables safe disposal of the flammable elements of landfill gas, helps to control odour and lowers environmental impacts. The flare is operated in accordance with the resource consent granted by Horizons Regional Council to discharge to air via gas flare. The flare is regularly maintained and instruments are calibrated at the required frequency. An annual inspection of the flare is carried out by a qualified service engineer.

The lower explosive limit for methane in the air is 5% (methane to air volume/volume percent). The allowable surface methane concentration of the capped area of the Levin Landfill is 400 ppm (0.04%), which is well below the 5% lower explosive limit.

Social and cultural impacts

Social and cultural impacts are being assessed as part of the Business Case that has been undertaken and will be part of the decision making process by Council and the community.

The submitters' comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the Long Term Plan 2021-2041.

Topic 3 – Impact of Natural Disasters and climate change on Landfill

Submitter and Submission numbers

Geoff Keith, WECA (#142), Geoff Keith, Hōkio Progressive Association (#310), and Christine Moriarty, Horowhenua District Residents and Ratepayers Association (#332).

Summary of Submissions

Submitters raised concerns about the impact that a natural disaster or climate change could have on the Levin Landfill.

Submitters #142 and #310 note that the Levin Landfill site may soon become the highest point on the Horowhenua Coast and that a significant tsunami or earthquake could turn it into a scene of local devastation.

Submitter #332 asked what reliable data, and mitigation proposals Council has regarding climate change risk for the Levin Landfill. Specifically mentioning the potential for blowout from river flooding or 'angry' seas.

Submitter #357 asked whether the community will bear the burden of the impact of climate change on the landfill and stated that it is a disaster waiting to happen.

Officer Analysis

The current Levin Landfill is a modern landfill design and a stability study was undertaken in 2015 and the result was deemed to be satisfactory.

The Levin Landfill is not identified to be in the tsunami evacuation zone, please see below map from Horizons website (with the landfill circled in blue) and the link --

https://www.horizons.govt.nz/HRC/media/Media/General/203226_A3_Poster_-_Hokio_Beach.jpg



The submitters' comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the Long Term Plan 2021-2041.

Topic 4 – Solid Waste Consultation

Submitter and Submission number

Trevor Hinder (# 81)

Summary of Submissions

Submitter #81 asked if the community will be widely consulted on the future provision for solid waste.

Officer Analysis

The community will be consulted on any significant changes to solid waste services. This includes future reviews of the Waste Minimisation and Management Plan, modifications to the Solid Waste Bylaw, waste collectors license terms and conditions, and any services changes that may have a significant rates impact.

The submitters' comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the Long Term Plan 2021-2041.

Topic 5 – Transfer Station Costs

Submitter and Submission number

Chris Philpott (#495)

Summary of Submissions

Submitter #495 stated that the charges at the transfer stations need to be reined in.

Officer Analysis

Current fees at the Council-owned transfer stations (the Foxton and Shannon transfer stations) are influenced by a number of factors such as, cost of disposal for particular materials, increased waste levy disposal charges, and emissions trading schemes costs. Fees and charges at Council owned transfer stations are comparable to those in neighbouring districts.

Council is also investigating options to increase diversion of material from Council owned transfer stations thereby reducing costs, by the recycling and diversion of these materials.

The Levin Transfer Station is owned and operated by Midwest Disposals Limited and Council has no influence in the setting of their fees.

The submitters' comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the Long Term Plan 2021-2041.

Topic 6 – Recycling

Submitter and Submission number

Trevor Hinder (#81)

Summary of Submissions

Submitter #81 stated that recycling initiatives should be led by Council rather than back those of others.

Officer Analysis

Council currently provides recycling services to the district, through either the kerbside collection service or static recycling stations. These services allow for materials such as paper and cardboard, tins and cans, and hard food packaging to be collected, sorted, and recycled.

We are also investigating options to make it easier for people in the district to recycle items that may not be able to be processed through normal kerbside collections, such as E-waste.

When it comes to recycling initiatives the two main limiting factors are the cost to implement and maintain the service and the infrastructure available in New Zealand to process certain products.

The submitters' comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the Long Term Plan 2021-2041.

Topic 7 – Waste Minimisation

Submitter and Submission numbers

William Kimber (#471), and Carol Dyer (#370).

Summary of Submissions

Submitter #471 asked what the pollution reduction plans are for plastic waste, paper waste and building waste.

Submitter #370 asked that Council investigate better options for reducing plastic to landfill, for example fence post production from waste plastic.

Officer Analysis

Pollution reduction

Council aims to reduce paper and plastic pollution through the provision of public litter bins, kerbside recycling services and static recycling stations. Council also aims to minimise pollution through prompt pick-up of any fly-tipping that occurs on public property.

Commercial and construction waste was identified in the 2018 Waste Minimisation and Management Plan (WMMP) as an area that needs further investigation. In the WMMP there is an action to investigate options for sorting construction and demolition waste prior to disposal.

Plastic to landfill

At present there are certain types of plastics (such as soft plastics) that cannot be recycled through the Council recycling services. These items are also not accepted in many Council provided recycling services throughout New Zealand. This is due to issues processing the materials at the sorting facilities or the difficulty in finding a market for the type or quantity of materials collected.

In some areas, such as Wellington City, drop off points are available for some of these plastic materials that cannot be accepted through Council recycling services.

Central Government has signalled that some of the funds collected through the increased Waste Levy may be used to build infrastructure to deal with waste plastics, and improving infrastructure to increase material diversion from landfills.

The submitters' comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the Long Term Plan 2021-2041.

Topic 8 – Waste Minimisation and Management Plan

Submitter and Submission number

Sam Ferguson (#299)

Summary of Submissions

Submitter #299 asks whether adequate funding has been allocated within the budget to complete the actions outlined in the Waste Minimisation Management Plan (WMMP) and notes that activities such as diversion of greenwaste from landfill need to be the focus.

Officer Analysis

Funding for actions outlined in the WMMP is primarily taken from the Waste Minimisation Funding that Council receives from the Ministry for the Environment. A portion of this funding has been identified as being required for the investigations mentioned in the WMMP (for example investigations into feasibility of kerbside organic collections). An investigation into the feasible study for organic waste collections is being initiated by the Water and Waste Services Team.

Council is aware of the need to divert organic materials from landfill, as there are limited options currently available in the district for these materials. Council has also allocated a small community grant for community initiatives.

Currently the primary options available for diversion of greenwaste from landfill are home composting or drop off at the Waste Transfer Stations within the district. For food waste the primary methods of diversion from landfill are home composting or home worm farming.

The submitters' comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the Long Term Plan 2021-2041.

Actions

That Council continue with the feasibility study for the diversion of greenwaste and food waste from landfills.

Topic 9 – Enviroschools

Submitter and Submission numbers

Wildlife Foxton Trust (#387) and Horizons Regional Council (#388)

Summary of Submissions

Submitter #387 asked that Council allows budget for 15 primary and secondary schools and increases the budget over the LTP to allow more schools to be included.

Submitter #388 stated that they appreciate the opportunity to grow relationships between Horowhenua District Council, Horizons Regional Council, participating schools and centres, and the community to deliver this mahi.

Officer Analysis

Council currently funds 'Enviroschools' for eight schools within the Horowhenua District, including two high schools, three primary schools and three ECEs. In recent months, staff from Council and Horizons Regional Council have been approaching additional schools to gauge their interest in joining this programme.

If there is interest from other schools to join the programme in coming years Council will consider increasing funding for Enviroschools.

Schools in the district also have the option of signing up as a 'Friend of Enviroschools'. This allows schools to try a programme, without making a commitment, to see if it is something their school would be a good fit for. As a 'Friend of Enviroschools', schools get an introduction to the programme, the opportunity to attend cluster workshops with other schools, and ad hoc support with their projects. However they do not get the 1:1 facilitator support that comes with being an official Enviroschool.

In the Horowhenua District, primary and intermediate schools also have access to the 'Zero Waste Education' programme that is funded by Council. This programme includes a number of different zero waste and sustainability units aimed at different age groups which are taught by an independent facilitator. In the last three years over 15 schools in the district have taken part in this programme.

The submitters' comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the Long Term Plan 2021-2041.

Attachments



There are no attachments for this report.

Confirmation of statutory compliance

In accordance with section 76 of the Local Government Act 2002, this report is approved as:

- a. containing sufficient information about the options and their advantages and disadvantages, bearing in mind the significance of the decisions; and,
- b. is based on adequate knowledge about, and adequate consideration of, the views and preferences of affected and interested parties bearing in mind the significance of the decision.

Signatories

Author(s)	Asli Crawford Water & Waste Services Manager	
Approved by	Kevin Peel Group Manager - Infrastructure Operations	

Long Term Plan 2021-2041 Deliberations - Land Transport

File No.: 21/209

1. Purpose

To present to Council for deliberation, the submissions received on the Long Term Plan 2021-2041 in relation to Council's Land Transport activity.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That Report 21/209 Long Term Plan 2021-2041 Deliberations - Land Transport be received.
- 2.2 That this matter or decision is recognised as not significant in terms of S76 of the Local Government Act
- 2.3 That Council acknowledges, with thanks, all who have submitted on the Land Transport activity.

3. Topics for Consideration

Topic 1	Public Transport
Topic 2	Resilience
Topic 3	Streetlights
Topic 4	General Land Transport Levels of Service
Topic 5	Footpaths, Walking and Cycling, and Bridleways
Topic 6	Land Transport Projects
Topic 7	Land Transport Strategic Direction
Topic 8	Ō2NL and State Highway 1 Foxton
Topic 9	Ō2NL Revocation
Topic 10	Road Safety Concerns SH1 Manakau
Topic 11	Ō2NL and the revocation of SH1 – Manakau

Topic 1 – Public Transport

Submitter and Submission numbers

Fraser Munroe (#47), Athol and Kay Kirk (#83), and Emma Robinson (#227)

Summary of Submissions

Submitters #47, #83 and #227 all request better public transport inter-regionally and within the Horowhenua District.

Officer Analysis

Horizons Regional Council is the primary organisation responsible for public transport provision in the Horowhenua District although Greater Wellington Regional Council and KiwiRail also provide

public transport that services our community. Council officers regularly engage with these agencies/organisations and advocate for the transport needs of our community.

Officers are currently focused on advocating for more regular regional bus services and more regular commuter train services.

The submitters' comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the Long Term Plan 2021-2041.

Topic 2 – Resilience

Submitter and Submission number

Graeme Lindsey (#475)

Summary of Submission

Submitter #475 identifies the risk seismic activity poses to existing and planned infrastructure, specifically in the Gladstone Road area.

Officer Analysis

Seismic risk and geotechnical conditions are two of several issues considered in the investigations of any infrastructure project Council undertakes and they are then allowed for in the design stage.

The submitters' comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the Long Term Plan 2021-2041.

Topic 3 – Streetlights

Submitter and Submission numbers

Trevor Hinder (#81), Frank Newman (#93), and Robyn West (#164)

Summary of Submissions

Submitter #81 is concerned with the quality and coverage of street-lighting and suggests using LED streetlights.

Submitter #93 is concerned with the level of service provided in Railway Terrace, in Ohau, including streetlighting.

Submitter #164 is concerned with the level of service provided in Foxton Beach, including streetlighting.

Officer Analysis

Council Officers are aware of a number of deficiencies in urban street lighting (dark areas) across the district, and a district wide audit of street lighting will be undertaken within the first three years of this LTP period.

With regard to the suggestion from submitter #81; officers can advise that all the streetlights in the district are LED lights.

The submitters' comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the Long Term Plan 2021-2041.

Topic 4 – General Land Transport Levels of Service

Submitter and Submission numbers

Frank Newman (#93), Marilyn Owen (# 104), Robyn West (#164), and Cullum (#498).

Summary of Submissions

Submitter #93 is concerned with the level of service provided in Railway Terrace, in Ohau, including the lack of drainage. Submitter #93 also states that Railway Terrace has not been resealed for over 30 years.

Submitter #104 requests a specific caravan parking area in Foxton, close to the Main Street.

Submitter #164 is concerned with the level of service provided in Foxton Beach, including the lack of kerb and channelling.

Submitter #498 advocates for maintenance of State Highway 1 during school holidays.

Officer Analysis

In relation to submission #93, officers can confirm that Railway Terrace was last sealed on 7 February 2008.

Drainage work is scheduled by Council's Roding contractor on an 'as required basis' and is prioritised on a district wide forward works programme. If there are issues that members of the public believe need to be addressed, they can be reported to Council's customer services centre (24/7), whereupon a customer service request will be generated to Council's Roding contractor and, if work is required, it will be actioned.

In response to submitter #104, Council officers can advise that they are actively investigating options to provide caravan parking in Foxton.

With regard to submission #164, there are a number of sites in Foxton Beach currently identified for investigation, on the forwards works programme, which will potentially include kerb and channelling. However, drainage is exceptionally difficult to manage in Foxton Beach due to the low ground level and high water table, therefore kerb and channel may not always be the most practicable option.

In relation to submission #498, the maintenance and management of State Highways is the responsibility of Waka Kotahi, not individual Councils.

The submitters' comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the Long Term Plan 2021-2041.

Topic 5 – Footpaths, Walking and Cycling, and Bridleways

Submitter and Submission numbers

Kapiti Equestrian Advocacy Group (#35), Horowhenua Equestrian Advocacy Group (#64), Lynn Shepherd (#65), Frank Newman (#93), Marilyn Owen (# 104), Herd by Horses NZ Ltd (#157), Robyn West (#164), MidCentral District Health Board's Public Health Service (#220), Cycle Waitārere sub-committee of Waitārere Beach Progressive Association (#251), Foxton Beach Progressive Association (#252), Sam Ferguson (#299), Geoff Keith (#310), Sport NZ (#333), Horizons Regional Council (388), Sarah Walker (#442), Gwyneth Schiblie (#456), and Cullum (#498),

Summary of Submissions

Submitter #65 details a number of footpath defects in Levin which make travel by mobility scooter difficult and dangerous. The submitter also describes issues with vegetation overhanging the footpath, both from private and street trees.

Submitter #93 is concerned with the level of service provided in Railway Terrace, in Ohau, including footpaths.

Submitter #164 is concerned with the level of service provided in Foxton Beach, including footpaths.

Submitter #310 describes the importance of safe cycling facilities to the Hōkio Beach Community, as private vehicle ownership can be too expensive, rendering parts of the Hōkio Beach Community unable to access basic services in Levin. They request a safe cycle path from Hōkio Beach to Levin and they identify Moutere Road and Waitārere Hōkio Road as potential locations for connection, due to the Council owned unformed road (paper road).

Submitters #35, #64 and #157 advocate for a number of equestrian related issues including:

- Provision of bridleways throughout the district's roading network and recreational reserves
- Provision for equestrian use on walking and cycling facilities
- Advocacy from Horowhenua District Council to Waka Kotahi to include a bridleway with the Ō2NL project
- Inclusion in walking and cycling community groups

Submitter #251 wishes to seek clarification on the status of the Horowhenua Shared Pathways Strategy, and (the Cycle Waitārere sub-committee of Waitārere Beach Progressive and Ratepayers Association) wish to be considered as a key stakeholder in and governance arrangement for this Strategy. Submitter #251 also advocate for the following issues:

- A shared pathway along Waitārere Beach Road to be specifically funded in the 2021-2022 financial year
- That Council submits to Waka Kotahi that a shared pathway should be provided between Heatherlea East Road and the Manawatū River along State Highway 1

Submitter #299 commends the proposed increase in funding for cycling facilities in the LTP 2021-2041. This submitter also proposes a greater emphasis of on-road cycleways, which can often be delivered for significantly lower cost than dedicated built cycle paths or shared paths.

Submitter #299 advocates for an increased focus on safe cycling facilities which are focused on transport, which could provide more benefits to safety for children riding to school and enabling cycling to be a viable transport option. Submitter #299 has identified specific routes which could be used for key cycling connections.

Submitter #220 supports the increased budgets for walking and cycling facilities. However, they express concern that this increase is not enough.

Submitter #220 also advocates for Council to start an education programme to encourage cycling in schools

Submitter #333 supports Council's intent to improve active transport infrastructure and advocates for requiring new residential and commercial developments to include appropriate active transport infrastructure.

Submitter #388 supports the increase in funding for active transport infrastructure but questions whether the increase is enough to account for predicted growth as well as improving existing infrastructure.

Submitter #456 expresses concern with cycling infrastructure in Levin, and identifies risks with the roads leading to the Queen Street/Cambridge Street roundabout.

Submitter #442 expresses concern with footpaths around Levin which are in an 'unsafe condition' and/or are not adequately designed, specifically from the perspective of a wheelchair user.

Submitter #252 advocates for the continuation of cycling facilities investment in Foxton Beach and identifies several sites, including shared pathways on stop banks, throughout the Foxton area and the wider district and region.

Officer Analysis

Footpaths

The Waka Kotahi subsidised budget category “Pedestrian Facilities” is primarily used to construct new footpaths throughout the district. A forwards works plan for improving the footpath network throughout the district is now continually being delivered. Over the past two LTP periods there has been significant increases to both the footpath renewal and new footpath (Pedestrian Facilities) budgets. The current budget delivers 3km to 4km of new footpaths per year. To increase this rate of installation the “Pedestrian Facilities” budget would need to be further increased, which would also require Waka Kotahi’s approval. Due to their funding pressures, it is unlikely that we could increase the budget further at this stage.

Submitters #65 and #442 identified a number of footpath defects in their submission and these have been added to the footpath maintenance and renewal forwards works programme.

Submissions #93 and #164 - There are a number of sites in Foxton Beach identified for investigation on the forwards works programme which potentially include footpaths, however, due to higher priority locations around the district, Railway Terrace is not currently being considered.

Walking and Cycling

The Horowhenua Shared Pathway Strategy is due for review. Currently, officers plan to replace it with a Walking and Cycling Strategy. The Cycle Waitāreke sub-committee of Waitāreke Beach Progressive Association will be invited to contribute to the development of this strategy as part of a stakeholder group. No set date is available for this strategic work at this point in time.

With regard to submission #310 a safe cycling facility from Hōkio Beach to Levin is considered to be a viable and beneficial proposal. Therefore it has been added to the “Cycling Facilities” budget’s forwards work programme for investigation, prioritisation and delivery. It currently cannot be determined when, or if, it can be delivered until further investigation work on the programme is completed.

In response to submission #251, a safe cycling facility on Waitāreke Beach Road is a viable and beneficial proposal, and therefore, it has been added to the cycling facilities forwards work programme for investigation, prioritisation and delivery. It currently cannot be determined when, or if, it can be delivered until further investigation work is completed.

Officers would like to clarify that submission #220 included some misinterpretation of financial information. The submitter compared the annual expenditure in walking and cycling against the 20 year total Land Transport predicted expenditure rather than against the annual Land Transport budget.

Submission #220 also advocates for a “bikes in schools” type education programme. Council Officers will investigate options for a similar programme, possibly through Horizons Regional Council.

Council Officers broadly agree with the suggestions made in submission #252, and note that there are a number of cycling facilities sites in Foxton Beach on the forwards works programme which will be investigated and delivered over the 2021-2024 LTP period. Council are also investigating options for regional and district cycleways, potentially along stop banks, alongside other agencies.

Council Officers broadly agree with the suggestions made in submission #299. This input will be considered when developing and delivering the cycling facilities forwards works programme.

In response to submission #333, to enable Council to require a higher standard of active transport infrastructure in new developments, a District Plan change will need to be completed. The subdivision and development provisions in the District Plan are due for review and through this process officers will establish appropriate infrastructure requirements for new development.

With regard to submission #456, it is considered that the proposed investment level in cycling facilities is appropriate for improving the situation.

Bridleways

There are no current plans to pursue the matters raised in submissions #34, #64 and #157 due to the following:

- Provision of bridleways would come at a high, unsubsidised cost, while removing opportunities for other transport infrastructure by taking up space
- Equestrian use of walking and cycling facilities cannot be recommended as research has shown that equestrians have a negative effect on the other users. This is true for Council facilities as well as the proposed Ō2NL shared use path, or any other NZTA walking or cycling facility.

The submitters' comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the Long Term Plan 2021-2041.

Actions

That Officers continue to develop walking and cycling forward works programmes.

That Officers develop a 'Walking and Cycling Strategy', with input from key stakeholder groups.

That Officers will investigate whether a similar education programme to 'bikes in schools' could be made available for our local schools.

Topic 6 – Land Transport Projects

Submitter and Submission numbers

Foxton Community Board (#344), and Tracey Benefield (#477)

Summary of Submissions

Submitter #344 identifies the Holben Reserve Road Safety Improvements as its first priority, and would like to see the project completed within the first year of the LTP 2021-2041.

Submitter #477 proposes that Salisbury Street from Queen Street to Bath Street be closed to vehicular traffic to improve safety and amenity for pedestrians.

Officer Analysis

Road Safety improvements are listed in forwards works plans and prioritised based on urgency, deliverability and available budgets. The forwards works plan for this LTP (2021-2041) period is currently being prioritised. Officers note that the Holben Reserve work is planned to be delivered within the next 3 years, however, it cannot be confirmed at this stage whether or not it will be in year 1.

With regard to submission #477 complete removal of vehicular traffic to this section of Salisbury Street would have negative effects on traffic flow in the surrounding network. The proposed solution may or may not be appropriate to the perceived issues with the road, however the Roding Team will add the issue to the Forwards Works Plan for investigation.

The submitters' comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the Long Term Plan 2021-2041.

Actions

That the Roding Team add the concern of pedestrian safety at Salisbury Street (Queen Street to Bath Street) to the Forwards Works Plan for investigation.

Topic 7 – Land Transport Strategic Direction

Submitter and Submission numbers

Kelly Tahiwī (#280), Lindsay Duncan (#235), Deana Paki (#235), Atutahi Henare (#312), Horizons Regional Council (#388), Eugene Henare (#414), Phil (#448), and Leone Brown (#357).

Summary of Submissions

Submitters #280, #449, #312 and #448 support a "...transport network that makes it easy to get around whether you prefer driving, cycling, walking or a mobility device."

Submitter #388 also advocates for the Wellington Regional Growth Framework to be considered into infrastructure planning for the transport network.

Submitter #448 advocates for a focus on low energy forms of transport in the short term rather than in 10 to 20 years' time.

Submitter #235 advocates for prioritising efficient traffic flow and opposes speed limits and possibly opposes traffic calming measure, which reduce average operating speeds.

Submitter #357 advocates for the adoption of a "20 minute neighbourhoods" policy, encouraging urban design and development more suitable for active and public transport.

Officer Analysis

Submitters #28, #449, #312, and #448 advocate for a similar strategic direction that has been taken for Land Transport for this LTP 2021-2041.

With regard to submission #388, officers will consider the Wellington Regional Growth Framework when undertaking infrastructure planning for the transport network.

Submission #448 can be interpreted to be advocacy for an increase in active transport infrastructure, and possible public transport, as walking and cycling can be considered as low energy modes of transport. It is unclear if the submitter supports the current investment and initiatives in these areas as proposed in the LTP or if they advocate for more.

Officers note that submitter #235 base their position on a common misapprehension of the relationship between speed limits and realistic travel time. Their submission describes a lineal speed to time relationship (10% reduction in speed = 10% increase in travel time). This is not the case for real world situations, due to other speed controlling variables, such as intersections, traffic and curves. Broadly, higher speed limits can reduce travel time, but only over long high speed journeys such as on State Highways. More information on this topic can be found in the Safe System Solutions research paper available to view online at:

<https://www.nrsp.org.au/resources/myth-3-higher-speed-limits-means-less-travel-time-less-fatigue-and-therefore-less-crashes-busted/#resource-downloads>

Submission #357 advocates for the adoption of a "20 minute neighbourhoods policy", which essentially enables active or public transport connections between work, education and other essential services and residential areas, with journey times below 20 minutes. While this is generally a positive sentiment and direction, adopting a policy of this nature would be unnecessary, as urban design and transport design practises in New Zealand have followed more comprehensive and nuanced principles for many years. For more information please see the National Policy Statement on Urban Planning, and the Government Policy Statement on Land Transport (both documents can be viewed online).

The submitters' comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the Long Term Plan 2021-2041.

Topic 8 – Ō2NL and State Highway 1 Foxton

Submitter and Submission number

Jon Povey (#5)

Summary of Submission

Submitter #5 has expressed he would like to have the Ōtaki to North Levin (Ō2NL) road built as soon as possible, including planning for Foxton as it becomes the first/last town before/after the motorway.

Officer Analysis

The submitter's comments regarding Ō2NL are noted. The planning, design and construction of Ō2NL is managed by Waka Kotahi. Council are a key stakeholder in the Ō2NL project and proactively advocate for the benefits of the new expressway, including how the road will interact with towns along the route. Council's growth planning for Foxton and the wider district is a key input into our dealings with Waka Kotahi.

The submitters' comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the Long Term Plan 2021-2041.

Actions

That officers continue to advocate on behalf of the district for the construction of Ō2NL.

Topic 9 - Ō2NL Revocation

Submitter and Submission number

Christine Moriarty (#332)

Summary of Submission

Submitter #332 has asked about the revocation of the Oxford Street shopping precinct and requested Council show proof the community is in total agreement, before commencement of the project.

Officer Analysis

The submitter's comments are noted. Council and Waka Kotahi will commence working on a programme business case (PBC) for revocation works over the next 12 months. This PBC will include all works required under revocation across the Horowhenua district, including Oxford Street.

The submitters' comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the Long Term Plan 2021-2041.

Actions

That officers continue to work closely with Waka Kotahi to advance the delivery of appropriate revocation works across the district.

Topic 10 - Road Safety Concerns SH1 Manakau

Submitter and Submission number

Philip Grimmett (#448)

Summary of Submission

Submitter #448 has raised concerns around growth, road safety and the increased danger posed by the traffic on State Highway 1. He placed emphasis on reducing the speed limit through Manakau.

Officer Analysis

State Highway speed limits are managed by Waka Kotahi. Speed limits in high risk areas nationwide are currently under review by Waka Kotahi. Council is a key stakeholder and contributor to the review. We are emphasising growth pressures across our district as a key factor in determining appropriate safety interventions.

The submitters' comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the Long Term Plan 2021-2041.

Actions

That officers continue to advocate Waka Kotahi for the investigation and delivery of appropriate safety interventions for the Manakau section of the existing State Highway 1.

Topic 11 - Ō2NL and the revocation of SH1 – Manakau

Submitters and Submission numbers

Lisa Dale-Low (#145), Grieg Butters (#158), Maxwell David Irvine (#161), Beverley Irvine (#161), Darryl & Sheryl Taylor (#308), Brenda McHugo (#313), James Wylie (#315), Julie McHugo (#316), Kimbal McHugo (#317), P J Sannazzaro (#318), Sam Ward (#319), Sylvia McHugo (#320), Wilfred Geering (#321), Ella Higham (#351), Kylie Higham (#352), Geoffrey & Ella Holmes (#396), Beverley Udy (#398), Miles Udy (#399), Graham & Dianne Moore (#400), Shirley Cohen (#401), Jaques Cohen (#402), Rachel Johnson (#403), Martyn Johnson (#404), Michaela Dear (#405), Sonya Newton (#406), Keegan Ryan (#407), Rochelle Smith (#408), Glen Ryan (#409), Craig Vidvich (#410), George Rutherford (#411), Elizabeth & Barry Everett (#416), Chris Mitchinson (#417), Margaret Mitchison (#418), Marian Iagaru (#419), Anca Elena Iagaru (#420), Leo Goodman (#421), Sonya Martin (#422), Ethney Brown (#423), Barry Brown (#424), Linda Goodman (#425), Sandra Vidulich (#426), Tracy and Aaron Conner (#427), Sue Sexton Smith and Gary Sexton (#428), Linda James (#429), Ernie James (#430), William Alan Hoverd (#431), B L Rutherford (#432), Jacques Blignaut (#433), Mia Blignaut (#434), Maria E J du Plessis (#435), Jan Diedrick du Plessis (#436), David Billington (#437), Barbara Hoverd (#438), Bryan Bishop (#439), Leah Bishop (#440), Victoria Roach (#463), Jeff Roach (#464), Eva Yin (#465), Jamie Frost (#466), Robert Faint (#467), Shannon Faint (#468), Sarah Hodge (#550), and Wayne Horrobin (#551)

Summary of Submissions

Sixty submitters commented on roading in the Manakau area and the Ōtaki to North Levin (Ō2NL) expressway project. These submitters are seeking action and advocacy from Council for:

1. Ensuring there is funding and a clearly defined Council plan for Ō2NL and the revocation of SH1 (SH57).
2. That Council continue to advocate to Waka Kotahi on behalf of the community for road safety improvements /measures SH1.
3. That Council continue to advocate and push for the completion of the Ō2NL expressway.

Officer Analysis

Funding for the Ō2NL project is Central Government funding and is not under the control of Council. Revocation funding will come from Waka Kotahi. Council will be looking to Waka Kotahi

for subsidised funding for the work required in planning for Ō2NL and the revocation of the existing State Highways.

Council and Waka Kotahi will commence working on a programme business case (PBC) for revocation works over the next 12 months. This PBC includes all works required under revocation across the Horowhenua district, including Manakau.

Council will use the PBC process to advocate with Waka Kotahi for investigation and delivery of appropriate safety interventions along the Manakau section of the existing State Highway. We also note that safety measures and local road improvements are also in scope of the Ō2NL main works. The construction of the Ō2NL expressway will in itself deliver significant safety improvements across the Horowhenua district.

Council is working closely with Waka Kotahi to maximise opportunities from Ō2NL construction. Many of the points raised in this submission are inherent in our discussions with the agency. We note that planning, design and construction of Ō2NL and the State Highway Safe Network Programme is managed by Waka Kotahi. The timetables for delivery are published on their website.

The submitters' comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the Long Term Plan 2021-2041.

Attachments



There are no attachments for this report.

Confirmation of statutory compliance

In accordance with section 76 of the Local Government Act 2002, this report is approved as:

- a. containing sufficient information about the options and their advantages and disadvantages, bearing in mind the significance of the decisions; and,
- b. is based on adequate knowledge about, and adequate consideration of, the views and preferences of affected and interested parties bearing in mind the significance of the decision.

Signatories

Author(s)	James Wallace Roading Services Manager	
Approved by	Kevin Peel Group Manager - Infrastructure Operations	

Long Term Plan 2021-2041 Deliberations - Infrastructure Development

File No.: 21/211

1. Purpose

To present to Council for deliberation, the submissions received on the Long Term Plan 2021-2041 in relation to Council's Infrastructure Development activity.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That Report 21/211 Long Term Plan 2021-2041 Deliberations - Infrastructure Development be received.
- 2.2 That this matter or decision is recognised as not significant in terms of S76 of the Local Government Act
- 2.3 That Council acknowledges, with thanks, all who have submitted on the Infrastructure Development activity.

3. Topics for Consideration

Topic 1	Tara-Ika
Topic 2	Infrastructure Planning Foxton Beach
Topic 3	Infrastructure Development - Business Planning
Topic 4	Infrastructure Development – Growth
Topic 5	Infrastructure Development – Enabling Development
Topic 6	Infrastructure Development – Delivery

Topic 1- Tara-Ika

Submitter and Submission number

Lew Rohloff (#271)

Summary of Submissions

Submitter #271 has asked Council to consider the postponement of the provision of key public infrastructure to accelerate the development of the Tara-Ika Growth Area.

Officer Analysis

Council and Government have entered an agreement to construct the necessary public infrastructure east of Levin to future proof growth and resilience and enable much needed housing demand.

The Government grant has meant Council can advance the provision of new civil infrastructure that otherwise would not have been available.

The submitter's comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the Long Term Plan 2021-2041.

Topic 2 - Infrastructure Planning Foxtton Beach

Submitter and Submission number

Janine Smart on behalf of Foxtton Beach Progressive Association (#252)

Summary of Submission

The submitter requested that Infrastructure planning needs to keep ahead of growth issues significant to Foxtton Beach, particularly around water and waste disposal are noted.

Officer Analysis

Council is currently undertaking growth planning for Foxtton Beach, in particular the north east area, this planning includes ensuring there is sufficient provision of the three-waters networks.

The submitter's comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the Long Term Plan 2021-2041.

Topic 3 -Infrastructure Development – Business Planning

Submitter and Submission number

Christine Moriarty on behalf of Horowhenua District Residents and Ratepayers Association Inc (#332)

Summary of Submissions

Submitter #332 has requested Council provide evidence of the business plans for the first three years of Capex and Opex so ratepayers know where HDC intends to provide infrastructure.

Submitter #332 has asked Council to explore and develop growth funding protocol within 6 months of the Long Term Plan 2021-2041 commencing for all other developments in the district.

Officer Analysis

The infrastructure strategy and activity management plans set out Council's plan for providing infrastructure across the District.

Council's proposed Development Contributions Policy recommends a growth funding protocol for all new developments across the District.

The submitter's comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the Long Term Plan 2021-2041.

Topic 5 -Infrastructure Development – Enabling Development

Submitter and Submission number

Roger Truebridge (#457)

Summary of Submissions

Submitter #457 has stated that Infrastructure will either hinder or enable development, and that Infrastructure development should be environmentally friendly.

Officer Analysis

Council's infrastructure strategy and activity management plans have a focus on infrastructure to enable growth.

All infrastructure development and operations are subject to ongoing compliance with national, regional and district statutory rules.

The submitter's comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the Long Term Plan 2021-2041.

Topic 6 - Infrastructure Development – Delivery

Submitter and Submission number

Charles Rudd (#469)

Summary of Submissions

Submitter #469 has asked where the manpower, machinery and materials for this assumed growth are.

Officer Analysis

Council is proactively planning for growth, and has two teams dedicated to infrastructure development and operations, including a team specifically dedicated to delivering the major capital projects proposed in the Long Term Plan.

Council is also implementing a long term procurement plan to provide a clear forward works programme that will provide long term certainty for contractors and suppliers to deliver the capital programme.

The submitter's comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the Long Term Plan 2021-2041.

Attachments

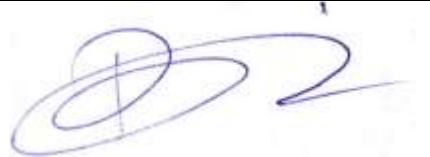
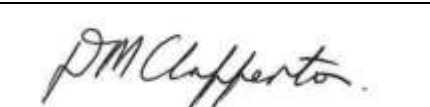
There are no attachments for this report.

Confirmation of statutory compliance

In accordance with section 76 of the Local Government Act 2002, this report is approved as:

- a. containing sufficient information about the options and their advantages and disadvantages, bearing in mind the significance of the decisions; and,
- b. is based on adequate knowledge about, and adequate consideration of, the views and preferences of affected and interested parties bearing in mind the significance of the decision.

Signatories

Author(s)	Brent Maguire Group Manager - Infrastructure Development	
Approved by	David Clapperton Chief Executive	

Long Term Plan 2021-2041 Deliberations - Community Infrastructure

File No.: 21/206

1. Purpose

To present to Council for deliberation, the submissions received on the Long Term Plan 2021-2041 in relation to Councils Community Infrastructure.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That Report 21/206 Long Term Plan 2021-2041 Deliberations - Community Infrastructure be received.
- 2.2 That this matter or decision is recognised as not significant in terms of S76 of the Local Government Act
- 2.3 That Council acknowledges, with thanks, all who have submitted on the Community Infrastructure activity
- 2.4 That Council supports /does not support the transfer of Foxton Community Hall to a local organisation; and that Council consider whether it wishes to provide maintenance funding for the first six years.
- 2.5 That Council supports /does not support funding SORT to help clarify the viability/effect of reconnecting the river loop of \$10,000 per annum to the organisation for the next three years.
- 2.6 That Council supports /does not support MAVTech's request for funding.
- 2.7 That Council supports/ does not support funding Source to Sea project of \$20,000 per annum year for the first three years of the LTP.
- 2.8 That Council supports/does not support allocating an initial \$70,000 to undertake path and step renewals at Ihakara Gardens in Year 2 of the LTP 2021-2041;
- 2.9 That Council supports/does not support officers to discuss with local iwi, a potential Te Reo name for the River Loop Reserve, with a view to undertaking wider consultation with the community concerning the proposed name;
- 2.10 That Council supports/ does not support officers to go through a process of dual naming, or renaming where appropriate in Te Reo, other Reserves in Foxton and Foxton Beach following consultation with the community.
- 2.11 That Council supports/ does not support the transfer the Foxton Community Hall to the Foxton District Budgeting Service; and that Council consider whether it wishes to provide an ongoing rates rebate to the organisation moving forward should it determine to transfer the hall.

3. Topics for Consideration

Topic 1	Levin Town Centre Improvements
Topic 2	Foxton War Memorial Hall
Topic 3	Improved access for equestrians
Topic 4	Vehicular access to Beaches
Topic 5	Rotary Club Peace and Remembrance Initiative

Topic 6	Grant to SORT to undertake flow modelling
Topic 7	Levin Domain
Topic 8	Waitārere Domain Improvement Plan
Topic 9	Freedom Camping
Topic 10	Potential Open Space Disposals Particularly Western Park
Topic 11	Various topics relating to Foxton Beach
Topic 12	Levin Adventure and Kennedy Park
Topic 13	Continued Partnership with Water Safety New Zealand
Topic 14	Ongoing Strategic Partnership with Sport Manawatū
Topic 15	The Importance of Council in Providing Play
Topic 16	Improvements and Seismic Strengthening of the Coronation Hall in Foxton
Topic 17	Use of the Mackenzie Trail in Foxton Beach
Topic 18	Various - Foxton Community Board
Topic 19	Source to Sea
Topic 20	Ihakara Gardens and Naming of Reserves
Topic 21	Various Manawatū Estuary Trust
Topic 22	Resurface Kowhai Park Paths
Topic 23	Butterfly Pathway
Topic 24	Use of Levin Domain and Levin Memorial Hall
Topic 25	Foxton Memorial Hall use as Community Hub

Topic 1: Levin Town Centre Improvements

Submissions

Matthew Lepper (#1)

Summary of Submissions

Mr Lepper has made a number of recommendations to improve the town centre including re-landscaping the Levin mall car-park and improving signage. He has indicated that the History of Levin should be detailed on an information board in the town centre precinct. Mr Lepper also suggests the Town Centre requires regular waterblasting below the canopies and that the paving needs staining in Terracotta.

Analysis

Improvements to the Town Centre

Submitter #1 has made a number of recommendations to improve the town centre including re-landscaping the Levin mall car-park and improving signage. He has also indicated that the History of Levin should be detailed on an information board in the town centre precinct.

Council is currently working through the Transforming Taitoko Strategy which is available on Council's website. The Strategy identifies a number of key issues in the Levin Town Centre which include –

- A number of earthquake prone buildings (private and public);
- Variable amenity in public streets and places (including the mall);
- Challenges to traditional retailing with the advent of on-line shopping;
- A lack of quality food and beverage offerings, together with a lack of an evening economy;
- Limited public transport;
- Challenges and opportunities inherent in the development of Ō2NL, which will have implications in terms of the existing retail provision in the town centre, and a reduced number of visitors 'passing through'.

As has been indicated in the Transforming Taitoko Strategy there is a need to redefine the town centre to meet the challenges and opportunities brought on by population growth and Levin's increasing accessibility from Wellington (Ō2NL). To create the best outcome; deliver 'bang for buck'; and redefine Levin as a destination, there is a need to develop an integrated plan for the town centre. This needs to draw on the most up to date and relevant urban design standards, define Levin's future market, maximises the value of a transport hub, and improve the lifestyle opportunities for those living and moving here. Improvements to the mall car-park would best be incorporated into the Transforming Taitoko work to deliver the best result.

Clean and Green Town Centre

The Levin CBD has a daily street litter walk, through its Open Space Contract, whereby litterbins are emptied and loose litter and detritus is collected for disposal. The litterbins are water-blasted on a three monthly cycle.

Council's Roading Team also have contractor who waterblasts all the footpaths in the Levin CBD area every 6 months and waterblasts the outdoor eating areas, the area around the stone walls, every 2 months. There are no plans to increase this maintenance.

It is not possible to suitably 'restrain' the paving.

The submitters' comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the Long Term Plan 2021-2041.

Topic 2: Foxton War Memorial Hall

Submissions

Susan Lemish and Glyn Harper (#6); M van Noorden (#8); D M Kauri & P Kauri (#9); J Slobbe (#10); Unknown (#12); Gail G (#13); Foxton Spinners and Weavers Inc (#14); Shirley Eagle (#15); G Reeves (#16); Julia Richardson (#17); E Tyler & F Jeffries (#18); G M Walker (#19); M Pickering (#20); H M Teal (#21); Susan Wareham (#22); F Gratton (#23), Foxton Community Board (#344), Foxton War Memorial Hall Interim Committee (#386), Wildlife Foxton (#387), Jackie Kauri (#561), and Delia Kimura (#562).

Summary of Submissions

That the War Memorial Hall ownership be gifted or transferred at no cost to a Foxton based community organisation for restoration and continued benefit of the Foxton and area residents. Also that an amount of at least 50% current operating costs of the hall be awarded for six years to help support the retention and refurbishment of the hall to the new ownership group

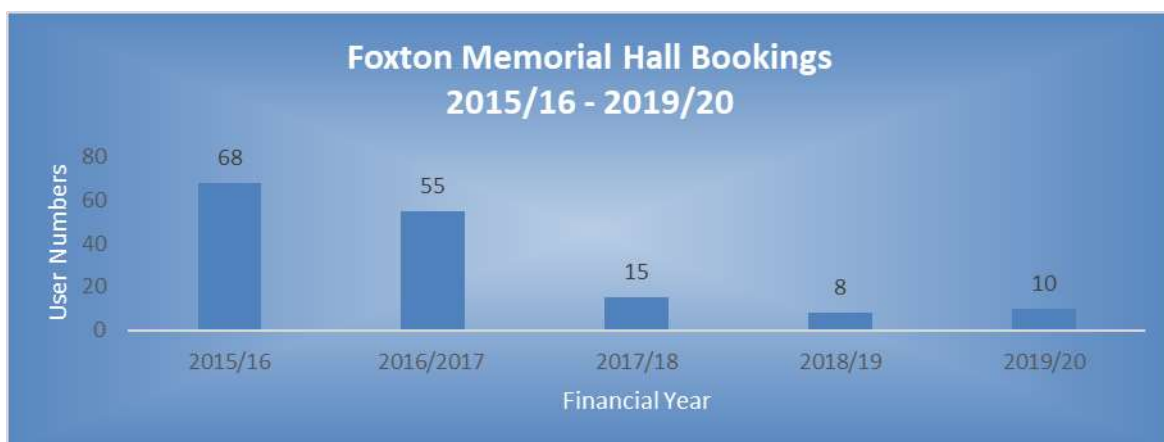
Analysis

In its Draft Long Term Plan 2018-2038, Council presented the public with four options in relation to its community halls, including Foxton Community Hall:

- Option 1: Status Quo – retain all community halls;
- Option 2: Retain halls available for public hire but not leased halls;
- Option 3: Retain leased properties but not halls for public hire;
- Option 4: None of the community halls are retained.

At its meeting of 24 May 2018 Council resolved “Council does not retain the Foxton Memorial Hall in the final Long Term Plan 2018-2038”. The use of Foxton Community Hall by the community has declined significantly over the last 5 years and trends suggest use will continue to fall, as indicated below.

Figure 1: Foxton Memorial Hall Bookings



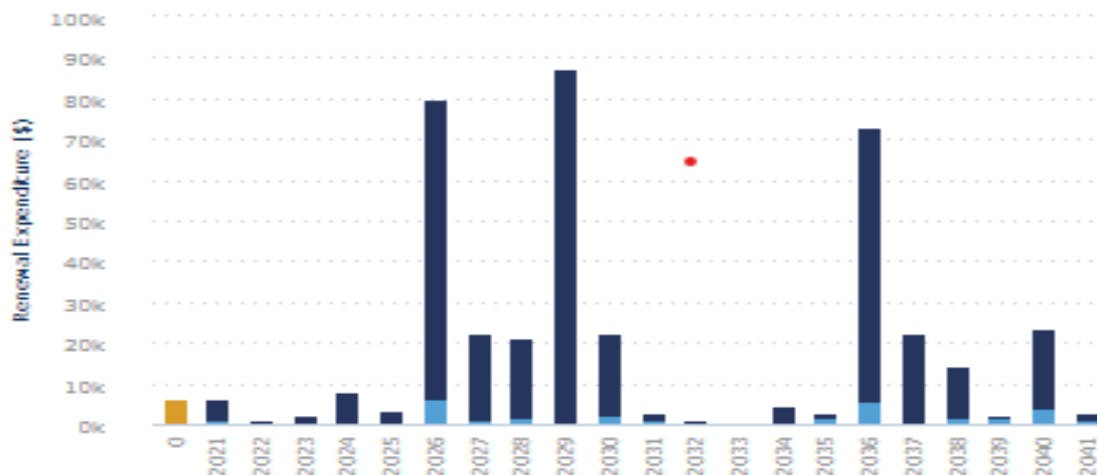
Bookings at Levin Memorial Hall, which is similarly earthquake prone in comparison, have remained reasonably stable as per below.

Figure 2: Levin Memorial Hall Bookings



In financial terms, there is merit in disposing of the Foxton Memorial Hall to reduce longer-term debt related to earthquake strengthening and deferred maintenance on what is an underperforming asset. The deferred maintenance profile over the next 20 years is indicated below.

Figure 3: Deferred Maintenance on Foxton Memorial Hall



In accordance with the Building Act an 'earthquake-prone building' is a building that is less than 34% of the New Building Standard (NBS). Foxton Memorial Hall was assessed in 2013 by a structural engineer as less than 33% NBS. The detailed seismic assessment that followed indicated that it could be strengthened to 44% of NBS, but that strengthening to 67% would require 'the partial demolition/alteration of a significant part of this building with the subsequent cost implications'.

In general terms, Horowhenua District Council would require a building in this central location of Foxton to achieve 67% of NBS, given its town centre location and consequent risk to life and property in the event of a moderate earthquake (as defined under the legislation). In 2013, it was assessed that even strengthening Foxton Memorial Hall to only 44% of NBS would cost in the region of \$265,000. This figure excludes –

- Building consent fees and levies;
- Resource consent if required;
- Diversion of existing services;
- Unidentified ground conditions;
- Fit-out and redecoration, post strengthening works;
- A phased approach to construction;
- Inflation and current day material and labour prices.

Consequently, the cost of seismic strengthening is likely to be considerably more than the figure proposed in 2013.

The maintenance budget for Foxton Community Hall is currently \$26,625 per annum. The submitters have requested 50% of the maintenance budget be 'awarded for six years to help support the retention and refurbishment of the hall to the new ownership group'. Which would suggest Council needs to provide a figure of around 80k over the next six years to the group concerned for maintenance of the building.

The model currently used for funding of rural halls is a contestable fund of 30k (for all halls). The maintenance funding request of the submitters, is consequently outside of that utilised for funding of existing ex Council assets (Rural Halls), and as such would require a separate decision from Council to make the funding available. Maintenance funding does not include for renewals.

Ownership of the Foxton Memorial Hall has similarly been mooted by the Foxton District Budgeting Service. It is suggested that the proposed Foxton Memorial Hall Interim Committee (and supporters) consult with the Foxton District Budgeting Service to establish a consensus on

ownership and management moving forward.

In conclusion, should Council determine that it will gift the hall to a local group, the group would need to include in its proposal how it would:

- a) complete seismic strengthening by 2031 (as required by legislation);
- b) indicate how it would fund ongoing renewals of the building in order to maintain it in a 'fit-for-purpose' condition moving forward;
- c) provide an indication of how the facility might become self-funding by 2027.

Recommendation

That Council supports /does not support the transfer of Foxton Community Hall to a local organisation; and that Council consider whether it wishes to provide maintenance funding for the first six years.

Topic 3: Improved access for equestrians

Submissions

Michelle Burgess for Kāpiti Equestrian Advocacy Group (#35)

Summary of Submissions

KEAG wish the economic contribution of the Equestrian Community to HDC's economic position to be recognised, and have requested a number of specific items from Council these include

- Staff time to work with HEAG and KEAG to develop equestrian tourism in the Horowhenua;
- The inclusion of Bridleways in the planning phase for Ō2NL;
- The inclusion of Bridleways in the Council's shared pathways strategy;
- The development of a Bridleway Strategy for the District;
- Develop a stand-alone, long-term strategy for equestrians.

Analysis

The equestrian community have been regular submitters to Council's Annual and Long Term Plans for the last five years. Anecdotal, academic and other evidence suggests there are a number of actual and perceived conflicts between horse-riders, and other users of shared paths and tracks. These may include horses being 'spooked' from the sudden appearance of mountain bikes from the rear or side trails, and walkers (particularly with young children) becoming anxious about sharing a track with horses. Similar issues exist with dog walkers that may come into conflict with horses or cyclists, or indeed cyclists coming into conflict with walkers.

The Active New Zealand survey (2018-2019) suggests that 85% of adults participated in recreational walking in the year preceding the report, 19% participated in road cycling, and 14% undertook mountain biking. No figures are mentioned for horse riding although the New Zealand Medical Journal suggests 2.6% of the population are engaged in recreational horse-riding (Vol 131 No 1483: 5 October 2018).

Council adopted a shared pathways strategy on 2 March 2016 the Mission Statement of which is: "To develop new or improve current shared pathways, cycle trails and adventure trail experiences in the Horowhenua District, that build on existing recreational cycling infrastructure". The Strategy is silent on horse riding and no subsequent work has been completed on the needs of horse-riders.

Given the limited resources available to Council, to facilitate a range of recreational and leisure pursuits, emphasis has been placed on providing funding for those that provide the greatest benefit

to the widest number of participants, that being walking and cycling. As a consequence, no new facilities are currently proposed for horse riding, with recreational riding opportunities in the Horowhenua mainly available on the District's beaches.

KEAG have requested Council considers a number of specific matters being:

1) **Staff time to work with HEAG and KEAG to develop equestrian tourism in the Horowhenua:**

Staff have already committed to working with HEAG to consider improved options for horse riders, however this body of work is focused on the existing reserves network rather than developing new trails. Officers are quite prepared to extend this consultation/dialogue to KEAG given the opportunity to leverage off existing work being completed in Kāpiti;

2) **The inclusion of Bridleways in the planning phase for Ō2NL:**

Officers are currently in discussion with NZTA in respect of Ō2NL and KEAG's request to include for horse-riding provision is noted and will be raised with NZTA by Council Officers;

3) **The inclusion of Bridleways in the Council's shared pathways strategy:**

Should it be decided to introduce horse-riding into the shared pathways agenda, it would not allay the concerns of other users (particularly young families) sharing the resource. Ideally, for safety reasons, horses need to be separated from other users of pathways, via bridleways, however this would significantly increase development costs.

Whilst incorporating riding access into new shared pathways at the beginning would be more efficient than retrofitting it, there would still be significant additional cost which would result in fewer kilometres of shared pathway being constructed. This would affect the program of works current planned to be delivered by Council's Roding Team.

4) **A Bridleway Strategy for the District:**

There is no provision in the Reserves budgets to develop an integrated bridle path strategy and network. It is likely such a piece of work would need to be developed as a 'stand-alone' project and budgets allocated to facilitate its development. This is not currently a Council focus at this point;

5) **Develop a stand-alone long-term strategy for equestrians:**

a) There is no provision in reserves budgets to develop a long-term strategy for equestrians. It is likely such a piece of work would need to be developed as a 'stand-alone' project and budgets allocated to facilitate its development. This is not currently a Council focus at this point;

The submitters' comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the Long Term Plan 2021-2041.

Actions

That Officers involved in Ō2NL discussions raise KEAG's desire for the inclusion of a Bridleway in the proposed shared pathway, which integrates where possible with the existing Bridleway network of the Kāpiti Expressways.

Topic 4 – Vehicular access to Beaches

Submissions

Fraser Munro (#47)

Summary of Submissions

Submitter #47 is concerned by vehicles allegedly using beaches as race-tracks

Analysis

Council currently allows vehicle access to beaches. The vast majority of users are careful and considerate in their use of the beach, however, there is a small amount of users that access dune areas from the beach for the purpose of off-road driving. There are also users that access the beach environs from private land for the purpose of 4 x 4 driving and or other off road activities (eg motor-biking, quad use).

In all situations, such use devalues the natural environment and causes wear on established dune systems which makes them prone to localised erosion. Council encourages all users to access and use the beach from existing roads, tracks and trails created by Council for that purpose. Where Officers are advised of people breaching the Reserve Act and illegally driving within the dune system it may take enforcement action. Council also encourages members of the public who see such behaviour to record number plates, and report the activity when they feel comfortable to do so. This will allow Officers to follow through with the appropriate enforcement actions where necessary and achievable.

The submitters' comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the Long Term Plan 2021-2041.

Topic 5: Rotary Club Peace and Remembrance Initiative

Submissions

Brent Page on behalf of Levin Rotary Club (#77)

Summary of Submissions

Submitter #77 has been successful in gaining funding from Central Government to instigate a native tree and shrub planting scheme throughout Donnelly Park and wish to have the project recognised in the upcoming LTP.

Analysis

Submitter #77 have been successful in achieving external funding for a three year program of native tree planting. A site at Donnelly Park has been identified as the area for the initiative. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between HDC and the Rotary Club has been established which clearly sets out both parties responsibilities in respect of the initiative.

The MoU refers to the Donnelly Park Development Plan and the concept plan has been utilised to determine the area that will be the subject of the proposed planting schedule. In this manner it is in accordance with the perceived future development of the site.

The scheme is a good example of how Council can work with community groups to develop good and achievable environmental improvements and projects.

The submitters' comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the Long Term Plan 2021-2041.

Topic 6: Grant to SORT to undertake flow modelling

Submitter and Submission number

Save Our River Trust (#146)

Summary of Submissions

Submitter #146 wishes Council to provide a \$10,000 grant per annum to the organisation for the next three years so that it can investigate, through hydrological modelling, the likely impact of reopening the River Loop channel to the Manawatū River.

Officer Analysis

Save Our River Trust (SORT) have a long held aspiration to reconnect the river loop to the Manawatū by way of improving the health of the River Loop. SORT have been long-term advocates for the River Loop, having undertaken some ecological improvement works, and they were instrumental in gaining the 30 year consent for dredging and environmental improvements which culminated last year in Council being awarded 3.8 million dollars to undertake improvements on the loop.

SORT perceive the water quality and health of the loop as fundamental to the health and economic wellbeing of Foxton. Whilst the works completed in 2020-2021 were a significant improvement of the area, there remains the aspiration to reconnect the loop. The modelling that SORT is wishing to complete with the requested grant will assist in clarifying what the likely outcomes would be by reconnecting it with the Manawatū River.

Recommendations

That Council supports /does not support funding SORT to help clarify the viability/effect of reconnecting the river loop of \$10,000 per annum to the organisation for the next three years.

Topic 7: Levin Domain

Submitter and Submission number

Maxwell Tuhān (#147)

Summary of Submissions

Submitter #147 believes the Levin Domain is underutilised given the cost of maintenance.

Officer Analysis

The Levin Domain sportsfield is an area of Levin Domain primarily used for Rugby, utilised for Horowhenua-Kāpiti Heartland games, as well as being the home of several long standing clubs whose clubrooms are within the extent of the Domain. Other uses are primarily limited to track cycling and the occasional Council organised event.

It is possible that the Domain will play a larger role in making Levin a destination, through the Transforming Taitoko Strategy. The Domain has the potential to become a large central greenspace open to the public, and used for multiple events. As part of the strategy it is anticipated the site will play a much enlarged role as Central Levin grows, and the growth agenda develops.

The submitters' comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the Long Term Plan 2021-2041.

Topic 8: Waitārere Domain Improvement Plan

Submitter and Submission number

Sharon Freebairn (#167)

Summary of Submissions

Submitter #167 suggests that the proposed improvements to the Domain may not be affordable, or representative of the Community's wishes.

Officer Analysis

The Waitārere Domain Concept Plan was a project completed by Boffa Miskell and was initiated following an approach by the Progressive Association to Council Officers. The process included a number of consultation platforms being:

- Engagement with Poroutawhao School in 2019;
- Online survey in 2019;
- Community drop-in session in 2019; and
- Community Engagement day in 2020, as part of the Community Plan session.

Following collation of the various consultations, the most popular comments were around improvements to the woodland (explorative play), and improvements to the existing play equipment. The second most requested improvements were to the open space and courts (primarily adults). A number of observations were also made about developing the scout hall as a community hub. This was further refined, leading to the development of four main themes:

- Improvements to play equipment (explorative and traditional);
- Consider the Scout Hall becoming a community hub and the existing open space for events (e.g. outdoor theatre);
- Retain and improve the courts and consider other active recreation modes e.g. basketball;
- Cater to a range of ages.

The initial concept plan was presented to the community on 18 January 2020 at the Community Engagement/Planning session. The outcomes suggested the most popular focus for the development of the park (in order of importance) was explorative play (by a significant margin); open space improvements; improvements to the picnic/BBQ area; community hub; younger play; older play (skate park); and the court area. The Waitārere Domain Concept Plan, following detailed consultation with the community, meets those criterion outlined by the community.

The Waitārere Beach Community Plan adopted by Council in May 2020, reinforces the importance of the Waitārere Domain Concept Plan as a priority for action and implementation. The Waitārere Domain Concept Plan, as indicated in the Community Plan was completed in April 2020.

Submitter #167 indicates that there is \$53,216 for a development plan in 2021. This is not the case. The figure indicated was to replace the skate ramp referred to by the submitter in their submission. The ramp was installed recently, and Officers are not aware of any contributions to the ramp being made by the community, via a funding application or other means.

The figures used to inform the budgets for the Waitārere Domain Concept Plan are an estimate provided by the consultant Boffa Miskell.

The submitters' comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the Long Term Plan 2021-2041.

Topic 9: Freedom Camping

Submitter and Submission number

Adam Parker for Hospitality New Zealand (#173)

Summary of Submissions

Submitter #173 is concerned about the impact of freedom camping on scenic reserves and proposes Council reviews/establishes a bylaw on freedom camping.

Officer Analysis

Horowhenua District Council does not currently have a bylaw relating to Freedom Camping. Issues that may arise from Freedom Camping are generally not apparent in the Horowhenua, with the majority of demand being accommodated by its free camping site at Kimberley Reserve and its self-contained motorhome parks at the Levin Adventure Park and Parikawau Reserve. The site at Kimberley Reserve has a stand-alone ablutions block that meets the need of users.

Section 11.1 of the Freedom Camping Act 2011 allows Local Authorities to develop bylaws appertaining to Freedom Camping, however, such bylaws can only be enacted under 11.1 if it is satisfied under 11.2 that:

- (a) the bylaw is necessary for 1 or more of the following purposes:
 - (i) to protect the area;
 - (ii) to protect the health and safety of people who may visit the area;
 - (iii) to protect access to the area; and
- (b) the bylaw is the most appropriate and proportionate way of addressing the perceived problem in relation to that area; and
- (c) the bylaw is not inconsistent with the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990.

In all the above reasons to create a bylaw, there is a need to specifically include sites that the bylaw applies to, on a site-by-site basis, and all proposals are to be thoroughly consulted on.

Given the lack of Freedom Camping pressures on Council at this time, a bylaw is not considered a priority matter. Should Council's position change in the future it will consult with stakeholders which would likely include Hospitality New Zealand's members, where that was necessary, and relevant to Council's proposals.

The submitters' comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the Long Term Plan 2021-2041.

Topic 10: Potential Open Space Disposals Particularly Western Park

Submitter and Submission number

Janet Hall (#189)

Summary of Submissions

Submitter #189 is concerned that Council is considering the disposal of green space for housing and other purposes, and has specific concerns regarding Western Park in Levin.

Officer Analysis

Council Officers have been directed to consider Council's options in relation to a number of non-core properties in line with its significant forecasting assumption arising from the current Long Term Plan (2018-2038), to get down to non-core property only by 2028. Council has embarked on this process for a number of reasons which include:

- reducing operational budgets on poorly performing land (whether economically or in terms of use);
- reducing the debt burden arising from renewals;
- generating capital receipts to reduce the debt burden brought on by growth.

Western Park was one of those sites identified as non-core property under the Property Strategy evaluations which is available at <https://www.horowhenua.govt.nz/Council/Plans-Strategies/Property-Strategy>

At this current point in time, options for Western Park are being considered, no decision has yet been made by Council, whether that be to dispose of the site, develop it for housing or use it for any other purpose. Should the Park be considered for disposal stakeholders will be consulted prior, and it will be publicly notified with feedback sought.

The submitters' comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the Long Term Plan 2021-2041.

Topic 11: Various topics relating to Foxton Beach

Submitter and Submission number

Janine Smart on behalf of the Foxton Beach Progressive Association (#252)

Summary of Submissions

Submitter #252 submission proposes a number of pieces of work.

- a) An urgent review of rules and by-laws as they appertain to the Foxton Beach beachfront;
- b) An updated Foxton Beach Coastal Reserves Management Plan is produced in consultation with the community that references:
 - (i) All vehicles are banned from all dunes to prohibit the continued degradation of the natural environment and the danger they cause to other recreational users.
 - (ii) Further discussion also needs to be had around the managed use of the McKenzie Trail, which may be the exemption.
 - (iii) All signage is reviewed and updated, including the removal of the "Beach is a Road";
 - (iv) Inappropriate driving is banned from beach areas;
 - (v) Encourage Manawatū District Council to place speed signs at the Himatangi entrance to the beach;
 - (vi) A strategy is developed to ensure there are consequences for breaking the rules;
 - (vii) All vehicles are banned from the beach in front of the beach car park during daylight saving hours or other high-use times.
 - (viii) Specific areas are fenced and/or signposted to protect the fauna and flora living there e.g. nesting dotterels and The Dune Garden.
- c) The statutory bodies continue to build co-operation with each other, alongside the community, to best care and protect our coastal and estuarine environments.
- d) The wetland in Holben Reserve is constructed as soon as possible to improve water quality run-off, and the Holben Reserve upgrade is staged with the installation of the wetland first priority.
- e) The Holben Reserve Development Plan should include holistic traffic calming and management.
- f) External funding sources are sought to complete the Holben project.
- g) Horowhenua District Council constructs a wall at the back of the front dunes in the Beach carpark and installs more robust picnic tables so sand-blow management can be carried out more effectively and efficiently.
- h) Horowhenua District Council develops and implements a Freedom Camping Policy that clearly outlines what is acceptable behaviour;
- i) Horowhenua District Council designates areas on the Manawatū River for specific recreational use and implements a noise control strategy for the areas so designated.

Officer Analysis

An urgent review of rules and by-laws as they appertain to Foxton Beach beachfront is conducted

The beach, and access to the beach by vehicles, is controlled by roading bylaws, the access into and out of the dune system will generally be covered by the Reserves Act, where the area accessed is classed as reserve. The Reserves Act prohibits access to it unless the access is specifically authorised by the administering body (in this case Council). Council does not authorise access to the dunes (aside from use of the Mackenzie Trail, where it crosses Council Reserve land on a case-by-case basis), and actively discourages it.

Whilst the Reserves Act makes provision for prosecuting individuals who enter without authorisation, there is a need to have evidence of unauthorised access. Council cannot review the Reserves Act but can propose bylaws under the Act that facilitate 'on-the-spot' fines for those in breach. However, the matter of enforcement can become problematic unless Officers witness the breach, or are advised of the breach via third parties who can provide some evidence of the breach, such as photographic evidence. Where third parties provide evidence, Council will endeavour to keep it confidential but cannot guarantee non-disclosure, where the evidence may need to be released on appeal.

Currently Officers do not have the creation of a Parks (including dunes) Bylaw in their work program.

An updated Foxton Beach Coastal Reserves Management Plan is produced in consultation with the community that references:

- (i) **All vehicles are banned from all dunes to prohibit the continued degradation of the natural environment and the danger they cause to other recreational users** – this is already in place as described above.
- (ii) **Further discussion also needs to be had around the managed use of the McKenzie Trail, which may be the exemption** – As may be anticipated Council receives a competing range of requests from recreational users not all of which are compatible one with the other. This is true of the current arrangements concerning access to the Mackenzie trail via the existing permit system. Officers will be looking at this particular item early in the new financial year.
- (iii) **All signage is reviewed and updated, including the removal of the "Beach is a Road"** – No provision has been made in capital budgets to review and update beach signage. 'Beach is a Road' signage was put in place by way of attempting to moderate driving behaviours implicit in existing road transport legislation. Removal may have a counterproductive effect by exacerbating poor driving rather than moderating it. However, the Roding Team will consider the request.
- (iv) **Inappropriate driving is banned from beach areas** – Council Officers are not in a position to enforce road behaviour, this is a matter for the Police who on occasion conduct enforcement work at the Beach, and whom are in a position to uphold the law in respect of driving.
- (v) **Encourage Manawatū District Council to place speed signs at the Himatangi entrance to the beach** – There is already a 30km/hr speed sign at the boundary between the Horowhenua District and Manawatū District. However, Officers will contact their opposites at Manawatū District Council regarding this request, however, it would be of value if the Progressive Association put its concerns in writing to the Manawatū District Council as well.
- (vi) **A strategy is developed to ensure there are consequences for breaking the rules-** Consequences by way of infringements and offences already exist in the Land Transport Bylaw and the Reserves Act. The difficulty in enforcement is gaining appropriate evidence to prove the breaches. Council's existing resources do not allow for a full time enforcement Officer at the beach, and given the relatively infrequent occurrence of breaches it would be more cost-effective to target poor behaviours through an education/communication strategy and periodic enforcement through a multi-agency approach.

- (vii) **All vehicles are banned from the beach in front of the beach car park during daylight saving hours or other high-use times** – An approach to limit beach access to zones at various times would need to be discussed with the community as part of a wider review. Council at this point in time does not have the resources to conduct a review of parking and access arrangements but is aware this piece of work will need to be undertaken in the short to medium term as the growth agenda develops.
- (viii) **Specific areas are fenced and/or signposted to protect the fauna and flora living there e.g. nesting dotterels and The Dune Garden** – as with (ii), (iii), and (vii), above identifying and protecting local biospheres would need to form part of a larger piece of work in the short to medium term.

The statutory bodies continue to build co-operation with each other, alongside the community, to best care and protect our coastal and estuarine environments.

HDC, Horizons Regional Council (HRC), and Department of Conservation, as statutory managers, are now operating in an integrated fashion for the benefit of the local environment. This has resulted in the development of a common work-program between the statutory managers, and HRC funding a number of environmental works in the Ramsar site, that will be completed by Council.

Council has also applied for, and been successful in achieving, funding from the Billion Trees Fund, which it will use to undertake some succession planting on the dunes adjacent to Signal Street providing further resilience to the dune system. Council is also looking at partnering with the local Progressive Association in applying to HRC's contestable fund in 21-22 for funding to undertake the chemical removal of a number of noxious weed species within the beach environs, and will continue with its annual Spinifex planting program.

Officers have included a coastal reserves resiliency budget, of \$50,000 per annum, as part of the draft long-term plan to facilitate Spinifex and Pingau planting, amongst other works in the coastal foredunes of its beach communities.

The wetland in Holben Reserve is constructed as soon as possible to improve water quality run-off, and the Holben Reserve upgrade is staged with the installation of the wetland first priority.

Funding for the Holben Reserve wetland and improvement works has been included in the draft LTP. The matter of funding will be discussed through the LTP process.

The Holben Reserve Development Plan should include holistic traffic calming and management.

The Holben Reserve Plan has been developed with Roding input, which has already been included in the concept design.

External funding sources are sought to complete the Holben project.

Council has already applied twice to the Freshwater Improvement Fund (FIF) which is a sub-category of the Jobs for Nature funding provided by Central Government targeted specifically at freshwater improvements. Unfortunately, both applications were unsuccessful due to the high application rate for the funding. The Freshwater Improvement Fund has come to an end, but Officers are currently considering a stand-alone application to Jobs for Nature for funding.

Horowhenua District Council constructs a wall at the back of the front dunes in the Beach carpark, and considers more robust furniture, so sand-blow management can be carried out more effectively and efficiently.

Council notified the Regional Council of its intention to reduce the dunes adjacent to the surf club in July 2018 in line with the current consent. Sand transfer work was completed between 13 and 30 August 2018.

The promenade is subject to significant and ongoing sand spill requiring regular uplifting and redepositing back on the beach in line with the existing resource consent. Construction of the proposed wall and installation of more robust furniture (concrete) would reduce wear and tear on the currently wooden promenade and furniture whilst improving sand relocation works due to the harder edged landscaping. The proposed work may/may not require resource consent from Horizons.

Horowhenua District Council develops and implements a Freedom Camping Policy that clearly outlines what is acceptable behaviour

Horowhenua District Council does not currently have a bylaw on Freedom Camping. Issues that may arise from Freedom Camping are generally not apparent in the Horowhenua with the majority of demand being accommodated by its free camping site at Kimberley Reserve, and its self-contained motorhome parks at the Levin Adventure Park and Parikawau Reserve. Council Officers are working with the New Zealand Motor Caravan Association and Foxton Racing Club to establish a new motorhome site on racecourse land.

Section 11.1 of the Freedom Camping Act 2011 allows Local Authorities to develop bylaws appertaining to Freedom Camping, however such bylaws can only be enacted under 11.1 if it is satisfied under 11.2 that—

- (d) the bylaw is necessary for 1 or more of the following purposes:
 - (i) to protect the area;
 - (ii) to protect the health and safety of people who may visit the area;
 - (iii) to protect access to the area; and
- (e) the bylaw is the most appropriate and proportionate way of addressing the perceived problem in relation to that area; and
- (f) the bylaw is not inconsistent with the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990.

In all such application to create a bylaw there is a need to specifically include sites that the bylaw applies to on a site-by-site basis, and all proposals are to be thoroughly consulted on. Given the lack of Freedom Camping pressures on Council at this time, a bylaw is not considered a priority matter. Should Council's position change in the future it will consult with stakeholders.

Horowhenua District Council designates areas on the Manawatū River for specific recreational use and implements a noise control strategy for the areas so designated.

The management of the Manawatū River and traffic upon the river is the responsibility of Horizon Regional Council's Harbourmaster not Council.

The submitters' comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the Long Term Plan 2021-2041.

Topic 12: Levin Adventure and Kennedy Park

Submitter and Submission number

Meredith Krieger (#287)

Summary of Submissions

Submitter #287 would like to see increased monitoring of the Levin Adventure Park and improvements to Kennedy Park.

Officer Analysis

Levin Adventure Park

Council's grounds maintenance contractor undertakes regular maintenance at the Levin Adventure Park including checking of the play equipment and grounds. The site is checked daily for glass and litter, and when it is found it is removed by the operators immediately. The checks are generally done first thing in the morning to avoid risk to children who may use the facility throughout the day. Where users may discover such items, following the initial inspection, they can be reported to Council's customer services centre (24/7), whereupon a customer service request will be generated and work actioned.

Kennedy Park

Given that North East Levin has been identified as a major growth area in Levin, and considering the number of new houses currently being built in and around Kennedy Drive, there is a need to consider improvements to the existing park and the development of additional parks as part of a master-planning process.

Existing recreation provision at Kennedy Park is limited to a small skate park, a set of swings and a small slide/climbing frame structure. In the medium to long term there is the need to consider the development of the park.

The submitters' comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the Long Term Plan 2021-2041.

Actions

Officers develop an improvement plan for Kennedy Park as part of its workload in 2021-2022 financial Year.

Topic 13: Continued Partnership with Water Safety New Zealand

Submitter and Submission number

Water Safety New Zealand (#296)

Summary of Submissions

Submitter #296 is advocating that water safety is adopted holistically by Local Government and refers specifically to freshwater and sea safety.

Officer Analysis

Submitter #296 is the water safety sector leadership organisation for Aotearoa, New Zealand. Its mandate is to reduce the incidence of drowning and water-based injury. It delivers its portfolio by producing evidence-based water safety policies, investment funding, developing initiatives related to water safety, and delivering aquatic education.

Council through its aquatics provision provides high quality instruction in swimming for its residents. This reduces the likelihood of drowning in natural landscapes for people who otherwise may not have had the opportunity to learn swimming. Council is happy to partner with Horizons Regional Council who are responsible for river, lake, and marine environments in the Manawatū-Whanganui Region. Council is similarly happy to assist WSNZ in delivering information to the public, on safe water recreation, through Council's social media outlets where and when possible.

Council invests in its local surf life-saving clubs by offering heavily subsidised community leases and providing funding for the delivery of various services. Council is currently engaged in completing a number of improvements/upgrades to the local surf life-saving club in Foxton Beach and is further contemplating building a new facility at Waitārere Beach, in partnership with the local club and community.

The submitters' comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the Long Term Plan 2021-2041.

Topic 14: Ongoing Strategic Partnership with Sport Manawatū

Submitter and Submission number

Brad Cassidy on behalf of Sport Manawatū (#311)

Summary of Submissions

Submitter #311 supports the projected improvements at Foxton Pool and Donnelly Park and comments on the benefit of ongoing collaboration set against growth scenarios.

Officer Analysis

The request from Submitter #311 for ongoing collaboration arises from a piece of work managed by the organisation around regional provision and access to sports overseen by representatives of the Councils within the Manawatū-Whanganui region. This work itself was proposed as a means of considering sports grounds and access to sports in a regional context.

There are undoubtedly benefits in considering sport provision from a regional basis in terms of overall needs analysis, clarification of the strengths and weaknesses of sport provision inter-authority, an integrated delivery, reduction of repetition, and an unbiased and politically independent analysis of advantages and disadvantages both for the authorities concerned, and those community organisations/clubs looking to complete development works. Such a position would allow some capacity building to be undertaken with such groups that would reduce downtime.

There are also opportunities to take a 'helicopter view' of inter-authority and inter-regional provision which will be of increasing significance as New Zealand re-establishes its domestic tourism profile in the short-term, and international tourism in the longer term. It may also offer opportunities to deliver an integrated regional approach to inter-authority networks in areas such as mountain biking, horse riding, and walking.

The submitters' comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the Long Term Plan 2021-2041.

Topic 15: The Importance of Council in Providing Play

Submitter and Submission number

Colin Stone for Sport New Zealand (#333)

Summary of Submissions

Horowhenua District Council is proposing the upgrade of parks and open spaces such as Donnelly Park, Holben Reserve, Foxton Beach and Playford Park. This is strongly supported by Sport New Zealand.

Officer Analysis

Submitter #333 acknowledges Council's sport and recreation assets are ageing and require significant renewal investment to cope with growth. It confirms the benefit of ensuring active transport networks connecting various open space and reserves and recognises the community benefits that accrue from play opportunities in the region.

Research shows that play has many benefits for children, families, and the wider community. Play contributes the largest number of physically active hours for 5–18-year-olds on a weekly basis, and

as such has an important impact on young people's wellbeing.

Sport NZ states:

It has been taken for granted that play will always be a part of New Zealand childhoods. However, levels of play are in decline due to shifting cultural values, increasingly sedentary behaviours, family circumstances, urbanisation, and fears about children's safety.

However, play is not just for children, elder persons play, whether structured (club membership), or more casual recreation, is extremely important for physical and mental wellbeing. This has been amply demonstrated with the recent COVID 19 pandemic lockdowns. Good recreation and play opportunities lead to healthy, happy, active lives. Healthy and active lives reduce the community and wider society's costs in healthcare through proactive intervention.

The challenge of a growing population, the tendency to more sedentary lifestyles, together with the implications for the national health system that type of lifestyle brings, means there is a need to ensure Council's play facilities are 'fit-for-purpose' and do not become a barrier to participation.

The submitters' comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the Long Term Plan 2021-2041.

Topic 16: Improvements and Seismic Strengthening of the Coronation Hall in Foxton

Submitter and Submission number

Detleif Klein on behalf of MAVTech (#341), David Roache on behalf of Foxton Community Board (#344)

Summary of Submissions

The submitters wish to gain a commitment from Council to include for the upgrade and seismic strengthening of the Coronation Hall in Foxton over the Long Term Plan 2021-2041.

Officer Analysis

MAVtech is the museum, cinema and radio station established by The National Museum of Audio Visual Arts and Sciences of NZ Trust. Since its opening in 1992, the Museum has been housed in the Coronation Hall, Foxton, a heritage building it leases from Horowhenua District Council.

The Coronation Hall was built as a replacement Town Hall in 1926 for Foxton. Currently, it contains a large cinema with seating for up to 190 patrons and MAVtech's nationally significant collection of audio-visual technology and content. The building has undergone three significant upgrades since 1990:

- an initial renovation, funded by the 1990 Commission;
- seismic strengthening and improvements to services such as
- heating and toilets, financed by HDC in 2006; and seismic strengthening of the backstage area to 100% of code in 2010 and a rebuild of the backstage collection storage area in 2011-2012 by the Trust with funding from the Lottery Grants Board, the Eastern & Central Community Trust, HDC and private sponsors.

In accordance with the Building Act an 'earthquake-prone building' is a building that is less than 34% of the New Building Standard (NBS). Foxton Coronation Hall was assessed in 2013 by a structural engineer as less than 33% NBS. The detailed seismic assessment that followed indicated that it could be strengthened to 47% of NBS, but that strengthening to 67% would require 'the partial demolition/alteration of a significant part of this building with the subsequent cost implications'.

In general terms, Horowhenua District Council would be looking for a building in this central location of Foxton to achieve 67% of NBS given its town centre location and consequent risk to life

and property in the event of a moderate earthquake (as defined under the legislation). In 2013, it was assessed that strengthening Foxton Memorial Hall to 47% of NBS would cost in the region of \$85,000. This figure excludes:

- Building consent fees and levies;
- Resource consent if required;
- Diversion of existing services;
- Unidentified ground conditions;
- A phased approach to construction;
- Inflation and current day material and labour prices.

Consequently, the cost of seismic strengthening is likely to be considerably more than the figure proposed in 2013.

In Dec 2018, Workshop E delivered a concept design for a new MAVTech that stated:

MAVtech presents an opportunity to create a Multi-Use, cultural hub and community space for a number of user-groups based around the Museum and A/V Collections, Theatre and Live Music Performances, Cinema, Equipment / Venue hire and Cafe / Bar.

Working with the building owner, the Horowhenua District Council, over the next three years MAVtech is planning to redevelop the building, incorporating the following elements:

- seismic strengthening of the auditorium and proscenium arch;
- repair and replacement of the roof;
- upgrading of the projection and performance area;
- development of collection storage and display; and
- creation of hospitality and community facilities.

Fit-out costs to achieve the concept identified by Workshop E are likely to be considerable and add significantly to the strengthening costs. MAVTech advises it has engaged with a number of funders, being; Lottery Grants Board, Ministry for Culture and Heritage and Te Papa National Services to gain the necessary funding, but requires a partnership with Council to achieve its funding aspirations.

Hence the request for inclusion in the 2021-41 LTP.

Recommendations

That Council supports /does not support MAVTech's request for funding.

Topic 17: Use of the Mackenzie Trail in Foxton Beach

Submitter and Submission number

Grant Purdie (#343) on behalf of New Zealand Four Wheel Drive Association Incorporated

Summary of Submissions

Submitter #343 values the current access to the Mackenzie Trail by the current gate and permit system and wishes to be consulted about any future reviews.

Officer Analysis

Council offers a permit access system on a case-by-case basis for Four Wheel Drive vehicles to the Mackenzie Trail. Such access is generally only permitted where groups are affiliated to an

organisation such as the NZFWDA.

Given the recent increase in unauthorised access to the dune system at Foxton Beach, it has been suggested by a number of groups that the existing gate and permit system should be reviewed.

Officers are considering a review of the current arrangement in the upcoming financial year and will consult with all stakeholders.

The submitters' comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the Long Term Plan 2021-2041.

Actions

Officers will engage with all stakeholders in any forthcoming review.

Topic18: Various - Foxton Community Board

Submitter and Submission number

David Roache for Foxton Community Board (#344)

Summary of Submissions

Submitter #344 have made a number of submissions -

- 1) **Holben Reserve** - The Board would like to see sufficient funding allocated to the Holben Reserve development in accordance with the concept plan. Roding to be the first priority followed by the wetland development.
- 2) **Environmental Enhancement** - The Board encourage continued engagement and collaboration with key partners to lead the development of and joint funding of an overarching management plan for the Manawatū Estuary and Ramsar site to be led by HDC.
- 3) **Foxton Water Tower lighting projects** - Recognising the iconic nature of the water tower for locals and visitors alike. The Board recommend that Council identify the income stream from the telecommunications rental as a source of funding and allocate additional funding for maintenance as required.
- 4) **Foxton Beach Surf Club promenade enhancement** - The Foxton Community Board are supportive of the Foxton Beach Surf club promenade enhancement work and request for funding to be allocated to complete the required work. The Board recommend the Foxton Beach Freeholding account as the funding source.

Officer Analysis

Holben Reserve

The Holben Reserve Plan was developed with Council's Roding Team input, which has been included in the concept design. Funding for the Holben Reserve wetland and improvement works has been included in the draft LTP. The matter of funding will be discussed through the LTP process.

Environmental Enhancements

Council, HRC, and DoC, as statutory managers, are operating in a far more integrated fashion for the benefit of the local environment. This has resulted in the development of a common work-program between the statutory managers, and HRC funding a number of environmental works in the Ramsar site, which will be completed by Council.

Council has also applied for and been successful in achieving funding from the Billion Trees Fund,

which it will use to undertake some succession planting on the dunes adjacent to Signal Street providing further resilience to the dune system. HDC is also looking at partnering with the local Progressive Association in applying to HRC's contestable fund in 21-22 for funding to undertake the chemical removal of a number of noxious weed species within the beach environs, and will continue with its annual Spinifex planting program.

Officers have included a coastal reserves resiliency budget of \$50,000 per annum, as part of the draft long-term plan, to facilitate Spinifex and Pingau planting, amongst other works in the coastal foredunes of its beach communities including Foxton Beach.

Foxton Water Tower Lighting and Digital Mast Licences

The lights on Foxton water tower were initially installed in 2016 with budget input from both Horowhenua District Council and the Rotary Club Foxton. The lights have become a focus for local and visitor attention, being lit for various days of note in the appropriate colours e.g. Pink for Breast Cancer, Blue for Prostate Cancer etc.

The digital masts were put in place prior to the lights (first circa 2010), and all income generated currently goes into the three water budgets as the tower is a three water's asset. Council completes repairs and maintenance on the lights as necessary, and has been doing so from existing budgets since they were installed.

Foxton Beach surf-club promenade enhancement

Council notified the Regional Council of its intention to reduce the dunes adjacent to the surf club in July 2018, in line with the current consent. Sand transfer work was completed between 13 and 30 August 2018.

The promenade is subject to significant and ongoing sand spill requiring regular uplifting and redepositing back on the beach in line with the existing resource consent. Construction of the proposed wall and installation of more robust furniture (concrete) would reduce wear and tear on the currently wooden promenade and furniture, whilst improving sand relocation works due to the harder edged landscaping.

The proposed work may/may not require resource consent from Horizons

The submitters' comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the Long Term Plan 2021-2041.

Action

That Council Officers confirm the necessary work required to complete the proposed surf-club promenade enhancement. Once a detailed plan and price has been produced, Officer's will report back to the Foxton Community Board to ascertain whether or not the Board would like to proceed with making a request to Council to use the Foxton Beach Freeholding Account to provide the funding to carry out the works.

Topic 19: Source to Sea

Submitter and Submission number

Wildlife Foxton Trust (#387)

Summary of Submissions

Submitter #387 suggests that Council should support the Source to Sea project with a budget of \$20,000 per annum for the next three years.

Officer Analysis

The “Manawatū River Source to Sea” programme intends to bring together the many projects throughout the Manawatū River catchment which are working at enhancing biodiversity, and through that, the health of rivers and the wellbeing of communities. “Manawatū River Source to Sea” is a community-led initiative and has been developed by the Biodiversity Cluster Group of Environment Network Manawatū (ENM1) and members of the wider public.

Management of the Manawatū Catchment essentially falls under the Regional Council rather than the District Council. However, as the submitter identifies there are a number of groups working within the local context on a site or township based agenda. The submitter identifies that the Manawatū Region has a number of groups involved in ecological work including enhancing biodiversity but no overall integration, and suggests there is a need to reconcile the work of the various community groups into a cohesive and integrated response by way of maximising environmental returns.

There are a number of active voluntary groups working within the Horowhenua District including Save Our River Trust; The Manawatū Estuary Trust; and Wildlife Foxton Trust, on environmental improvement agendas. There are other groups particularly Residents Associations and schools becoming increasingly interested in environmental improvement works. Whilst the groups are working to a common aim in general terms, the existing groups and would-be groups do not always work in a ‘connected’ fashion. There is a potential need for technical and administrative support to not only assist in promoting that ‘connectedness’, but to demonstrate the outcomes achieved, following community investment, are of value to Council and the wider community.

Environment Network Manawatū have requested Council make available an annual budget of \$20,000 for each of the first three years of the Long Term Plan under the umbrella organisation Environmental Network Manawatū to work with existing and new groups in developing and reporting environmental outcomes. While Council supports, in principle, the aspirations of the submitter, a budget to part-fund an environmental coordinator has not been included in the Long Term Plan 2021-2041.

Recommendations

That Council supports/ does not support funding Source to Sea project of \$20,000 per annum year for the first three years of the LTP.

Topic 20: Ihakara Gardens and Naming of Reserves

Submitter and Submission number

Te Kenehi Teira on behalf of Foxton Historic Trust (#412)

Summary of Submissions

Submitter #412 requests improvements to the paving at Ihakara Gardens and re-lettering of a number of the headstones. The submitter has also indicated that a number of reserves in Foxton and Foxton Beach should be given Te Reo names, especially those reserves at Foxton Beach.

Officer Analysis

Ihakara Gardens at the northern end of Foxton's Main Street has a long history. It was originally in use as the cemetery of the village of Te Awahou, that grew into Foxton. The oldest marked grave in Ihakara Gardens dates from around 1850. The Reserve requires work to the paths and steps and also requires other general improvement works given its historic and cultural significance to Foxton. Any such work would need to be consulted on with iwi as a priority given the significance of the site, and also with the wider community.

Submitter #412 has raised the question around naming of Reserves in Te Reo. It is noticeable that

despite the long history of Foxton as a settlement for both iwi and Pakeha, there are relatively few Reserves in Foxton and Foxton Beach with names that recognise Māori heritage (aside from Ihakara Gardens and the sometimes used Te Wharangi for Holben Reserve). Naming, or renaming Reserves is subject to the Reserves Act (16.10 and 16.10A), so must go through a formal process. There is, however, merit in considering the opportunity to review the names of some of the Reserves in Foxton and Foxton Beach moving forward. There may also be some merit in considering a Te Reo name for the recently completed Foxton River Loop Reserve, given that unlike many other Reserves in Foxton and Foxton Beach, it has no widely recognised appellation.

Recommendations

That Council supports/does not support allocating an initial \$70,000 to undertake path and step renewals at Ihakara Gardens in Year 2 of the LTP 2021-2041;

That Council supports/does not support officers to discuss with local iwi, a potential Te Reo name for the River Loop Reserve, with a view to undertaking wider consultation with the community concerning the proposed name;

That Council supports/ does not support officers to go through a process of dual naming, or renaming where appropriate in Te Reo, other Reserves in Foxton and Foxton Beach following consultation with the community.

Topic 21: Various Manawatū Estuary Trust

Submitter and Submission number

Kelvin Lane for the Manawatū Estuary Trust (#413)

Summary of Submissions

- 1) The Manawatū Estuary Ramsar site at Foxton Beach is of international significance and an integral part of the Horowhenua. Request that the three statutory managers continue to work together. There are 3 statutory managers, Horowhenua District Council (HDC),
- 2) Within the dune area at Foxton Beach there are plants growing, unique to the New Zealand Dune landscape. Volunteers spend many hours caring for this "Dune Garden". The Manawatū Estuary Trust request Horowhenua District Council assistance with signage to educate and assist in the protection of this area as part of the estuarine ecosystem.
- 3) The Manawatū Estuary Trust have funding adequate to establish a viewing platform, catering for group studies, and providing a platform to assist with projects such as the New Zealand Bird Atlas scheme. For this to come about, we need HDC to recognise our sincerity and resolve to bring this facility to fruition.

Officer Analysis

Integrated working of Statutory Managers

Council, Horizons Regional Council (HRC), and Department of Conservation, as statutory managers, are operating in a far more integrated fashion for the benefit of the local environment. This has resulted in the development of a common work-program between the statutory managers, and HRC funding a number of environmental works in the Ramsar site, that will be completed by Council.

Council has also applied for and been successful in achieving funding from the Billion Trees Fund, which it will use to undertake some succession planting on the dunes adjacent to Signal Street, providing further resilience to the dune system. Council is also looking at partnering with the local Progressive Association in applying to HRC's contestable fund in 2021-22 for funding to undertake

the chemical removal of a number of noxious weed species within the beach environs, and will continue with its annual Spinifex planting program.

Officers have requested a coastal reserves resiliency budget of \$50,000 per annum as part of the draft long-term plan to facilitate Spinifex and Pingau planting, amongst other works in the coastal foredunes of its beach communities.

Improved signage

Officers are aware of the unique bio-diversity opportunities within the fore-dune system of Foxton Beach, and has historically assisted with the implementation and installation of signage. Council would be keen to discuss the request for informational signage with the various stakeholders involved in protection and ecological development of the site.

Viewing Platform

Officers are aware of the plans of the Manawatū Estuary Trust (MET) to establish a viewing platform with roof at the Ramsar site. Council is further aware of the sincerity and integrity of the organisation (MET) in endeavouring to provide an improvement that will be of benefit to bird watchers and other local users. However, the land concerned is under the control and management of DoC and it is understood MET are talking to DoC in relation to the matter.

The submitters' comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the Long Term Plan 2021-2041.

Actions

Council will discuss the potential installation of additional signage recognising the unique communities on Foxton Beach foredunes with MET and other stakeholders.

Topic 22: Resurface Kowhai Park Paths

Submitter and Submission number

Sarah Walker (#442)

Summary of Submissions

Submitter #442 would like to see the footpaths at Kowhai Park resurfaced with a more permanent material (tarmac or concrete) to increase the level of accessibility.

Officer Analysis

The paths at Kowhai Park are currently unsealed aggregate which, though sufficient for the able-bodied individuals, reduces accessibility for wheelchair users, and potentially elderly or infirm residents. Officers are exploring opportunities, as part of Development Plan improvements, to upgrade the footpath surfaces which would make them more accessible for those with mobility constraints.

The dog park is a well-used facility and there is significant opportunity to extend the footpath as part of the Donnelly Park Development Plan. This would potentially connect the Queen Street cycle and walkway to Kowhai Park, the extension into Donnelly Park, and on to Mako Mako Road. In doing so it would create an off-road active transport corridor servicing a number of residential areas backing on to the park, as well as improve accessibility.

The submitters' comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the Long Term Plan 2021-2041.

Actions

Officers from the Parks and Property and Roading Teams will continue to investigate the opportunity to install a shared pathway connecting Queen Street shared pathway and Mako Mako Road in the 2021/2022 Financial Year.

Topic 23: Butterfly Pathway

Submitter and Submission number

Leanne McDonald (#472)

Summary of Submissions

Submitter #472 has suggested installing a memorial pathway that acts as an aid to the quiet contemplation of parents who have lost a child.

Officer Analysis

Submitter #472, who has suffered such a loss, states in her submission.

“The long-term aim is to offer practical and emotional support to bereaved families who find themselves lost in immense grief. Families often stop going to counselling sessions as they can’t afford it and there is no memorial in town to all the children who have been lost. It’s a tribute and a different and new way to remember”.

Council staff periodically field queries from recently bereaved parents for memorials that allow them to help to achieve some peace with the enduring loss of a child. The proposal has merit in respect of serving this purpose and is likely to receive sustained and ongoing interest. However, given the nature of the proposal it can be confronting in the public domain, subtly, or significantly changing the focus of a space not normally considered for such a purpose.

The submitter has suggested Thompson House Gardens for the footpath. Any such memorial at this location would need to be carefully considered given the focus of the park as a site for events (e.g. Art in the Park), its use as a walk-through and lunch site over summer, and the other existing uses (Thompson House, Horowhenua Art Society, Levin Pottery).

Officers, however, would be happy to consider the possible development of a Butterfly Pathway, if not at Thompson House Gardens then at some other appropriate Reserve.

If the Thompson House Gardens site was selected for the development of a Butterfly Pathway, a budget in the range of \$80,000 to \$100,000 would be required for the pathway itself, assuming a 2 meter wide, 135m long path of similar quality to the path shown in the submission. The cost would vary depending on what type of finish was used i.e. coloured concrete, exposed aggregate etc. There would then be additional costs with works required for landscaping, gates, archways, planting and seating. These additional costs could vary significantly depending on what was preferred for the area, but could range anywhere between \$50,000 and \$100,000. Further improvement or renewal may be required to existing pathways, to ensure safe access to the new Butterfly Pathway, which may require further renewal funding. The extra renewal amount could only be ascertained after the final location for the Butterfly Pathway has been finalised.

The submitters’ comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the Long Term Plan 2021-2041.

Actions

Officers will contact the submitter to begin discussions with a view to consulting with Council and the wider public should an appropriate site become available.

Topic 24: Use of Levin Domain and Levin Memorial Hall

Submitter and Submission number

Tracey Benefield (#477)

Summary of Submissions

Submitter #477 believes the Levin Domain is under-utilised and suggests the Levin Memorial Hall is in need of an upgrade/repurposing.

Officer Analysis

Levin Domain

The Levin Domain sportsfield is an area of Levin Domain primarily used for Rugby. Other use is primarily limited to track cycling and the occasional Council organised event.

The Grandstand is earthquake prone requiring strengthening or removal by 2031 to comply with legislation. It is anticipated the Domain is likely to fill a larger role in making Levin a destination through the Transforming Taitoko Strategy. The Domain has the potential to become a large central greenspace open to the public, and used for events. As part of the strategy it is anticipated the site will play a much enlarged role as Central Levin grows, and the Ō2NL agenda develops.

Levin Memorial Hall

Council is currently working through the Transforming Taitoko Strategy which is available on Council's website. The Strategy identifies a number of key issues in the Levin Town Centre which include:

- A number of earthquake prone buildings (including Levin Memorial Hall);
- Variable amenity in public streets and places (including the mall);
- Challenges to traditional retailing with the advent of on-line shopping;
- A lack of quality food and beverage offerings, together with a lack of an evening economy;
- Limited public transport;
- Challenges and opportunities inherent in the development of Ō2NL, which will have implications in terms of the existing retail provision in the town centre, and a reduced number of visitors 'passing through'.

As has been indicated in the Transforming Taitoko Strategy there is a need to redefine the town centre to meet the challenges and opportunities brought on by population growth and Levin's increasing accessibility from Wellington (Ō2NL). To create the best outcome; deliver 'bang for buck'; and redefine Levin as a destination, there is a need to develop an integrated plan for the town centre.

This needs to draw on the most up to date and relevant urban design standards, define Levin's future market, maximises the value of a transport hub, and improve the lifestyle opportunities for those living and moving here. Improvements to the mall car-park, Salisbury Street, Levin Memorial Hall, and the Domain would necessarily be incorporated into the Transforming Taitoko Strategy to deliver the best result.

The submitters' comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the Long Term Plan 2021-2041.

Topic 25: Foxton Memorial Hall use as Community Hub

Submitter and Submission number

Foxton Districts Budgeting Service (#493)

Summary of Submissions

Submitter #493 wish to become the owner of the Foxton Memorial Hall and run it as a community hub for the community. They further request the gifting or transfer of the hall at a minimum cost, and wish to be awarded an ongoing rates rebate.

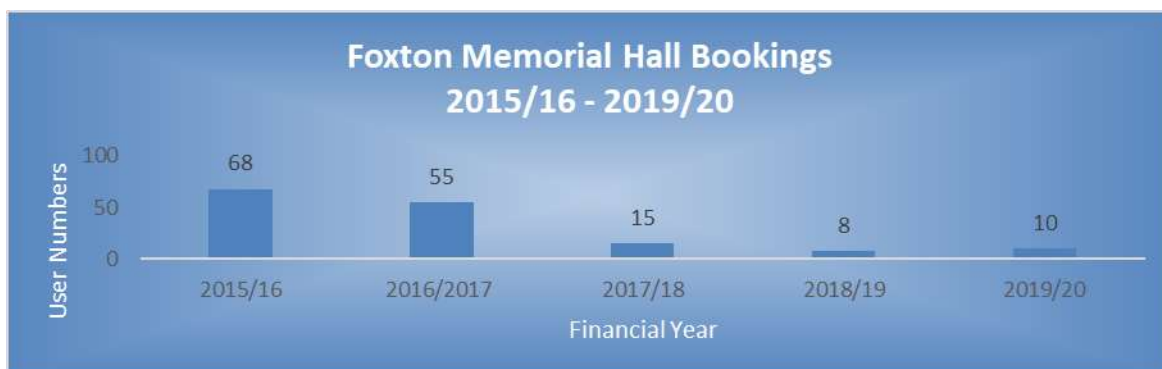
Officer Analysis

In its Draft Long Term Plan 2018-2038. Council presented the public with four options in relation to its community halls including Foxton Community Hall:

- Option 1: Status Quo – retain all community halls;
- Option 2: Retain halls available for public hire but not leased halls;
- Option 3: Retain leased properties but not halls for public hire;
- Option 4: None of the community halls are retained.

At its meeting of 24 May 2018 Council resolved “Council does not retain the Foxton Memorial Hall in the final Long Term Plan 2018-2038”. The use of Foxton Community Hall by the community has declined significantly over the last 5 years and trends suggest use will continue to fall, as indicated below.

Figure 1: Foxton Memorial Hall Bookings



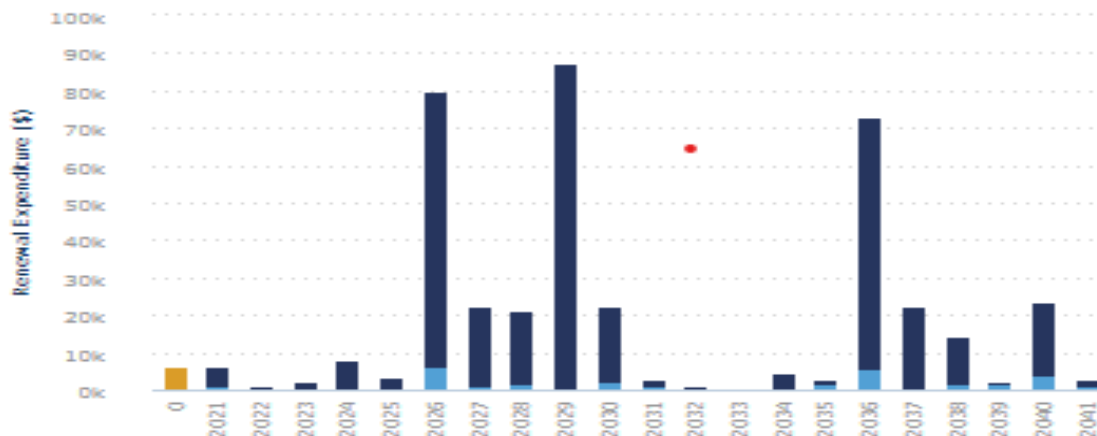
Bookings at Levin Memorial Hall, which is similarly earthquake prone, and is of a similar age have remained reasonably stable in comparison as indicated below.

Figure 2: Levin Memorial Hall Bookings



In financial terms, there is merit in disposing of the Foxton Memorial Hall to reduce longer-term debt related to earthquake strengthening and deferred maintenance on what is an underperforming asset. The deferred maintenance profile over the next 20 years is indicated below.

Figure 3: Deferred Maintenance on Foxton Memorial Hall



In accordance with the Building Act an 'earthquake-prone building' is a building that is less than 34% of the New Building Standard (NBS). Foxton Memorial Hall was assessed in 2013 by a structural engineer as less than 33% NBS. The detailed seismic assessment that followed indicated that it could be strengthened to 44% of NBS, but that strengthening to 67% would require 'the partial demolition/alteration of a significant part of this building with the subsequent cost implications'.

In general terms, Horowhenua District Council would be looking for a building in this central location of Foxton to achieve 67% of NBS given its town centre location and consequent risk to life and property in the event of a moderate earthquake (as defined under the legislation).

In 2013, it was assessed that strengthening Foxton Memorial Hall to 44% of NBS would cost in the region of \$265,000. This figure excludes:

- Building consent fees and levies;
- Resource consent if required;
- Diversion of existing services;
- Unidentified ground conditions;
- Fit-out and redecoration post strengthening works;
- A phased approach to construction;
- Inflation and current day material and labour prices.

Consequently, the cost of seismic strengthening is likely to be considerably more than the figure proposed in 2013.

The maintenance budget for Foxton Community Hall is currently \$26,625 per annum, which exceeds by some measure the March 2021 account provided by the Foxton District Budgeting Service. Revenues received for hire of the venue were zero in 2017/2018; \$730 in 2018/2019; and \$1,083 in 2019/2020. This shows an ongoing lack of use of the venue despite a low upward trend in income. It would clearly be a potential issue in achieving a self-funded community model.

Ownership of the Foxton Memorial Hall has similarly been mooted by the proposed Foxton Memorial Hall Interim Committee (supported by a number of local organisations and individuals). It would be suggested the Foxton District Budgeting Service consult with this group to establish a consensus.

If Council should determine that it will gift the hall to a local group, the group would need to include in its proposal how it would –

- d) complete seismic strengthening by 2031 (as required by legislation);
- e) indicate how it would fund ongoing renewals of the building in order to maintain it in a ‘fit-for-purpose’ condition moving forward;
- f) provide an indication of how the facility might become self-funding.

Recommendations

That Council supports/ does not support the transfer the Foxton Community Hall to the Foxton District Budgeting Service; and that Council consider whether it wishes to provide an ongoing rates rebate to the organisation moving forward should it determine to transfer the hall.

Attachments



There are no attachments for this report.

Confirmation of statutory compliance

In accordance with section 76 of the Local Government Act 2002, this report is approved as:

- a. containing sufficient information about the options and their advantages and disadvantages, bearing in mind the significance of the decisions; and,
- b. is based on adequate knowledge about, and adequate consideration of, the views and preferences of affected and interested parties bearing in mind the significance of the decision.

Signatories

Author(s)	Arthur Nelson Parks and Property Manager	
Approved by	Kevin Peel Group Manager - Infrastructure Operations	

Long Term Plan 2021-2041 Deliberations - Property

File No.: 21/207

1. Purpose

To present to Council for deliberation, the submissions received on the Long Term Plan 2021-2041 in relation to Councils Property.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That Report 21/207 Long Term Plan 2021-2041 Deliberations - Property be received.
- 2.2 That this matter or decision is recognised as not significant in terms of S76 of the Local Government Act
- 2.3 That Council acknowledges, with thanks, all who have submitted on the Property activity.
- 2.4 That Council considers whether it wishes to provide funding to strengthen the Foxton Courthouse Museum for the purpose of establishing a Foxton Heritage Centre.
- 2.5 That Shannon Progressive Association Inc. is granted approval to undertake the work themselves under Council facilitation, guidance and approval.
- 2.6 That Council considers the request to fund a feasibility study of the Motorsport facility proposal as requested;
That Council considers whether they wish to make Officer resource available to progress the proposal;
That Council considers referring the submitter to the Horowhenua Trust, as part of Council's Economic Development agenda administered by that organisation.
- 2.7 The funding allocated to the Waitārere Beach Surf Lifesaving Club building for design and build be brought forward to Yr1 and Yr 2 of the LTP. Yr \$1.654m and Yr2 \$1.654m.
- 2.8 That Council works with the WBSLSC building working party to source third party funding contributions of \$1.5m towards the feasibility, design and build of the new building at Waitārere Beach. Yr1 - \$150,000, Yr2 - \$750,000 and Yr3 - \$750,000.

3. Topics for Consideration

Topic 1	Foxton Courthouse
Topic 2	Shannon Railway Museum
Topic 3	Property Sales
Topic 4	Installation of Solar Panels on Council Property
Topic 5	Recreational Motorsport Facility
Topic 6	Strategic Purchase
Topic 7	Levin-Waitārere Surf Life Saving Club Building

Topic 1: Foxton Courthouse

Submitter and Submission number

James Harper (#265)

Summary of Submissions

Submitter #265 is requesting assistance from Council to complete seismic strengthening, and the fit-out of the Foxton Courthouse Museum for the purpose of establishing a Foxton Heritage Centre.

Officer Analysis

In its Draft Long Term Plan 2018-2038. Council presented the public with four options in relation to its community halls including Foxton Community Hall:

- Option 1: Status Quo – retain all community halls;
- Option 2: Retain halls available for public hire but not leased halls;
- Option 3: Retain leased properties but not halls for public hire;
- Option 4: None of the community halls are retained.

At its meeting of 10 October 2018 Council resolved to dispose of the property “using an Expression of Interest process that requires proponents to complete seismic strengthening whilst preserving the heritage and character of the building”.

Foxton Courthouse Museum was leased to the Foxton Historical Society on an annual lease. The lease expired in January 2019, but was later extended for two years following an application from the Foxton Historic Society. The extension expired in January 2021.

The property was closed to public access in 2014 as a result of being earthquake prone and potentially subject to a catastrophic collapse during a moderate earthquake, as defined by the legislation. In accordance with the Building Act an ‘earthquake-prone building’ is a building that is less than 34% of the New Building Standard (NBS). Foxton Historic Courthouse was assessed in 2013 by a structural engineer as less than 33% NBS. The detailed seismic assessment that followed indicated that it could be strengthened to 67% of NBS. It was assessed that strengthening the Foxton Courthouse Museum to 67% of NBS would cost in the region of \$140,000 in 2014. This figure excluded –

- Building consent fees and levies;
- Resource consent if required;
- Diversion of existing services;
- Unidentified ground conditions;
- Fit-out and redecoration, post strengthening works;
- A phased approach to construction;
- Inflation and current day material and labour prices.

Consequently, the cost of seismic strengthening is likely to be considerably more than the figure proposed in 2013.

Recommendations

That Council considers whether it wishes to provide funding to strengthen the Foxton Courthouse Museum for the purpose of establishing a Foxton Heritage Centre.

Topic 2: Shannon Railway Museum

Submitter and Submission number

Janette Campbell on behalf of Shannon Progressive Association (#272).

Summary of Submissions

Submitter #272 requests that HDC install front steps leading into the Shannon Railway Station Museum and Visitor Centre Inc. in keeping with the original look of the building. Shannon Progressive Association Inc. also propose retaining the current ramp as well. Shannon Progressive Association Inc. are willing to undertake this work themselves with Council approval.

Officer Analysis

The Shannon Progressive Association currently occupy the Railway Museum from where they deliver a number of services, including those relating to tourism information for the Shannon Area. The building was assessed during the Phase 1 Property Evaluations and was found to deliver key services (tourism and the platform is still in active use), and was subsequently identified as core property. Shannon's EV Charging Stations are also on site within the adjacent carpark.

Recommendations

That Shannon Progressive Association Inc. is granted approval to undertake the work themselves under Council facilitation, guidance and approval.

Actions

Officers contact the Shannon Progressive Association Inc. to facilitate the works requested.

Topic 3: Property Sales

Submitter and Submission number

Sue-Ann Russell (#325)

Summary of Submissions

Submitter #325 supports the sale of non-core property to reduce debt but questions:

- 1) The sale price of commercial and general property in 2019-2020;
- 2) The reason for purchasing land at Durham Street;
- 3) What happened to the capital receipts generated by the sale of commercial property

Officer Analysis

Council proposed that it would dispose of \$7 million of non-core property over the first two years of the LTP in the 2018-2038 LTP. Non-core is identified as properties contributing to non-traditional Council services (e.g. commercial buildings and residential housing).

Council further indicated the disposal program will be indicatively phased across the subsequent nine years of the LTP with a view to Council owning and maintaining only core property by 2028.

- 1) **The sale price of commercial and general property in 2019-2020:**
Council anticipated the sale of 7 million dollars of property between July 2018 and June 2020. It sold the equivalent of just over 7 million. The sales were managed by a property specialist and the sales returned a profit on Council's Book Value for the properties sold. The initial properties were all sold within the timeframe outlined, all being sold by 31 October 2019. Officers are in the process of preparing the next tranche of property sales.
- 2) **The reason for purchasing land at Durham Street:**
Twenty-eight Durham Street was purchased for strategic reasons due to its very close proximity to Council's long-term parking spaces on Bath Street (it is surrounded by the carpark). The purchase increases Council's options for developing the site as part of the Transforming Taitoko strategy. The property is currently being readied for a fixed term lease, which will allow it to maintain its strategic value for potential use in the future development of the Bath Street site.

3) **What happened to the capital receipts generated by the sale of commercial property:**

The capital receipts generated by the sale of commercial property have been used to reduce borrowing.

The submitters' comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the Long Term Plan 2021-2041.

Topic 4: Installation of Solar Panels on Council Property

Submitter and Submission number

Carolyn Copeland (#360)

Summary of Submissions

Submitter #360 would like Council to investigate and install solar generation (panels and/or batteries) on Council buildings and would like to see a commitment to at least a trial installation, as proof of concept, and to quantify actual advantages from the system.

Officer Analysis

With the Government's emphasis on achieving Carbon Zero by 2050, there will be an increasing amount of pressure on local authorities to deliver the agenda. Consideration of alternatives (like solar power) will, as a result, become increasingly more important.

Council has a wide portfolio of buildings, many of which are energy hungry (Council offices, Levin Aquatic Centre, Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō, Te Awahou, water treatment plants) and the use of solar power offers an option to decrease Council dependency on the national grid whilst meeting the requirements of the 2050 agenda. However, energy, and energy use, are also significantly influenced by insulation, double-glazing, building structure, and use.

Submitter #360 has suggested a trial installation of a solar system, however without an underlying assessment of the best returns on such a proposal (including those matters outlined above), Council risks the possibility of gathering incomplete information that may not deliver the best outcomes.

There would, therefore, be merit in developing an overarching plan/strategy for solar power utilisation, to focus Council's efforts in those areas likely to deliver the best value for money. As such, there is some merit in engaging a solar power specialist to develop priority areas in advance of moving to a physical trial.

There is also some merit in considering solar power as a strand of a wider sustainability plan, which could address other areas such as the movement to

However, due to current workloads, this work would need to be undertaken by consultants. Given the budget pressures for this LTP, the development of a sustainability strategy should be deferred until the next LTP.

The submitters' comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the Long Term Plan 2021-2041.

Topic 5: Recreational Motorsport Facility

Submitter and Submission number

Marty Jarrett (#443), Gary McKelvie for Manawatu Car Club, Central Muscle Cars (#476), Michael Moyes (#553), Darryn Carruthers (#554), Jai Ewens (#555), Dylan Ellmers (#556), Neil Irvine (#557), Kilynton Durham (#558).

Summary of Submissions

The focus of this submission is on seeking Council assistance to progress a driver training, motorsport, and related recreation facility for Horowhenua ('the Park concept'). The submission seeks some short-term support actions from Council.

Officer Analysis

The submitters seeks to progress the development of a motor-sport centre, supplemented by other activities including commercial offerings, an adrenalin and recreation space. The proposal further seeks to persuade NZ Police to relocate its Driver Training Facility to the Horowhenua, suggesting the much-improved roading network will be a significant strength in bringing the Driver Training Facility closer to the Porirua Police College.

The submitters request a number of actions from Council which include:

- 1) Budget allocation in the long-term plan for an initial 'fail fast' concept feasibility study in the 2021/2022 financial year that would consider planning and resource consents; economic opportunities; guidance on traffic, noise, stormwater management, management of light spill, operating times etc;
- 2) Guidance on zoning and implications of the District Plan for a mixed use facility (commercial/recreational/open space);
- 3) Engagement with the concept promoters to identify any Council-owned properties or sites that may be suitable for, or compatible with the concept and specifically consider the Levin Landfill site (assuming it is to be closed within two years);
- 4) If no Council-owned sites are suitable or available, engagement with the concept promoter to identify suitable geographic locations within the District where the concept could conceivably be located (e.g. minimal residential dwellings etc);
- 5) General advocacy and support;
- 6) Advocacy and support to advance the concept, including facilitation of engagement with appropriate Iwi partners;
- 7) Support to identify and prepare grant applications and explore additional funding pathways.

The submitters suggest a number of positive flow-on outcomes would eventuate. These can be summarised as –

- a) Driver training and education - an essential component of enabling young people to take up and access professional and educational opportunities;
- b) A fit for purpose driver training facility provides an opportunity to create a safe environment for the development of defensive driving skills, testing and driving reviews;
- c) Opportunities to work with local schools and the Horowhenua Learning Centre to provide a fit for purpose driver training programme;
- d) To establish both sealed and unsealed tracks and spaces to accommodate a wide range of motorsport activities;
- e) A positive commercial benefit;
- f) A reduction in anti-social behaviours e.g. racing, burn-outs, and unauthorised access to Council facilities;
- g) Potential inwards investment to the region.

The submitters suggest the development and management of the site would be via a Limited Liability Company, financed by private investors.

Council is currently concerned with identifying potential land that might be utilised to meet its growth scenarios (over 60,000 people by 2041), and is, as a consequence, considering a plan

change that would facilitate residential developments in the South East of Levin (Tara-Ika). It is also considering options in relation to developing a commercial/industrial area which is likely to be in the region of Tararua Road to connect with the existing industrial land in and around this location.

A motorsport/recreation/commercial park of the size of that proposed would require a significant infrastructural investment and would reduce the land available to meet the challenges of industrial/commercial growth locally. Whilst it is recognised the submitter's proposals are aimed at a different niche market, Manfeild in Feilding provides a significant existing motorsports venue, which currently services a number of the submitters proposed activities. Robertson International Speedway at the Arena ' is similarly aimed at those interested in motorsports.

The submitters proposed ideal location, should Council agree to fund a concept feasibility study, is South Horowhenua (Levin to Manakau), 20-40 acres (8ha -16ha), Council land with limited proximity to existing dwellings. The submitter suggests an ideal site might be the Levin Landfill site if closed within the next two years.

Council will be making a determination on whether to close the Levin Landfill earlier than its consent expiry (2037), in the forthcoming financial year (21-22), but at this point, no decision on closure has been taken. However, from an operational and Health & Safety point of view, this sort of activity will not be permitted even after closure of the landfill. The landfill will still have an active landfill gas flare and gas collection system, as such it will be closed to the public for many years to come. Council has no other significant land-holdings in the south Horowhenua area that could be utilised for the purposes described by the submitter.

The submission requests advocacy and support for the proposal including researching possible alternative sources of funding. Given the likely implications relating to resource consents, advocacy, consultation etc, it is anticipated such support would necessitate the employment of an FTE for something between 18-24 months. This represents a significant cost to Council.

In conclusion, the submission, whilst offering some potentially high value outcomes locally, would need to be resourced effectively both in terms of the requested concept funding and ongoing support.

Recommendations

That Council considers the request to fund a feasibility study of the proposal as requested;

That Council considers whether it wishes to make Officer resource available to progress the proposal;

That Council considers referring the submitter to the Horowhenua Trust, as part of Council's Economic Development agenda administered by that organisation.

Topic 6: Levin-Waitarere Surf Life Saving Club Building

Submitter and Submission number

Claire Turner (#55); Joanna Newlove (#56); Kirstin Chamberlain (#57); Andrew Burns (#112); Dan Turner (#120); Barry Judd (#153); Blair Fitzgibbon (#170); Esta Kennett (#172); Stephen and Samantha Bennett (#174); Melanie McKnight (#186); Diane & Ian Larkin (#187); Andrew Parkin (#201); Piero Lavo (#216); Levin-Waitarere Surf Life Saving Club (#217); Bruce Eccles (#266); Barbara Freeman (#330); Brian Forth (#342); Glynis and John Easton (#363); Raewyn Tate (#221); Blair Fitzgibbon (#170); Sharon Freebairn (#171);

Summary of Submissions

The submissions refer to several community groups and stakeholders confirming their support for a new surf lifesaving building under council ownership and propose that the funding allocated in year 3 is kept and brought forward to year one or two of the LTP.

Submitters #170 and #171 propose utilising part of the existing building for vehicle storage.

Submitter #221 proposes multiple uses of the new building.

Officer Analysis

Council has received confirmation that the Waitarere Surf Club building is 20% if NBS, which places the building firmly in the earthquake prone category. The report has also identified that the main support beam on the observation tower has rotted through so it should not be used.

Officers will liaise with the WSLSC regarding the risk of using the building in the short term, with the aim of agreeing the risk ownership should the building continue to be utilised.

It's the Chief Executives advice to Council that the feasibility, design and construction of a new building for the WSLSC, and other community activities be accelerated and the funding for the project in the proposed 2021-2041 LTP be brought forward to Yr1 and Y2 of the LTP.

The CE will work with the WSLSC building working group and internal resources to determine the optimum method of fast tracking the project. If agreed by council to bring forward the LTP budget this work would commence immediately.

Recommendations

The funding allocated to the Waitāreere Beach Surf Lifesaving Club building for design and build be brought forward to Yr1 and Yr 2 of the LTP. Yr \$1.654m and Yr2 \$1.654m.

That Council works with the WBSLSC building working party to source third party funding contributions of \$1.5m towards the feasibility, design and build of the new building at Waitāreere Beach. Yr1 - \$150,000, Yr2 - \$750,000 and Yr3 - \$750,000

Actions

The CE and Officers engage with the WBSLSC building working party to determine the optimum method of fast tracking the building project.

Attachments



There are no attachments for this report.

Confirmation of statutory compliance

In accordance with section 76 of the Local Government Act 2002, this report is approved as:

- a. containing sufficient information about the options and their advantages and disadvantages, bearing in mind the significance of the decisions; and,
- b. is based on adequate knowledge about, and adequate consideration of, the views and preferences of affected and interested parties bearing in mind the significance of the decision.

Signatories

Author(s)	Arthur Nelson Parks and Property Manager	
Approved by	Kevin Peel Group Manager - Infrastructure Operations	

Long Term Plan 2021-2041 Deliberations - Regulatory

File No.: 21/210

1. Purpose

To present to Council for deliberation, the submissions received on the Long Term Plan 2021-2041 in relation to Council's Regulatory activity.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That Report 21/210 Long Term Plan 2021-2041 Deliberations - Regulatory be received.
- 2.2 That this matter or decision is recognised as not significant in terms of S76 of the Local Government Act
- 2.3 That Council acknowledges, with thanks, all who have submitted on the Regulatory activity.

3. Topics for Consideration

Topic 1	Local Alcohol Policy
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Topic 1: Local Alcohol Policy

Submitter and Submission numbers

Adam Parker, Hospitality New Zealand (#73), and Robert Holdaway on behalf of MidCentral District Health Board's Public Health Service (#220)

Summary of Submissions

Submitter #73 has expressed their dissatisfaction with the process prescribed in the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012 about the development and implementation of Local Alcohol Policies.

Submitter #73 claims that some councils often attempt to include rules within a Local Alcohol Policy that are beyond their authority, and acknowledges this is a timely and expensive process.

Instead, Submitter #73 suggests that the current District Licencing Committees system provides for enough ability for each licence to have appropriate restrictions placed on it if deemed necessary by the committee. A shift in the system whereby District Licensing Committees administer appropriate restrictions would render the Local Alcohol Policy process unnecessary.

The view of Submitter #73 is the wider hospitality industry would like the process of Local Alcohol Policies to be either repealed or significantly amended.

Submitter #220 has congratulated Horowhenua District Council on the adoption of the Horowhenua District Council Local Alcohol Policy and the work carried out to reflect the local communities' character and needs. Specifically the submitter has scribed, "This is a commendable effort and puts Horowhenua District Council amongst the local government leaders on this issue."

Officer Analysis

The Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012 provides for local authorities to develop local alcohol policies. A Local Alcohol Policy (LAP) is a set of decisions made by a council in consultation with its community, about the sale and supply of alcohol in its district. Once in place, licensing bodies such as the District Licensing Committee must consider it when they make decisions about alcohol licensing applications in the district.

LAP's are optional. Although councils are not required to have one, 41 out of 67 councils have chosen to (as at January 2021). LAPs give local communities input into licensing decisions, with the views of the community reflected within the policy.

To implement a LAP, councils must first produce a Draft LAP for public consultation, then notify a Provisional LAP (which can be appealed and revised following appeals), before finally adopting a LAP.

The Horowhenua District has a LAP. The Draft LAP went out for public consultation to seek the views of the community in 2017. The Horowhenua District Provisional LAP was later notified following the public hearings process, and was appealed.

This led to a period of negotiation with the appellants to eventually arrive at a revised LAP that was adopted by the Alcohol Regulatory Licensing Authority (ARLA) in June 2020.

To determine the date the policy should take effect, in accordance with the requirements of the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act, the adoption of the LAP was presented to Council in August 2020, and subsequently the first Horowhenua District Local Alcohol Policy took effect in full from December 2020.

As the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act prescribes the process for Local Alcohol Policies, the submitter's comments about the repeal or significant amendment of this process would require a legislative change by Central Government.

During the development of the LAP, the draft LAP attracted 45 submissions during the public consultation process, of which 35 submitters at the time were in support of Council developing a local alcohol policy.

This provided clear direction from the community that a local alcohol policy is important, and therefore the process to develop the policy worthwhile.

The MidCentral District Health Board, Public Health Unit and Officers work closely together for alcohol licensing matters, and Officers acknowledge the effective working relationship between agencies.

The submitters' comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the Long Term Plan 2021-2041.

Attachments

There are no attachments for this report.



Confirmation of statutory compliance

In accordance with section 76 of the Local Government Act 2002, this report is approved as:

- a. containing sufficient information about the options and their advantages and disadvantages, bearing in mind the significance of the decisions; and,
- b. is based on adequate knowledge about, and adequate consideration of, the views and preferences of affected and interested parties bearing in mind the significance of the decision.

Signatories

Author(s)	Vai Miller District Licensing Committee Secretary	
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Approved by	Ashley Huria Projects Coordinator - Customer & Strategy	
	David McCorkindale Group Manager - Customer & Strategy	

Long Term Plan 2021-2041 Deliberations - Representation and Community Leadership

File No.: 21/214

1. Purpose

To present to Council for deliberation, the submissions received on the Long Term Plan 2021-2041 in relation to Council's Representation and Leadership activity.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That Report 21/214 Long Term Plan 2021-2041 Deliberations - Representation and
- 2.2 Community Leadership be received.
- 2.3 That this matter or decision is recognised as not significant in terms of S76 of the Local Government Act
- 2.4 That Council acknowledges, with thanks, all who have submitted on the Representation and Leadership activity.
- 2.5 That officers amend the Strong Communities Outcome to include a statement about meeting the varying needs of the different age groups in our community.

3. Topics for Consideration

Topic 1	District Plan - Growth
Topic 2	District Plan – Other (non-growth)
Topic 3	Electra Transmission Lines
Topic 4	Housing
Topic 5	Master Plans
Topic 6	Levin Town Centre
Topic 7	Foxton and Shannon Town Centres
Topic 8	Heritage
Topic 9	Catchment Exemptions
Topic 10	Consultation Information and Process
Topic 11	Durham Street Site
Topic 12	Tokomaru and Ōpiki Boundary Change
Topic 13	Engagement and Transparency of Decision Making
Topic 14	Environmental Subcommittee
Topic 15	Lake Horowhenua

Topic 16	Community Board Meetings
Topic 17	Foxton Beach Freeholding Fund
Topic 18	Lake Horowhenua and stormwater consent application
Topic 19	Decision Making
Topic 20	Governance
Topic 21	Employee Expenses
Topic 22	Cost Associated with Growth
Topic 23	Foxton Futures
Topic 24	Declarations of Conflicts of Interest
Topic 25	Climate Change
Topic 26	Tourism and Hospitality
Topic 27	Digital Accessibility
Topic 28	Smoke free and Sun Smart
Topic 29	Sugary Drinks
Topic 30	Te Reo
Topic 31	Muaūpoko Report
Topic 32	Community Outcomes

Topic 1: District Plan – Growth

Submitter and Submission numbers

Geoff Kane (#38), Adrianna Burton (#70), Thomas Reisinger (#79), Trevor Hinder (#81), Geoff Keith, WECA (#142), Sam Ferguson (#299), Leone Brown (#357), Carol Dyer (#370), John Martin (#377), and Gwyneth Schibli (#456).

Summary of Submissions

Submitters raised a number of points related to how the District Plan is responding to growth.

Submitter #38 notes that housing should not be built on class 1 and 2 soils and the importance of ensuring runoff does not end up in waterways.

Submitter #70 questions when Council will look at rezoning Tui Glen to allow further subdivision, given the character of Tui Glen has changed and is 'not rural anymore'.

Submitter #79 notes that the Capital Connection and highway is a must do before more people reside here.

Submitter #81 states that urban growth should be accommodated through brownfield and infill development, before embarking on large greenfield development. Submitter #81 questions how wastewater and stormwater will be dealt with in a growth context and questions why District Planning costs are planned to increase from \$682K in 2020/21 to \$1,128K in 2021/22.

Submitter #142 states that development should move away from urban sprawl and lifestyle blocks and towards high quality medium density infill development with a focus on green spaces, walkability, and electric vehicle transport. Submitter #142 states Council should look to the Liveable Communities Framework and international examples.

Submitter #299 makes similar comments, stating that the district is growing outwards through greenfield development which introduces environmental issues, including car dependency, more difficult stormwater management, loss of connection to the environment, and is an expensive form of development. The submitter states that instead, we should seek to increase population density through urban intensification and high quality medium density development.

Submitter #357 states that growth is being driven by Council, not the developers. The submitter states developers should be approaching Council with plans rather than other way around.

Submitter #370 encourages Council reconsider its current approach to infill housing, as this approach leads to more hardstand and concrete area, resulting in more stormwater. The submitter suggests encouraging building two storey apartments instead of the current approach of 2-3 single storey dwellings on a section. The submitter also states it is important to protect vegetable growing land from housing developments.

Submitter #377 states that it is important to reduce urban sprawl onto food production land.

Submitter #457 states the importance of protecting class 1 and 2 land from being built over. The submitter states that this is a valuable asset for the district, producing 33% of New Zealand's green vegetables. The submitter states that this asset is vulnerable and not protected. The submitter states this needs to be identified and protected at all costs.

Officer Analysis

High Quality Soils

The Horowhenua District Plan has since 1999 afforded protection to class 1 and 2 soils in recognition of the important and finite value of this resource. These soils are identified and mapped in the current Horowhenua District Plan maps and are protected through District Plan objectives, policies, and rules that limit subdivision in these areas. Soil quality, alongside a range of other factors including natural hazards susceptibility, proximity to existing urban areas and ease of servicing, is considered when undertaking strategic level growth planning, including the identification of growth areas. As the District grows, it will be important we continue to protect high quality soils with productive capacity from inappropriate use. Central government have identified this as an important issue nationwide, preparing the Proposed National Policy Statement for Highly Productive Land. Once this is gazetted, all District Plans (including the Horowhenua District Plan) will have to give effect to it.

Rezoning Land

To rezone land for growth, Council (or any other party) must go through the Resource Management Act plan change process. As part of this, the proposed servicing approach (stormwater management, wastewater management, and water supply) needs to be identified. Further, resource consent applications (for example, applications to subdivide) must show how these matters will be addressed to avoid creating adverse environmental outcomes.

In response to growth, Council is currently reviewing its Growth Strategy (2018). This may result in new growth areas being identified. Council is not specifically investigating Tui Glen at this time. One reason for this is that the area is not serviced by reticulated wastewater and instead uses onsite septic tanks. This requires a minimum site area of 5,000m² to meet Horizons Regional Council One Plan rules for onsite domestic wastewater disposal. Many of the properties on Tui Glen are approximately 7,000m² meaning they could not be further subdivided and meet Horizons Regional Council requirements. In addition, the properties immediately surrounding Tui Glen have high quality soils (class 1 and 2) and are currently used for primary production purpose. It is important to protect areas such as this from further fragmentation and reverse sensitivity effects.

Brownfield Development and Intensification

Council is considering a range of planning mechanisms to respond to growth, including brownfield/intensification and greenfield development. Council has already undertaken a plan change to its District Plan to provide additional intensification and brownfield development opportunities (this change became operative in November 2018). Further investigations are being undertaken to understand whether the District Plan could be changed again to provide even more brownfield and intensification opportunities. This will include looking at options such as 'upwards' growth to increase population density within the existing urban area to make better use of land and improve opportunities for active and public transport.

Projected Growth Rates and Obligation to Respond

Council's growth projections show the district will grow quickly over the next twenty years. The quantum of growth expected (2.6% per year 2021-2031 and 2.9% per year in 2031-2041) means that we need to consider both greenfield and brownfield development opportunities. Housing is becoming increasingly unaffordable, which has potential to have a serious negative impact on the wellbeing of our community. In order to address this issue, it is important to take steps to encourage housing supply to keep up with demand.

Central government place obligations on local councils to ensure they are providing enough housing (and business) land for growth. This is in the form of the National Policy Statement for Urban Development (NPS-UD), which councils must give effect to. The NPS-UD encourages growth both upwards and outwards to meet growing demand and to provide sufficient variety in housing choice. The NPS-UD requires an assessment of demand and an assessment of what the District Plan provides for. The assessment of what is provided for is based on plan enabled, feasible, and reasonably likely to be taken up. If demand is not going to be met, councils are obligated to respond through Plan Changes and rezoning land. While Council can provide significant brownfield/intensification opportunity, it is important to recognise that large amounts of this will not be taken up (because many homeowners will not want to subdivide their properties). Therefore, to ensure sufficient land supply to avoid continued house price increases, a dual response of providing for both brownfield and greenfield growth opportunities is required.

Council officers agree that the Capital Connection rail service and Ō2NL expressway are important pieces of the growth puzzle for the Horowhenua District. The Ō2NL expressway is currently scheduled to be completed by 2029. This project is being led by Waka Kotahi and therefore timing of this is not a matter that the Council is the decision maker on. While it would be nice to have an enhanced public transport offering including a more frequent rail service to Wellington, the reality is that there are a number of different factors that influence whether people choose to move to and live in the Horowhenua. Population growth in the Horowhenua District has been steadily occurring now over the last five years. Even if it wanted to, Council is limited in terms of what it can do to stop people moving to the District. Rather than try limit people moving to the District Council has taken a proactive approach to plan for growth and understand how best to ensure that growth occurs in a way that achieves positive outcomes for the community. Council will continue to advocate for the Ō2NL expressway to be completed as quickly as possible and for appropriate public transport services such as the Capital Connection to be provided to support the growing Horowhenua population.

District Plan Costs

District Planning costs are projected to increase due to both growth response and the range of national direction coming from Central Government that Council is legally required to respond to. The extent of upcoming national direction is unprecedented and requires us to significantly increase our work programme. This comes with significant costs. Council has made several submissions to Central Government raising concern about the extent of central government directed work required and the costs associated with this.

Some of the work streams resulting from this 'national direction' that Council is required to complete over the next five years include:

- National Policy Statement for Urban Development (multiple plan changes and urban development monitoring)
- Proposed National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity (mapping of significant natural areas and plan changes)
- Proposed National Policy Statement for Highly Productive Land (mapping of highly productive land in line with new definition and subsequent plan changes)
- National Planning Standards (review of District Plan to follow National Planning Standards template, definitions, and other requirements)
- Deliver an E-Plan

A significant driver of the increased costs has been the obligations that will arise from the NPS for Indigenous Biodiversity. In addition to this, Council needs to respond to other local issues such as sites of cultural significance, other growth matters and climate change.

The submitter's comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the Long Term Plan 2021-2041.

Topic 2: District Plan – Other (non-growth)

Submitter and Submission number

Anne Hunt (#46)

Summary of Submission

The submitter outlines that the Historic Heritage Chapter of the Horowhenua District Plan mentions Lake Papaitonga but not Lake Horowhenua. The submitter questions this omission and references that Council granted resource consent to destroy waahi tapu on the bed of Lake Horowhenua.

Officer Analysis

The Horowhenua District Plan does not have any listed waahi tapu sites or sites of cultural significance. This is recognised as a gap in the District Plan. Council Officers have had a number of conversations with Iwi about the most appropriate way of addressing this. Finding a means of affording appropriate protection to waahi tapu sites remains a priority for Council.

The Horowhenua District Plan does have protected historic heritage buildings, structures, and sites (henceforth referred to as historic heritage sites). These are listed in Schedule 2 of the District Plan.

The Historic Heritage Objectives and Policies Chapter (Chapter 13) gives some examples of sites that have historic and cultural value. Lake Papaitonga is listed as an example.

Chapter 13 also sets out the approach to managing and protecting sites with heritage value. It outlines that listed historic heritage sites are sites that represent the history of occupation and settlement in the District, and are distinct from natural landscapes which are instead managed under the 'Natural Features and Values' chapter of the Plan (Chapter 3).

Under the current approach, both Lake Papaitonga and Lake Horowhenua are identified in Chapter 3 of the Plan as 'Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes' (ONFL). Neither site is recognised as a historic heritage site in Schedule 2.

This approach recognises the natural landscape value of both these sites and affords them certain protections. However, this approach does not fully recognise Māori association, history, and occupation of these sites.

It is important that the value of culturally significant sites is recognised and protected. The current intention is to take a district wide approach to identifying and protecting waahi tapu and cultural sites. Council will continue to work with tangata whenua to determine the appropriate process, timeframes, and means of undertaking this.

The submitter has referred to a resource consent being granted to destroy a waahi tapu site on the bed of the Lake Horowhenua. The submission is not clear on the specific consent that the submitter is referring to, or which consent authority is purported have granted the resource consent (for example, Horowhenua District Council or Horizons Regional Council). Consents for the bed of a lake would usually be processed by the Regional Council. It is noted that resource consents are public information so the submitter is advised they can contact the appropriate consent authority for information relating to the specific resource consent application(s) or decision(s).

The submitter's comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the Long Term Plan 2021-2041.

Actions

That Council officers continue to progress work to identify and protect Cultural Sites as part of the District Plan activity and that this be done in partnership with Iwi.

Topic 3: Electra Transmission Lines

Submitter and Submission number

Mark Conroy (#461)

Summary of Submission

The submitter refers to the electricity transmission lines that previously formed part of the National Grid Corridor, running from Paraparaumu to Mangahao. When part of the national grid, these lines were owned and operated by Transpower and as such, were (and still are) identified in the Horowhenua District Council planning maps.

The submitter states that Transpower decommissioned the lines in 2017 and sold them to Electra for Levin's local electricity network. The submitter states that landowners were not consulted on this and that there is no legal easement for the lines on the land titles of affected landowners. The submitter states that Electra is of the view they do have the right to keep power poles on private land and therefore refuses to remove the lines. The submitter states that these poles will affect the Tara-Ika development.

The submitter requests that Council remove the lines from the District Plan maps, stating that this will require Electra to review the design of their network rather than assume ratepayers will eventually cover the cost of removing the poles. The submitter states that Council should improve the standard of living through considered infrastructure planning for proposed urban development areas.

Officer Analysis

Council is aware of the sale of the lines by Transpower to Electra in 2017. However, as it involved the sale of private assets on private land, Council was not involved in the process. The legality of the power poles and lines on private land is a civil matter between the asset owners (in this case Electra) and landowners.

The powerlines are identified on the District Plan maps as being part of the National Grid Corridor (which was the case when the District Plan was prepared). This is to establish rules about how close houses can be built to the lines. It does not have the effect of creating an easement. Likewise, removing them from the District Plan would not require the lines to be removed from the ground.

Removing the lines from the District Plan would require a District Plan Change. Proposing such a Plan Change would not have certainty of outcome. The process would include public notification, submissions, and hearings. It would also require evidence to prove the appropriateness of

removing the lines from the Plan and, by extension, the appropriateness of removing rules regarding how close buildings can be built to these lines. As referenced above, even if such a Plan Change were successful it would not require the lines themselves to be removed which seems to be the main concern of the submitter. This is because District Plan changes are not retrospective (e.g. activities lawfully established before the change are allowed to continue under 'existing use rights') and because District Plans do not create or cancel easements (or other similar tools).

The presence of the lines within Tara-Ika is not an ideal outcome and Council officers agree that it would be preferable if the lines were removed or undergrounded in the future, as this would provide better alignment with the anticipated future development of this area. However, given both the asset and the lines are privately owned there is limited opportunity for Council to influence this. It is noted that there is scope for development to occur around powerlines subject to meeting certain criteria such as building setbacks. Evidence of this can be seen in places such as Summerhill in Palmerston North.

The submitter's comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the Long Term Plan 2021-2041.

Topic 4: Housing

Submitter and Submission numbers

Linda Whiti (#144), Kelly Tahiwī (#280), Christina Curley (#283), Atuahi Henare (#312), Anonymous (#378), Anonymous (#379), Anonymous (#380), Eugene Henare (#414), and Deanna Paki (#449).

Summary of Submissions

Submitter #144 identified a need for more social housing in Shannon. Submitter #283 stated that Shannon needed more housing, as limited supply was driving up prices resulting in local people being pushed out. Submitter #283 identifies the potential for multiple medium sized developments in Shannon and a desire to find a way to ensure the housing needs of local people, many of whom are Tangata Whenua or Mana Whenua, are provided for. Submitter #283 expressed a preference for this to occur by intensification of existing urban land, rather than growing Shannon's footprint.

Submitters #280, #378, #379, #380, #414, and #449 asked what will be provided to support projected growth and how this will be paid for. Submitters #280, #378, #379, #380, #414, and #449 also stated that the continuation of the status quo (in terms of growth) reduces the ability to achieve value added growth, may increase inequality and has not sufficiently considered alternative housing types, including for Treaty partners. Submitters #280, #378, #379, #380, #414, and #449 identifies a gap in the LTP 2021-2041 in that it does not include anything to develop Māori land to provide affordable and sustainable housing options for Māori.

Submitters #280, #378, #379, #380, #414, and #449 also stated that central government views the Horowhenua District as a solution to Wellington's housing crises and asks what conversations Council has been having with central government regarding if, and how, this can be achieved. The submitter identifies a lack of correlation in the LTP between the district's planned growth and the Wellington houses crisis.

Officer Analysis

Council does not provide social housing. Social housing is provided by Kāinga Ora or other community based social housing providers. However, Council understands that the need for social housing has grown significantly in recent years as house prices and rents have become more expensive. Council, alongside the community, prepared the Community Driven Housing Action Plan. This identified housing needs and aspirations within the community, as well as the role of Council (and other parties) in delivering this. This identified that the key role for Council in

attracting affordable and social housing is in advocating for the community and in ensuring the District Plan and associated regulatory processes enable these development models to be consented. The Housing Action Plan also identifies Māori and Pasifika Housing as a priority area and sets out some key actions for this.

Council is undertaking a range of work to proactively manage and respond to growth. This work focuses on understanding what the community (housing land, business land, social infrastructure, hard infrastructure) will need as it grows and how this can be achieved. This includes the Horowhenua Growth Strategy, District Plan work to enable a greater variety of housing types (growth upwards and outwards), housing and business land assessments, involvement in the Wellington Regional Growth Framework. Council also engage with other agencies, such as the Ministry of Education to communicate our growth projections and associated needs.

Growth is funded in a number of different ways. Council is currently consulting on reintroducing Development Contributions as a means of contributing to the costs of growth. Other options including private developer agreements, external funding sources (such as the funding Council received from the Crown Infrastructure Partners towards Tara-Ika), targeted rates, as well as other emerging funding options including the Housing Acceleration Fund recently announced by Central Government.

Council is actively involved in the Wellington Regional Growth Framework at both an officer and an elected member level. Local iwi are also involved. Council's involvement is in recognition of the fact that Wellington's housing challenges also impact on the Horowhenua District as well as also providing opportunities for the district. Being involved in this allows Council to gain a better understanding of the issues and respond more effectively, and ensure the matters that are important to the Horowhenua District are raised and considered in the process. Being involved also provides a better chance of having our district's needs recognised by Central Government who are part of the Framework.

The submitter's comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the Long Term Plan 2021-2041.

Topic 5: Master Plans

Submitter and Submission numbers

Janine Smart, Foxton Beach Progressive Association (#252), Christine Moriarty, Horowhenua District Residents and Ratepayers Association Incorporate (#332), David Roache, Foxton Community Board (#244), Leone Brown (#357), and John Martin (#377).

Summary of Submissions

Submitter #252 seeks that Foxton Beach Master Plan will ensure new development protects the 'beachy, relaxed lifestyle' and that new builds and renovations are sustainable and environmentally friendly.

Submitter #332 states that Council should recover the costs of preparing master plans from developers, detailing that planning as an asset should be done by developers, not residents and ratepayers. The submitter states that as Council has provided the Master Plan, developers should provide parks and reserves for free. The submitter states that Council should not be involved in the development of Tara-Ika or any other area as it has no expertise in development and a record of overspending.

Submitter #344 states that they support and encourage Council to progress the development of the Foxton Beach endowment land with an immediate focus on the Kilmiester block development. The submitter states their desire to see an adequate supply of land for residential housing where natural hazards and sustainability are appropriately considered.

Submitter #357 asks if Council is planning to be a property developer, whether Council is purchasing land in the Tara-Ika Development for parks and reserves (which the submitter states the developer should be required to provide) and asks whether there is a business plan for Tara-Ika.

Submitter #377 states that Tara-Ika Master Plan is a great opportunity to be innovative and instead of building single storey houses and single storey sections, build upwards (3 storeys or more). The submitter also seeks that Tara-Ika provides for playgrounds, dairies, safe crossing across the highway to medical care and schools. The submitter states that Tara-Ika is well placed to try something new as its location on the far side of the proposed Ō2NL highway, means that Council will not be confronted by 'NIMBYs'.

Officer Analysis

Master Plans - General

The district's population is growing. The National Policy Statement for Urban Development requires Council to plan and provide for this growth, through ensuring sufficient land supply (for example, land zoned and serviced for development). While Council could rezone growth areas without preparing Master Plan, this is unlikely to lead to the same positive outcomes. This is because growth areas are often owned by multiple parties who, without a Master Plan, would each develop individually with limited opportunity to consider how to ensure development is connected and integrated in a way that benefits the community. This could result in disconnected roading networks, insufficient park and reserve space, inefficient infrastructure delivery, and reduced opportunity for other social infrastructure (e.g. schools) and amenities (e.g. shops to serve new communities). For this reason, Council decided that preparing master plans for the Tara-Ika, Waitārere Beach, and Foxton Beach growth areas would provide the best chance of achieving positive community and environmental outcomes.

In the case of Tara-Ika and Waitārere Beach, the land is all privately owned and Council is therefore not a developer. Council's role is in delivering lead infrastructure and the regulatory processes (such as the District Plan change and processing of resource consents).

Council does own some land within the Foxton Beach Master Plan area. The Master Plan for this area is still being prepared and a plan change to implement the Master Plan is expected to be notified later this year. No decision has been yet about the role Council will play in the future land development of Council's land in this area.

Foxton Beach Master Plan

The land referred to in Submitter #344's submission is covered by the Foxton Beach Master Plan. Work is progressing to prepare and finalise the Master Plan and the subsequent District Plan Change. These processes take into account features of the site, including risk from natural hazards.

The Draft Foxton Beach Master Plan seeks to protect the coastal character and 'village' feel. This Draft Plan will be presented to the community for feedback prior to it being finalised to ensure it represents the community's aspirations for how development within the Master Plan area should be managed. The Master Plan will then be used as the basis for drafting new District Plan objectives, policies and rules which any subsequent development proposals (e.g. subdivision consent applications) will need to be assessed against.

Tara-Ika Master Plan

The Tara-Ika Master Plan and resulting proposed District Plan Change makes provision for many of the things submitter #377 has requested, including three storey development, areas where medium density housing will be required through the use of both minimum and maximum section size areas (sections ranging from 150m²-450m²), a commercial centre, and public parks and reserves. This proposal is currently going through the Plan Change process set out in the Resource Management Act. This is the only process for changing District Plan rules. Submissions

on the District Plan change closed on February 2021, with a hearing expected to be held in August 2021. The Hearing Panel for this Plan Change will issue a decision after the hearing based on the Plan Change documents, the submissions received and the information presented as part of the hearing.

The submitter's comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the Long Term Plan 2021-2041.

Topic 6: Levin Town Centre

Submitter and Submission numbers

Matthew Lepper (#1), David Pick (#27), Ruth and Kevin Rawling (#53), and Tracy Benefield (#477).

Summary of Submissions

Submitters #1 and #27 raised concerns about the appearance of the Levin Town Centre, including rundown and unclean shopfronts, verandahs, and footpaths.

Submitter #53 asked what Council is doing to attract businesses and employment to the area, noting that 'vibrant economy' has been identified as a community outcome in the LTP 2021-2041. Submitters stated CBD does not reflect this.

Submitter #477 expresses a desire to see something done with the Levin Memorial Hall. The submitter states that there is the aquatic centre, tennis courts, squash courts, the Levin Domain and carparking all in the vicinity.

Officer Analysis

Shop Fronts and Verandahs

Shops and verandahs in the Levin Town Centre are privately owned. Cleaning and maintaining them is therefore the responsibility of the building/business owner. However, Council recognise that it is very important for the district to have clean and attractive town centres where people want to spend time. Ensuring the Levin Town Centre is an attractive place for residents and visitors alike is particularly important given the Ōtaki to North Levin highway will bypass the Levin Town Centre. In recognition of this, Council prepared a town centre strategy for Levin called Transforming Taitoko/Levin. This was prepared during 2018, following extensive community and stakeholder consultation. Council adopted this strategy in November 2018.

During the process of preparing the Strategy, the community commented that the appearance of some buildings on Oxford Street detracted from the experience of being in the town centre. In response to this, the Transforming Taitoko/Levin – Town Centre Strategy stated that Council would prepare a Building Frontage and Signage Policy to guide business and building owners towards design outcomes that would improve pedestrian experience and enhance the connection between the footpath and shops. This policy was prepared in 2019. Compliance with this policy is voluntary, so Council also launched a trial fund in the same year to contribute towards the costs of businesses who chose to upgrade shopfronts and signs in accordance with this policy.

This fund was a two year trial and eligible businesses could apply to receive the following contribution towards their costs:

Signage: Up to \$1,000 or 75% of the cost

Building Front: Up to \$5,000 or 50% of the cost

Businesses were advised of the opportunity via a hand delivered information pack.

Throughout the trial period, Council received only three applications for funding. Two were for replacement signage and one was for shop frontage improvements. Due to low uptake and budget

constraints associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, Council did not continue with the fund in 2020/21.

Oxford Street Footpaths, Litter and Graffiti Removal, Tree/Vegetation Trimming

Council's contractor undertakes a daily streetwalk throughout the Levin CBD to remove litter and detritus and will remove graffiti on publicly owned property. Should graffiti require removal from private property this can also be removed by Council through its partnership arrangement with Keep Horowhenua Beautiful. Where graffiti on private property is identified, contact should be made with Council's Customer Service Centre (noting the graffiti is on private property) and a Customer Request Management item will be raised to deal with the issue.

Street gardens are managed under Council's grounds maintenance contract and are attended to on a regular basis as part of routine works. Street tree maintenance is similarly undertaken through the grounds contract with pruning completed as necessary. Council has recently pruned the avenue of London Plane trees stretching along Oxford Street to remove branches from buildings and canopies.

Business and Employment

As previously referenced, Council prepared and adopted the Transforming Taitoko/Levin – Town Centre Strategy, which sought to increase vibrancy and vitality in the Levin Town Centre. This Strategy included steps to increase employment in the town centre, such as redeveloping the Levin Memorial Hall as a 'co-working' space to provide flexible office space for start-up businesses. No decisions have been made on this proposal.

However, the Strategy is likely to require private investment to be implemented. As referenced above, Council launched a fund to assist building/business owners with enhancing the appearance of shops in the town centre, with the view it would improve the experience of being in the town centre leading to people spending more time and money there, catalysing further investment. However, Council did not continue this fund beyond the first year due to low uptake and the COVID-19 pandemic. No further action has been taken.

Council is also in the process of preparing a document called the Horowhenua 2040 Blueprint, which is an action plan to give effect to the Horowhenua 2040 Strategy. While this document is still in draft stage, it currently includes a workstream on attracting jobs and employment.

Levin Memorial Hall

As referenced above, the Transforming Taitoko/Levin – Town Centre Strategy included an action to investigate options for the Levin Memorial Hall. One such option was to investigate using the Hall as a co-working space to provide flexible office space for start-up businesses. No decisions have been made on this and other options can be explored. Funding has been included in the draft LTP budget to progress work on the Levin Memorial Hall as part of the Town Centre Strategy.

The submitter's comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the Long Term Plan 2021-2041.

Topic 7: Foxton and Shannon Town Centres

Submitter and Submission numbers

Linda Whiti (#144), and David Roache, Foxton Community Board (#344)

Summary of Submissions

Submitters raised questions about Council's plans for the Foxton and Shannon town centres. Submitter #144 stated that Shannon township needs upgrading and, despite being on the main trunk line, does not look attractive enough for travellers to stop. The submitter identified a need for more businesses to establish.

Submitter #344 states that they support the development of a designation management strategy which helps to develop a clear identity for Foxton (commercial centre) and Foxton Beach (recreation hub). In particular, the submitter requests that Council develop a Foxton Town Centre Strategy to promote Foxton's unique attractions and attract tourists into the Foxton Town Centre.

Officer Analysis

The Foxton and Shannon Town Centres are likely to experience significant change over the coming years, with the Wellington Northern Corridor roading project meaning that each of these towns will become first towns out of Wellington on State Highways 1 and 57 respectively. In addition, the population of both towns is projected to grow. It is important that these towns have the opportunity to redevelop in a considered and high quality manner.

Council is already undertaking work to identify how its towns can become more vibrant and resilient by boosting employment and housing opportunities. This work includes the Horowhenua 2040 Strategy, the Horowhenua 2040 Blueprint, and the Foxton Destination Management Plan.

Council is also intending to work with the Shannon community to prepare a Shannon Community Plan. Community Plans help to identify the particular community's vision for the future as well as actions to achieve this vision. This helps Council to better understand what individual community's value and to tailor action and investment accordingly. This process will rely on strong community involvement and will be an ideal opportunity for the community to tell Council about its vision for the town centre.

The submitter's comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the Long Term Plan 2021-2041.

Topic 8: Heritage

Submitter and Submission numbers

Jim Harper, Foxton Historical Society (#265), and David Roach, Foxton Community Board (#344)

Summary of Submissions

Submitter #265 seeks that Council incorporate historic heritage values across the community outcomes and make explicit reference to preservation and communication of Foxton's historic heritage values in planning documents.

Submitter #344 states they would like to see Foxton recognised as the District's heritage capital, with the Heritage Fund to be re-established, subject to criteria being refined.

Officer Analysis

Protection of historic heritage is a matter of national importance under Part 2 of the Resource Management Act 1991. Council gives effect to this by identifying and protecting historic heritage buildings and sites in its District Plan. Council most recently undertook a Plan Change to update this list of protected historic heritage buildings and sites in 2018.

Council has previously offered funding towards maintaining and enhancing heritage buildings. In December 2020 Council resolved not to include funding for the Heritage Fund in the Long Term Plan 2021-2041. The impact of this decision is that Council does not currently offer financial support for the preservation of heritage and will not be financially incentivising the protection or restoration of the heritage buildings, features or sites. The primary mechanism for heritage protection is through buildings/sites being listed in the District Plan with no added support proposed.

The submitter's comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the Long Term Plan 2021-2041.

Topic 9: Catchment Exemptions

Submitter and Submission numbers

Kelly Tahiwī (#280), Atuahi Henare (#312), Eugene Henare (#414), and Deanna Paki (#449)

Summary of Submissions

The submitters asked whether provision has been given to apply for exemptions for areas (at a catchment level and a farm level) where there are no resource pressures, or where resource pressures have not been effectively addressed.

Officer Analysis

It is assumed that the submitters are referring to discharges to land and/or water. These activities are managed under the Horizons Regional Council One Plan. The submitters are advised to contact the Horizons Regional Council for information on this.

The submitter's comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the Long Term Plan 2021-2041.

Topic 10: Consultation Information and Process

Submitter and Submission number

Sharon Williams - Hapai Te Hapori (#300), Leone Brown (#358), Phil Grimmett (#448), and Charles Rudd (#469)

Summary of Submissions

Submitter #300 expressed concerns about the Consultation Document, questioning whether it could be produced cheaper using smaller photos and not so glossy and expensive. Concern was also raised regarding the length of the Consultation Document and how much it contained to read and understand. The submitter suggested that a better approach may be to have two versions (a detailed one and a simpler summary). The submitter questioned whether it was possible to run a longer consultation period as it can take a while for the information to be disseminated if groups and communities want to discuss it. Praise was offered for the array of feedback options and the number of events and drop-in sessions.

Submitter #358 also expressed concern about the community only having 30 days to interpret and understand the information and try make a submission. The submitter suggested a consultation period of 60 days. The submitter also suggested that for Councillors to be able to do the submissions justice the hearings should be nothing short of seven days.

Submitter #358 expressed concerns that the Consultation Document however well intended was shallow and fails in the attempt to be sensible and realistic.

Submitter #469 asserted that the narrative of the Consultation Document differs from the supporting information. No specific examples were provided.

Officer Analysis

The Consultation Document is the only lawful basis for engaging on the Long Term Plan. Any other document or presentation media must point back to the Consultation Document and should

advise that it is for information purposes only. The advice provided by the Society of Local Government Managers (SOLGM) is that that alternative media and multiple documents can be useful but the time and resource spent on these is often better used developing an effective Consultation Document. To reduce the chance for confusion and manage costs Officers have followed this advice and have invested in trying to make the Consultation Document as reader friendly as possible. The length of the document can be a reflection of the issues at hand as well as the design and presentation of the Consultation Document. In designing the Consultation Document for this Long Term Plan, officers reviewed the Consultation Documents for the LTP 2018 from over 50 councils and tried to incorporate the best parts as well as build on the positive feedback that our Council received as one of the top finalists in the 2018 Great Consultation Document competition run by SOLGM.

Officers note the submitters' comments about the consultation period. Finding the balance is not easy. The statutory minimum timeframe is one calendar month. The pattern that has emerged from consultation processes held locally is that the majority of submitters lodge submissions on the final days of the consultation period i.e. people have a tendency to take as long as they have got. The total number of submissions received is the highest number that Council has received for its previous Annual Plans and Long Terms Plans since 2015 when Consultation Documents were first required. This number of submissions received should provide a level of comfort that the community have had the opportunity to understand the information and make a submission. The number of submissions received also reflects well on the different methods by which submitters could engage and submit.

The submitter's comments about the important task that the elected members have in considering all the submissions is well made. The volume of submissions will require elected members to dedicate significant time to juggle reading all of the submissions in addition to their other Council and non-Council commitments. Officers have endeavoured to provide Elected Members with access to the submissions as early as possible to allow more time for the submissions to be read. Hearings have this year been spread over three days and are not going late into the evening, which is a contrast to previous years where the hearings have been held over fewer days and run later into the evening.

The submitters' opinions about the Consultation Document failing to be sensible or realistic and the narrative not matching the supporting information are noted.

The submitter's comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the Long Term Plan 2021-2041.

Topic 11: Durham Street Site

Submitter and Submission number

Matthew Lepper (1)

Summary of Submission

The Durham Street medical centre should be started or a new developer found.

Officer Analysis

The site identified by the submitter was sold by Council in 2019 to a private developer with the intention of building a Medical Centre. Progress has been slow.

Council is currently ascertaining the status of the project, prior to any action proceeding.

The submitter's comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the Long Term Plan 2021-2041.

Topic 12: Tokomaru and Ōpiki Boundary Change

Submitter and Submission number

Alison Anderson (#4), Leone Brown (#357)

Summary of Submission

Submitter #4 recommends that it would be good to get an idea/some projections of how Miranui would be affected if Tokomaru & Ōpiki get their boundary change and become part of Palmerston North City Council.

Submitter #357 suggests that Council survey each household in these two communities before deciding. Probably too late now but Council would have a concise picture of how many in the community wanted change. In the likely event that Tokomaru and Opiki are forced to remain in Council jurisdiction decide to treat them fairly and upgrade the aged water, wastewater and roads.

Officer Analysis

The Local Government Commission (LGC) recently held hearings for the Boundary Alteration Proposal at which Mayor Wanden spoke in support of the submission made by Council. Council's submission did not support the proposed boundary alteration.

Council's submission outlined the affect before succession, and after succession (should the LGC approved the change) and the possible rates affect.

All submissions, including Council's, can be viewed: <http://www.lgc.govt.nz/local-government-reorganisation/reorganisation-current-applications/view/alteration-to-the-boundary-between-horowhenua-district-and-palmerston-north-city?step=main>

The LGC is expected to announce the outcome towards the end of May.

In relation to submitter #357 requesting that Council needs to upgrade aging water, wastewater and roads in Tokomaru and Ōpiki, officers can advise that:

- A new water treatment plant was completed in 2015 for the Tokomaru area which was brought forward from 2025.
- Investigation work commenced on a land-based solution to upgrade the Tokomaru wastewater treatment plant in 2020.
- Roading improvements are carried out on a cycle basis, as with all other roads in the district.

The submitter's comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the Long Term Plan 2021-2041.

Topic 13: Engagement and Transparency of Decision Making

Submitter and Submission number

Lola Haggarty (#136), Geoff Keith (#142), Douglas Dean Berry, RSA Indoor Bowls Club – President (#188), Geoff Keith, Hokio Progressive Association (#310), Leone Brown (#357) and John Girling (#484)

Summary of Submissions

Submitter #136 thinks the community outcomes are reasonable but would like to see strong communities having good access to Councillors and Community Board members. More

transparency of decisions made by Council officers. It would save a lot of distrust of Council decisions.

Submitters #142 and #310 consider that Council needs to improve public transparency through:

- Improved better community engagement
- Examples are by inviting and listening to environmental groups with genuine environmental concerns; such as WECA Inc, Maori hapu with land and water concerns and affected community groups such as the Hokio Environmental and Kaitiaki Alliance and Section 274 parties
- Opening up greater public access to council workshops where real decisions are being discussed and made, before fait accompli decisions are rubber stamped in meetings open to the public.

Submitter #188 felt that the Councillors should listen to the community - not the select few. There is too much 'out of sight out of mind' going on in this Council. Remember laziness is not an excuse. It is an attitude problem. Submitter #357 considers that all finance meetings are considered 'commercially sensitive' and not in public. Therefore done behind closed doors. Who decides what is commercially sensitive? Given it is the community's money being spent shouldn't the community be part of the discussions? This submitter also suggests that officers have come agreements on projects such as Foxton Wastewater upgrade and the Pot, without Council's knowledge or prior approval.

Submitter #484 suggests that the public deserve to know the rationale behind decisions.

Officer Analysis

Council is committed to ensuring transparency of the decision-making process and that ratepayers and residents of the district feel confident in their interactions with Council.

The submitters refer to the transparency of decisions made by Council officers. Council Officers action and implement the decisions of Council. Council is committed to ensuring transparency of the decision-making process and that ratepayers and residents of the district feel confident in their interactions with Council.

Council decisions are recorded in the meeting minutes which can be found on Council's website. Meetings are live streamed and the recording of meetings can be viewed from the morning following the meeting onwards.

From time to time, workshops are held which the public are invited to attend. These are advertised on Council's website and notification sent to those on the Ratepayers and Residents Distribution Group, for distributing further. The workshops are where Council provides feedback or direction for officers on an item which will be bought back for decisions to be made in a Council meeting.

A good example of this process was the Development Contributions Policy process where the consultant presented information and scenarios to the Mayor and Councillors in a Public workshop, in order to get direction for the draft Development Contributions Policy. The draft policy was then included in the consultation for the LTP 2021-2041 which encouraged people to make a submission. The draft policy will be considered as part of the LTP deliberations meeting.

In regards to the submission that all financial meetings are conducted in committee, this is not the case. Only items that are considered 'commercially sensitive' are considered in-committee. All other items are considered in the open agenda of the Finance, Audit & Risk Committee meeting.

Each triennium Councillors are appointed to provide a liaison with various Statutory Bodies and Community Groups/Associations within their Ward. Councillors and the Mayor are also open to invitations to meetings with other resident and ratepayer groups. These could be as part of a group's monthly or quarterly scheduled meetings, or special/ad hoc meetings (if appropriate notice is given). An agenda and overview of who has been invited to attend should be provided.

Should resident and ratepayer, or environment groups, wish to meet with Council or selected members of Council, an invitation to meet is encouraged.

In terms of the public understanding the rationale behind certain decisions, should there be an occasion where submitter #484 feels that there is not enough information provided, he is encouraged to approach a member of Council or officer for further information.

The submitter's comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the Long Term Plan 2021-2041.

Topic 14: Environmental Subcommittee

Submitter and Submission number

Geoff Keith (#142), Geoff Keith, Hokio Progressive Association (#310)

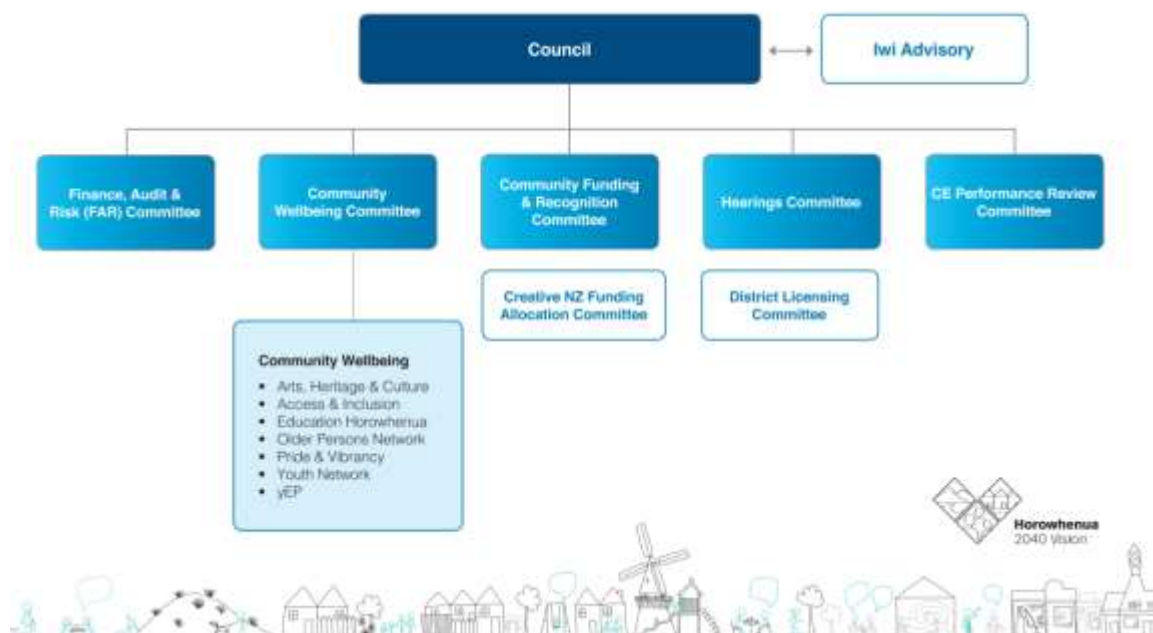
Summary of Submission

Horowhenua District Council has sub-committees for just about everything but has yet to create an environmental subcommittee. This is needed in the already polluted Horowhenua catchment where land use is already intensive, and where further large development is being encouraged at pace.

The submitters would like to see an Environmental subcommittee established within the Horowhenua District Council committee structure.

Officer Analysis

The Council committee structure is adopted at the commencement of a triennium and for this triennium, the following structure is in place:



A committee structure can, however, be amended during the triennium, by resolution of Council. However, to date this Council has not considered it necessary to have an Environmental subcommittee. For the most part, environmental matters are managed by Horizons Regional Council. Environmental matters which need to be considered by Horowhenua District Council are often associated with a particular project or event, and are referred to either the Finance, Audit & Risk Committee or Council.

Horizons Regional Council (HRC) is responsible for:

- Sustainable regional well-being.
- Managing the effects of using freshwater, land, air and coastal waters, by developing regional policy statements and the issuing of consents.
- Managing rivers, mitigating soil erosion and flood control.
- Regional emergency management and civil defence preparedness.
- Regional land transport planning and contracting passenger services.
- Harbour navigation and safety, oil spills and other marine pollution.

The submitter's comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the Long Term Plan 2021-2041.

Topic 15: Lake Horowhenua

Submitter and Submission number

Steve Rofe (#166), Emma Robinson (#227)

Summary of Submission

Submitter #166 identified Taupō as a destination town because of its beautiful Lake. Imagine if Levin had a beautiful lake that was shared with the whole community & visitors.

Submitter #227 felt that they could not see much acknowledgment of the need to protect our natural ecosystems e.g. fix up the Lake!

Officer Analysis

It is presumed the submitter is referring to Lake Horowhenua and the opportunity for the community to share and enjoy the lake.

Lake Horowhenua is a privately owned lake and as such, Council will continue to work in partnership with The Lake Trust for which trustees are elected by lake owners. An important partner in this collaboration is Horizons Regional Council. The Lake Horowhenua Accord was formed in 2013, which is a collaborative effort that has invested, with Crown support, in the restoration of Lake Horowhenua through a range of projects.

Currently, Horowhenua District Council is supporting the Regional Council with the Jobs for Nature Project. This project received \$12.5m in funding from the Environmental Enhancement Projects Fund, in response to the Government's call for shovel ready projects to help with New Zealand's economic recovery from COVID-19.

Breakdown of funding for Lake Horowhenua water quality interventions

Jobs for Nature Government funding:	\$11.2 million
Horizons funding:	\$1.3 million
Total project cost:	\$12.5 million
Jobs over life of project:	45

To provide some detail about the work, scientific modelling by NIWA predicts the existing investments, such as a major sediment trap and lake weed harvesting will provide significant water quality benefits. However, more will be needed to address water quality in the lake, particularly to manage nutrient inputs. The Arawhata sub-catchment of the lake has high nitrogen concentrations and is the most significant surface water source of flow, nutrient and sediment to the lake. The catchment has a large proportion of highly productive soils that are used for horticulture. The future of this industry on these soils is at risk if water quality interventions are not made.

The Jobs for Nature project proposes a wetland complex as a major water quality intervention, as well as a linked programme of catchment works that include sediment traps, wetlands and drainage system upgrades to improve water quality. The main target for the wetland complex is reduced nitrogen concentrations, and the wider project will target a range of water quality measures including sediment, phosphorus and bacteria. The initial idea has been developed over time by an alliance involving a range of stakeholders including councils, horticulture growers, iwi and environmental groups. The project will further develop the wetland idea into a tangible set of water quality interventions across the Lake Horowhenua sub-catchment to improve water quality and aquatic health in Lake Horowhenua.

Further information about Jobs for Nature can be found here:

<http://www.horizons.govt.nz/managing-natural-resources/jobs-for-nature>

The submitter's comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the Long Term Plan 2021-2041.

Topic 16: Community Board Meetings

Submitter and Submission number

Janine Smart, Foxton Beach Progressive Association (#252)

Summary of Submission

The submitter is making a request for a Foxton Beach Progressive Association (FBPAI) representative to attend all Foxton Community Board (FCB) workshops.

Officer Analysis

The Foxton Community Board operates under its own Standing Orders and is not governed by Council. Therefore, Council is not able to direct that the FCB include FBPAI in all of their workshops. The submitter is encouraged to approach the chair of the FCB, David Roache or a board member.

The submitter's comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the Long Term Plan 2021-2041.

Topic 17: Foxton Beach Freeholding Fund

Submitter and Submission number

Janine Smart, Foxton Beach Progressive Association (#252)

Summary of Submissions

The submitter requests that the review of the Foxton Beach Freeholding Fund is completed asap. FBPAI is able to align fund expenditure to projects contained in the Foxton Beach Community Plan and prioritise them.

Horowhenua District Council should develop an application form for the Foxton Beach Freeholding Fund that clearly outlines the criteria and process so community groups are able to more easily apply for financial project assistance. The application may require the need for a business plan and an easy-to-follow document generated from Council would assist this also.

FBPAI would be happy to assist community groups with any applications prior to them requesting endorsement from the Foxton Community Board.

That Council implements a best practice investment strategy, to ensure the fund income grows and is available on an ongoing basis."

Officer Analysis

The Foxton Beach Freeholding Account Strategy and Policy is in the process of being reviewed. The suggestions made by the submitter, including the development of an investment strategy, will be provided as considerations to the review group

The submitter's comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the Long Term Plan 2021-2041.

Actions

That the group reviewing the Foxton Beach Freeholding Account Strategy and Policy considers the points relevant to the freehold account from the submission of the Foxton Beach Progressive Association to the LTP 2021-2041.

Topic 18: Lake Horowhenua and stormwater consent application

Submitter and Submission number

Kelly Tahiwī (#280), Atutahi Henare (#312), Eugene Henare (#414), Deanna Paki (#449)

Summary of Submission

Submitter #312 outlines that their late wife Pirihiira Henare' whakapapa's to Te Muaūpoko through her Father. Today that same whakapapa gives our children beneficial ownership of Lake Horowhenua and they proudly uphold the duty of care to protect their preserved fishing and other rights of the Maori owners over the Lake Horowhenua and the Hokio Stream that the Crowns 1956 Rold Act section 18 holds special provisions for Lake Horowhenua. Our son Eugene Henare is the claimant for the Lake Horowhenua Waitangi claim, representing the Owners and ultimately Muaūpoko te iwi. Muaūpoko evidence has been heard by the Waitangi Tribunal 2200 Porirua Kia Manawatu that is currently sitting. The 2017 Waitangi Tribunal preliminary Muaūpoko Report details the Tribunal's findings and recommendations on the claims it has inquired into under the Treaty of Waitangi and gives evidence of historical and current breaches of Article 2 for Lake Horowhenua owners.

Submitters #280, #312, #414, #449 submit as 'Appendices A' a copy of the Waitangi Tribunal 2017 Muaūpoko report and Appendices B ROLD Act 1956 that supports the report.

The submitters strongly oppose to the 20 year LTP 2021-2041 that the Council is seeking in terms of all storm-water, catchment and undertakings that Council operate that drain straight into Lake Horowhenua. They note the concerns that the independent auditor's report cited that supports my objective.

They also 'oppose' the following and support the independent auditor's findings:

- They oppose all resource consents mentioned in the LTP in reference to Levin Global Stormwater System.
- They support the auditor's report expressing concerns that Council has not made provisions for a budget that gives support for the Government's new Ministry of Health 3 Waters Policy which would reflect Council's commitment to the well-being of their residents. According to WHO safe and readily available water is important for public health. Water in most parts of the world is considered as life, whether it is used for drinking, domestic use, food production or recreational purposes. Improved water supply and sanitation and better management of water resources, can boost countries' economic growth and can contribute greatly to reducing poverty.

By 2025 more than half the world's population will be living in water-stressed areas.

Officer Analysis

Council will be applying to Horizons Regional Council in the next 12 months for a resource consent to discharge stormwater into Lake Horowhenua. The submitter will have the opportunity to provide feedback and express views on the resource consent application through the Resource Management Act process.

The submitter's comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the Long Term Plan 2021-2041.

Topic 19: Decision Making

Submitter and Submission number

Sue-Ann Russell (#325)

Summary of Submission

The submitter indicates that Council has secret meetings. She considers that the community should be involved in all discussions for a bottom up, fully worked through decision making process. "Gain the trust and confidence of district residents by being open, transparent and accountable" is Council's statement on page 156 of the draft LTP 2021-2041.

Officer Analysis

Council is committed to ensuring transparency of the decision-making process and that ratepayers and residents of the district feel confident in their interactions with Council.

Council makes the vast majority of its decisions in meetings open to the public. It is unclear what the submitter means by 'secret meetings'. If the submitter is referring to 'publicly excluded meetings' then these are at times necessary.

As per S48 of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act (LGOIMA) 1987, there are times where items need to be discussed and decisions made where the public is excluded from part of a meeting.

"s48(1) Subject to subsection (3), a local authority may by resolution exclude the public from the whole or any part of the proceedings of any meeting only on 1 or more of the following grounds:

- (a) that the public conduct of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist,-*
 - (i) where the local authority is named or specified in Schedule 1, under section 6 or section 7 (except section 7(2)(f)(i));*
 - (ii) where the local authority is named or specified in Schedule 2 of this Act, under section 6 or section 7 or section 9 (except section 9(2)(g)(i)) of the Official Information Act 1982;*
- (b) that the public conduct of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information the public disclosure of which would -*
 - (i) be contrary to the provisions of a specified enactment; or*
 - (ii) constitute contempt of court or of the House of Representatives;*
- (c) that the purpose of the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting is to consider a recommendation made to that local authority by an Ombudsman under section 30(1) or section 38(3) of this Act (in the case of a local authority named or specified in Schedule 1) or*

under section 30(1) or section 35(2) of the Official Information Act 1982 (in the case of a local authority named or specified in Schedule 2 of this Act):

(d) that the exclusion of the public from the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting is necessary to enable the local authority to deliberate in private on its decision or recommendation in any proceedings to which this paragraph applies.”

Should Council require a publicly excluded meeting, where possible, the outcome of the meeting is made public as soon as possible.

Some of the situations where items are discussed in a publicly excluded meeting are:

- Awarding of grants and funding
- Awarding of Civic Honours and Youth Scholarships
- Consideration of a contract and/or tender
- Code of Conduct complaint.

The submitter’s comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the Long Term Plan 2021-2041.

Topic 20: Governance

Submitter and Submission number

Christine Moriarty, Horowhenua District Residents and Ratepayers Association Inc (#332), Leone Brown (#357)

Summary of Submissions

The submitters request that Council introduce immediately a “Fiduciary Duty of Care Policy” so that the principle of fiduciary care is embedded in all operations, policies, and procedures.

Submitter #332 considers there is a legal precedence: Councils are to “seek to balance fairly respective interests of different categories of ratepayers.”

- The outcome would be Council’s professional staff and Councillors provide transparency.
- A fiduciary must act in good faith, must not take profit out of their trusted role, must not place themselves in the position where their duty and their personal interests’ conflict, and may not act for their own benefit or for the benefit of a third person.
- Wellington City Council is processing a Fiduciary Duty of Care Policy."

Officer Analysis

The principles of fiduciary duty of care are already embedded in local government and many parts of Council’s business e.g. regulatory services. Officers are not aware of other councils adopting ‘Fiduciary Duty of Care’ policies. If Council considered it appropriate then officers can investigate the benefits of introducing a ‘Fiduciary Duty of Care’ policy and report to Council late 2021.

The submitter’s comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the Long Term Plan 2021-2041.

Actions

That officers investigate the benefits of a Fiduciary Duty of Care Policy and report to Council by December 2021.

Topic 21: Employee Expenses

Submitter and Submission number

Christine Moriarty, Horowhenua District Residents and Ratepayers Association Inc (#332)

Summary of Submission

The submitter requests that Council immediately withdraws its overinflated rise in Employee Benefit Expenses.

- Justify the need for extra staff to allow for district growth, rather than management promoting increased productivity. LTP Financial Statement p23 shows a submission for Council staff for a 13% rise in employee benefits, followed by 2-3% annual rises, this is unacceptable. This is shown in one line in the document, without explanation.
- If extra staff are employed, will they be permanent or fixed term, the latter would show as decreases in employee benefit expenses at the termination of growth projects.

Officer Analysis

The employee costs included in the LTP budget have been set to ensure the levels of service, programme of capital works and Council advocacy included in the draft LTP 2021-2041, are delivered efficiently and effectively.

The submitter's comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the Long Term Plan 2021-2041.

Topic 22: Cost Associated with Growth

Submitter and Submission number

Christine Moriarty, Horowhenua District Residents and Ratepayers Association Inc (#332)

Summary of Submission

The submitter requests that, before accepting the LTP, Council should pass a motion that it will not be a developer anywhere in the Horowhenua. The submitter also raised the following matters:

- What proof is presented that there is a demand for 2,500 extra new homes in Levin?
- It is not acceptable that additional expenses to be charged to current ratepayers with extra rates increases to cover extra demand caused by growth.

Officer Analysis

Council as a developer:

In recent years, Council has put considerable effort into enabling growth in the Horowhenua District. This is reflected in a suite of growth-related strategies and planning initiatives designed to accommodate a growing population, including (but not limited to), the Levin Town Centre Strategy, Housing Action Plan, Tara-Ika and strategies for smaller centres.

Council has also taken steps to create a capital base for future development (including disposal of non-core property) and is working with Kāpiti Coast District Council on cross-boundary concerns. Council is also keen to work with Kāinga Ora to address escalating need for social housing.

The pressing issue for Council is to translate its strategic vision into action, either by creating opportunities for the commercial development community, or more direct investment and management approaches.

Proof that there is a demand for 2,500 extra new homes in Levin:

Council has undertaken extensive analysis in forecasting future population growth and the number of new houses required to accommodate the growth, which has informed the LTP and the Tara-ika Plan Change.

In recent years a high level of population growth has been evident across the district including increases in building activity and the establishment of new businesses. It is projected that population growth will continue especially as roading improvement projects such as Ō2NL progress. Council is required to ensure there is sufficient land available to meet demand for housing.

Costs of growth not burdening ratepayers:

Council has proposed to reinstate Development Contributions to ensure the infrastructure required to service growth is paid for by developers and not current ratepayers.

The submitter's comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the Long Term Plan 2021-2041.

Topic 23: Foxton Futures

Submitter and Submission number

David Roache, Foxton Community Board (#344)

Summary of Submission

Fundamental to Foxton Futures is the re-opening of the River loop. The Board supports Horowhenua District Council continuing to pursue funding opportunities to progress the projects and community aspirations outlined in the Foxton Futures Report and implementation plan to improve Foxton and Foxton Beach.

Officer Analysis

Council will continue to support the Save Our River Trust through the Foxton Futures Governance Group, in its endeavours to re-open the Foxton River Loop.

Officers will continue to work with the Foxton Futures Governance Board to advance this work.

The submitter's comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the Long Term Plan 2021-2041.

Topic 24: Declarations of Conflicts of Interest

Submitter and Submission number

Charles Rudd (#469)

Summary of Submission

The submitter outlines that Councillors need to declare conflicts of interest attached to the subject matters and not participate in the hearing.

Officer Analysis

Councillors are made aware of their obligations regarding declaring a conflict of interest in relation to an agenda item/s and making a declaration of interest as a record of property and business interest. This is through training at the commencement of each triennium and guidance provided by

the Office of the Auditor General. Declaration of Interest forms are updated annually which is an audit requirement.

In addition, should a perceived conflict of interest arise that is not declared by a member, the Chief Executive is able to provide advice. It is, however, up to the member to declare the conflict.

The submitter's comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the Long Term Plan 2021-2041.

Topic 25: Climate Change

Submitter and Submission Numbers

Forest & Bird (#176), Mid-Central Health DHB (#220), Leonie Brown (#357), Horizons Regional Council (#388), Rhona McKenzie (#478), and AJ Paddison (#494).

Summary of Submissions

Submitter #176 is concerned that there is no money in the LTP for the environment and requests the establishment of an Environment Committee to consider climate change issues and related environmental concerns.

Submitter #388 supports the recognition of climate change as a key infrastructure issue in the LTP and notes climate change is a significant challenge facing New Zealand, our region and our communities.

Submitter #220 is concerned that the LTP 2021-2041 Consultation Document and the Infrastructure Strategy 2021-2051 does not go into sufficient detail about Council's actions and spending to provide resilience to climate change and to protect public health, in terms of climate change adaptation and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. The submitter considers the LTP should include more specific information about the actions, measures and spending Council intends to undertake in the 10 year period to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions and build greater resilience to the effects of climate change.

Submitter #220 notes the legislative context for climate change is likely to change in the future and that the regional climate risk assessment is still being developed and therefore has not informed the LTP. They submit that these limitations could be more clearly acknowledged in the LTP document.

Submitter #388 notes that transitioning to a resilient, low emissions society requires leadership at a local level. They consider that the formation of a Joint Committee to co-ordinate climate action across the region will position local government well to perform this role. They also note that the regional risk assessment which is being developed will help to guide efforts and emission budgets/plans which are due for adoption by the Minister at the end of 2021. They submit that provision is made in the LTP for climate change activities and related investments that contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation, like iwi and community engagement, plan reviews; and infrastructure upgrades and active transport.

Submitter #494 seeks greater emphasis in the LTP on planning for the effects of climate change, including comprehensive plans for district-wide engagement about the seriousness of climate change and the need to embrace action and change now.

Submitter #357 notes that climate change is happening and that trees help cool urban temperatures, provide shelter from the sun and support birdlife, and are good for the environment, in terms of carbon credits. A focus on evergreens is preferred over deciduous tree planting to decrease blocked drains due to leaf fall.

Officer Analysis

New Environment Committee

Submitter #176 thinks there needs to be an Environment Committee to consider climate change issues and related environmental concerns. Council appreciates this submission and acknowledges the reasoning given in support of this request.

Environmental matters including climate change are currently considered as part of the reports to Council. Council's report template includes sections relating to these matters and this enables all elected members to be informed and involved in decision-making on climate change issues and many other important resource and environmental planning matters.

Council is able to report steady progress in planning for, and responding to new national direction around climate change, as follows:

- Horizons Regional Council and district councils in the Manawatu Whanganui region signed a joint Memorandum of Understanding in September 2019, to undertake work on climate change and to lead an effective local government response to the effects of climate change in the region.
- A Regional Climate Change Strategy has been completed and a regional risk assessment is underway to identify climate-related impacts and priority action areas.
- In 2020, the Council also supported the establishment, and became a member of, a new Climate Action Committee; a Joint Committee of Horizons Regional Council. The inaugural meeting of the Climate Action Committee was held on 30 March 2021. The Terms of Reference for the Climate Action Joint Committee and information is available, on the [Horizons Regional Council website](#). This Committee will receive the climate change risk assessment's finding, later this year. This assessment will inform what role and actions Council will take to support the District's transition to a low/no carbon future, building a strong and sustainable regional economy and resilient communities.

Climate Change Actions to protect Public Health

Council Officers acknowledge that the LTP could include more explicit information about the actions, measures and spending that it intends to undertake in the 20 year period to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions and build greater resilience to the effects of climate change.

Officers also agree with the submitter that the legislative context for climate change is liable to change in the future and the regional climate risk assessment is still being developed, and therefore it has not informed this LTP. These limitations could be acknowledged in the LTP document to provide more clarity around the climate change assumptions.

Trees and Climate Change

Submitter #357 notes that climate change is happening and points out the value of urban trees to cool urban temperatures, provide shelter from the sun and support birdlife, as well as the benefits for the environment, in terms of carbon credits. Officers agree with the submitter about the critical importance and value of trees in urban environments and the role trees play in minimising effects of climate change, like rising temperatures.

Climate Change Leadership

Officers agree with the Regional Council's submission that leadership on climate change action is important and that climate change is a significant challenge facing New Zealand, our region and our communities.

Council is committed to climate change action and this is evidenced in its support for the establishment and formation of the Joint Climate Action Committee as well as the ongoing participation of Council Officers in the regional collaboration to develop a regional climate change risk assessment and input into the Regional Climate Change Strategy.

Officers agree with Submitter #388 that the new Climate Action Committee will help co-ordinate climate action across the region and position local government to perform a leadership role in climate change adaptation and mitigation, and transitioning to a resilient, low emissions society. It also agrees that the regional risk assessment will help inform Council's local planning processes, engagement with iwi and communities and in time, the development of an effective local climate action plans. The risk assessment will also help to guide emission budgets and plans.

The submitter requests Council make more provision in the LTP for climate change activities and investment towards activities which contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation - like iwi and community engagement, and plan reviews and investments in infrastructure upgrades and active transport. Officers note the following matters:

- The new regional Climate Action Committee positions local government and HDC well in terms of providing leadership, co-ordinated climate change action, and the transition to a resilient, low emissions society.
- The regional climate change risk assessment is still being developed and has not informed this LTP; but when completed will help guide planning efforts on climate change adaptation, inform engagement with iwi and our communities, emissions budgeting and the development of local climate action plans.
- The LTP may need amending in the future to respond to new statutory directions and/or recommendations from the Regional Climate Risk Assessment i.e, Climate Change Adaptation Act, for example to meet emission targets and other regulatory requirements for local authorities.

The submitter's comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the Long Term Plan 2021-2041.

Topic 26: Tourism and Hospitality

Submitter and Submission number

Hospitality Association (#173)

Summary of Submission

Submitter #173 endorses the key projects in the LTP 2021-2041 and acknowledges the positive benefits of these investments, particularly improvements in infrastructure, for the smaller hospitality operators.

The submitter stresses the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic on the tourism/hospitality industry in the Horowhenua and seeks more direct and indirect support for the sector. The submitter is particularly concerned about the impacts of any new funding schemes, including targeted rates and bed taxes, on the hospitality and accommodation sectors and requests Council to make better use of existing tools to achieve their goals. They reference the 2019 Productivity Commission Report into Local Government Funding and Finance, which includes this recommendation to Local Government, in support of this point.

The submitter is concerned about the emergence of a growing inequity and inconsistency in the regulation of short-term and long term accommodation activities.

The submitter requests that Council look at ways that it can support and create a thriving business environment and work with the tourism and hospitality industry to progress the following matters:

- the definition of commercial accommodation in Horowhenua, to achieve a more level playing field between the sector and short-term rental accommodation properties e.g, AirBnB or Bookabach; and

- Freedom camping and consideration of specific controls, to better preserve scenic spots, public facilities and the viability of existing Holiday Parks.

Officer Analysis

Council appreciates the submitter's feedback on the proposed strategic investments and infrastructure improvements and advice around benefits this affords hospitality operators in the Horowhenua, especially the smaller hospitality operators.

Officers note the submitter's concerns about the impact of new funding schemes, including targeted rates and bed taxes, on the hospitality and accommodation sector and their request that Council make better use of existing tools to achieve their goals. The reference to the 2019 Productivity Commission Report into Local Government Funding and Finance, and this particular recommendation is pertinent, and noted.

The submitter's assessment about the emergence of a growing inequity and inconsistency in the regulation of short-term and long term accommodation activities is noted. Council Officers welcome a discussion with the the submitter and related parties, about ways Council can support and create a thriving business environment and progress work the matters raised, including:

- the definition of commercial accommodation in the Horowhenua, to achieve a more level playing field between the sector and short-term rental accommodation properties e.g, AirBnB or Bookabach; and
- Freedom camping and consideration of specific controls, to better preserve scenic spots, public facilities and the viability of existing Holiday Parks.

Council officers concur with the submitter's assessment about the harsh impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic on the tourism/hospitality industry in the Horowhenua. The matter of more direct and indirect support for the sector, are avenues worth investigating in view of the services and vibrancy afforded to locals and visitors alike.

Council will give consideration to the hospitality sector in this LTP and to creating opportunities for businesses to thrive. Council Officers will also work closely with the economic development agencies within the region (CEDA – Central Economic Development Agency, the Horowhenua New Zealand Trust and Whanganui & Partners) to advocate for effective programmes to support and grow our businesses. Officers will also advocate to these agencies that they work with the sector to scope out direct and indirect supports for the hospitality industry in Horowhenua, and the wider region.

The submitter's comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the Long Term Plan 2021-2041.

Actions

That Council officers engage with Hospitality NZ (and related parties) on ways which Council can increase support to the Tourism/Hospitality sector and enhance commercial business settings in Horowhenua.

That Council officers forward the submission by Hospitality NZ onto our regional economic development partners and advocate that greater support (indirect and direct) be provided to tourism/hospitality businesses in the Horowhenua District.

Topic 27 – Digital Accessibility

Submitter and Submission number

Monique Leith (#441)

Summary of Submission

Submitter #441 has requested Council to be more digitally accessible to those who are deaf or have hearing impairments. The submitter requested we review the use of NZSL interpreters as a standard service for anyone who wants to meet with Council staff or communicate with staff within a Council facility. In addition, people should be able to contact and communicate with Council staff via software platforms (e.g. Google Meet, Ai-Media) that support the deaf and hearing impaired.

Officer Analysis

Overall Council supports the submitter's goal of increasing accessibility. If a customer requests an NZSL interpreter then we will source one. There are three organisations providing this service: Connect Interpreting, iSign, WordsWorth Interpreting. Currently, there is no budget set aside for this as Council has not been requested to provide an interpreter service since 2015.

While the proposed software solutions in the submission are viable there are other options such as Microsoft Teams which are currently preferred due to the fact they meet the requirement, have improved security protocols, and reduced cost to Council. Google Meet is not utilised as a standard tool by Council. Its access was originally controlled because our information security practice employs the policy prescribed by 14.1.8.C.01. of the NZISM which states to "limit system users and programs to the minimum access required". It's for this reason the utilisation of a non-standard (for the organisation) piece of software required input from the IT team before being able to be used within our network.

Google Meet is, however, now available on Council devices and to standardise it across the organisation will cost approx \$10,000 p.a. Microsoft Teams (which is included in our Microsoft Office subscription) provides the functionality requested by the submitter at no additional cost. We note our live streamed video conferences supports closed captioning. The submitter's Ai-Media proposal is acknowledged, however while automated computer transcription are currently used for YouTube and Facebook it's widely acknowledged that real-time human transcription is superior. There would need to be a consideration of how adequate the computer generated captioning is for council's use vs the cost of enlisting Ai-Media (or any other vendor solution) to provide transcription service. This would have to be costed.

The submitter's comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the Long Term Plan 2021-2041.

Actions

The IT Team investigates options to improve the hardware in Council Chambers and meeting rooms to better support accessibility.

The IT Team investigates automated closed captioning versus other vendors providing transcription services and provide advice on options within the next 3 months.

The IT Team continues to promote Microsoft Teams use and the use of closed captioning when required.

Topic 28 – Smoke free and Sun Smart

Submitter and Submission number

Kerry Hocquard on behalf of Cancer Society of New Zealand Manawatu Centre (#37)

Summary of Submission

Submitter #37 is requesting Horowhenua District Council allocate budget in the Long Term Plan 2021-2041 to support the community being physically active, smokefree and sunsmart.

The submission also requests Council to recommit to the Sun Protection Policy (2001) and the Smokefree Environment Policy and allocate funding for implementation in the LTP 2021-2041.

The submission has the aim for an ongoing commitment to initiatives that promote healthy lifestyles so that we can call this region a healthy place to live, learn, work and play.

Officer Analysis

Sun Protection Policy:

A Council Sun Protection Policy was developed in 2001 and is currently in a draft revision state. The Sun Protection Policy's aim would be to reduce the incidence of skin cancer in the Horowhenua District by the improved provision of shade and other sun protection measures that are appropriate for the site, time of day and season.

Officers recognise the value of shade in mitigating sun burn, sun stroke and in extreme cases skin cancer and confirm its importance in reducing sun exposure on parks, reserves and beaches. Shade opportunities are considered in developing new recreation areas. In late 2019/early 2020 a Whare structure was built in Te Maire Park, Shannon, which provides both shade and a cultural experience. In 2020, a shelter was put in at Solway Park, Levin which provides shade for park users. In 2021, shelters have been installed at the Riverloop Park development (Foxton); a large shade sail over the majority of the new playground at the Riverloop Park, as well as extensive tree planting throughout this park development, which will also provide shade over time. A sizable tree planting is also planned by Council within the next year for a one hectare area in the rear dunes of Foxton Beach, as there is an informal path through this space, this will provide shade for path users over time as the trees grow through to maturity.

Whilst a formal shade audit has not been completed, the vast majority of Council playgrounds have shade provision via shade sails or trees and Council's asset management program recognises, and allows for the renewal of shade sails. Currently Council removes and stores shade sails in the winter months re-erecting them in early spring. This prolongs the life of the asset and reduces vandalism during the off-season.

Smokefree Policy:

The Council's Smokefree Environment Policy is available on the Council's website. The purpose of this policy is to support Council's commitment to promote positive health outcomes; providing assets and services intended to be of benefit to children and other members of the community. With the legislation change of the Smokefree Environments and Regulated Products (Vaping) Amendment Act 2020 commencing on 11 November 2020, amending the Smokefree Environments Act 1990 and renaming it to the Smokefree Environments and Regulated Products Act 1990, this is a good opportunity to review the Smokefree Environment Policy to ensure it is within the current legislation.

The submitter's comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the Long Term Plan 2021-2041.

Actions

That Council's Health and Safety Committee lead the review and completion of the Council's Draft Sun Protection Policy and the review of Council's Smokefree Environment Policy in the 2021/2022 financial year.

Topic 29 – Sugary drinks

Submitter and Submission number

Robert Holdaway on behalf of MidCentral District Health Board's Public Health Service (#220)

Summary of Submission

Submitter #220 notes that a growing number of councils have adopted a sugar-free beverage policy and Local Government New Zealand passed a remit encouraging this in 2017. This policy has not impinged financially on councils, but can help promote improved lifestyles to the community by encouraging healthier choices in their buildings and at events.

Officer Analysis

The submitter's comments on the detrimental health impact of the consumption of sugary drinks are noted.

To date Horowhenua District Council has not adopted a sugar-free beverage policy that would support sugar-free beverages being the choice for people to purchase in Council buildings and at events.

The submitter's comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the Long Term Plan 2021-2041.

Topic 30: Te Reo

Submitter and Submission number

Te Kenehi Tiera (#412)

Summary of Submission

Submitter #412 would like all council staff and Elected Members to learn to speak Te Reo.

Officer Analysis

Council is committed to the ongoing professional development of its staff. Te Reo Māori classes were offered in 2018 - 2020 to officers who wanted to take up the opportunity to learn Te Reo. Classes were well attended with some officers progressing through year one and year two of the course. Classes for 2021 are being looked into.

The submitter's comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the Long Term Plan 2021-2041.

Topic 31: Muaūpoko Report

Submitter and Submission number

Eugene Henare (#414)

Summary of Submission

Submitter #414 would like the Muaūpoko priority report to be adopted by Council.

Officer Analysis

Officers will require time to review and understand the report and as a first step, then would look to consult with Muaūpoko iwi representatives.

The submitter's comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the Long Term Plan 2021-2041.

Actions

Officers to make contact with Muaūpoko iwi representatives.

Topic 32: Community Outcomes

Submitter and Submission number

Alison Anderson (#4), Robert Barton (#32), John Baird (#40), Anne Hunt (#46), John Naylor (#60), Prudence Naylor (#61), Stuart Fieldes (#72), Trevor Hinder (#81), Guy Morgan (#85), Marion Moore (#86), Geoff Keith on behalf of WECA (#142), Simon Paquier (#156), Sharon Freebairn (#167), Wendy Saunders (#175), Patricia Young (#193), Christine Avery (#208), Megan Cushnahan on behalf of the Roma Trust (#218), Trevor Hinder (#258), Bruce Eccles on behalf of Waitare Beach Progressive & Ratepayers (#266), Lew Rohloff (#271), Pauline Watson (#276), Kelly Tahiwī (#280), Meredith Krieger (#287), Sam Ferguson (#299), Sharon Williams on behalf of Hāpai Te Hapori (#300), Geoff Keith on behalf of the Hokio Progressive Association (#310), Atutahi Henare (#312), Henriette Stella van Ryn (#375), Graeme Fox (#381), Hugh Bentall (#383), Eugene Henare (#414), Deanna Paki (#449), Leone Brown (#455), Geoff Ritchie (#458), Eric Walker (#462), and Charles Rudd (#469)

Summary of Submissions

Submitter #4 is supportive of the Community Outcomes, although they indicate that the outcomes are “very broad and safe”.

Submitter #32 considered that the Community Outcomes were missing the older (65 years and over) portion of the community, whose needs are simple and just want a happy retirement. Submitters #60 and #61 also felt that the Community Outcomes (in particular Strong Community) do not reflect the needs of the old or poorer members of the community.

Submitter #40 indicated that the Community Outcomes are idealistic and refers to the Horowhenua being a place of high unemployment and retirement. Submitter # 271 also considers the Community Outcomes to be unrealistic. Submitter #462 also indicates that the Community Outcomes are idealistic and are missing reference to things like homelessness and poverty.

Submitter #46 does not consider that Council is working towards achieving its Community Outcome – Partnership with Tangata Whenua.

Submitter #72 referred to the need to treat every ethnic group the same. Submitter #208 is not supportive of the Partnerships with Tangata Whenua Community Outcome as they wanted all ratepayers to be acknowledged equally across the outcomes.

Submitter #81 highlights that although ‘Outstanding Environment’ is a Community Outcome little will be spent in the LTP on improving the environment and unless this changes then it should not be a Community Outcome. Submitters #142 (and #258), #310, #455, #458 indicate that although ‘Outstanding Environment’ is a Community Outcome they could not see this clearly incorporated into the LTP 2021-2041 with several of them suggesting an Environmental Committee is needed.

Submitters #85, #86, #218, want Council focus on infrastructure and ‘core business’.

Submitter #156 wanted to celebrate cultural diversity, and heightened the profile of local arts and public artistic expression.

Submitter #167 sees the Community Outcomes as being linked to the economic security of the residents of the Horowhenua. The submitter identifies increasing debt levels as being an issue and requests that Council focuses on its core services.

Submitter #266 is supportive of the Community Outcomes and talks about how these outcomes relate to the Waitare Beach community.

Submitter #276 queried whether there was a plan in place to achieve the Community Outcomes. Submitters #280, #312, #414, #449 also queried, “*how does the community know that the outcomes are being achieved?*”

Submitter (#287) considers that quality infrastructure and the environment will naturally lead to positive economic impacts.

Submitter #299 recommends “Vibrant Economy” should be replaced with “Sustainable Economy” as diversity and resilience are important, and the submitter believes ‘sustainable’ better encapsulates these. They also suggest “Outstanding Environment” be changed to ‘Appreciated Environment’ or ‘Accessible Environment’ - focusing more on the connection of people and the environment. Submitter #299 is supportive of the inclusion of an outcome specifically for Partnerships with Tangata Whenua.

Submitter #300 suggests adding something about access to health, social and recreational facilities, and all communities having opportunities to participate in community development.

Submitter #375 suggests to achieve a vibrant economy and outstanding environment Council should look toward regenerative agriculture and horticulture, giving cleaner water and healthier soil, growing healthier food. The submitter also highlights the need for Council to provide the basic infrastructure that business and the community can build on, and a stable affordable financial base for all.

Submitter #381 states “a vibrant economy with an outstanding environment means having community being heard in the communities that are affected by the change.” The submitter would like Council to gift back the Foxton War Memorial Hall and to provide support to help ensure it grows to a vibrant hub.

Officer Analysis

A number of submitters indicated that they felt the Community Outcomes are broad, idealistic, or unrealistic. The purpose of Community Outcomes is to help guide Council’s decision making. They are typically ‘high level’ as they need to encompass Community Wellbeing as well as ensuring they cover the matters most significant to the community. The Community Outcomes are aspirational and something for Council to work towards, although they may not always be easy to achieve.

Several submitters commented on the need for the Community Outcomes to better reflect the needs of the retired/older members of society, as well as poorer members of the community. The Vibrant Economy Outcome includes this statement “we aspire for economic security for all of our people” – which points to wanting economic security for even the poorest members of our community. Officers do acknowledge that the Stronger Communities Outcome could be amended to include a statement about meeting the varying needs of the different age groups in our community.

A range of comments were made by submitters in relation to the Partnership with Tangata Whenua Outcome including a desire to see Council do more in this space, while others expressed concerns about equity. In reviewing the Community Outcomes as the commenced of developing the Draft LTP 2021-2041 Elected Members chose to retain Partnership with Tangata Whenua as a Community Outcome given the unique status of Tangata Whenua and Council’s commitment to continue to work towards this outcome.

A number of submitters have indicated that although ‘Outstanding Environment’ is a Community Outcome this is not evident in the LTP 2021-2041. The Community Outcomes are overarching aspirations for Council to strive towards. Although the outcomes are not as obvious in the LTP as the submitters would like they have been considered by Council throughout the development of this plan and they will also help inform Council’s decision making on projects or other matters of significance going forward. An example of how the Community Outcomes have informed the LTP is that they feature in the rationale for each activity of Council.

Several submitters referred to the need for Council to focus on its 'core business' (infrastructure) and raised concerns around affordability and debt levels. The purpose of local government includes the need "...to promote the social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of communities in the present and for the future." The provision of core infrastructure is incorporated in the Community Outcomes but equally so is Council's role to more broadly work towards Community Wellbeing as a whole. Community Wellbeing and the Community Outcomes have been at the forefront as Council has considered things like debt and infrastructure provision for this LTP.

Some submitters queried how Council will achieve the Community Outcomes and how this will be measured. The Community Outcomes have been carefully considered during the preparation of the LTP 2021-2041 and going forward they will be incorporated into key Council strategies and plans; they will also be considered as Council makes decisions on significant matters. Success will be measured as Council makes progress on the projects that have been included in this LTP.

Submitter #299 has suggested some amendments to the wording of the outcomes. The Community Outcomes have been developed by Council, and therefore officers will take direction from Council if it wants to amend the titles of the outcomes.

Submitter #300 suggests adding something about access to health, social and recreational facilities, and all communities having opportunities to participate in community development. The Fit for Purpose Infrastructure and Strong Communities Outcomes do largely cover these matters, however, officers can amend the wording to make this more explicit if Council felt this was necessary.

Submitter #375 suggests Council looks at regenerative agriculture and horticulture, giving cleaner water and healthier soil, growing healthier food. The Outstanding Natural Environment Outcome talks about contributing to improving our natural environment for current and future generations to enjoy and managing competing pressures on resources sustainably, which broadly encompasses the matters raised by the submitter.

Recommendations

That officers amend the Strong Communities Outcome to include a statement about meeting the varying needs of the different age groups in our community.

Attachments


There are no attachments for this report.


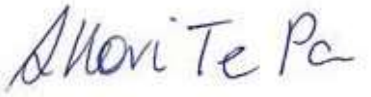


Confirmation of statutory compliance

In accordance with section 76 of the Local Government Act 2002, this report is approved as:

- a. containing sufficient information about the options and their advantages and disadvantages, bearing in mind the significance of the decisions; and,
- b. is based on adequate knowledge about, and adequate consideration of, the views and preferences of affected and interested parties bearing in mind the significance of the decision.

Signatories

Author(s)	Lauren Baddock Strategic Planner	
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	Tiffany Gower Strategic Planner	
	Sue Hori Te Pa Governance and Executive Team Leader	
Approved by	David McCorkindale Group Manager - Customer & Strategy	
	David Clapperton Chief Executive	

Long Term Plan 2021-2041 Deliberations - Community Support

File No.: 21/212

1. Purpose

To present to Council for deliberation, the submissions received on the Long Term Plan 2021-2041 in relation to Council's Community Support activity.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That Report 21/212 Long Term Plan 2021-2041 Deliberations - Community Support be received.
- 2.2 That this matter or decision is recognised as not significant in terms of S76 of the Local Government Act
- 2.3 That Council acknowledges, with thanks, all who have submitted on the Community Support activity.
- 2.4 That Council approves a 'Contract for Service' between Horowhenua District Council and Levin Community Patrol, for the purpose of Community Patrol Services in Levin. The Contract for Service will be for a period of three (3) years, with a value of \$15,000.00 (GST inclusive), of which \$5000.00 will be paid annually. Included in the Contract for Service will be reporting requirements that Levin Community Patrol will need to adhere to. Officers note that provision of this contract as recommended can be accommodated within the proposed draft LTP budget.
- 2.5 That Council approves a 'Contract for Service' between Horowhenua District Council and Horowhenua District Neighbourhood Support Inc. The Contract for Service will be for a period of three (3) years, with a value of \$15000.00 (GST inclusive) per annum. Included in the Contract for Service will be reporting requirements that Horowhenua District Neighbourhood Support Inc. Officers note that provision of this contract as recommended can be accommodated within the proposed draft LTP budget.
- 2.6 That the Foxton Community Board makes formal contact with the Horowhenua Crime Prevention Camera Trust, to encourage the Trust to pursue the establishment of CCTV in Foxton Town Centre.
- 2.7 That Council approves a 'Contract for Service' between Horowhenua District Council and Horowhenua Crime Prevention Camera Trust. The Contract for Service will be for a period of three (3) years, with a value of \$15,000 (excluding GST) per annum. Included in the Contract for Service will be reporting requirements that Horowhenua Crime Prevention Camera Trust will need to adhere too. Officers note that provision of this contract as recommended can be accommodated within the proposed draft LTP budget.

3. Topics for Consideration

Topic 1	Community Engagement – Shannon
Topic 2	Community Engagement – Education
Topic 3	Community Engagement – Levin Community Patrol
Topic 4	Community Engagement – Mental Health
Topic 5	Community Engagement – Meaningful Engagement

Topic 6	Community Engagement – Events and funding
Topic 7	Community Engagement – After school programme
Topic 8	Community Engagement – Neighbourhood Support
Topic 9	Community Engagement – CCTV Foxton
Topic 10	Community Engagement – Youth Leaving the District
Topic 11	Community Engagement – Crime Prevention Trust
Topic 12	Community Engagement – Health Providers
Topic 13	Community Engagement – Tangata Whenua
Topic 14	Community Engagement – Funding for colleges
Topic 15	Economic Development

Topic 1 – Community Engagement – Shannon

Submitter and Submission number

Robyn Mouzouri (#78)

Summary of Submission

Submitter #78 states that they are happy to see the progress in Shannon in the last couple of years, including the meetings that have been organised. The submitter requests that all meetings held in Shannon are advertised to improve the community response.

Officer Analysis

The submitter's comments regarding the progress in Shannon are noted. Officers have been working hard to establish trusting relationships with groups and individuals in Shannon, resulting in positive community outcomes.

There are some occasions where Officers meet with individuals or groups regarding specific topics, generally these meetings would only include affected parties and would be by invite only. Where there are meetings that are open to the public, Officers will advertise accordingly. The submitter has not provided any recommendation of what type of advertising would suit their community, this is an area that could be discussed with the community in future engagement.

The submitter's comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the Long Term Plan 2021-2041.

Topic 2 – Community Engagement – Education

Submitter and Submission number

Cecily Archer (#80)

Summary of Submission

Submitter #80 has asked "where does education feature in the Long Term Plan"? Emphasis was placed on the need for practical educational facilities to keep young people in the area with training to fit them to jobs in the district.

Officer Analysis

Council has a robust Community Wellbeing Strategy with the vision: Horowhenua is a safe, vibrant, inclusive and connected community. Included in the wider Community Wellbeing Framework is the Education Action Plan. The Horowhenua Education Action Plan 2019–2020 (refresh being undertaken) sets out a vision that: Horowhenua is New Zealand's foremost region in taking joint responsibility for the success of its community through excellent education.

The Horowhenua Education Plan is overseen by the Education Horowhenua Committee. This committee comprises of education professionals, including those that offer vocational pathways ('practical education facilities') e.g. Horowhenua Learning Centre and UCOL. The Education Horowhenua Committee serves as the platform for Council to advocate for positive education outcomes for the district.

The submitter's comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the Long Term Plan 2021-2041.

Topic 3 – Community Engagement – Levin Community Patrol

Submitter and Submission number

Melvin Cook, on behalf of Levin Community Patrol (#102)

Summary of Submission

Submitter #102 has asked Council to consider funding Levin Community Patrol to the value of \$15,000.00 (GST inclusive), over a three (3) year period commencing from 01 July 2021.

Officer Analysis

Council has a robust Community Wellbeing Strategy with the vision: Horowhenua is a safe, vibrant, inclusive and connected community. The Community Wellbeing Committee, an official committee of Council oversee the strategy. At its 11 February 2020 meeting, the Community Wellbeing Committee set the following priority areas for action: housing, growth, health and wellbeing, community safety and community belonging.

The submitter highlights that the Levin Community Patrol aims to: prevent crime, which results in a safer, more resilient community with particular emphasis on assisting those who are vulnerable such as the elderly. Promoting a feeling of wellbeing in the community – be safe, feel safe. The Levin Community Patrol represents the community wellbeing priority, community safety.

Community safety is about achieving a positive state of wellbeing among people within social and physical environments. Not only is it about reducing and preventing injury and crime, it is about building a strong, cohesive, vibrant, community with opportunities for pro-social engagement. The Community Wellbeing Committee aims to work together to make Horowhenua a district where people are safe and feel safe in their homes, neighbourhoods and public places. The community are connected and resilient in the face of adversities and prosper as a result.

Recommendations

That Council acknowledges, with thanks, the submission from Melvin Cook, on behalf of Levin Community Patrol. The Officer recommends that:

Council approves a 'Contract for Service' between Horowhenua District Council and Levin Community Patrol, for the purpose of Community Patrol Services in Levin. The Contract for Service will be for a period of three (3) years, with a value of \$15,000.00 (GST inclusive), of which \$5000.00 will be paid annually. Included in the Contract for Service will be reporting requirements that Levin Community Patrol will need to adhere to. Officers note that provision of this contract as recommended can be accommodated within the proposed draft LTP budget.

Actions

Council's Community and Social Development Team support Levin Community Patrol to build capacity to apply for alternative funding and grants.

Topic 4 -Community Engagement – Shannon programmes

Submitter and Submission number

Linda Whiti (#144)

Summary of Submission

Submitter #144 has asked Council to consider funding her as an individual to facilitate a suicide grief group in Shannon. She would also like to develop a youth programme with help from youth leaders.

Officer Analysis

The submitter's willingness to offer a programme / activity that has a link to Community Wellbeing is noted.

Council has a robust Community Wellbeing Strategy with the vision: Horowhenua is a safe, vibrant, inclusive and connected community. The delivery vehicle for this Strategy is the Community and Social Development Action Plan with the mission: We work in partnership with our community to achieve locally owned vision and goals. Council's Community and Social Development Team aim to: collaborate with the community to identify opportunities that build capacity and resilience; support the community to develop and deliver community-led initiatives; facilitate meaningful community participation that enhances community wellbeing; and celebrate positive community outcomes.

Included in the wider Community Wellbeing framework, Council offers contestable funds to community groups and organisations, who have projects or initiatives that support community wellbeing; however, individuals are not eligible to apply for Council's contestable funds.

Council has positive relationships with community organisations in Shannon, and continues to support the community to develop and implement community-led initiatives. The aspirations of the submitter would fit in well with offerings of some of the established organisations in Shannon.

The submitter's comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the Long Term Plan 2021-2041.

Actions

Council's Community and Social Development Team make contact with Linda Whiti to link her to Council networks and community organisations currently operating in Shannon.

Topic 5 - Community Engagement

Submitter and Submission number

Nina Hori Te Pa (#215)

Summary of Submission

In response to the community outcomes question; are we missing something, or focusing on something we shouldn't be? Submitter #215 has said Council should put people before profit, and undertake meaningful engagement with locals.

Officer Analysis

Council has a robust Community Wellbeing Strategy with the vision: Horowhenua is a safe, vibrant, inclusive and connected community. The delivery vehicle for this Strategy is the Community and Social Development Action Plan with the mission: We work in partnership with our community to achieve locally owned vision and goals. Council's Community and Social Development Team aim to: collaborate with the community to identify opportunities that build capacity and resilience; support the community to develop and deliver community-led initiatives; facilitate meaningful community participation that enhances community wellbeing; and celebrate positive community outcomes.

Council strives to undertake meaningful engagement with the community, not only through standard communication channels such as print, website and social media. But also through various teams across Council, including the Community and Social Development Team who are leading engagement with the community from the ground up through a community-led development lens. Council is always striving to improve engagement with the community, and will take on board the feedback the submitter has provided.

The submitter's comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the Long Term Plan 2021-2041.

Topic 6 - Community Engagement – Events and funding

Submitter and Submission number

Janine Smart, on behalf of Foxton Beach Progressive Association (#252)

Summary of Submission

Submitter #252 requests that when required, Horowhenua District Council (HDC) support the Foxton Beach Progressive Association to develop regular iconic events, and assist them, along with their community to apply for grants and funding.

Officer Analysis

Council has a robust Community Wellbeing Strategy with the vision: Horowhenua is a safe, vibrant, inclusive and connected community. The delivery vehicle for this Strategy is the Community and Social Development Action Plan with the mission: We work in partnership with our community to achieve locally owned vision and goals. Council's Community and Social Development Team aim to: collaborate with the community to identify opportunities that build capacity and resilience; support the community to develop and deliver community-led initiatives; facilitate meaningful community participation that enhances community wellbeing; and celebrate positive community outcomes.

When community-led initiatives present themselves, Council's Community and Social Development Team will partner with the community to support them through their journey, if the kaupapa/subject aligns to positive community outcomes. The team will look for opportunities to build capacity within the community, with an aim of developing something sustainable that the community can continue to lead by themselves. The request to HDC for support to develop iconic events would follow a similar approach.

Council has a community capacity-building programme, with an aim of building capacity in the community with a specific focus on up-skilling volunteer groups, not-for-profits and NGOs. Included in the yearly programme is opportunities to up-skill individuals in community grants and funding. The team will also work with individuals and organisations in a one on one context when requested.

The submitter's comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the Long Term Plan 2021-2041.

Actions

Council's Community and Social Development Team meet with the Foxton Beach Progressive Association to understand what their goals and objectives are, and understand how Council could support them to develop community-led events.

As part of Council's community capacity-building programme, Council hosts a grants and funding workshop in Foxton in the 2021/2022 financial year.

Topic 7 - Community Engagement – After school programme

Submitter and Submission number

Christina Curley (#283)

Summary of Submission

Submitter #283 has noted that there is a lot of demand in Shannon for an after-school programme. They have suggested that Council supports an initiative like this, if an opportunity arose. Submitter #283 expresses that they are grateful for the Council support of initiatives in Shannon and has been pleased to have been able to work closely with Horowhenua District Council. They have thanked Council Officers for being accessible, and available to the Shannon community. They believe the hard work is making a difference to the lives of the people of Shannon.

Officer Analysis

The submitter's positive comments toward Council Officers are noted. Officers have been working hard to establish trusting relationships with groups and individuals in Shannon, resulting in positive community outcomes.

Council has a robust Community Wellbeing Strategy with the vision: Horowhenua is a safe, vibrant, inclusive and connected community. The delivery vehicle for this Strategy is the Community and Social Development Action Plan with the mission: We work in partnership with our community to achieve locally owned vision and goals. Council's Community and Social Development Team aim to: collaborate with the community to identify opportunities that build capacity and resilience; support the community to develop and deliver community-led initiatives; facilitate meaningful community participation that enhances community wellbeing; and celebrate positive community outcomes.

Council has positive relationships with community organisations in Shannon, and continues to support the community to develop and implement community-led initiatives that enhance the wellbeing of the people in Shannon. It is likely that an after-school programme would be a community-led initiative.

The submitter's comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the Long Term Plan 2021-2041.

Topic 8 - Community Engagement – Neighbourhood Support

Submitter and Submission number

Horowhenua District Neighbourhood Support Inc. (#307)

Summary of Submission

Submitter #307 has asked Council to consider funding Horowhenua District Neighbourhood Support Inc. to the value of \$25,000.00 (GST inclusive) annually, for a three (3) year period commencing from 01 July 2021.

Officer Analysis

Council has a robust Community Wellbeing Strategy with the vision: Horowhenua is a safe, vibrant, inclusive and connected community. The Community Wellbeing Committee, an official committee of Council oversee the Strategy. At its 11 February 2020 meeting, the Community Wellbeing Committee set the following priority areas for action: housing, growth, health and wellbeing, community safety and community belonging.

The submitter highlights that the Horowhenua District Neighbourhood Support Inc. is a community owned programme that aims to make homes, streets, neighbourhoods and communities safer and a more caring place in which to live. The Horowhenua District Neighbourhood Support Inc. represents the community wellbeing priority, community safety.

Community safety is about achieving a positive state of wellbeing among people within social and physical environments. Not only is it about reducing and preventing injury and crime, it is about building a strong, cohesive, vibrant, community with opportunities for pro-social engagement. The Community Wellbeing Committee aims to work together to make Horowhenua a district where people are safe and feel safe in their homes, neighbourhoods and public places. The community are connected and resilient in the face of adversities and prosper as a result.

For consecutive years, the Horowhenua District Neighbourhood Support Inc. have added value to the community, and have gone above and beyond to ensure their obligations in the Contract for Service with Council are met.

Recommendations

Council approves a 'Contract for Service' between Horowhenua District Council and Horowhenua District Neighbourhood Support Inc. The Contract for Service will be for a period of three (3) years, with a value of \$15000.00 (GST inclusive) per annum. Included in the Contract for Service will be reporting requirements that Horowhenua District Neighbourhood Support Inc. Officers note that provision of this contract as recommended can be accommodated within the proposed draft LTP budget.

Actions

Council's Community and Social Development Team support Horowhenua District Neighbourhood Support Inc. to build capacity to apply for alternative funding and grants.

Topic 9 - Community Engagement – Neighbourhood Support

Submitter and Submission number

Christine Moriarty on behalf of, Horowhenua District Residents and Ratepayers Association Inc (#332)

Summary of Submission

Submitter #332 requests that Council provide mechanisms to promote the social, economic, environmental and cultural wellbeing of citizens and communities in accordance with the Local Government Act 2002. The submitter highlights: poverty, mental health and violence. As well as how the affordability of housing and rates affect the wellbeing of the citizens.

Officer Analysis

Council has a robust Community Wellbeing Strategy with the vision: Horowhenua is a safe, vibrant, inclusive and connected community. Council has a robust Community Wellbeing Strategy with the vision: Horowhenua is a safe, vibrant, inclusive and connected community. The Community Wellbeing Committee, an official committee of Council oversee the Strategy. The committee comprises of representatives from various organisations, all are striving to enhance the wellbeing

of the people of Horowhenua. The Community Wellbeing Committee membership includes: Iwi, Council, Community, District Health Board, NZ Police, Ministry of Social Development, Oranga Tamariki, Department of Corrections, Think Hauora, Kāinga Ora, and Pacific Peoples. At its 11 February 2020 meeting, the Community Wellbeing Committee set the following priority areas for action: housing, growth, health and wellbeing, community safety and community belonging.

The delivery vehicle for this Strategy is the Community and Social Development Action Plan with the mission: We work in partnership with our community to achieve locally owned vision and goals. Council's Community and Social Development Team aim to: collaborate with the community to identify opportunities that build capacity and resilience; support the community to develop and deliver community-led initiatives; facilitate meaningful community participation that enhances community wellbeing; and celebrate positive community outcomes.

Council has positive relationships with an extensive range of community organisations in Horowhenua, and continues to support the community to develop and implement community-led initiatives that enhance the wellbeing of the people in Horowhenua.

The submitter's comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the Long Term Plan 2021-2041.

Topic 9 - Community Engagement – CCTV Foxton

Submitter and Submission numbers

David Roache on behalf of, Foxton Community Board (#344)

Summary of Submission

Submitter #344 has indicated their support for the establishment of a Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV) in Foxton Town Centre, for the purpose of: crime prevention, providing an element of community safety for the citizens of Foxton, and to support NZ Police based in Foxton.

Officer Analysis

Council has a robust Community Wellbeing Strategy with the vision: Horowhenua is a safe, vibrant, inclusive and connected community. The Community Wellbeing Committee, an official committee of Council oversee the strategy. At its 11 February 2020 meeting, the Community Wellbeing Committee set the following priority areas for action: housing, growth, health and wellbeing, community safety and community belonging.

Community safety is about achieving a positive state of wellbeing among people within social and physical environments. Not only is it about reducing and preventing injury and crime, it is about building a strong, cohesive, vibrant, community with opportunities for pro-social engagement. The Community Wellbeing Committee aims to work together to make Horowhenua a district where people are safe and feel safe in their homes, neighbourhoods and public places. The community are connected and resilient in the face of adversities and prosper as a result.

As part of the 2020/2021 Annual Plan, Council resolved to fund 100% of the Foxton Beach CCTV project from the Foxton Beach Freeholding Account, up to \$110,000. As a result, the Foxton Beach CCTV circuit was linked with the existing Levin circuit. The growth in the circuit saw the amalgamation of the Foxton CCTV working group and the Levin Crime Prevention Trust, now known as the Horowhenua Crime Prevention Camera Trust.

Recommendations

The Foxton Community Board makes formal contact with the Horowhenua Crime Prevention Camera Trust, to encourage the Trust to pursue the establishment of CCTV in Foxton Town Centre.

Topic 10 - Community Engagement – Youth leaving the district

Submitter and Submission number

Michael Kay (#350)

Summary of Submission

Submitter #350 has indicated their views on why young people leave the Horowhenua district, and believe that Horowhenua is home to a bored generation, with limited facilities to enjoy. They have mentioned the reluctance of some residents in paying for the targeted Aquatics rate, and believe that there are infrequent public services, resulting in a person not feeling connected to Horowhenua.

They go on to say some facilities provide them with confidence in the district and says well done to Council. They believe Horowhenua is not a thriving connected district and there is no cohesion and momentum in building confidence to make things better, they believe this will take many hands to achieve.

Officer Analysis

Council has a number of community facilities available for the community to utilise for free including: Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō, Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom and Shannon Library. Aquatics Horowhenua offers aquatic recreation at Levin Aquatic Centre, Foxton Pool and in summer, Shannon School Pool.

Council has a robust Community Wellbeing Strategy with the vision: Horowhenua is a safe, vibrant, inclusive and connected community, including youth and older people as mentioned by the submitter. The delivery vehicle for this Strategy is the Community and Social Development Action Plan with the mission: We work in partnership with our community to achieve locally owned vision and goals. Council's Community and Social Development Team aim to: collaborate with the community to identify opportunities that build capacity and resilience; support the community to develop and deliver community-led initiatives; facilitate meaningful community participation that enhances community wellbeing; and celebrate positive community outcomes.

The submitter's comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the Long Term Plan 2021-2041.

Topic 11 - Community Engagement – Crime Prevention Trust

Submitter and Submission number

Mel Douglas on behalf of, Horowhenua Crime Prevention Camera Trust (#356)

Summary of Submission

Submitter #356 has requested Council to consider funding Horowhenua Crime Prevention Camera Trust to the value of \$15,000.00 (excluding GST) annually, over a three (3) year period commencing from 1 July 2021.

Submitter #356 has also requested a further one-off capital sum of \$6760.00 (excluding GST)

Officer Analysis

Council has a robust Community Wellbeing Strategy with the vision: Horowhenua is a safe, vibrant, inclusive and connected community. The Community Wellbeing Committee, an official committee of Council oversee the strategy. At its 11 February 2020 meeting, the Community Wellbeing Committee set the following priority areas for action: housing, growth, health and wellbeing, community safety and community belonging.

The submitter highlights that the Horowhenua Crime Prevention Camera aims to make streets, neighbourhoods and communities safer, and support NZ Police to prevent crime. The Horowhenua Crime Prevention Camera Trust represents the community wellbeing priority, community safety.

Community safety is about achieving a positive state of wellbeing among people within social and physical environments. Not only is it about reducing and preventing injury and crime, it is about building a strong, cohesive, vibrant, community with opportunities for pro-social engagement. The Community Wellbeing Committee aims to work together to make Horowhenua a District where people are safe and feel safe in their homes, neighbourhoods and public places. The community are connected and resilient in the face of adversities and prosper as a result.

As part of the 2020/2021 Annual Plan, Council resolved to fund 100% of the Foxton Beach CCTV project from the Foxton Beach Freeholding Account, up to \$110,000. As a result, the Foxton Beach CCTV circuit was linked with the existing Levin circuit. The growth in the circuit saw the amalgamation of the Foxton CCTV working group and the Levin Crime Prevention Trust, now known as the Horowhenua Crime Prevention Camera Trust. The Trust now has a bigger network to monitor and maintain, resulting in increased operating and maintenance costs.

Recommendations

Council approves a 'Contract for Service' between Horowhenua District Council and Horowhenua Crime Prevention Camera Trust. The Contract for Service will be for a period of three (3) years, with a value of \$15,000 (excluding GST) per annum. Included in the Contract for Service will be reporting requirements that Horowhenua Crime Prevention Camera Trust will need to adhere to. Officers note that provision of this contract as recommended can be accommodated within the proposed draft LTP budget.

Actions

Council's Community and Social Development Team support Horowhenua District Neighbourhood Support Inc. to build capacity to apply for alternative funding and grants for the capital expenditure requested.

Topic 12 - Community Engagement – Health Providers

Submitter and Submission number

Charles Rudd (#469)

Summary of Submission

Submitter #469 has asked: where are all the doctors and other health professionals for this assumed growth?

Officer Analysis

Council has a robust Community Wellbeing Strategy with the vision: Horowhenua is a safe, vibrant, inclusive and connected community. The Community Wellbeing Committee, an official committee of Council oversee the Strategy. The Committee comprises of representatives from various organisations, all are striving to enhance the wellbeing of the people of Horowhenua. The Community Wellbeing Committee membership includes: Iwi, Council, Community, District Health Board, NZ Police, Ministry of Social Development, Oranga Tamariki, Department of Corrections, Think Hauora, Kāinga Ora, and Pacific Peoples. At its 11 February 2020 meeting, the Community Wellbeing Committee set the following priority areas for action: housing, growth, health and wellbeing, community safety and community belonging.

Council will continue to advocate for positive community outcomes, including health and wellbeing of the people of Horowhenua, including doctors and other health professionals as mentioned by the submitter.

The submitter's comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the Long Term Plan 2021-2041.

Topic 13 - Community Engagement – Tangata Whenua

Submitter and Submission number

Chris Philpott (#495)

Summary of Submission

Submitter #495 has stated that there is too much focus on Tangata Whenua. And highlighted that there should be more focus on infrastructure, footpaths, road, water.

Officer Analysis

The submitter's comments regarding infrastructure, footpaths, road and water are noted.

Council is bound by the Te Ture Kaunihera 2002 / The Local Government Act 2002. There are a number of provisions in the Local Government Act 2002 (the Act) that relate specifically to Māori. The key provision is in section 4 of the Local Government Act 2002. In order to recognise and respect the Crown's responsibility to take appropriate account of the principles of the Te Tiriti o Waitangi / Treaty of Waitangi, and to maintain and improve opportunities for Māori to contribute to local government decision making processes.

Parts 2 and 6 provide principles and requirements for councils that are intended to facilitate participation by Māori in local government decision making processes.

Whilst section 4 clearly acknowledges responsibility for Te Tiriti / the Treaty obligations lie with the Crown, parts 2 and 6 of the Act are intended to facilitate participation of Māori in local government. Local government is charged with the responsibility to promote opportunities for Māori and tauwiwi (other members of the public) to contribute to its decision making processes.

These provisions apply to all Māori in the district or region. They acknowledge that Māori other than mana whenua may reside in the area.

Council is committed to operating in a manner that recognises and respects the significance of Te Tiriti o Waitangi / The Treaty of Waitangi. To honour this commitment, the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi / The Treaty of Waitangi should be used as a guide to inform the Council's approach when making decisions about matters affecting Māori.

The submitter's comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the Long Term Plan 2021-2041.

Topic 14 - Community Engagement – Funding for colleges

Submitter and Submission number

Callum (#498)

Summary of Submission

Submitter #498 has requested Council give more money to colleges.

Officer Analysis

Funding for Secondary Schools / Colleges is the responsibility of the Ministry of Education.

Council has a robust Community Wellbeing Strategy with the vision: Horowhenua is a safe, vibrant, inclusive and connected community. Included in the wider Community Wellbeing Framework is the

Education Action Plan, demonstrating Council's commitment to advocating for positive education outcomes for all.

The submitter's comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the Long Term Plan 2021-2041.

Topic 15 – Economic Development

Submitter and Submission number

Catherine Lewis, Kathy Mitchell, Erica Guy (#301) and David Roache on behalf of the Foxton Community Board (#344)

Summary of Submissions

Submitter #301 indicates support for the work undertaken by Council to develop a Destination Management Strategy and supports themes of this. The submitter urges Council to develop an Events Strategy which would establish a:

- Governance Structure
- Funding Stream
- Management Team (to support the viability, coordination and professionalism of each event)
- Business Plan
- Pathway Model
- Events Calendar
- Marketing Strategy
- Administration Model (to support events and streamline processes).

The submitter highlights *“that the Events will each still require a core volunteer committee to organise and help manage the events, as well as their individual sponsorship funding. The resulting strategy will provide support, coordination and stability.”*

It is reinforced by the Submitter that *“The Horowhenua Taste Trail as an organisation is submitting to Council to seek a sustainable Events Strategy to ensure the longevity of not only their Event, but also for other quality Events in the District. Those that have ceased to exist, and those that are yet to be created. Other districts are moving fast in this space and we simply can't afford to be left behind”.*

Submitter #344 indicates support for:

- the development and implementation of an Economic Development Plan, noting this should include Foxton, Foxton Beach and the wider area. On behalf of the Foxton Community Board the submitter notes the desire of the Board to explore with Council the opportunity to play a greater supporting role in economic initiatives.
- the development of the Destination Management Strategy and encourages Council to investigate and identify the mechanisms to drive it. On behalf of the Foxton Community Board the submitter notes that *“we need to develop a clear identity for Foxton/Foxton Beach which are distinct but complementary. Foxton as the commercial centre and Foxton Beach as the recreation hub.”*

Officer Analysis

Council undertook a review of its Economic Development Strategy in the fourth quarter of 2020. The substantive outcome of this review was the development of an Economic Development Implementation Plan (EDIP) to capture the key focus areas and related actions across a 0-5 year+ horizon for the Horowhenua district. Destination Management is one of the key focus areas of the

EDIP. Initial indications from submitter #301 is that an operational expense of \$350k per annum would be required to progress an Events Strategy and subsequent outcomes.

Henley Hutchings Ltd were engaged by Council in 2020 to prepare a Horowhenua Destination Development and Management Plan to outline the role of Council in Destination Management, and recommended actions for Council over the short to medium term. Henley Hutchings Ltd conducted research and stakeholder workshops within Horowhenua to inform their plan and presented the findings to Council.

The actions in the plan have been captured within the development of the Economic Development Implementation Plan, including creation of an events strategy, focused on creating a wider programme of events, aligned to the District story and market proposition. The events strategy is a medium term 3-5 year priority within the EDIP and would be prioritised in those years for delivery within the existing economic development budget. Alternatively, Council may view that they do not wish for other economic development activities to be delayed in order to prioritise the events strategy within the current budget, and consider adding an additional \$350k per annum to the economic development budget proposed through the Draft 2021/41 LTP.

The Submissions support the development and implementation of the Economic Development Implementation Plan which is positive reinforcement of the work Council has undertaken.

The submitter's comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the Long Term Plan 2021-2041.

Actions

Implement the operational Economic Development Implementation Plan (which incorporates Destination Management).

Council and Foxton Community Board discuss the role Foxton Community Board would like to play in economic activities.

Attachments



There are no attachments for this report.

Confirmation of statutory compliance

In accordance with section 76 of the Local Government Act 2002, this report is approved as:

- a. containing sufficient information about the options and their advantages and disadvantages, bearing in mind the significance of the decisions; and,
- b. is based on adequate knowledge about, and adequate consideration of, the views and preferences of affected and interested parties bearing in mind the significance of the decision.

Signatories

Author(s)	Cathryn Pollock Community & Social Development Manager	
Approved by	Nicki Brady Deputy Chief Executive	

Long Term Plan 2021-2041 Deliberations - Management Overview

File No.: 21/217

1. Purpose

To present to Council a management overview of the context and matters that are relevant to the deliberations of Long Term Plan 2021-2041.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That Report 21/217 Long Term Plan 2021-2041 Deliberations - Management Overview be received.
- 2.2 That this matter or decision is recognised as not significant in terms of S76 of the Local Government Act
- 2.3 That Council amends the final LTP 2021-41 to add \$1,000,000 to Year 1 for the Gladstone Road Realignment.
- 2.4 That Council amends the final LTP 2021-41 to add \$150,000 to Financial Years 1 to 8 inclusive, a total of \$1,200,000 for the Property Disposals Programme.
- 2.5 That Council amends the final LTP 2021-41 to add \$50,000 to Financial Years 1 to 8 inclusive, a total of \$400,000 for the Property Disposals Programme – Valuation of property assets.
- 2.6 That Council recommends the inclusion of the proposed revenue of (\$468,000) from 28 Durham Street in the final LTP 2021-41.
- 2.7 That Council amends the final LTP 2021-41 to add \$1,000,000 to Year 1, for the Foxton Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade.
- 2.8 That Council amends the final LTP 2021-41 to bring forward \$1,500,000 from Year 3 to \$750,000 in Year 1 and \$750,000 in Year 2 for the Levin Wastewater Treatment Plant Renewals
- 2.9 That Council recommends removing \$17,672,060 for the alternate water source from the final LTP 2021-41.
- 2.10 That Council amends the final LTP 2021-41 to add \$30,000 to Financial Years 1 to 20 inclusive, a total of \$600,000 for court infringements.
- 2.11 That Council considers the change to the Tara-Ika Loan Funding
- 2.12 That Council considers the likely priority projects that could be funded in Year 1 and 2 as part of the implementation of the Blueprint.
- 2.13 That Council amends the District Plan - Statement of Service Performance in the final LTP 2021-41 to read "Council will process non-complying consents in a robust way. When the percentage of non-complying consents approved exceed 5% we will undertake an investigation of the District Plan rules that have triggered the non-complying consents".
- 2.14 That Council amends the Emergency Management - Statement of Service Performance (SSP) in the final LTP 2021-41 to change to read "'Council's EOC (and alternate EOC) are fully functional, designated staff are trained and qualified, and Council meets its obligations under the CDEM Act".
- 2.15 That Council amends the Local Government Official Information Management Act (LGOIMA) - Statement of Service Performance (SSP) in the final LTP 2021-41 to change to read "Official Information requests are processed in accordance with the LGOIMA."

- 2.16 That Council amends the final LTP 2021-41 to add \$57,000 to Financial Year 1 and 2, a total of \$57,000 for the Jubilee Park Splashpad.
- 2.17 That Council amends the final LTP 2021-41 to add \$20,000 to Financial Years 1 to 20 inclusive, a total of \$400,000 for the Levin Sportsgrounds.
- 2.18 That Council amends the Economic Development - Statement of Service Performance (SSP) in the final LTP 2021-41 to changes stated in this report.
- 2.19 That Council amends the final LTP 2021-41 to add \$547,000 to Year 1, \$2,215,000 to Year 2, \$2,272,000 to Year 3 and \$1,172,000 to Year 4, a total of \$6,205,000 for Lake Horowhenua Stormwater.
- 2.20 That Council amends the final LTP 2021-41 to include misstatements, Removing inflation off Year 2 & 3 for roading as it is a committed contract, Adjusting inflation rates - For 2023 to 2026 the assumed rates is 3%, Ensuring alignment of the revaluation cycle for assets, Recalculating the assumed financial position at the end of 2020/21
- 2.21 That Council increases assumed interest rates by 25 basis points to align with assumptions of increasing interest rates. For 2023 to 2026 the assumed rate is 3%.
- 2.22 That Council amends the final LTP 2021-41 to add \$136,000 to Year 2, for Election Costs.
- 2.23 That Council recommends the inclusion of the proposed revenue of (\$650,00) in Year 1, (\$11,360,000) in Year 2, (\$1,100,000) in Year 3, (\$5,700,000) in Year 4, and (\$980,000) in Year 5, a total of (\$19,790,000) in the final LTP 2021-41 for Property Sales.
- 2.24 That Council amends the final LTP 2021-41 to include funding of \$150,000 in Year 1, \$210,000 in Year 2 and ongoing for the Democracy Support, Risk and Improvement additional role.
- 2.25 That Council amends the final LTP 2021-41 to include funding of \$100,000 in Year 1 and ongoing for the Financial Strategy and Work Programme.
- 2.26 That Council amends the final LTP 2021-41 to add \$25,000 to Year 1 for the Representation Review.
- 2.27 That Council removes \$222,000 from the final LTP 2021-41 for the Levin Memorial Hall.
- 2.28 That Council amends the final LTP 2021-41 to carry forward \$494,000 set aside in the current financial year to Year 1 for Foxton East Drainage Scheme.

Procedure

This Management Overview Report is intended to help set the scene for the matters that form part of the Long Term Plan 2021-2041 deliberations. This report strives to make the Council's starting point clear and set out those matters that have been identified post the adoption of the Long Term Plan 2021-2041 Consultation Document and Supporting Information in March 2021 and includes a recommendation for these matters to be incorporated into final Long Term Plan.

In the individual deliberation reports that follow this overview report, readers will notice that the topics addressed by Officers contain a mixture of Recommendations and Actions. Recommendations have been suggested where the outcome requires a resolution of Council. For matters typically operational in nature that do not require a resolution of Council to implement them, these have been identified as Actions and will be followed up by Officers. In a number of cases the submission requests relate to matters that fall outside the Long Term Plan and Officers have been unable to offer recommendations as part of this process.

Background

The 2021-2041 LTP represents the second time for the Horowhenua District Council to prepare a 20 Year plan. Previously this Council has prepared 10 Year LTPs which is consistent with the minimum period required by legislation.

The 2021-2041 LTP Consultation Document was the compilation of approximately eight months of Council briefings and information that has been presented to Council and followed a community pre-engagement process that ran in October 2020.

Council adopted the LTP 2021-2041 Consultation Document and Supporting Information on 17 March 2021. A formal consultation and submission process followed with eight formal community consultation events held enabling Members of the community to engage with Officers and Elected Members.

The LTP 2021-2041 Consultation Document as it is required to do under the Local Government Act, focused on the key challenges the Council was seeking community feedback on as well as some policy updates, these included;

- The Future of Foxton Pool
- Infrastructure Funding – Development Contributions
- Changes to the Land Transport Targeted Rate
- Changes to the General Rate

As part of the LTP 2021-2041 Consultation Document and supporting information, Council consulted the community on a proposed rate increase for Year 1 of 6.7% after growth. Submissions closed on 19 April 2021 with Council receiving a total of 562 submissions. Hearings were held on the 11, 12 and 13 of May 2021 with 52 submitters presenting their submissions to Council.

Officer Responses and Recommendations have been prepared and these form part of a suite of reports that Officers have compiled to provide advice to Elected Members to inform their deliberations on the submissions received. Following the deliberations and associated resolutions of Council, the final LTP document will be compiled, audited by Audit NZ and presented to Council for adoption on 30 June 2021.

Issues Identified by Management since Draft LTP Adoption

During the period between Council adopting the Long Term Plan 2021-2041 Consultation Document, Supporting Information, and Council Deliberations on the submissions to the Long Term Plan, Officers have identified a series of items that are recommended as amendments to the Plan.

Topic 1: Gladstone Road Realignment

Summary

An extra \$1m is required in Year 1 for the total project budget of \$5m to realign Gladstone Road.

Analysis

When the LTP budget was developed, it was anticipated that up to \$1m may have been able to be spent from this Financial Year's budgets. Waka Kotahi, New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA) informed Council, as such, an extra \$1m is required in Year 1 for a total project budget of \$5m.

This is an NZTA subsidised activity and as such receive income at 62%.

Total cost: \$1,000,000

Activity: Land Transport

Timeframe:

Capex
Yr 1
2021/2022
1,000,000

Recommendation

That Council amends the final LTP 2021-41 to add \$1,000,000 to Year 1 for the Gladstone Road Realignment.

Topic 2: Property disposal programme

Summary

Council is looking to continue its disposals programme for non-core property. Given the need for a range of consultant and legal costs (lawyers, consents, plan changes etc) Officers are seeking a budget of \$150k per annum to facilitate the proposal.

Analysis

Council is looking to continue its disposals programme for non-core property. Gray Partners in consultation with Council Officers have identified a potential opportunity to dispose of \$15m of property within the next 8 Years. Given that the majority of unencumbered property has already been disposed of at a cost of around 3-4% in 2019 (commercial buildings), it is anticipated disposal costs will increase to around 6-8% of value for the more encumbered properties. Officers are therefore requesting the creation of a disposals budget of around \$150,000 per annum to facilitate the necessary legal and other preparatory works.

Total cost: \$1,200,000

Activity: Property

Timeframe:

Capex Yr 1 2021/22	Capex Yr 2 2022/23	Capex Yr 3 2023/24	Capex Yr 4 2024/25	Capex Yr 5 2025/26	Capex Yr 6 2026/27	Capex Yr 7 2027/28	Capex Yr 8 2028/29
150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000

Recommendation

That Council amends the final LTP 2021-41 to add \$150,000 to Financial Years 1 to 8 inclusive, a total of \$1,200,000 for the Property Disposals Programme.

Topic 3: Property Disposal Programme - Valuation of property assets

Summary

Council is looking to continue its disposals programme for non-core property. Given the likely need for valuations and marketing costs, Officers are seeking a budget of \$50k per annum to facilitate an ongoing programme.

Analysis

Council is looking to continue its disposals programme for non-core property. Gray Partners in consultation with Council Officers have identified a potential opportunity to dispose of \$15m of property within the next 8 Years. Officers propose revaluing properties prior to sale, and will further require funding for marketing costs. Officers are therefore requesting a valuation/marketing budget of around \$50k per annum.

Total cost: \$400,000

Activity: Property

Timeframe:

Capex Yr 1 2021/22	Capex Yr 2 2022/23	Capex Yr 3 2023/24	Capex Yr 4 2024/25	Capex Yr 5 2025/26	Capex Yr 6 2026/27	Capex Yr 7 2027/28	Capex Yr 8 2028/29
50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000

Recommendation

That Council amends the final LTP 2021-41 to add \$50,000 to Financial Years 1 to 8 inclusive, a total of \$400,000 for the Property Disposals Programme – Valuation of property assets.

Topic 4: Rental Income – 28 Durham Street

Summary

Officers are engaged in conversations with Ministry of Social Development (MSD) to lease 28 Durham Street to the organisation for the purpose of transitional housing.

Analysis

Given the recent changes to the Residential Tenancies Act Officers have been readying 28 Durham Street (insulation and heating) for use as transitional housing leased to MSD. Given the strategic nature of the purchase, Council does not wish to get locked into a long-term residential lease. Premises provided for transitional housing avoid the recent changes whereby housing can no longer be leased on fixed terms, but must instead be periodic in nature. Officers have been advised that the likely rent achievable from this property would be in the region of \$450 per week.

Total income: (\$468,000)

Activity: Property

Timeframe:

Opex Yr 1 2021/22	Opex Yr 2 2022/23	Opex Yr 3 2023/24	Opex Yr 4 2024/25	Opex Yr 5 2025/26	Opex Yr 6 2026/27	Opex Yr 7 2027/28	Opex Yr 8 2028/29	Opex Yr 9 2029/30	Opex Yr 10 2030/31
23,400	23,400	23,400	23,400	23,400	23,400	23,400	23,400	23,400	23,400

Opex Yr 11 2031/32	Opex Yr 12 2032/33	Opex Yr 13 2033/34	Opex Yr 14 2034/35	Opex Yr 15 2035/36	Opex Yr 16 2036/37	Opex Yr 17 2037/38	Opex Yr 18 2038/39	Opex Yr 19 2039/40	Opex Yr 20 2040/41
23,400	23,400	23,400	23,400	23,400	23,400	23,400	23,400	23,400	23,400

Recommendation

That Council recommends the inclusion of the proposed revenue of (\$468,000) from 28 Durham Street in the final LTP 2021-41.

Topic 5: Foxton Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade

Summary

As per the presentation to Elected Members, there is \$1m required in Year 1 for the completion of the Foxton Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade project.

Analysis

As reported to the Finance Audit Risk Committee, and the Chief Executive's report to Council, the opportunity arose to accelerate the completion of the Foxton Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade Project this financial Year. To comply with the resource consent conditions, the physical work for the upgrade is required to be completed by 04 February 2022.

An approximate further \$3.9m was required at that time to complete the physical works, \$2.9m in the 2020/21 financial Year and \$1m in the 2021/22 financial Year.

The decision to proceed was made by the Chief Executive, under his delegation, after the LTP budget had been put together.

Total cost: \$1,000,000

Activity: Wastewater

Timeframe:

Capex Yr 2021/22
1,000,000

Recommendation

That Council amends the final LTP 2021-41 to add \$1,000,000 to Year 1, for the Foxton Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade.

Topic 6: Levin Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) Renewals

Summary

\$1.5m from Year 3 needs to be brought forward, half into Year 1 and half into Year 2, to allow the digesters to be replaced due to failure.

Analysis

Digester 1 at the Levin WWTP has failed and Digester 2 requires remediation. There is \$1.5m earmarked for the digesters in Year 3 but due to the current state of the digesters, this needs to be brought forward. \$750k in Year 1 for Digester 1 and \$750k in Year 2 for Digester 2.

Activity: Wastewater

Timeframe:

Capex Yr 1 2021/22	Capex Yr 2 2022/23	Capex Yr 3 2023/24
750,000	750,000	(1,500,000)

Recommendation

That Council amends the final LTP 2021-41 to bring forward \$1,500,000 from Year 3 to \$750,000 in Year 1 and \$750,000 in Year 2 for the Levin Wastewater Treatment Plant Renewals.

Topic 7: Alternate water source

Summary

The land at Poads Road has been purchased for its excellent potential to provide Levin an alternative water storage and supply. Council have targeted bringing the alternative supply on line from around 2031 (Year 10 of the LTP), to coincide primarily with the completion of Tara-Ika.

Analysis

Between now and the 2031 opening date, the project delivery is divided into two stages:

Stage 1 is the Capex line item “Poads Road Quarry” and is for consenting and quarrying the excess material from the eventual new storage pond(s). Council have included nominal figures in the budget subject to the final design of the ponds, outcomes of Council’s geotech investigations and the demand for quarry aggregate at the time.

Stage 1 has been placed under General Property and categorised as a Level of Service project as the revenues will return as a dividend to Council. If opting for this as a growth project Council would have to contemplate whether any of this project would attract a development contribution. For now, Council have placed it under Level of Service.

Stage 2 will seek to convert the quarry consent into a fully fledged water reservoir consent. This is the line item “Alternative Water Source for Levin” in the Water Activity of the capex programme. Subject to success, toward the end of the quarrying works Council will start working on the detailed design and construction of the ponds themselves, including the intakes, reticulation and other assets. This also includes upgrades on our treatment plants, continued work on de-pressurising our network and various other asset improvements throughout Levin to comply with water standards. For that reason Council have divided the \$18m costs 62.5% Growth and 37.5% Level of Service.

The draft LTP also signalled an additional stage to reinstate the area and convert into a recreational reserve. Council have since revised their assumptions on the reinstatement costs, counter-balanced with developing the surplus land. That way, aspects of the project could conceivably attract a district wide development contribution to offset costs. As such Council suggest removing the Poads Road Lake Reserve line item.

Total cost: (\$17,672,060)

Activity: Property

Timeframe:

Capex Yr 1 2021/22	Capex Yr 2 2022/23	Capex Yr 3 2023/24	Capex Yr 4 2024/25	Capex Yr 5 2025/26	Capex Yr 6 2026/27	Capex Yr 7 2027/28
-	(51,350)	(315,810)	(323,400)	(5,525,000)	(5,657,500)	(5,799,000)

Recommendation

That Council recommends removing \$17,672,060 for the alternate water source from the final LTP 2021-41.

Topic 8: Tara-Ika Loan Funding

Summary

Council has identified the Tara-Ika loan funding transaction might be a candidate for a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) as allowed for under the Infrastructure Funding and Finance (IFF) Act 2020.

Analysis

Subsequent analysis of the Tara-Ika scope of works against the key parameters of the IFF Act has shown that the works are not suited to delivery under a SPV. The works are being delivered conventionally through Council's finance and infrastructure processes.

Timeframe

	Capex Yr 1 2021/22	Capex Yr 2 2022/23	Capex Yr 3 2023/24	Capex Yr 4 2024/25	Capex Yr 5 2025/26	Capex Yr 6 2026/27	Capex Yr 7 2027/28	Capex Yr 8 2028/29	Capex Yr 9 2029/30
Borrowings Impact of capital spend	3,624,333	5,516,667	6,500,000						
Capital Grant	(4,275,667)	(4,283,333)							
DC Revenue (Additional)	(1,000,000)	(2,000,000)	(2,000,000)	(2,000,000)	(2,000,000)	(2,000,000)	(2,000,000)	(2,000,000)	(738,358)

Recommendation

That Council considers the change to the Tara-Ika Loan Funding

Topic 9: Delivery of major infrastructure

Summary

There are challenges in delivering major infrastructure in the current environment. Council's infrastructure strategy addresses these, including access to specialist contractors and building more capacity. To succeed, Council will need to adopt alternative contracting models and will need to focus a dedicated project management solely on capital project delivery supported by systems to better manage concurrent programmes of work.

Analysis

Increasing our capital works programme will prepare us for growth and renew aging infrastructure. Council plan to take advantage of the low cost of borrowing to contribute to the local economy as we rebuild from the impacts of the pandemic. Council also need to get ahead of growth so as not to stymie housing, business and economic opportunities across our District.

Council is aware of the challenge around delivering the capital programme and the specific risks that will need to be mitigated. Council acknowledge we are in a challenging delivery environment with pressures on availability of materials and specialist contractors. To mitigate the risks Council are taking a multi-faceted approach.

Council have set up an infrastructure development and delivery team within Council that will be key to managing work across our multiple major projects. Council's project's committee will expand to oversee key projects, and maintain an overview of the entire capital works programme. Council have in place multi-Year operational contracts for roading and Three Waters that ensure contracting resources are available to our programme. Council intends to bundle multiple projects into consolidated packages of work to give suppliers certainty over forward works planning.

Bundling also allows us to more easily move resources across within a broader programme with no overall slippage.

Council are actively exploring opportunities to partner with neighbouring local authorities to ensure we are not competing at the same time for the same contractor resource and, if possible, we will look to combine work programmes. Partnering with other Council's and contractors and bundling contracts for packages of work will give us flexibility to ensure time-critical work can be prioritised.

Topic 10: Waka Kotahi NZTA

Summary

Waka Kotahi NZTA - Collective messaging

Analysis

With State Highway 1 and 57 signalled to become local roads once Ōtaki to North of Levin (Ō2NL) is built, we need to ensure that all roads transferred to Council from Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency are fit-for-purpose before we take ownership.

All new roads in the Horowhenua District need to support growth, resilience and safety. Alongside with our own investment in our road network, we need to use the revocation and State Highway construction projects to ensure our communities remain connected and well serviced. We need to make it easier for people to move around our District's town centres and along our local road connectors. Council will strongly advocate for easy and efficient entry and exit points from the new Ō2NL expressway to our business and shopping centres and bus and train stations. This will be our priority action regionally.

Council have assigned budgets in the early Years of the LTP to work on the growth, safety and resilience related upgrades required of our roading network as a direct consequence of Ō2NL and State Highway revocation.

Ō2NL and the upgrades to State Highways 1 and 57 aligns with our regional economic development plans. We have budgeted for the advocacy and delivery of parallel opportunities that open up creative and sustainable ways to provide for our community's private and public transport needs as well as walking and cycling improvements.

Topic 11: Court Infringements

Summary

Since the proposed budgets were prepared at the end of 2020, an oversight has been identified involving the Court infringements for dog notices. The proposed budget did not correctly identify the amount that should have been budgeted for where the infringement debt is not paid during the same financial Year that it was sent to the Court for collection.

Analysis

Each infringement issued shows in the budget as income. For dog infringement notices issued where the infringement amount is not paid for by the due date (typically 74 days), the infringement is sent to the Court for collection and becomes a fine. The total amount of infringements sent to Court for collection will not be recovered during the same financial Year, and therefore the income amount for the Year is proposed to reduce by \$30,000 to take account of this.

Total cost: \$600,000

Activity: Planning and Regulatory Services

Timeframe:

Opex Yr 1 2021/22	Opex Yr 2 2022/23	Opex Yr 3 2023/24	Opex Yr 4 2024/25	Opex Yr 5 2025/26	Opex Yr 6 2026/27	Opex Yr 7 2027/28	Opex Yr 8 2028/29	Opex Yr 9 2029/30	Opex Yr 10 2030/31
30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000

Opex Yr 11 2031/32	Opex Yr 12 2032/33	Opex Yr 13 2033/34	Opex Yr 14 2034/35	Opex Yr 15 2035/36	Opex Yr 16 2036/37	Opex Yr 17 2037/38	Opex Yr 18 2038/39	Opex Yr 19 2039/40	Opex Yr 20 2040/41
30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000

Recommendation

That Council amends the final LTP 2021-41 to add \$30,000 to Financial Years 1 to 20 inclusive, a total of \$600,000 for court infringements.

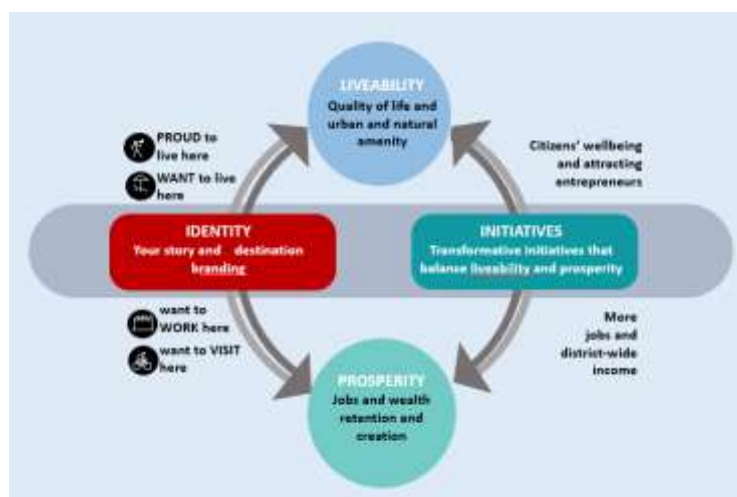
Topic 12: Representation and Community Leadership Activity Statement – District Plan Performance Measure

Summary

The LTP Consultation Document introduces the Horowhenua 2040 Blueprint being the long-term vision and action plan for the District. The Blueprint is essential in taking a proactive approach to the district’s transformation, setting out the sequence of actions that will move the district from its current state towards the future we aspire for in 30 Years’ time. The proposed LTP budget includes funding of \$300k (Year 1) and \$250k (Year 2) to commence implementing the Blueprint. While the Blueprint is still being completed, there are emerging themes that the Council is gaining familiarity with. Consideration should be given by the Elected Members to the likely priority projects that could be funded in Year 1 and 2 as part of the implementation of the Blueprint.

Analysis

The Horowhenua 2040 Blueprint is advancing and will be completed in the coming months. Several work streams are being explored and this work will identify potential projects to help transform the District. Elected Members will be familiar with the framework that has emerged and the aim of prioritising projects that contribute to the District’s prosperity or liveability.



Projects that are currently emerging to the top of the prioritisation process include.

Affordable Housing – this is a project that will seek to create opportunities for more affordable housing to be delivered in the District. These opportunities could be created through a range of process and District Plan Changes, promotion of opportunities and additional officer support and facilitation.

Levin Structure Plan – this is a project currently identified for Year 1 as part of the Wellington Regional Growth Framework. This project seeks to develop a structure plan for transformational level of housing development in Levin to provide for a step change in the number of houses and maximise the benefits from planned and current changes occurring in road and rail services. It aims for a coordinated transformation change to the scale and type of housing in the identified area and to provide for an integrated, well-functioning urban environment, rather than piecemeal changes over time, which would not provide for the same concentration of housing, connectivity and neighbourhood amenity.

While forming part of the Wellington Regional Growth Framework and will receive some funding there is an expectation that Horowhenua District Council, as a direct beneficiary of this project will make a funding contribution to the delivery of this project.

Identity, Brand and Events – this work stream is currently being developed to shape up the opportunity. Elected Members heard from submitters who reinforced the challenges faced by local event holders and the potential role Council could play in supporting events to ensure these important local events continue to be held. Linked to this is work to be undertaken confirming the District's identity and branding and for how this can be promoted. The Blueprint has signaled examples of how a prospectus for the District could be beneficial. The importance of our food culture and the multi-faceted connections between food and several of the work streams such as identity, education, sector jobs, logistics and both liveability and prosperity are likely to see this feature in some form as a priority project or work stream.

If there are other projects, work streams, or roles that Council are expecting to see prioritised and funded in Years 1, 2 and 3, then Elected Members should consider making appropriate funding available for these. Noting that there is currently, no funding included in the budget beyond Year 2.

Recommendation

That Council considers the likely priority projects that could be funded in Year 1 and 2 as part of the implementation of the Blueprint.

Topic 13: District Plan - Statement of Service Performance (SSP)

Summary

Change SSP wording to read "Council will process non-complying consents in a robust way. When the percentage of non-complying consents approved exceed 5% we will undertake an investigation of the District Plan rules that have triggered the non-complying consents".

Analysis

No financial impact. Current SSP could be seen to be a pre-determination that Council may not grant a consent if it is concerned about going past the current percent set for non-complying activities being granted. CouncilMark process identified improved wording could be used to achieve the same end outcome.

Recommendation

That Council amends the District Plan - Statement of Service Performance in the final LTP 2021-41 to read "Council will process non-complying consents in a robust way. When the percentage of non-complying consents approved exceed 5% we will undertake an investigation of the District Plan rules that have triggered the non-complying consents".

Topic 14:

Summary

Remove “80% of Council staff with EOC roles” and replace SSP target to read “Council’s EOC (and alternate EOC) are fully functional, designated staff are trained and qualified, and Council meets its obligations under the CDEM Act”.

Analysis

No financial impact. The changes more accurately reflect Council’s responsibilities under the CDEM Act and its capacity to meet those obligations. The changes focus on our requirement to maintain a functional EOC and to have suitably trained and qualified staff to respond to, and recover from, emergencies. The previous measure of 100% of staff trained was not achievable or realistic based on the facts that: not all Council staff can and/or are required to perform Emergency Management functions; and staff were often not available to attend designated courses . The latter was also compounded by the time intervals between emergency management courses meaning some staff were not trained/ qualified during that month.

Recommendation

That Council amends the Emergency Management - Statement of Service Performance (SSP) in the final LTP 2021-41 to change to read “Council’s EOC (and alternate EOC) are fully functional, designated staff are trained and qualified, and Council meets its obligations under the CDEM Act”.

Topic 15: Local Government Official Information Management Act (LGOIMA) - Statement of Service Performance (SSP)

Summary

Remove the reference of SSP wording "LGOIMA requests responded to within 20 working days." Replace with “Official Information requests are processed in accordance with the LGOIMA.”

Analysis

No financial impact. The new SSP more accurately measures Council’s performance in meeting our requirements as stated in the Official Information/LGOIMA Acts. The previous performance measure was time based which only represents one legislative compliance condition. The >90% compliance rate allows for a small degree of administrative errors which can occur and cannot be compensated for nor forecasted accurately.

Recommendation

That Council amends the Local Government Official Information Management Act (LGOIMA) - Statement of Service Performance (SSP) in the final LTP 2021-41 to change to read “Official Information requests are processed in accordance with the LGOIMA.”

Topic 16: Jubilee Park Splashpad Additional Funding

Summary

Council officers initially signalled a total of \$253,000 across Years 1 and 2 of the Draft LTP for the construction of a splashpad, this figure was based on the best information available at the time of the LTP being developed and in conjunction with completion of the feasibility studies. The splashpad options report received this week has indicated that capital budget is \$250,000 to \$300,000 for the splashpad construction. In order to allow adequate budget for construction, the removal / remediation of the old pool / a small contingency, and staff labour recoveries, Officers are seeking a further \$57,000 to be added to the capital budget to bring the total capital cost to \$310,000.

Analysis

The Horowhenua Aquatic Facilities Strategy recommended investigating the removal of the paddling pool and replacing with a small-scale splashpad. The advantage of a splashpad is no standing water and therefore does not require active supervision.

In 2020/21 Annual Plan, a proposal for \$450,000 splashpad was suggested. The Council presented three options for community feedback:

Option 1 – remove paddling pool with no splashpad.

Option 2 – remove paddling pool and build \$450,000 splashpad.

Option 3 – remove paddling pool and build \$450,000 splashpad but only if \$200,000 can be raised from grants.

As part of the Annual Plan Council resolved to undertake a three-way feasibility study to explore future options for Foxton Pools, Levin Aquatic Centre and Jubilee Park Paddling Pool to help inform decisions in the Long-Term Plan 2021-2041. In addition to this it was resolved that Council considers allocating a Capex budget of up to \$400,000 for the construction of a Community Splash Pad as part of the preparation of the 2021/2041 Long Term Plan, and explores the appropriate funding arrangements.

The feasibility study for Jubilee Park is well progressed but completion is reliant on other decisions to be made in the network. This Preliminary Options Report has been prepared to summarise the analysis completed to date on Jubilee Park Splashpad, to help inform the Council's decisions as part of upcoming Long-term Plan deliberations. Once these decisions are made, this will inform the completion of the feasibility study.

Some key points from the options report are listed below:

- A detailed site investigation has been completed for Jubilee Park to understand the presence and extent of potential soil contamination arising from historical land use of the site. Based on the results of the tests conducted, it is concluded contamination of shallow soils across the site are considered highly unlikely to present a risk to human health. If a splashpad was to be developed, a Controlled Activity consent is recommended to appropriately control earthworks at the site.
- The content of community submissions was further analysed to understand community views. Overall, the submissions indicate there is a good level of community support for a splashpad however 40% of those that submitted highlighted concerns regarding the overall cost of construction indicated by Council through the annual plan of \$400k.
- It is noted that the provision of a splashpad at Jubilee Park needs to be considered in conjunction with the development of Levin Aquatic Centre to ensure the aquatic network is cohesive and the two facilities do not compete against each other.
- A splashpad design has not been developed for Jubilee Park as this will occur once the LTP budget had been committed and through formal "request for proposal" process with splashpad supply companies, where there is a competitive and transparent opportunity to compare potential providers.

Total cost: \$57,000

Activity: Community Facilities and Services

Timeframe:

Capex Yr 1 2021/22	Capex Yr 2 2022/23
28,500	28,500

Recommendation

That Council amends the final LTP 2021-41 to add \$28,500 to Financial Year 1 and 2, a total of \$57,000 for the Jubilee Park Splashpad.

Topic 17: Levin Sportsgrounds

Summary

Levin sportsgrounds are increasingly being used to host regional and national sports, whilst this raises the profile of the region nationally, and improves its economic performance through intra-regional and national tourism, additional costs unallowed for in operational budgets equate to around \$20k per annum.

Analysis

Council sportsgrounds are increasingly hosting regional and national games and competitions. Examples of this include the first class cricket games at Donnelly Park, Heartland Tournaments at Levin Domain, and national events at Playford Parks (eg RIPPA). These additional demands on grounds budgets are not recognised in the existing operational budgets and should Council wish to continue facilitating them there is a need to establish an events budget. The value of event-based work is estimated at \$20,000 per annum, and whilst not measured, the value of having regional and national events within the Horowhenua undoubtedly adds to the regions economic income. Such events furthermore raise the national profile of Horowhenua.

Total cost: \$400,000

Activity: Community Facilities and Services

Timeframe:

Opex Yr 1 2021/22	Opex Yr 2 2022/23	Opex Yr 3 2023/24	Opex Yr 4 2024/25	Opex Yr 5 2025/26	Opex Yr 6 2026/27	Opex Yr 7 2027/28	Opex Yr 8 2028/29	Opex Yr 9 2029/30	Opex Yr 10 2030/31
20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000

Opex Yr 11 2031/32	Opex Yr 12 2032/33	Opex Yr 13 2033/34	Opex Yr 14 2034/35	Opex Yr 15 2035/36	Opex Yr 16 2036/37	Opex Yr 17 2037/38	Opex Yr 18 2038/39	Opex Yr 19 2039/40	Opex Yr 20 2040/41
20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000

Recommendation

That Council amends the final LTP 2021-41 to add \$20,000 to Financial Years 1 to 20 inclusive, a total of \$400,000 for the Levin Sportsgrounds.

Topic 18: Economic Development - Statement of Service Performance (SSP)

Summary

Updating Statement of Service Performance (SSP) wording

Analysis

New table to be added to replace table that went out in the draft LTP as below in italics

Economic Development

The purpose of the Economic Development Activity is to facilitate economic growth to support improved social and economic wellbeing in the Horowhenua District

What Economic Development involves:

The District is now in a growth phase which brings opportunity to considerably advance its economic wellbeing and prosperity. Effective economic development requires capability and capacity to plan, collaborate, align, implement, monitor and evaluate action to take advantage of available opportunities.

What has changed since the 2018/38 LTP?

- In August 2020 Horowhenua District Council undertook a high level review of its current Economic Development Strategy (EDS). The review found that the current EDS lacked a developed implementation plan which provided priority, focus and measurement to the critical areas and actions.*
- A Economic Implementation Plan has since been developed to provide a broader perspective of the economic development role of local government (and its delivery partners/agents), and clarity on the key linkages between areas of Council activity; who has the lead on particular actions; and where collaboration would be essential to effectively deliver for Horowhenua.*

Challenges Council faces for this Activity

- Effective economic development is a team game played over long-term horizons. This means effective and targeted collaboration and partnerships with Iwi, business, Central Government and the not-for-profit sector are critical in achieving community objectives. For this to work well there needs to be an effective mechanism or mechanisms that bring the different parties together regularly to prioritise, coordinate and align activity.*
- Capability and capacity needs to be built over time to deliver effective economic development requiring a staged approach to progressing economic development priorities within scarce funding resources.*

Significant negative effects on the social, cultural, economic and environmental wellbeing of the local community associated with this Activity

- There are no known significant negative effects surrounding Council's planned Economic Development Activity.*

Key Risks and Assumptions associated with this Activity

There are no known risks or assumptions associated with Council's planned Economic Development Activity.

Rationale for this Activity (why we do it):

Activity	Community Outcome	Council Role
<i>Business development and support.</i>	Vibrant economy	<i>Advocate/Funder</i>
<i>Ensuring Horowhenua has appropriate rules and infrastructure for people, business, and the environment to flourish</i>	Vibrant economy	<i>Provider/Advocate/Funder</i>
	Outstanding Environment	
	Strong community	

Activity	Community Outcome	Council Role
	'Fit for purpose' infrastructure	
Promoting Horowhenua as a great place to live, learn, create and play	Vibrant economy Strong community	Provider/Advocate/Funder
Workforce skill development, training and education.	Vibrant economy Strong community	Advocate/Funder
Partnering to build capacity and capability and promoting investment into Horowhenua	Vibrant economy Strong community	Advocate

Levels of Service and how we will measure our performance:

Service	Community Outcomes	How will we measure our performance	Target 21/22	Target 22/23	Target 23/24	Target 24/41
Council provides opportunities for businesses to collaborate and network resulting in a stronger business sector.	Vibrant Economy Strong Community	Number of business networking meetings organised per Year.	≥10	≥10	≥10	≥10
What does this tell me? Council is committed to collaborate and network with the local business sector. Below 10 would indicate Council is not fulfilling its commitment.						
Council advocates for and facilitates business development and new business investment in the Horowhenua District.	Vibrant Economy 'Fit for purpose' infrastructure	Percent of the District's Business Community that are satisfied or more than satisfied with Council's overall performance in the Economic Development Activity.	>75%	>75%	>75%	>75%
What does this tell me?						

Service	Community Outcomes	How will we measure our performance	Target 21/22	Target 22/23	Target 23/24	Target 24/41
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The percentage of satisfied customers as per a business survey gives us an indication of the quality of service we are providing.

Recommendation

That Council amends the Economic Development - Statement of Service Performance (SSP) in the final LTP 2021-41 to changes stated in this report.

Topic 19: Lake Horowhenua Stormwater

Summary/Analysis

This budget was included in the 2018-38 LTP, but was not included in the draft 2021-41 LTP. This was an error.

Total cost: \$6,205,000

Activity: Stormwater

Timeframe:

Capex Yr 1 2021/22	Capex Yr 2 2022/23	Capex Yr 3 2023/24	Capex Yr 4 2024/25
547,000	2,214,000	2,272,000	1,172,000

Recommendation

That Council amends the final LTP 2021-41 to add \$547,000 to Year 1, \$2,215,000 to Year 2, \$2,272,000 to Year 3 and \$1,172,000 to Year 4, a total of \$6,205,000 for Lake Horowhenua Stormwater.

Topic 20: Auditor recommended adjustments to correct misstatements

Summary/Analysis

When the Draft LTP was approved, the auditors provided a summary of changes or misstatements and recommendations that officers agreed to change as part of finalising the LTP.

This included:

- Removing inflation off Year 2 & 3 for roading as it is a committed contract
- Adjusting inflation rates - For 2023 to 2026 the assumed rates is 3%
- Ensuring alignment of the revaluation cycle for assets
- Recalculating the assumed financial position at the end of 2020/21

Activity: Land Transport

Timeframe:

Opex Yr 1 2021/22	Opex Yr 2 2022/23	Opex Yr 3 2023/24	Opex Yr 4 2024/25	Opex Yr 5 2025/26	Opex Yr 6 2026/27	Opex Yr 7 2027/28	Opex Yr 8 2028/29	Opex Yr 9 2029/30	Opex Yr 10 2030/31
-	1	(2)	(5)	206,812	449,413	963,497	1,134,477	2,640,961	2,537,723
Opex Yr 11 2031/32	Opex Yr 12 2032/33	Opex Yr 13 2033/34	Opex Yr 14 2034/35	Opex Yr 15 2035/36	Opex Yr 16 2036/37	Opex Yr 17 2037/38	Opex Yr 18 2038/39	Opex Yr 19 2039/40	Opex Yr 20 2040/41
2,549,535	2,758,164	2,037,721	1,441,104	2,378,967	1,766,431	1,032,623	833,789	(9,334)	(830,161)

Capex Yr 1 2021/22	Capex Yr 2 2022/23	Capex Yr 3 2023/24	Capex Yr 4 2024/25	Capex Yr 5 2025/26	Capex Yr 6 2026/27	Capex Yr 7 2027/28	Capex Yr 8 2028/29	Capex Yr 9 2029/30	Capex Yr 10 2030/31
(2,767,804)	(283,156)	(586,790)	(278,444)	(341,626)	(59,048)	823,074	1,303,932	531,963	848,729
Capex Yr 11 2031/32	Capex Yr 12 2032/33	Capex Yr 13 2033/34	Capex Yr 14 2034/35	Capex Yr 15 2035/36	Capex Yr 16 2036/37	Capex Yr 17 2037/38	Capex Yr 18 2038/39	Capex Yr 19 2039/40	Capex Yr 20 2040/41
939,750	803,031	1,706,163	2,276,019	1,644,427	2,291,950	3,019,684	3,012,109	3,927,226	4,827,957

Recommendation

That Council amends the final LTP 2021-41 to include misstatements, Removing inflation off Year 2 & 3 for roading as it is a committed contract, Adjusting inflation rates - For 2023 to 2026 the assumed rates is 3%, Ensuring alignment of the revaluation cycle for assets, Recalculating the assumed financial position at the end of 2020/21.

Topic 21: Interest rate assumptions

Summary/Analysis

Rates impact of increasing assumed interest rates by 25 basis points to align with assumptions of increasing interest rates. For 2023 to 2026 the assumed rate is 3%.

Activity: All activities

Timeframe:

Opex Yr 1 2021/22	Opex Yr 2 2022/23	Opex Yr 3 2023/24	Opex Yr 4 2024/25	Opex Yr 5 2025/26	Opex Yr 6 2026/27	Opex Yr 7 2027/28	Opex Yr 8 2028/29	Opex Yr 9 2029/30	Opex Yr 10 2030/31
-	290,127	324,983	345,184	390,710	859,936	1,352,511	1,868,120	2,344,546	2,533,988
Opex Yr 11 2031/32	Opex Yr 12 2032/33	Opex Yr 13 2033/34	Opex Yr 14 2034/35	Opex Yr 15 2035/36	Opex Yr 16 2036/37	Opex Yr 17 2037/38	Opex Yr 18 2038/39	Opex Yr 19 2039/40	Opex Yr 20 2040/41
2,622,241	2,676,148	2,712,922	2,764,531	2,884,330	2,803,777	2,686,286	2,542,114	2,371,854	2,330,610

Recommendation

That Council increases assumed interest rates by 25 basis points to align with assumptions of increasing interest rates. For 2023 to 2026 the assumed rate is 3%.

Topic 22: Election Costs

Summary

Horowhenua District Council contracts Electionz.com to manage the triennial election.

With the demise of District Health Boards, Electionz.com have had to review their pricing model. Previously HDC's costs associated with running the triennial election were shared with Horizons Regional Council and MidCentral DHB. The cost of Electionz.com managing a First Past the Post (FPP) vote processing for HDC and Horizons has therefore increased, as the cost will only be shared with Horizons.

Analysis

Council's estimated costs has increased from \$82k in 2019 to approximately \$136k in 2022. Council believes this is conservatively high and may come down if the Horizons Horowhenua Ward is contested.

Total cost: \$136,000

Activity: Representation and Leadership

Timeframe:

Opex Yr 1 2021/22	Opex Yr 2 2022/23	Opex Yr 3 2023/24
-	136,000	-

Recommendation

That Council amends the final LTP 2021-41 to add \$136,000 to Year 2, for Election Costs.

Topic 23: Property Sales

Summary

Over the next five Years, Council intends disposing of non-core properties to repay debt or creating a capital base for future development identified in growth-related strategies and planning initiatives to accommodate a growing population, including (but not limited to) Levin Town Centre strategy, Housing Action Plan, Taka-Ika.

Analysis

A number of non-core properties have been identified for disposal over the next five Years, subject to Council approval. Estimated proceeds from the sale of these non-core properties is \$19.79m between 2021 and 2025. Council is yet to determine whether the sale proceeds will be utilised to repay debt or included in a capital base for future development or strategic land purchases.

Total income: (\$19,790,000)

Activity: Property

Timeframe

Capex Yr 1 2021/22	Capex Yr 2 2022/23	Capex Yr 3 2023/24	Capex Yr 4 2024/25	Capex Yr 5 2025/26
(650,000)	(11,360,000)	(1,100,000)	(5,700,000)	(980,000)

Recommendation

That Council recommends the inclusion of the proposed revenue of (\$650,00) in Year 1, (\$11,360,000) in Year 2, (\$1,100,000) in Year 3, (\$5,700,000) in Year 4, and (\$980,000) in Year 5, a total of (\$19,790,000) in the final LTP 2021-41 for Property Sales.

Topic 24: Democracy Support, Risk and Improvement

Summary

During 2020/2021, the Chief Executive has assessed, in consultation with Elected Members, the Chair of the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee and the Senior Management Team, the need to increase capacity in the Corporate Services area of Council.

The areas identified that require consideration for additional resource include the following:

- i. Risk Management:*
The Senior Management Team and Elected Members need to establish a stronger risk culture. The quality of risk reporting needs further work.
- ii. Democracy Support:*
The interface between Elected Members and the Council operations need strengthening. Elected Members are seeking more extensive and complex information to assist with their Governance role in a fast moving growth environment. More high level reporting and action monitoring is being sought by Elected Members. A greater level of research is being sought by the Mayor and Council on significant matters affecting HDC, including Three Waters reform, RMA reform and the Future of Local Government.
- iii. Business/Process Improvement:*
As levels of activity increase due to growth within the Horowhenua, there is a need to ensure processes are effective and efficient, particularly in building consents, planning consents and procurement. There is a need to critically assess capacity, capability and processes to develop a 'can do' culture within the business to enable and meet the growth demands.
- iv. Zero-based Budgeting:*
Elected Members have expressed a strong desire to undertake zero-based budgeting in those areas of the business where this has not been undertaken. There is the need to assess where expenses can be reduced to offset additional expenses required to manage growth. An opportunity exists to continue monitoring and assessing areas of efficiency and energy.

Analysis

The Chief Executive intends establishing a small Corporate Services team to deliver the following functions:

1. Risk Management and Assurance
2. Democracy Support

3. Procurement Planning and support
4. Business and Process improvement
5. Energy Management
6. Zero-based budgeting assessment and support

It is intended that this team will be led by a Manager, reporting to a Group Manager. Part of the team will be filled from existing resources. Additional resources will be required for Risk Management and Democracy Support.

Activity: Employee Benefits

Total Cost: \$210,000

Timeframe

Opex Yr 1 2021/22	Opex Yr 2 2022/23	Opex Yr 3 2023/24
150,000	210,000	Ongoing

Recommendation

That Council amends the final LTP 2021-41 to include funding of \$150,000 in Year 1, \$210,000 in Year 2 and ongoing for the Democracy Support, Risk and Improvement additional role.

Topic 25: Financial Strategy and Work Programme

Summary

The Finance team is committed to completing the Revenue and Financing Policy Review, rates review, implementation of the policy side of the DC Policy implementation and the wider financial management improvement programme to lift the capability for the organisation. To ensure this is achievable next Year, and in the longer term, additional resource is required in the team to ensure there is sufficient capacity to deliver well.

Analysis

The total additional funding requirement will be \$100,000 per annum

Activity: Employee Benefits

Annual Cost: \$100,000

Timeframe

Opex Yr 1 2021/22	Ongoing
100,000	100,000

Recommendation

That Council amends the final LTP 2021-41 to include funding of \$100,000 in Year 1 and ongoing for the Financial Strategy and Work Programme.

Topic 26: Representation Review

Summary

As Council has agreed to introduce a Māori Ward for the 2022 triennial election, as a consequence, a Representation Review will need to be undertaken in 2021/2022.

Analysis

The estimated cost for the Representation Review to be undertaken by Electionz.com (as it was in 2017/2018) is \$25,000.

Activity: Representation and Leadership

Total cost:\$25,000

Timeframe

Opex Yr 1 2021/22	Opex Yr 2 2022/23	Opex Yr 3 2023/24
25,000	-	-

Recommendation

That Council amends the final LTP 2021-41 to add \$25,000 to Year 1 for the Representation Review.

Topic 27: Levin Memorial Hall

Summary

This funding is not required as the budget for seismic strengthening for the Levin Memorial Hall was also included in the Levin Town Centre - Memorial Hall development budget.

Total cost: (\$222,000)

Activity: Property

Timeframe:

Capex Yr 1 2021/22	Capex Yr 2 2022/23	Capex Yr 3 2023/24	Capex Yr 4 2024/25
-	-	-	(222,000)

Recommendation

That Council removes \$222,000 from the final LTP 2021-41 for the Levin Memorial Hall.

Topic 28: Foxton East Drainage scheme

Summary

This project is managed by Horizons Regional Council and they have not yet got to the construction phase. Construction is due to start in the new financial Year. The \$494,000 set aside in current financial year is to be carried forward to Year 1.

Total cost: \$494,000

Activity: Three Waters

Timeframe:

Opex Yr 1 2021/22
494,000

Recommendation

That Council amends the final LTP 2021-41 to carry forward \$494,000 set aside in the current financial year to Year 1 for Foxton East Drainage Scheme.

Attachments




There are no attachments for this report.





Confirmation of statutory compliance

In accordance with section 76 of the Local Government Act 2002, this report is approved as:

- a. containing sufficient information about the options and their advantages and disadvantages, bearing in mind the significance of the decisions; and,
- b. is based on adequate knowledge about, and adequate consideration of, the views and preferences of affected and interested parties bearing in mind the significance of the decision.

Signatories

Author(s)	Jacinta Straker Chief Financial Officer	
	Lisa Slade Group Manager - People & Culture	
	Nicki Brady Deputy Chief Executive	

	Kevin Peel Group Manager - Infrastructure Operations	
	David McCorkindale Group Manager - Customer & Strategy	
	Brent Maguire Group Manager - Infrastructure Development	
Approved by	David Clapperton Chief Executive	

Exclusion of the Public : Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987

The following motion is submitted for consideration:

That the public be excluded from the following part(s) of the proceedings of this meeting.

The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution follows.

This resolution is made in reliance on section 48(1)(a) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest or interests protected by section 6 or section 7 of that Act which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public, as follows:

C1 Property Purchase

Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Particular interest(s) protected (where applicable)	Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution
The public conduct of the part of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding exists under section 7.	s7(2)(i) - The withholding of the information is necessary to enable the local authority to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations).	s48(1)(a) The public conduct of the part of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding exists under section 7.