

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

Date: **Wednesday 3 June 2020 and
Thursday 4 June 2020 (if required)**
Time: **1.00 pm**
Meeting Room: **Council Chambers**
Venue: **Horowhenua District Council
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	Mrs Tiffany Gower	(Strategic Planner)
Meeting Secretary	Mrs Karen Corkill	

Contact Telephone: 06 366 0999
Postal Address: Private Bag 4002, Levin 5540
Email: enquiries@horowhenua.govt.nz
Website: www.horowhenua.govt.nz

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

Full Agendas are also available to be collected from:
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 Public Participation

Public participation for this meeting is available for those who have submitted and notification of a request to speak is required by **5.00 pm on the day prior to the meeting** by phoning 06 366 0999 or emailing public.participation@horowhenua.govt.nz.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, public attendance will still be limited for this meeting, so if you request public participation you will be required to sign in and wait in the foyer until it is your turn to speak.

3 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.

4 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.

5 Confirmation of Minutes

5.1 Meeting minutes Council, 13 & 14 May 2020

6 Announcements

Annual Plan 2020/2021 Deliberations - Land Transport

File No.: 20/193

1. Purpose

To present to Council for deliberation, the submissions received on the draft Annual Plan 2020/2021 in relation to Council's Land Transport Activity.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That Report 20/193 Annual Plan 2020/2021 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	Walking and Cycling
Topic 2	General Roothing Projects
Topic 3	Drainage Maintenance
Topic 4	Gladstone Road
Topic 5	Road Maintenance
Topic 6	Construction of a New Road Between Moutere and Old Waitārere Road
Topic 7	Holben Parade and Seabury Avenue Safety Improvements
Topic 8	Waikawa Beach Speed Bumps
Topic 9	Grazing of Rural Berms

Topic 1: Walking and Cycling

Submissions

Sam Ferguson (#5), Miraz Jordan (#36), Sharon Freebairn, Waitārere Beach Progressive & Ratepayers Association (#92), Peter & Normalyn Burton (93), Josien Reinalda (#110), Virginia Corrigan (#120) Ted Melton, Foxton Beach Progressive Association (#122), Sharon Williams (#130), Matthew Pilkington, Te Roopu Taiao o Ngati Whakatere Trust (#131).

Summary of Submissions

Submitter #5 advocates for Council to focus and invest in active transport, primarily walking and cycling and describes the benefits to the community that active transport brings, including; health, environmental, economic and social benefits.

Submitter #36 would like to see improved cycling infrastructure, specifically within Waikawa Beach, including altering the existing speed humps to allow easier use for cyclists. Submitter #36 also advocates for a shared pathway to connect satellite communities to Levin, with the possibility of a pathway beside the railway suggested.

Submitter #92 advocates for an active transport connection between Levin and Waitārere Beach, with an option suggested to link through Waitārere Hokio Road (related to submission #140).

Submitter #93 advocates for dedicated cycle tracks and notes the increase in cycling during the Covid-19 lockdown due to reduced traffic.

Submitter #110 requests that horse riders are considered and consulted on shared pathways, unformed roads are made available for riding and driving. The submitter specifically identifies:

- Palmer Road in Foxton Beach where the previous path was suitable for horse riding, but the new path has not provided a suitable surface or space for horses.
- Foxton Beach loop – through Cousins Avenue Forestry, through the dunes, along the beach south, along the Manawatū River east, through Ferry reserve and along Palmer Road.
- From Foxton to Foxton Beach – from the beach through the dunes and private forestry, over private land to Wylie Road, over Round Bush and through Target Reserve to the racecourse and pony club grounds.
- Along the Manawatū River and the River Loop from Foxton Beach to Foxton or to Shannon.
- Foxton Beach / Himatangi Loop – through the dunes and back over the beach.

Submitter #120 requests that when shared pathways are created provision for horse riders is included.

Submitter #122 advocates for completion of the Foxton Beach Shared Pathway Loop.

Submitter #130 advocates for improvements to footpaths, and an increase in footpath maintenance to improve the level of service provided. Urban streets with no footpaths or footpaths only on one side are asked to be given priority. Streets in Shannon are listed as examples.

Submitter #131 advocates for upgraded pathways in Shannon, and investigation into a pathway along the Manawatu riverbanks from Shannon to Matararapa, another path from Shannon Otauru Stream to Mangahao dam, and a pathway from Mangaore Village to Shannon.

Analysis

Council officers have developed a network plan of shared pathways within the district. This is a living document that is continually being developed and improved, in conjunction with the Horowhenua Integrated Transport Strategy (HITS). This network plan includes existing infrastructure, planned projects, including projects that are necessary for a functional active transport network, and long term aspirational projects. Many of the submission points have been captured in the shared pathway network plan. These projects are delivered through the New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA) Subsidized Cycling Facilities budget, which is currently set at \$400,000 per year.

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. The Parks & Property Team, in their deliberations, have undertaken to further investigate horse riding opportunities throughout the district and provide a report to Council.

Council officers will take feedback from these submissions and consider them for inclusion into the shared pathways network plan.

Submissions #36 and #130 advocate for improvements to existing infrastructure that can be addressed without significant planning. The specific issues described in these submission have been added to the Roding Defects Database. The issues will then be investigated and, if required, repairs and/or improvements will then be added to the forward work programme.

Submission #130 advocates for improvements to footpaths, more new footpaths and increasing footpath maintenance. Council has a programme of footpath improvements, which includes constructing new footpaths in urban areas which have no footpaths at all. These improvements are delivered through the NZTA subsidized Walking Facilities budget, which is currently set at \$245,000 per year.

Council also have maintenance and renewal budgets focusing on improving the overall condition of the District's footpaths which are delivered through the NZTA subsidized Footpath Maintenance Budget, which is currently set at \$460,000 per year, which is further broken down into \$30,000 Opex (maintenance) and \$430,000 Capex (renewal/replacement).

Recommendation

The submitters comments are noted, there are no recommendations.

Actions

The Stout Street footpath is added to Roding Defects Database for investigation and potential investment.

The Waikawa Beach Speed Humps are added to the Roding Defects Database investigation and potential investment.

The following pathway suggestions are considered for inclusion or reprioritisation in the Shared Pathway Network Plan: Waikawa to Levin, Waitāre to Levin, a number of paths around Foxton Beach identified by submitter #110 and a number of paths around Shannon suggested by submitter #131 (Matakarapa, Mangaore Village, Mangahao dam).

Topic 2: General Roding Projects

Submissions

Robert James Dick (#38), Christine Avery (#108), Marilyn Cranson (#136), Michael Feyen (#137).

Summary of Submissions

Submitter #38 advocated for funding for Jubilee Park splash pad to be reallocated to roading improvements, traffic calming along Queen Street, Andrews Street and Seabury Avenue to reduce speeding.

Submitter #108 advocates for projects to be carried out in the most efficient and effect way. Palmer Road and Seabury Avenue intersection upgrade is given as an example of inefficiency. Submitter #108 is under the impression the intersection required costly redesign and rework.

Submitter #136 advocates for traffic calming work to be carried out on East Road Shannon, and improvements to the East Road, Stafford and Clapham Street intersection in Shannon.

Submitter #137 is concerned with heavy vehicle traffic on Harbour Street, Liddell Street, Clyde Street and Wharf Street, and advocates for work to address this.

Analysis

Council Officers were alerted to speeding issues in Queen Street, Andrews Street and Seabury Avenue in Foxton Beach in 2019 by the community. These issues have been investigated and the problem has been confirmed. Traffic calming improvements have been programmed for the 2020/2021 financial year to address issues in this area.

Submitter #108 advocates for projects to be carried out in the most efficient and effective way. Council officers do, and will continue to, ensure this occurs. Council officers would like to clarify that the Palmer Road and Seabury Avenue intersection improvements did not require any redesign or rework. The original design was completed in two stages, as there were delays in finalising property access. There were no additional costs incurred.

Safety issues on East Road will be investigated by Council officers.

The roads parallel to the west of Foxton Main Street will continue to be monitored for any adverse effects caused by alterations to the network. The most recent traffic counts on Harbour Street show 6% of vehicles were heavy vehicles which is what could be expected for these roads.

Recommendation

The submitters comments are noted, there are no recommendations.

Actions

The safety issues on East Road will be added to the Roding Defects Database for investigation and potential investment.

The safety improvement works in Foxton Beach to address speeding will be delivered in the 2020/2021 financial year.

Topic 3: Drainage Maintenance

Submission

Caron Hobbs (#87).

Summary of Submission

Submitter #87 advocates for improvements and increased maintenance of stormwater drains in CD Farm Road.

Analysis

Council maintains roadside drains throughout the district. Flooding problems do occur regularly on CD Farm Road, these can usually be attributed to downstream capacity issues with the Horizons Drainage Scheme in the area. Council officers have over the last few years advocated to Horizons Regional Council for improved drainage in this area, and also provide assistance to Horizons Regional Council when possible.

Recommendation

The submitters comments are noted, there are no recommendations.

Action

That Council officers continue to advocate to Horizons Regional Council for improved drainage, and continue to be available to assist them in any way possible to improve drainage in the CD Farm Road area.

Topic 4 Gladstone Road

Submission

Caron Hobbs (#87).

Summary of Submission

Submitter #87 advocates for a permanent solution for Gladstone Road issues.

Analysis

Part of Gladstone Road is cut into a steep hillside and within this area is an active slip that has been creating road closures since February 2017. Council has been investigating options to solve this issue and provide resilient access for properties along Gladstone Road. Council now has a plan to remedy the issues with Gladstone Road with a resilience improvements project. This project has been designed and planning is underway to secure funding to possibly enable delivery in the 2020/2021 financial year.

Recommendation

The submitters comments are noted, there are no recommendations.

Action

That Council officers continue to work towards a permanent solution for Gladstone Road.

Topic 5: Road Maintenance

Submissions

Tyson Maki (#10), Caron Hobbs (#87).

Summary of Submissions

Submitter #10 is concerned with the quality of roading projects and perceived delays in construction timeframes, traffic management and pot holes.

Submitter #87 states that rural road maintenance needs improvement, and raises specific concerns about potholes from tractors.

Analysis

Council officers have reviewed this submission and considered the feedback which has been supplied, however, due to a lack of detail there are no specific issues which can be investigated.

Council's Roading contractors regularly inspect Council's roads and repair potholes, as and when required, within timeframes specified in the roading contract. Different classifications of road have different timeframes.

Recommendation

The submitters comments are noted, there are no recommendations.

Topic 6: Construction of a New Road Between Moutere and Old Waitārere Road

Submission

Charles Rudd Snr (#140).

Summary of Submission

This submitter advocates for an investigation into forming a road between Moutere Road and Old Waitārere Road (Waitārere Hokio Road).

Analysis

This submission is related to submission #92 covered under the Walking and Cycling topic heading. The demand for another road connection in this area for vehicles is not sufficient to justify the cost of constructing a new road. Funding from the NZTA would be very unlikely to be secured, so Council would bear the full cost of construction.

However, this area could have potential as a walking and cycling route, and will be considered for inclusion into the Shared Pathway Network Plan.

Recommendation

The submitters comments are noted, there are no recommendations.

Action

A walking and cycling connection from Moutere Road to Waitārere Hokio Road is to be considered for inclusion into the Shared Pathway Network Plan.

Topic 7: Holben Parade and Seabury Avenue Safety Improvements

Submissions

David Roache, Foxton Community Board (#98), Ted Melton, Foxton Beach Progressive Association (#122).

Summary of Submissions

Submitter #98 advocates for safety improvements to be made to the roads in the vicinity of Holben Reserve, and notes that the increased recreational use of this area, necessitates safety improvements. The submitter recommends including planned safety improvements into the 2020/2021 roading projects programme.

Submitter #122 advocates for traffic calming, safe drop-off and safe crossings needed in the Foxton Beach pump track area.

Analysis

Council officers have developed a safety improvement concept plan for the areas in the vicinity of Holben Reserve. This site has been confirmed as requiring improvement and will be funded out of the Subsidised Roding budget. Council Officers will review Roding Projects Forward Works Programme (FWP) for coming years and consider the prioritisation of this project. The FWP is a living document, with priorities constantly being reviewed, to ensure that the most important projects are dealt with in the timeliest manner possible.

Recommendation

The submitters comments are noted, there are no recommendations.

Action

Council officers will continue to regularly review the Forward Works Programme to assess the prioritisation of upcoming projects. The Holben Reserve area safety improvement project will be re-evaluated accordingly and be undertaken once the priority dictates.

Topic 8: Waikawa Beach Speed Bumps

Submissions

Miraz Jordan (#36), Waikawa Ratepayers Association (#90), Rory Barne (#134).

Summary of Submissions

Submitters #36 and #90 raise concerns with the design of speed bumps in Waikawa Beach, describing the speed bumps as uncomfortable and dangerous for cyclists.

Submitter #134 has requested the installation of speed bumps at Waikawa Beach along Sarah Street to control vehicle speeds.

Analysis

Council officers are committed to providing transport network that is safe and easy to use for cyclists. The speed humps in Waikawa Beach will be added to the Roding Defects Database for investigation and potential investment.

Speed humps as a speed reduction treatment are generally regarded as having a very narrow set of applications. In most cases other treatments are significantly more effective at reducing speeding, while presenting less adverse effects. Council will include Sarah Street in the Roding Defects Database for investigation.

Recommendation

The submitters comments are noted, there are no recommendations.

Action

The speed humps in Waikawa Beach will be added to the Roothing Defects Database for investigation and potential investment regarding safety for cyclists and the need to additional speed humps on Sarah Street.

Topic 9: Grazing of Rural Berms

Submissions

Josien Reinalda (#110), Virginia Corrigan (#120).

Summary of Submissions

The submitters raise concerns about the fencing of rural berms for the grazing of cattle. The narrowing of the berm reduces the space available for horse riding and in some cases can be dangerous.

Submitter #110 request that berms are not permitted to be narrowed by the temporary or permanent grazing of cattle.

Analysis

The grazing of rural berms is managed in accordance with Council's Land Transport Bylaw 2017. The bylaw sets out the conditions where the grazing of rural berms is permitted or not, standards for fencing, and the process and situations where permits are required. There are benefits in permitting this activity, as it reduces maintenance costs while also providing benefits to the permit holder. Council would need to amend the bylaw to create a ban on the grazing of rural berms.

Officers do not consider this to be an appropriate response to the concerns raised by the submitters as many roads throughout the district would not present a conflict of use with horse riding. Council officers would encourage the submitter to contact Council directly to discuss site specific concerns which may be able to be mitigated at a case by case basis.

Recommendation

The submitters comments are noted, there are no recommendations.

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 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)	James Wallace Roothing Services Manager	
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Approved by	Kevin Peel Group Manager - Infrastructure Operations	
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Annual Plan 2020/2021 Deliberations - Regulatory

File No.: 20/194

1. Purpose

To present to Council for deliberation, the submissions received on the draft Annual Plan 2020/2021 in relation to Council's Regulatory Activity.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That Report 20/194 Annual Plan 2020/2021 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	Cost of Building Consents
Topic 2	Building Inspections
Topic 3	Development on Unsuitable Land
Topic 4	Earthquake-prone Buildings
Topic 5	Feral Pigeons
Topic 6	Nuisance
Topic 7	Customer Service

Topic 1: Cost of Building Consents

Submission

Damian Reid (#39).

Summary of Submission

The submitter raised concerns that consents are overpriced and used an example of \$2,000 for a building consent to add a toilet to a house.

Analysis

While there are some fixed fee building consent categories, most building consent charges are based on the time taken to process the consents and carry out inspections. Costs can be minimised by ensuring that building work is designed and built to the New Zealand Building Code, as this will minimise charges in relation to requests for further information and repeating failed inspections.

A review of consents from 1 January 2019 to 21 April 2020, showed that out of a total of 18 consents were granted for minor residential plumbing and drainage work, and that the charges for these consents ranged from \$813.00 to \$1385.00, with an average charge of \$1001.00.

Based on feedback received from customers, a new fixed fee of \$330.00 has been added to the fee schedule for the 2020/21 year for 'minor plumbing and drainage projects with a value under \$5,000'. This will enable customers to see the full consent costs associated with these minor projects upfront. It is likely that this fee category would capture projects such as the installation of a

single toilet, or a soak pit, but more complex projects that include other structure alterations would most likely fall outside of this proposed fee category.

While efforts have been made to simplify consent processes for customers where possible, it is an area that is based on legislation and Council has to operate in a way that satisfies statutory requirements.

Recommendation

The submitters comments are noted, there are no recommendations.

Topic 2: Building Inspections

Submission

Michael Feyen (#137).

Summary of Submission

This submitter raises concerns about the number of building inspection call backs at Speldhurst compared to other locations throughout the District.

Analysis

Council officers undertake a consistent approach for undertaking building consents across the district and it is common practice for the same building officer to undertake the majority of building inspections for large developments, or where projects are similar in nature. The nature and complexity of the project will often dictate which building officer undertakes the inspections as they need to have the required competencies to carry out inspections.

It is not unusual to find lower rates of inspection failure at developments that have the same builder as there is consistency in the people carrying out the building work which results in a greater retention of the feedback given by building inspectors. The current rate of failed inspections at the Speldhurst Development is approximately 4%, our average rate of failed inspections is currently 11%.

The submitter indicated that a house in Foxton failed more building inspections than the entire Speldhurst development, a review of the data in our system indicates that the highest number of failed inspections on a consent in Foxton is 9, whereas there have been 72 failed inspections at Speldhurst in total.

Recommendation

The submitters comments are noted, there are no recommendations.

Topic 3: Development on Unsuitable Land

Submission

Lyn MacDonald (#68).

Summary of Submission

The submitter raises concern about permits being given to build in unsuitable areas, and specifically that their section was able to be developed given its location on an old riverbed.

Analysis

Council's planning team follow the requirements of the Operative District Plan 2015 and the processes outlined in the Resource Management Act 1991 for making decisions with respect to resource consents. Each consent application considers the site specific matters for the site and takes into account the information provided by applicants and held by the District and Regional

Councils. Resource consents are often issued with a set of conditions outlining how any potential adverse effects on the environment are to be avoided, remedied or mitigated.

Recommendation

The submitters comments are noted, there are no recommendations.

Topic 4: Earthquake-prone Buildings

Submission

Neville Gimblett (#71), Maurice John & Jacqueline Sophie Campbell (#75).

Summary of Submission

The submitters request Council revisit the decision on strengthening of earthquake prone priority buildings because this is another cost many small business owners face in the near future.

Submitter #75 specifically requests that Council removes Oxford Street as a priority area as this will give building owners more time to strengthen their buildings. If Council's decision cannot be reversed at a local level, the submitter suggests Council should pressure central government to reverse/defer/overthrow the legislation as a method to assist small business recovery in Levin.

Analysis

The Building Act 2004 (amended in 2016 by the Earthquake-Prone Building Amendment Act) sets out the obligations of building owners relating to earthquake-prone buildings. This legislation also sets out the obligations of Councils, including the identification of priority buildings and the process for doing so.

In accordance with the Building Act, Council must first have identified priority thoroughfare areas in the district in order to then identify priority buildings.

In 2017 Council started the process to identify priority thoroughfare areas following the public consultation process as required by the Act. A total of 28 submissions were received through this process and a public hearing was held on 15 June 2018 that resulted in further targeted consultation with building owners in the now priority thoroughfare area. A further public hearing was held in August 2018 and finally in March 2019 this process concluded with the resolution of Council adopting an area in Levin as priority (map below).

Horowhenua District is identified as being a high seismic risk area. The Act requires Councils to identify all potentially earthquake prone priority buildings in high seismic risk areas by January 2020. With the identification of the priority area determined in March 2019, potentially earthquake prone buildings were identified and building owners officially notified in December 2019 in order to meet the legislative requirements. This very robust process resulted in Council meeting its statutory obligations under the Building Act 2004 in relation to identifying potentially earthquake prone priority buildings.

With the timeframe to identify these buildings now passed, and the identification and notification of potentially earthquake prone buildings in this area complete, there is no opportunity available for Council to reverse their March 2019 decision.

During the hearing there was some uncertainty expressed by a submitter regarding timeframes. For the Building owners of potentially earthquake prone building in the priority area have 12 months from when they were notified to provide to Council, either:

- a. an engineering assessment of the building (or a previous assessment) undertaken by a suitably qualified structural engineer that complies with the requirements of the EPB Methodology; or,
- b. evidence of a factual error in the basis on which the Council have identified their building as potentially earthquake prone; or,

- c. notification that the building owner does not intend on providing an engineering assessment of the building.

The information provided by the owner will then be used to make the decision on a building's earthquake prone status; if a building owner advises that they do not intend on providing an engineering assessment or they do not provide any required information to Council by the due date, Council will proceed as if it had determined the building is earthquake prone. Buildings determined as earthquake prone will be issued an earthquake prone building notice under section 133AL of the Building Act 2004.

If a building owner intends to provide an engineering assessment but is unable to meet the due date for providing it, they can apply for an extension of time for up to twelve months. They have 10 months from when they were notified as potentially earthquake prone to apply for the extension and must clearly explain the reasons for the request for Council to consider. If the time extension is approved no further time extensions can be granted.

If an earthquake prone notice is issued to a building, a copy of the notice needs to be fixed in a prominent position on the building. The notice will specify the date by which a building owner is obligated to undertake seismic work so that the building is no longer earthquake prone. For a priority building deemed earthquake-prone, in accordance with section 133AM of the Building Act 2004 the timeframe for remedial work is 7.5 years from the issue of the notice.

The Ministry of Building Innovation and Employment has not indicated that this legislation would be amended as a result of Covid-19

The priority thoroughfare area in Levin:



Recommendation

The submitters comments are noted, there are no recommendations.

Topic 5: Feral Pigeons

Submission

Tim Brooks (#76).

Summary of Submission

This submitter has requested that Council creates a policy to control feral pigeons.

Analysis

The responsibility of a regional council includes the management and control of pest animals and plants. If the submitter is referring to the district wide control of feral pigeons, this submission may be better directed to Horizons Regional Council. However, if the submitter is referring to the management of persons providing sustenance, harbourage or comfort to feral pigeons causing nuisance; the Local Government Act 2002 sets out the powers available to create bylaws for certain purposes and included for the purpose of 'protecting the public from nuisance'. Horowhenua District Council's Animal Nuisance and the Keeping of Pigs, Poultry and Bees Bylaw 2014 prohibits property owners from encouraging nuisances by feral animals, including feral pigeons.

Recommendation

The submitters comments are noted, there are no recommendations.

Topic 6: Nuisance

Submission

Marilyn Cranson (#136).

Summary of Submission

Submitter #136 is of the opinion the farm between SH1 and Roslyn Road Levin is an eyesore and surely a vermin breeding ground. They have requested Council do something to remove the old carpet along the fences on the railway line side.

Analysis

The Operative District Plan 2015 sets the rules for residents in relation to the use of their land. The District Plan does not restrict the property owner from hanging carpet on the fencing.

Council has not received any previous complaints regarding vermin relating to this address; however, following the receipt of this submission Officers will treat this as a complaint and investigate the matter under the Health Act 1956. If the complaint is substantiated Officers will work with the owner of the property to achieve compliance in the first instance, following through with stricter enforcement options if required.

Recommendation

The submitters comments are noted, there are no recommendations.

Topic 7: Customer Service

Submissions

Damian Reid (#39), Maurice John & Jacqueline Sophie Campbell (#75), Jacinta Liddell (#114).

Summary of Submissions

Submitter #39 suggests that Council could improve its customer service by making sure interactions with Council as easy as possible. The submitter notes they have heard people portray Council as being unhelpful and restrictive (even though they do not hold the same view).

Submitter #75 indicated that Council was holding up opportunities for development; officers (both planning and development engineers) are 'problem focused' (can't do) rather than 'solution focused' (can do); were difficult to deal with; and that a lot of development was not occurring because of this approach.

Submitter #114 asks that Council processes become more flexible, and able to respond quickly to changing circumstances. They propose Council undertakes a review of how it can do things better.

Analysis

The submitter's comments are noted. Council officers receive a mixture of both positive and negative feedback about the development services (planning, building and development engineering) that it provides. This feedback is often based on a specific application or development. It is acknowledged that Council officers operating within the regulatory environment often need to walk a fine line between helping an applicant achieve their aspirations against managing the effects on the environment or other landowners and meeting statutory requirements.

Council officers strive to work in a collaborative and solution focused way with applicants. The best outcomes have been achieved when both the applicants and Council Officers have all the necessary information, there has been good dialogue between the applicant and Council officers throughout the process and a willingness on behalf of both sides to work together positively. Council officers acknowledge there will always be room for improvement. Council encourages a continuous improvement culture and is grateful when feedback (positive and negative) is provided, as this helps in the continuous improvement journey. Covid-19 has proved to be a catalyst for relooking at the way a number of the current services are delivered. One example is the online forms for planning applications and phasing out of paper forms a process which is currently being put in place. The delivery of these services will continue to be reviewed and other changes explored to improve the current service delivery and to help make processes more agile and responsive.

Recommendation

The submitters comments are noted, there are no recommendations.

Actions

The Officers responsible for Council's development services (Planning, Building and Development Engineering) review current processes and explore opportunities to improve current service delivery.

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

Annual Plan 2020/2021 Deliberations - Strategy and Development

File No.: 20/195

1. Purpose

To present to Council for deliberation, the submissions received on the draft Annual Plan 2020/2021 in relation to Council's Strategy and Development Activity.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That Report 20/195 Annual Plan 2020/2021 Deliberations - Strategy and 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 Strategy and Development Activity.
- 2.4 That the Al Fresco Dining Area project is included in the 2021/2022 financial year.

3. Topics for Consideration

Topic 1	Development at Foxton Beach
Topic 2	Foxton Beach Community Plan
Topic 3	Engaging with the Community
Topic 4	Council Needs to Plan for the District as a Whole
Topic 5	Otaki to North of Levin (O2NL)
Topic 6	Al Fresco Dining Areas
Topic 7	Levin Town Centre
Topic 8	Queen Street Design Toolkits
Topic 9	Gladstone Green
Topic 10	Transport Planning
Topic 11	Waitārere Beach Future Planning
Topic 12	Consultation Document
Topic 13	Long Term Plan Early Consultation with Grey Power
Topic 14	Issue with Annual Plan Submission Form
Topic 15	Planning for Sea Level Change
Topic 16	Moutere Sand Dune Hill
Topic 17	Stop Allowing Residential Development of Agricultural Land

Topic 1: Development at Foxton Beach

Submissions

Ted Melton, Foxton Beach Progressive Association Inc (#122), Michael Feyen (#137).

Summary of Submissions

Submitter #122 would like Council to incorporate community feedback into the Master Plan for Foxton Beach growth area as follows;

- To achieve variety, liveability, lifestyle balance, and complement Foxton Beach character.
- To be sustainable, environmentally sound, and community friendly.
- Provide safe and calm roading, shared-pathways, and open spaces that are usable and attractive.
- With infrastructure and amenities keeping up with growth.

Submitter #137 would like Council to reconsider the 500 house development at Foxton Beach. He raises concerns about water tables, drainage, liquefaction, availability of water, waste removal. He considers that many people want to retain the beach feel and it not to become a town.

Analysis

A Master Plan is being created for the Foxton Beach growth area which will establish a framework to guide the future development of the area by defining the future land use patterns (e.g. housing density), areas of open space, the layout and nature of infrastructure (including transportation links), and other key features and constraints that influence how the effects of development are to be managed.

This process allows the effects of large-scale development of land in multiple/separate ownership to be better understood and managed, while still allowing flexibility for developers/landowners to design their developments according to their own style and preferred design outcomes.

During the development of a master plan multiple aspects are considered at a site specific level these include but are not limited to climate change, liquefaction, dune system, archaeology, native vegetation and biodiversity. These are analysed and taken into account when a decision is made as to whether land is suitable for development.

Council officers are committed to working alongside iwi, landowners and key stakeholders to develop the Master Plan and associated outputs. Council is already working with key community representatives including the Foxton Beach Progressive Association and Foxton Community Board to gain an understanding of community priorities. Once the draft Master Plan is complete it will go out for community consultation with the feedback received incorporated into the final design.

Recommendation

The submitters comments are noted, there are no recommendations.

Topic 2: Foxton Beach Community Plan

Submission

Ted Melton, Foxton Beach Progressive Association Inc. (#122).

Summary of Submission

The submitter would like the Foxton Beach Community Plan to become an important carrier of citizen expectations. They would like the community plan to cover the themes and projects prioritised by the community, be finalised before the Long Term Plan (LTP) 2021-2041 review and request the priorities are included in the LTP.

Analysis

The Foxton Beach Progressive Association have been leading the development of the Foxton Beach Community Plan, with officer support. Officers have a good working relationship with Foxton Beach Progressive Association.

To date the Foxton Beach Progressive Association has undertaken initial community engagement and are currently in the process of analysing feedback and drafting the Community Plan. The Foxton Beach Progressive Association will need to finalise the document prior October 2020, for the actions to be considered as part of the development of the LTP 2021-2041, as officers will be working with Elected Members to prepare the supporting information for the LTP in the second half of 2020.

Recommendation

The submitters comments are noted, there are no recommendations.

Actions

That Council officers will continue to support the Foxton Beach Progressive Association to lead the development of the Foxton Beach Community Plan.

Topic 3: Engaging with the Community

Submission

Sue-Ann Russell (#19).

Summary of Submission

The submitter observes that the public have a voice and should be given every opportunity to speak. They suggest that there is a need for more open discussion of submissions and that organisations should be approached for comment. The submitter asks that Council be proactive and invite people to speak on topics of concern. They recommend that Council seeks opposing views to form one view of strong integrity.

Analysis

The submitter's observations and suggestions around how Council can better engage with the community are noted. Officers and Elected Members are always looking for new and better ways to engage with the community; with feedback and direction from the community being an important part of Council's planning and decision making.

Officers work with Elected Members to tailor engagement depending on the issue, project or plan that we are working on. In some cases, engagement is targeted to specific interest groups (e.g. Iwi, User Groups, Youth, or Grey Power), with these groups being given the opportunity to provide feedback and influence the topic and outcome of engagement. For projects or plans where the wider community may be affected or interested (e.g. consultation on an Annual Plan) then officers work to make engagement as broad and inclusive as possible, using methods including holding or attending public events, website and social media, radio advertising, as well as reaching out to key stakeholder groups.

Council welcomes a variety of views to be shared during engagement to ensure these are considered as part of decision making. Covid-19 will see Council officers continue to explore innovative ways to provide opportunities for the community to be consulted and provide feedback recognising that the traditional public gatherings may be constrained for some time.

Recommendation

The submitters comments are noted, there are no recommendations.

Topic 4 Council Needs to Plan for the District as a Whole

Submissions

Suzanne Havill (#84), Teri-Robyn Whiti (#103).

Summary of Submissions

One submitter indicates that the LTP seems to benefit Levin and nothing appears to go to the outer district e.g. walkways or footpaths are non-existent.

The other submitter suggests that Council makes an effort to provide for everyone's needs not just a selection of towns but the District as a whole, because small rural towns, especially in the Miranui Ward, get left out.

Analysis

When Council develops its LTPs and Annual Plans it considers the needs of the District as a whole, including identifying and prioritising projects and services for each community within it.

While it may seem at times that one town (or multiple towns) may benefit more than others through an Annual Plan or LTP, this is largely because Council cannot afford to do everything at once and must prioritise spending, and therefore, some years more work is done in one area than in another. Council is certainly investing in communities aside from Levin with recent examples including; upgrades to Waitarere Domain, the new shared pathway at Foxton Beach, the development of Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom, and the review of the Reserve Management Plans for Shannon.

Recommendation

The submitters comments are noted, there are no recommendations.

Topic 5: Ōtaki to North of Levin (O2NL)

Submissions

Rachel Rolfs (#30), Leone Brown, Horowhenua District Ratepayers and Residents Association (#41), Dominique Cvitanovic (#56), Graham Milligan (#61) Louis Edward Hunter (#64), David Roache, Foxton Community Board (#98), Garry Good (#102), Pam Good (#112), Samuel Bone (#135), Charles Rudd (#140).

Summary of Submissions

Submitters raised a number of perspectives relating to O2NL.

Submitter #30 requested that Council advocate for cycling, walking, and bridleways alongside the expressway. A number of submitters expressed a variety of concerns relating to O2NL, including the location of the proposed alignment, delays in the process to date, the potential impact on the Levin Town Centre, risk that Levin will become a commuter suburb for Wellington and the risk that commercial and residential growth may result in loss of farmland.

Submitter #41 raised questions about the assumption that Levin will grow as a result of O2NL and whether it is likely to increase commercial GDP.

Several submitters raised the opportunities O2NL brings, including for safety improvements, residential growth, new business interest resulting from better transport opportunities, and the opportunities for Foxton as it will become the first town out of Wellington on State Highway 1.

Submitters emphasised the importance of the project being implemented quickly and Council working alongside the New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA) to advocate for the best outcome for our community and to plan for the changes, both positive and negative, arising from O2NL.

Submitter #98, the Foxton Community Board, requested that they involved in planning discussions with Council and NZTA.

Analysis

Officers agree that it is important for Council to work alongside the NZTA to ensure local knowledge is fed into the process and to achieve a good outcome for the community. This includes considering how active transport can be provided for, the location of interchanges, and how environmental effects can be mitigated. However, officers note that the final decisions on the O2NL project, including the location of the alignment, sit with the NZTA and not Council. Council has a good working relationship with NZTA and will continue being actively involved in the process and the project as details are refined and the project progresses. There will also be an opportunity for community input in the second half of 2020 when the NZTA engages on the recommended alignment, interchange locations/form and impact on the local road network.

Council's growth modelling shows the Horowhenua population is projected to grow over a sustained period. We have already seen this trend begin, with the population growing an average of 2% per annum between 2013-2018. One reason for this is improved access to Wellington, resulting from roading improvements to the south already complete or underway as well as the anticipation of O2NL. Additional population will result in a boost to a number of industries, including construction. Based on experiences in other areas impacted by major roading projects, certain types of commercial and industrial activities seek to establish near to highways and interchanges – particularly those industries dependent on easy access to transport routes and high visibility. Council is investigating how best to provide for and manage these sorts of activities, while also carrying out work such as the Transforming Taitoko/Levin – Town Centre Strategy to protect and enhance the existing town centre to help it to remain vibrant and viable.

Officers are actively investigating and planning for opportunities and challenges arising directly and indirectly from O2NL, such as demand for housing and business land and will work with impacted communities and their representatives, including the Foxton Community Board, to ensure we understand the aspirations and concerns of these communities. The Horowhenua Integrated Transport Strategy identifies that Council will work with the Foxton Community Board on O2NL, specifically the Interchange Strategy for Foxton and the Foxton Gateway Plan.

Recommendation

The submitters comments are noted, there are no recommendations.

Actions

That Council officers continue working with the NZTA and the community to input into the NTZAs processes for O2NL.

That Council officers engage with the members of the Foxton Community Board to understand the aspirations and concerns of the Foxton community for the O2NL expressway.

Topic 6: Al Fresco Dining Areas

Submissions

Maureen June Delphine Lee (#48), Louis Edward Hunter (#64), Gill Janes (#66), Maurice John & Jacqueline Sophie Campbell (#75), Joyce Sewell (#77), Caron Hobbs (#87), Kerry Hocquard, Cancer Society of New Zealand Manawātū Centre Inc (#128).

Summary of Submissions

A number of submitters expressed concerns about the usability of the Oxford Street 'Al Fresco Dining Areas', due to the impact of passing traffic and associated noise and odour effects. One submitter also questioned what is the practicality of enhancing these areas when some buildings on Oxford Street could be potentially earthquake prone. Submitters also questioned whether this was a good use of money in light of the COVID19 situation.

A small number of submitter supported the idea, but suggested changes such as delaying until after the O2NL expressway is complete, and making them smokefree areas.

Analysis

The Al Fresco dining areas form part of a series of actions identified in the Transforming Taitoko/Levin – Town Centre Strategy that seek to help the town centre transition into a more resilient and attractive place for the community. One key component of this is providing places for people to stop and spend time, rather than going into town to complete a set task and leave again. It is important that this transition begins before O2NL is complete and traffic bypasses Levin, so that people come to view Levin as a destination worth spending time in. The O2NL project will provide opportunities for additional changes to Oxford Street as part of the revocation process. These changes can include a range of design treatments that can support the town centre being a safe, pleasant and more attractive environment for people to spend time in. Design techniques can help to minimise the impact of passing traffic. Examples of this include built sides or plantings which will reduce both the visibility and noise of traffic.

However, officers understanding that the Covid-19 situation creates an uncertain and difficult time for many and that some projects will need to be reprioritised. Officers consider this project to have merit and to be an appropriate starting point for implementing the Strategy. Undertaking this project in the 2020/2021 year would help send a positive signal to businesses that Council has confidence in the town centre and is committed to ensuring that the town centre has a successful future. More significant and expensive projects as part of the Transforming Taitoko/Levin – Town Centre Strategy are anticipated to be delivered in future years. However, an option available to Council is to delay the project until the following year (2021/2022) or later date.

Council's adopted Smokefree Environment Policy would not currently extend to the Al Fresco dining areas on Oxford Street being smokefree. This could be a matter that can be considered at the time of the next review of this Policy, which is due. In absence of the Policy covering these areas, those businesses leasing or using the Al Fresco dining areas would be able to discourage smoking in these areas through appropriate signage.

Recommendation

That the Al Fresco Dining Area project is included in the 2021/2022 financial year.

Actions

That the next review of the Horowhenua Smokefree Environment Policy considers extending the smokefree area to include specifically identified alfresco dining areas on Oxford Street.

Topic 7: Levin Town Centre

Submissions

Leone Brown, Horowhenua District Ratepayers and Residents Association (#41), Maureen June Delphine Lee (#48), Louis Edward Hunter (#64), Maurice & Jacqueline Campbell (#75), Joyce Sewell (#77) Caron Hobbs (#87).

Summary of Submissions

The submitters sought an improvement in the appearance of Oxford Street, encouragement for 'strip shopping' and identified the angle car parking on Oxford Street as a problem that needs addressing.

Submitters #77 and #87 raised concerns about the quality and types of shops available in the town centre and opening hours, and requested that there are limits placed on two-dollar style shops and takeaways.

Analysis

In November 2018, Council adopted the Transforming Taitoko/Levin – Town Centre Strategy. This Strategy seeks to revitalise and transform the town centre into a more attractive and desirable place to spend time. Attracting more people into the town centre will support the current retail and

commercial offering in Levin. Through the development of the Strategy, the community identified that some shops on Oxford Street had become rundown and that this impacted the town negatively. For this reason, Council created a CBD Signage and Building Design Policy which seeks to guide the design and upgrade of building frontages and signs. This was supported by a trial fund in which the Council contributes towards the costs of shop owners who wish to upgrade their shop fronts and signs in accordance with this Policy. The fund has a two-year trial period, with the first year being last year (2019). Uptake of this fund has been low to date. Officers are considering how to increase uptake in the second year of the trial.

Council is limited in its ability to control the types of retail and hospitality activity that can establish and operate within the town centre. The examples of activity types submitters were concerned about (two-dollar style shops and takeaways) are both examples of retailing activities, and are therefore appropriate to occur within a commercial environment. Likewise, Council is not able to require businesses to open at particular times; this is again a decision for private businesses.

Officers note submitter comments regarding angle car parking on Oxford Street. As Oxford Street is a State Highway, it is managed by the NZTA and not by Council. However, when O2NL is built Oxford Street will have its State Highway status revoked and it will become a local road, managed by Council. This process is called 'revocation'. The revocation process may provide an opportunity to secure an alternative roading layout, including changes to the car parking and potentially the traffic speed in the town centre. This will require further conversations with the community.

Recommendation

The submitters comments are noted, there are no recommendations.

Topic 8: Queen Street Design Toolkit

Submissions

Anne Hunt (#58), Gill Janes (#66), Charles Rudd Snr (#140).

Summary of Submissions

Submitter #58 stated that it is inappropriate to celebrate Māori history and values in this location due to historic conflict between iwi and the Crown in the area and that it is inappropriate for Council to have a vision for the Lake, as it is privately owned.

Submitter #66 questioned whether the Queen Street Design Toolkit was a sensible use of money.

Submitter #140 notes that beautification does not stop pollution and questions the value of this project as a result.

Analysis

The Queen Street Design Toolkit seeks to enhance the look and feel of Queen Street, by establishing a consistent theme as it is upgraded in a series of stages over a number of years. This will not occur all at once, so costs will be spread out over time as and when roading upgrades are required. Two roading projects that involve upgrading Queen Street are to take place in 2020/2021 and have been successful in receiving funding from Central Government to deliver the projects. The toolkit will help inform aspects of the design components of these projects along with future projects for Queen Street.

Queen Street connects the Tararua Ranges to Lake Horowhenua and was a traditional transport route in pre-European times. For this reason, Officers identified an opportunity to work closely with our Treaty partners to prepare a toolkit that would demonstrate this history, complement aspirations for Lake Horowhenua, as well as improve the functionality and appearance of this road. Officers acknowledge that referring to 'Council's vision' for the Lake could have been phrased differently to reflect that Council was working towards a vision on behalf of the district. Officers acknowledge the cultural and historical significance of Lake Horowhenua to iwi and its value to the

wider community. Therefore, the 'vision' for Lake Horowhenua needs to be that of our Treaty partners and our community. Officers will work closely with our Treaty partners to ensure the Design Toolkit and future ground works reflect the history and values associated with this area.

Recommendation

The submitters comments are noted, there are no recommendations.

Topic 9: Gladstone Green

Submissions

William Kimber (#109), Vivienne Bold (#121), Charles Rudd Snr (#140).

Summary of Submissions

Submitter #109 raises concern that the Gladstone Green development is on prime agricultural land which is inconsistent with Central Government aims.

Submitter #121 questions the need for Gladstone Green to be built, stating that the land is needed for food and water storage.

Submitter #140 says that residential housing in the Gladstone Area of the Tararua Ranges is another future costly mistake. Because of water restriction takes from the Ohau River and in the future there will be the possibility of a dam placement in that Gladstone Area.

Analysis

The Horowhenua District is growing rapidly, with the district population increasing by an average of 2% per year between 2013 and 2018. This increases the need for housing as the rate of population growth has been faster than forecast. The Gladstone Green Master Plan area is located on the eastern side of State Highway 57 and totals approximately 410ha. It is expected to contain approximately 2,500 houses when complete. While it is important to protect farmland for food production purpose, Gladstone Green is considered to be a very appropriate location to transition to an urban residential environment. This is because,

- The site has been identified as a growth area since 2008 and the edges of the site have already started to transition from rural land uses into large residential/rural lifestyle size sections.
- It has a Land Use Capability of '3.' The Horowhenua District is fortunate to have large areas of Land Use Capability 1 and 2, which is generally of higher productive value. For this reason, the Horowhenua District Plan affords specific protection to Land Use Capability 1 and 2 only. It is also noted that the Gladstone Green area has a layer of stony gravels at the surface, which limits its productive potential.
- It is close to Levin and to current and future planned State Highways, meaning future residents will be able to get to jobs, shops, and services easily.
- The site is in a location that can be readily connected to reticulated services for water and wastewater.
- The site is flat and therefore easier to develop than hilly or undulating environments.

It is recognised that a development of the size of Gladstone Green does not all happen in one or two years. This will be a development that reaches the proposed housing yield over a period of time. Through effective water demand management measures Council is confident that significant steps can be taken to reduce the level of water loss from the current Levin network which will help ensure that the demand for Gladstone Green can be met from the current water take. As part of the terms of reference for the Horowhenua Water Working Party, the Working Party aims to develop a viable and sustainable water regime to meet Council's current and future needs, and to evaluate options for additional long-term water sources or water storage in the district including consideration of future water supply.

Recommendation

The submitters comments are noted, there are no recommendations.

Topic 10: Transport Planning

Submissions

Waikawa Beach Ratepayers Association (#90); Michael Feyen (#137), Charles Rudd Snr (#140).

Summary of Submissions

Submitter #90 notes their support for the Horowhenua Integrated Transport Strategy (HITS) and welcomes better transport options for Waikawa Beach residents to reach Levin, Otaki, Wellington and Palmerston North. The submitter suggests a bus stop in each direction near the dairy on State Highway 1 (Manakau Store), or a bus to the beach a few times each week to allow locals to visit Levin for groceries and other errands e.g. vet visits.

Submitter #137 calls for Council to support and fight for a regular commuter train to Levin from Wellington.

Submitter #140 queries if the HITS includes Council promoting a proposal to parliament for the continuation of the electrification of the railway from Waikanae to Palmerston North, and if not, why not.

Analysis

Council has recently adopted the HITS in May 2020. The HITS is a key transport document for Horowhenua, and will be used and leveraged to support formal transport planning and funding processes and inform our advocacy programmes. The HITS records Council's commitment to advocate to Waka Kotahi NZTA, KiwiRail and appropriate Regional Councils for railway upgrades (including electrification) and for more commuter train services. The HITS identifies electrification of the Kapiti Line north of Waikanae as a priority transport investment to improve accessibility and the provision of public transport services.

Council has good working relationships with Horizons Regional Council's transport staff and has also engaged regularly with their elected members, the Horizons Regional Transport Committee and the sub-committee Accessing Central New Zealand, on these transport planning issues. More recently transport advocacy has extended to the staff and elected members at Greater Wellington Regional Council, in terms of the Capital Connection, the need for better services and electrification of the Kapiti Line, north of Waikanae.

Council will continue to lodge submissions and make presentations to the lead transport agencies, through formal statutory planning processes and through more informal engagements, to ensure that the decision makers are well informed of Horowhenua District's fundamental transport needs and to advocate for more investment. Council officers have met with our local Members of Parliament and comprehensively briefed them on the case for rail electrification, more bus and rail passenger services and the breadth of transportation investment required in Horowhenua.

Officers agree that Council has a crucial advocacy role on behalf of the community and residents living in our more remote coastal communities, to request better transport services. Ongoing, concerted advocacy to Horizons Regional Council will be important and necessary to influence decision makers to fund improvements, such as a bus stop on State Highway 1 or to provide new bus service to Levin, to support the residents of Waikawa Beach. Fulfilling this advocacy role, Council recently lodged submissions to the Draft NZ Rail Plan, the Draft Government Policy Statement Land Transport 2021 and the Horizons Draft Annual Plan 2020/2021.

Recommendation

The submitters comments are noted, there are no recommendations.

Actions

That Council officers continue to work with our transport partners Horizons Regional Council, Greater Wellington Regional Council, NZTA and Kiwirail to advocate for more investment in network infrastructure, facilities and services to improve the land transport system in Horowhenua, and achieve safe, efficient connections through the lower North Island.

That Council officers continue to implement the HITS in Council's planning processes e.g. AMPS and in external engagement processes managed by Council's transport partners.

Topic 11: Waitārere Beach Future Planning

Submissions

Sharon Freebairn, Waitārere Beach Progressive and Ratepayers Association (#92).

Summary of Submissions

Submitter #92 provides support for the development of the Waitārere Beach Community Plan which is a result of 12 months of planning, consultation and collation. This will be a guiding document for the next few years that will be a key input into annual and long term planning processes. The submitter notes they are looking forward to finalising the Domain Development Plan and Master Plan, and is pleased to see the number of walkways included in the draft Master Plan. This connection is important for both residents and visitors.

Submitter #92 also noted their desire to retain the use of the forests and suggested modification to the entrances to allow for e-bikes. They would like Council support for initiatives the submitter requests from the forestry managers

Analysis

Officers thank the submitter for their involvement in the development of the Waitārere Beach Community Plan, Domain Development Plan and Master Plan and will continue to work alongside the submitter as the Domain Development Plan and Master Plan are completed. The submitter's comments around the importance of connections are noted.

The forests to the north and south of Waitārere Beach are noted as being important locations for recreation for the community. The forests are both owned by the Crown, and are managed by a private company that has a forestry licence. The current use of the forests is informal at the discretion of the Crown and forestry licence owners. Both forests are subject to claims under the Treaty of Waitangi, and once claims are settled are likely to be transferred into Iwi ownership. Future and long term access will need to be discussed and agreed with Iwi if the forest is transferred to their ownership.

Recommendation

The submitters comments are noted, there are no recommendations.

Topic 12: Consultation Document

Submissions

Neville Gimblett (#71), Lewis Rohloff, Horowhenua Grey Power (#104).

Summary of Submissions

One submitter hypothesised that the Consultation Document for the Draft Annual Plan 2020/2021 avoided disclosing quantitative information, indicating a desire by elected representatives to 'hide' behind staff and an 'ill-advised' public.

The other submitter requested that future consultation documents should clearly identify the leading causes of the proposed rates increase as it would help the community better understand

major issues, and few people have the time/skill to obtain this information from the Draft Annual Plan.

Analysis

In accordance with section 95A of the Local Government Act 2002, the purpose of a consultation document is to provide a basis for effective public participation in decision-making processes relating to the activities to be undertaken by the local authority in the coming year, and the effects of those activities on costs and funding, as proposed for inclusion in the relevant annual plan.

The consultation document should focus on significant differences between what is being proposed for the Annual Plan in comparison to what was included in the LTP for that particular financial year. Section 95A(3) also outlines that the consultation document 'must be presented in as concise and simple a manner'.

Annual Plan consultation documents are not a summary of the corresponding Annual Plans; they focus on significant or material changes proposed for the financial year they are prepared for. Council tries to make these documents clear and easy to read to enable and encourage a greater cross section of our community to read them. However, we also recognise that there are people and groups in our community that want more detail around what Council is proposing for the coming financial year and as such we produce and make available supporting information (i.e. the Draft Annual Plan).

Officers note submitter #71's request around more clearly identifying the leading causes of the proposed rates income increase. While the key drivers of the proposed rates income increase were disclosed in the Consultation Document it is acknowledged that these could have been made more explicit, with more explanation to help readers understand them.

Recommendation

The submitters comments are noted, there are no recommendations.

Topic 13: Long Term Plan Early Consultation with Grey Power

Submissions

Lewis Rohloff, Horowhenua Grey Power (#104).

Summary of Submissions

The submitter requests that Council invite Horowhenua Grey Power to participate along with elected representatives with full speaking rights in the pre-consultation 'workshop' discussions commencing later this year related to formal review of the 2021-2031 Long Term Plan.

Analysis

Council will commence work on the development of its LTP 2021-2041 later this year. Part of developing this LTP will likely include Council undertaking pre-consultation with the community (as it has done so for previous plans).

Until officers have started working with Council around what key challenges or opportunities it would like to explore for this coming LTP, officers have not devised a plan for what pre-consultation will involve.

Grey Power has been considered a key stakeholder group during LTP development in the past, and their interest in being involved in pre-consultation for this coming plan is noted. Community input and direction in advance of developing the LTP can be very helpful and is something that has been encouraged by this Council through inviting ideas and suggestions for the LTP as part of the Annual Plan consultation.

Recommendation

The submitters comments are noted, there are no recommendations.

Actions

That as part of planning for pre-consultation on the Long Term Plan 2021-2041, officers include provision for Elected Members to engage with Grey Power on any matters that they believe may particularly interest this stakeholder group.

Topic 14: Issue with Annual Plan Submission Form

Submissions

John Bauer (#127).

Summary of Submissions

The submitter takes issue with the fact that the online submission form only allows for comment on the Splash Pad with regards to the Annual Plan 2020/2021 and then invites submitters to comment on the LTP 2021-2041. They felt it was inappropriate that no further comment was possible on the Annual Plan 2020/2021.

Analysis

It is unfortunate that the submitter was confused by either a lack of clarity or the sequencing of the online submission form. This form began by inviting comment on the splash pad (as the only specific project that was being consulted on for the Annual Plan 2020/2021); then it asked for people to think about major issues, challenges or opportunities that Council should consider for the LTP 2021-2041; and finally the form invited any further comments.

The further comments section of the form was intended to provide submitters with an opportunity to raise any matters they wanted to bring to Council's attention in relation to the Annual Plan 2020/2021, and many submitters took the opportunity to do this. For future submission forms officers will label this section more clearly to ensure that submitters understand how they can utilise it.

Recommendation

The submitters comments are noted, there are no recommendations.

Actions

That officers make a note in the Annual Plan 2020/2021 Lessons Learnt document to label the 'further comments section' of future submission forms on an Annual Plan more clearly (e.g. please provide any further comments on the Annual Plan 20xx/20xx).

Topic 15: Planning for Sea Level Change

Submissions

Leone Brown, Horowhenua District Ratepayers and Residents Association (#41).

Summary of Submissions

The submitter states "according to the Insurance Council possibly two pay-outs for floods will make insurance unaffordable for the homeowner." The submitter anticipates that Council's long term plans will provide information starting to address this issue. They also indicate that increased rainfall may necessitate relocation of infrastructure.

Analysis

Affordability of insurance for homeowners in the future is not something that officers can comment on and sits as a matter outside Council's influence for this Annual Plan.

Council's LTP 2018-2038 includes an assumption regarding Climate Change including sea level rise. This assumption will be revised and updated for the LTP 2021-2041, along with the other

significant forecasting assumptions to ensure they are all up-to-date and based on the best available information.

Council's asset management planning and growth planning already take into consideration climate change. Climate change will also be taken into account as Council develops its 30 year Infrastructure Strategy as part of the LTP 2021-2041.

Recommendation

The submitters comments are noted, there are no recommendations.

Topic 16: Moutere Sand Dune Hill

Submissions

Charles Rudd Snr (#140).

Summary of Submissions

This submitter states that the Moutere sand dune hill (Te Taniwha Waiopahu) by the Levin Golf Club is the biggest sand dune in the southern hemisphere. This dune is seen from afar coming north and or south into Levin and should be recognised.

Analysis

The Moutere Hill is a significant dune, at approximately 87.7 metres above sea level and approximately 30 metres higher than the surrounding dunes. Council recognises that for the Horowhenua community, its identity is based on a strong sense of place and a unique relationship with its physical features.

The District Plan provides for the protection of outstanding natural landscapes and features. It specifies which landscapes or features throughout the district are so significant that they require protection. Moutere Hill is identified as one of these Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes within the District. The District Plan seeks to protect Moutere Hill, by avoiding subdivision and land development on dune.

Recommendation

The submitters comments are noted, there are no recommendations.

Topic 17: Stop Allowing Residential Development of Agricultural Land

Submissions

Charles Rudd Snr (#140).

Summary of Submissions

The submitter requested that Council stop approving valuable agricultural, farming and horticultural land for residential development.

Analysis

Council must take a holistic approach to considering where future residential development can/should occur. In November 2018, Council adopted the Horowhenua Growth Strategy 2040. This Strategy identifies 'potential future growth areas' on the edge of many of the towns and settlements in the District. The intention is to ensure that we have enough land available to accommodate future residential growth and that we are planning for and releasing this land in an appropriate way.

When assessing whether land may be appropriate for future residential development, Council considered a number of criteria including the ability to efficiently service the area, soil class and current use, natural hazard risk, sites of cultural significance, and topography. Much of this land is

rural, farm land and Council must balance the need to provide for residential growth with the need to protect the most productive land.

The Horowhenua Growth Strategy 2040 only identifies this land as having potential for future residential development, it does not rezone this land to enable residential development. To rezone land requires a plan change, which would require additional and more thorough investigation of the land to be rezoned and is a public process.

Recommendation

The submitters comments are noted, there are no recommendations.

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 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)	Tiffany Gower Strategic Planner	
Approved by	David McCorkindale Group Manager - Customer & Strategy	

Annual Plan 2020/2021 Deliberations - Community Engagement

File No.: 20/196

1. Purpose

To present to Council for deliberation, the submissions received on the draft Annual Plan 2020/2021 in relation to Council's Community Engagement Activity.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That Report 20/196 Annual Plan 2020/2021 Deliberations - Community Engagement 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 submitted on the Community Engagement Activity.
- 2.4 That Council approves to fund 100% of the Foxton Beach CCTV project from the Foxton Beach Freeholding Account, up to \$110,000, provided the Foxton Beach Progressive Association gets the quote revised.

3. Topics for Consideration

Topic 1	Grants and Funding Timing
Topic 2	Cultural Inclusivity
Topic 3	Foxton River Loop
Topic 4	Support Local Businesses
Topic 5	Foxton Beach CCTV Camera
Topic 6	Review of Foxton Beach Freehold Account Strategy and Policy
Topic 7	Housing
Topic 8	Media Releases
Topic 9	Social Media
Topic 10	Tourism Marketing
Topic 11	Policing, Foxton Beach

Topic 1: Grants and Funding Timing

Submission

Damian Reid (#39).

Summary of Submission

This submitter has indicated that when dealing with the Council while planning an event which would have benefited the community economy, they found that the consideration of grants only

occurred quarterly and, that because they would not get paid until after the event happened, they were not eligible.

Analysis

Council administer a number of contestable funds, four are administered twice yearly in August (round 1) and February (round 2). Of the four, two are Council funds of which the Community Funding and Recognition Committee meet to allocate funds, thereafter these are ratified by the whole of Council. These two funds are the Community Development Grant and the Community Consultation Grant. The other two funds are the Creative Communities Scheme and the Shannon Community Development Trust. These are not Council funds and officers only play an administration role. They are administered twice yearly to sit alongside the Council funds.

It is made clear in the criteria of all Council administered grants that Council does not fund retrospectively, i.e. they do not fund activities, events, items that have already occurred or have already been purchased. Across all funds, community groups are encouraged to look ahead when planning events and understand which grant round would apply to their event. E.g. If an event was to be held on September 1, applying in August (round 1) would be too soon as the call for applications close on the last day of the month and it would not be administered in time. The event would then become retrospective and Council does not fund this. Therefore, they would need to apply in February (round 2) for their event in September. If an applicant is successful in obtaining funding they have a period of nine (9) months to complete their event and provide Council with an accountability form.

Recommendation

The submitters comments are noted, there are no recommendations.

Topic 2: Cultural Inclusivity

Submissions

Leone Brown, Horowhenua District Ratepayers and Residents Association (#41), Michael Feyen (#137), Charles Rudd Snr (#140).

Summary of Submissions

Submitter #41 has indicated that the Horowhenua District Residents and Ratepayers Association recommend that post Covid-19 Council be inclusive of all residents in the district in relation to Culture.

Submitters #137 and #140 request that Council abide by the Te Tiriti o Waitangi/Treaty of Waitangi.

Analysis

Council is committed to fulfilling its obligations under Te Tiriti o Waitangi/Treaty of Waitangi and Local Government Act 2002 to ensure community outcomes are achieved. Council's Community Outcomes form part of the Long Term Plan (LTP) 2018-2038. These are what we aim to achieve in meeting the current and future needs of our communities for good quality infrastructure, public services and performance of regulatory functions. The Community Outcomes are; Thriving Communities; An Exuberant Economy; Stunning Environment; Enabling Infrastructure; Partnership with Tangata Whenua; Vibrant Cultures.

Specific to this submission, the Community Outcomes of Partnership with Tangata Whenua and Vibrant Cultures will be expanded.

Partnership with Tangata Whenua

- We acknowledge our partnership with the Tangata Whenua of our district through a proactive approach to the Te Tiriti o Waitangi/Treaty of Waitangi and its principles.

- We support Mana Whenua to maintain and enhance their traditions with their ancestral lands and waterways, wahi tapu and other taonga.
- We work with local marae, hapū and iwi to support their development and capacity building.
- We value working together to achieve common goals.

Vibrant Cultures

- We are proud of the heritage and diversity of our district and our people.
- We respect each other and what we each contribute to the district through our traditions and culture.
- Our community's cultural diversity is celebrated.

Furthermore, Council is guided by the Community Wellbeing Framework, this overarches six Community Action Plans; Youth, Positive Ageing, Inclusion and Access (Disability), Education, Pride and Vibrancy, and Arts, Culture and Heritage. The Community Wellbeing Committee, an official subcommittee of Council that is made up of Councillors, Iwi and community representation, oversee this Framework and is in place to provide effective leadership and strategic vision within the Community Wellbeing area.

Recommendation

The submitters comments are noted, there are no recommendations.

Topic 3: Foxton River Loop

Submissions

Sue-Anne Russell (#19), David Roache, Foxton Community Board (#98), Michael Feyen (#137).

Summary of Submissions

One submitter is questioning why the re-opening of the Foxton River Loop is taking so long.

One submitter is supportive of the Foxton Futures Strategy and Action Plan and would like Council to continue investigating ways to get the Foxton River Loop open as soon as possible.

One submitter requests Council push harder for the flow to be returned to the River Loop.

Analysis

Once a thriving port on the banks of the Manawatū River and the centre of the New Zealand flax industry, the section of the river that runs through the town is now cut off from the main stem and the water has become stagnant, as has the local economy.

Over the past year Council has been working on a project known as Foxton Futures which aims to regenerate Foxton, with the river once more at its heart, by opening the river loop and laying the enabling foundations for new business opportunities which leverage the surrounding natural environment.

This project has been developed in consultation with the Provincial Development Unit, which convened a meeting of all other key agencies including the Ministry for the Environment, Department of Conservation, New Zealand Transport Agency, TPK, Ministry of Primary Industries (One Billion Trees), MBIE Tourism Division, DIA (all agencies attended apart from DIA). The purpose of the meeting was to brief agencies on the project and identify potential funding sources.

Strong engagement with local Ngāti Raukawa marae and hapū leaders, stakeholder meetings, working group sessions, open community workshops and governance group engagement have been completed throughout this project to understand community aspirations and frustrations. Separate workshops with Horowhenua District Council and Foxton Community Board have also been held.

In consultation with the Provincial Development Unit, aspects of the plan have been prioritised which can be: a) aligned with the criteria for the Provincial Growth Fund and b) commenced immediately. These are:

- Riverside amenity and landscape works
- Paretao/Seaview Gardens re-development
- Scenic walkways and cycleways
- Māori economic development
- Visitor market development and promotion
- Environmental education and exhibition
- Visitor signage

As the Provincial Growth Fund criteria does not permit funding of environmental improvement, unless linked to visitor attraction, it is necessary to pursue alternative funding sources in order to achieve the full vision, including re-opening the Manawatu River Loop at Foxton.

Through our meetings with government agencies we understand the Freshwater Improvement Fund, administered by the Ministry for the Environment, is our best opportunity to achieve the goal of re-opening the River Loop. However, this fund is currently being reviewed and is unlikely to re-open again for applications until 2021. In the meantime, Council has continued to meet with the Ministry and involved them in conversations to ensure there is a strong understanding of the project, and to strengthen our partnership ahead of when the fund will open again.

Recommendation

The submitters comments are noted, there are no recommendations.

Actions

That Council continues to pursue avenues which will ultimately support the re-opening of the Manawatu River Loop at Foxton as soon as possible.

Topic 4 Support Local Businesses

Submission

Maurice John and Jacqueline Sophie Campbell (#75).

Summary of Submission

The submitter requests the Council supports local businesses and creates a “buy local” campaign.

Analysis

Over recent years shopping and trade has changed, affecting many small and local businesses. This, in part, has been a result of globalisation, the change in people’s travelling habits and the increase in online shopping.

However, the Covid-19 pandemic has exacerbated the impact on small and privately owned businesses. Throughout New Zealand many towns and even cities are facing the reality that their local businesses will be struggling to remain open.

This will have an impact on the economy, people’s livelihoods and for some towns, the aesthetics of their shopping area if retail spaces remain empty for long periods of time.

As a Council, we have recognised the important role we can play in supporting our community by recently including in our decision making the resolution to seek the services of local contractors and service providers when carrying out work at the Levin Aquatic Centre. This will remain a priority of Council’s for the foreseeable future.

One of Council’s six Community Outcomes is an Exuberant Economy and we are tasked with enabling better economic wellbeing outcomes in the district.

Over the past month we have seen a resurgence in campaigns around the country promoting both New Zealand made, but also buy local. NZME, through our local newspaper the Horowhenua Chronicle, are running such a promotion. Not only are they advertising the idea of buying local, but the main journalistic element to their campaign is highlighting how local businesses have adjusted to the post Covid-19 environment.

Recommendation

The submitters comments are noted, there are no recommendations.

Topic 5: Foxton Beach CCTV Cameras

Submissions

David Roache, Foxton Community Board (#98), Ted Melton, Foxton Beach Progressive Association (#122).

Summary of Submissions

The Foxton Beach Progressive Association seek 100% project funding for CCTV installation at Foxton Beach, of up to \$110,000.

The Foxton Community Board approves and supports the Foxton Beach Progressive Association application.

Analysis

Officers acknowledge the background and immense research that has gone into both finding an option and writing this submission.

One of Council's Community Outcomes is Thriving Communities. This outcome incorporates the concept that our communities live in a safe and supportive environment and are empowered to make positive and healthy lifestyle choices.

CCTV cameras have, in the past, proven a successful way of providing a safe environment and are currently established in Levin and Waitārere Beach. These systems are owned by the community or the Horowhenua Crime Camera Prevention Trust (HCCPT) who also manages the system. The HCCPT currently receive a Council grant of \$5,000 per annum as part of the LTP 2018-2038.

Council acknowledges an additional 15 cameras to their current operation may require additional funding in the future to provide for the maintenance and servicing of these cameras. The submitter has suggested this is incorporated in the LTP next year.

Officers have been working with the Foxton Beach Progressive Association by providing advice and guidance as to the technical aspects of the submission, as well as regulatory aspects such as location of the cameras. As a result, officers believe the current quote is high, and savings of between \$5,000 to \$10,000 can be made. Officers have provided the Association with the details of the supplier who provided the quote to Council.

Recommendation

That Council approves to fund 100% of the Foxton Beach CCTV project from the Foxton Beach Freeholding Account, up to \$110,000, provided the Foxton Beach Progressive Association gets the quote revised.

Topic 6: Review of the Foxton Beach Freehold Account Strategy and Policy

Submission

Ted Melton, Foxton Beach Progressive Association (#122).

Summary of Submission

The submitter would like a new Foxton Beach Freeholding Account Strategy to maximise returns through aggressive/entrepreneurial asset developments and investments and would like the Foxton Beach Freehold Account Policy to allow expenditures to support growth-related projects within the Community Plan.

Analysis

The current Foxton Beach Freeholding Account Policy and Strategy was created and adopted in 2009.

This year Council is undertaking a review of the Policy and Strategy. The Foxton Community Board have already had one workshop on the topic and will continue to review and meet to discuss this over the next few weeks.

Council is also aware the Foxton Beach Progressive Association have been meeting and workshopping ideas for improvement of the Policy and Strategy.

The next steps in the process includes further research and meetings to be had, before deciding with the Foxton Community Board and the Foxton Beach Progressive Association on what to consult the community on.

Recommendation

The submitters comments are noted, there are no recommendations.

Topic 7: Housing

Submission

Sharon Williams (#130).

Summary of Submission

The submitter requests the Council supports an investment in social housing, affordable housing, home ownership projects and long term rental housing owned and supported by community providers.

Analysis

As acknowledged by the submitter Horowhenua is one of the fastest growing districts in the country, which has placed pressure on housing, families and communities.

Due to the unprecedented growth, and these increasing pressures on our communities, Council, through the Community Wellbeing Committee, established a multi-sector Housing Forum and working group framework to drive the development of a Housing Action Plan.

The forum brought together builders, developers, community housing providers, social sector workers, iwi, pacific people and many others to discuss the variety of challenges facing our communities and how best to meet these challenges, including those outlined by the submitter.

The Housing Action Plan outlines four priority areas, with actions associated with each. These priority areas are:

1. Council Responsibilities: Regulatory policy, delivery of infrastructure and advisory services
2. Affordable Housing
3. Māori and Papakāinga Housing
4. Pasifika Housing development.

All of these priority areas and the associated actions relate to requests mentioned by the submitter.

The Housing Action Plan can be found on Council's website -

<https://www.horowhenua.govt.nz/Council/Plans-Strategies/Housing-Action-Plan>

Recommendation

The submitters comments are noted, there are no recommendations.

Topic 8: Media Releases

Submission

Michael Feyen (#137).

Summary of Submission

The submitter requests press releases to the Horowhenua Chronicle under the guise of an article produced by a reporter be stopped.

Analysis

Council has a Key Performance Measure as outlined in the LTP, which requires Council to issue at least 100 media releases per financial year.

Council has a media list who receive these media releases, this list includes the Horowhenua Chronicle. All media releases are published on Council's website -

<https://www.horowhenua.govt.nz/News-Notices/News>.

While Council has a good relationship with the Horowhenua Chronicle, the Council does not have a say as to how they print these media releases.

Recommendation

The submitters comments are noted, there are no recommendations.

Topic 9: Social Media

Submission

Michael Feyen (#137).

Summary of Submission

The submitter requests Council reintroduces live Facebook streaming of all Council meetings and submission processes. The submitter also requests that Council 'upgrade communications' and discontinue active involvement in hate social media.

Analysis

Council first started livestreaming Council meetings in 2016, using Facebook live as the platform as it was easy to implement, and very low cost. However, this was always intended as a short term solution as the operation was very rudimentary, the ability to save the recordings, as is good practice, was a risk due to Facebook being the platform and it was not accessible to all who had the internet.

In 2018, as was forecast in the LTP, Council upgraded the technology within Council Chambers. This provided an excellent opportunity to improve the livestreaming quality with integrated cameras and microphones and a higher quality audio-visual link. Additionally, Council moved to an improved platform, providing an opportunity for more in the community to access the livestream via Council's website.

Council has a Facebook page, as is normal practice throughout the country. There are a number of other Facebook pages which are Council owned, and represent Council services and facilities.

Officers are unsure what the submitter means by upgrade communications, however Council is not active in 'hate social media'. Officers and Council are governed by Council's Social Media Policy and procedures which was updated and adopted in 2019.

Recommendation

The submitters comments are noted, there are no recommendations.

Topic 10: Tourism Marketing

Submission

Charles Rudd Snr (#140).

Summary of Submission

The submitter requests Council to consider placing a statue of Te Hokioi at the entrances to Levin and to promote the main towns of the district and others, including Foxton, Shannon and Ōtaki.

Analysis

Officers acknowledge the submitter's comments and information.

In recent years officers have done some preliminary research into Te Hokioi and agree with the submitter that it would be a positive icon for the district.

Council has engaged consulting and communication agency Henley Hutchings, whose expertise are in tourism, to create a Destination Management Strategy. During consultation and planning they will be looking at ways to best market and promote Horowhenua. This will create a unified approach to destination management and ensure actions are done in a planned way, including any budget implications.

Part of the process in creating the Strategy will be engagement with the community. Council encourages all ideas and suggestions and will pass on these to Henley Hutchings for consideration.

Recommendation

The submitters comments are noted, there are no recommendations.

Actions

That Council officers will pass on feedback regarding placing a statue of Te Hokioi at the entrances of Levin to Henley Hutchings for consideration in creating the Destination Management Strategy.

Topic 9: Policing, Foxton Beach

Submission

Michael Feyen (#137).

Summary of Submission

The submitter requests that Council encourage Police to return fully to Foxton Beach.

Analysis

Council is guided by the Community Wellbeing Framework, this overarches six Community Action Plans; Youth, Positive Ageing, Inclusion and Access (Disability), Education, Pride and Vibrancy, and Arts, Culture and Heritage. The Community Wellbeing Committee, an official subcommittee of Horowhenua District Council that is made up of Councillors, Iwi and community representation, oversee this Framework and is in place to provide effective leadership and strategic vision within the Community Wellbeing area.

Membership of the Community Wellbeing Committee includes the New Zealand Police, specifically those that Police the Horowhenua district. Whilst Council has a good relationship with the New Zealand Police, Council does not have the authority to determine where they situate their staff.

Recommendation

The submitters comments are noted, there are no recommendations.

Actions

That Council Officers will pass on the feedback regarding policing levels in Foxton Beach to the New Zealand Police.

Attachments

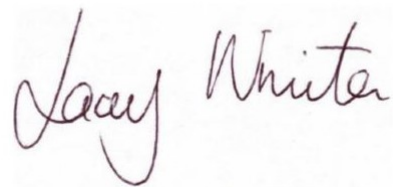

There are no attachments for this report.

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 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)	Lacey Winiata Community Wellbeing & Engagement Manager	
Approved by	Nicki Brady Deputy Chief Executive	

Annual Plan 2020/2021 Deliberations - Community Facilities

File No.: 20/197

1. Purpose

To present to Council for deliberation, the submissions received on the draft Annual Plan 2020/2021 in relation to Council's Community Facilities Activity.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That Report 20/197 Annual Plan 2020/2021 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.

3. Topics for Consideration

Splash Pad

Topic 1	Repair Hydro slide at Levin Aquatic Centre
Topic 2	The Splash Pad should be deferred due to Covid-19
Topic 3	Do not build a Splash Pad there are other priorities across the district
Topic 4	Jubilee Park Pool
Topic 5	Build a Splash Pad at an alternative location
Topic 6	Do not build a Splash Pad as it only caters for one demographic within the community
Topic 7	Do not build a Splash Pad due to concerns with Water Restrictions, Health and Safety and Maintenance Costs
Topic 8	Supportive of full Council investment to construct a Splash Pad because of the positive impacts it will have with in the community
Topic 9	Supportive of full Council investment to construct a Splash Pad due to concerns about the fundraising cost
Topic 10	Support for Joint Community Funding

Community Facilities

Topic 11	Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō opening hours
Topic 12	Shannon Community Centre Feasibility Study

Splash Pad

Background

Jubilee Park in Levin (also known as the Donald Duck Park) has a small paddling pool which provides free water play for toddlers and small children. The pool was built in 1988 and has become an iconic feature of Jubilee Park over the last 32 years. However, the paddling pool is nearing the end of its life. It also poses a safety issue, because Jubilee Park is away from Levin's main aquatics centre and the pool has no lifeguards. It's not practical to have a lifeguard there because people use the pool too irregularly.

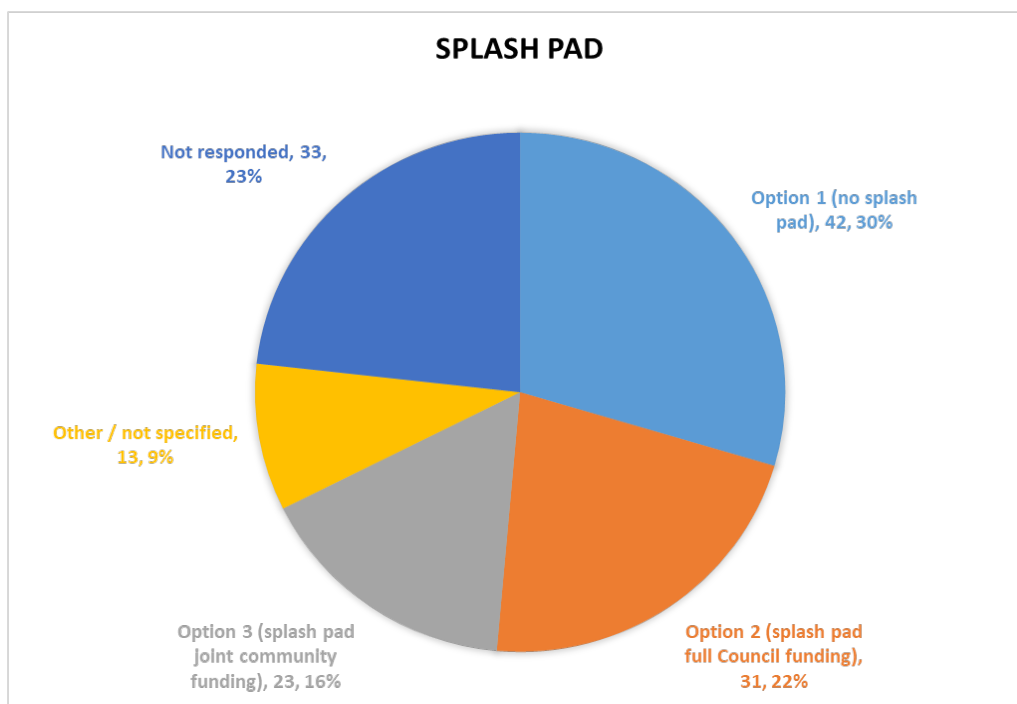
Council was aware of support from the community for a splash pad to be established locally. Therefore, Council decided to consult with the community through the Annual Plan 2020/2021 process on whether a splash pad should be constructed at Jubilee Park to replace the paddling pool. Since Council made this decision, Covid-19 has had a substantial impact on New Zealand and our district. However, as Council had already adopted the draft Annual Plan 2020/2021 for community consultation, engagement with the community on this issue proceeded.

Overview of results from consultation

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

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

The results from the submissions is shown in the figure below. Of those who submitted, 30% chose option 1, 22% option 2 and 16% option 3 and a further 9% did not select an option but provide some comment on the splash pad.



Submitters provided a number of comments alongside indicating a preferred option. These comments are summarised, with officer analysis in the topics below.

Topic 1: Repair Hydro slide at Levin Aquatic Centre

Submissions

Helen Freebairn (#3), Olaf Eady (#141).

Summary of Submissions

The submitters wish to see the Hydroslide at Levin Aquatic Centre repaired rather than investing money in the development of a splash pad at Jubilee Park. Submitter #3 indicated that their children used to spend every weekend at Levin Aquatic Centre and since the slide has been damaged they have not been back.

Analysis

The Hydroslide at Levin Aquatic Centre was closed in February 2019 due to Health and Safety concerns in relation to the slide runout and structural issues with the main stairwell. The repairs required are complex and in excess of budgeted maintenance.

On Wednesday, 8 April Council approved additional funding of \$370,000 to undertake repairs to the Hydroslide stairwell. Repairs will be carried out as soon as practical, with timing dependent on Covid-19 and the availability of contractors. Following repairs, the hydroslide will be reopened to the public.

Recommendation

The submitters comments are noted, there are no recommendations.

Topic 2: The Splash Pad should be deferred due to Covid-19

Submissions

Amanda Fleur Murray (#6), Kapanui, Ingo Schleuss (#9), Derek Arthur Canvin (#47), Louis Edward Hunter (#64), Sarah Ryan (#67), Michelle Hamilton (#78), Michael Morgan (#81), Teri-Robyn Whiti (#103), William Kimber (#109), Foxton Shannon Co Operating Parish, Kelvin Lane (#116), Kelvin Lane (#117), Kelvin Lane, Manawatū Estuary Trust (#118), Sharon Williams (#130), Deborah Phillips (#133), Mike Lepper (#138).

Summary of Submissions

The submitters believe that given the economic situation due to the uncertainty surrounding Covid-19 that all plans in the respect to the development of a splash pad should be put on hold until at least next year or there is more certainty regarding the economic situation post Covid-19.

Submitter #78 feels that due to the current economic and health situation Council should not spend this money or build a facility that encourages people to congregate.

Submitter #109 has suggested that due to the current economic situation this project should be reviewed and if it should go ahead has suggested that Council pay \$130K to remove Jubilee Park Pool and put in a basic pad, with a better pad installed if the community is able to raise additional funds.

Analysis

The draft Annual Plan 2020/2021 was developed before Covid-19 started to impact New Zealand. Council made the decision at the Council meeting on 8 April 2020 to continue with the consultation as planned. Council will make a decision on the splash pad, alongside other priorities, during deliberations.

Recommendation

The submitters comments are noted, there are no recommendations.

Topic 3: Do not build a Splash Pad there are other priorities across the district

Submissions

David Bowker (#32), Tara Peters (#34), Robert James, Dick (#38), Damian Reid (#39), John Terrance Beattie (#40), Graham Milligan (#61), Sonya Dawson (#74), Joyce Sewell (#77), Peter Everton, Lakeview Farm (#79), Belinda Hanlon (#80), Brian and Ann Thomas (#95), Joe Havill (#99), Carolyn Cordery (#101), William Huzziff (#113), Jacinta Lidell (#114), Vivienne Bold (#121), John Robert Bauer (#127), Kim Sylvia Turton (#129), Te Roopu Taiao o Ngati Whakatere Trust, Matthew Pilkington (#131), Christina Curley (#132), Samuel Bone (#135), Christina Paton (#139), Suzanne MacFarlane (#142).

Summary of Submissions

These submitters do not believe that Council should be investing in a splash pad when there are other priorities for Council. These priorities included other projects (such as infrastructure), a suggestion Council should fund essential projects only and reduce spending.

Submitters #34 and #38 noted the Levin Aquatic Centre caters for all ages already.

Submitter #131 requests the Shannon Pool is upgraded instead.

Analysis

These submitters are not supportive of constructing a splash pad as they believe there are more critical investment that is required across the district and this level of investment is non-essential. It is Council's role to balance and consider the needs of the community holistically and as such it will need to decide what projects to prioritise.

The Shannon Pool is owned by Shannon Primary School. While Council does not own the asset we are working with the school to look at ways to enhance this facility.

Recommendation

The submitters comments are noted, there are no recommendations.

Topic 4: Jubilee Park Pool

Submissions

Tyson Maki (#10), Samantha Hutchings (#16), Meredith Krieger (#18), John Terrance Beattie (#40), Lyn MacDonald (#68), Peter Everton, Lakeview Farm (#79), Valerie Du Plooy (#86), Ann Thomas, Horowhenua Farmers Ratepayers Group (#94), Jacinta Lidell (#114), Raewyn George (#126).

Summary of Submissions

These submitters raise various comments about the Jubilee Park Pool.

Submitters #10, #16 and #19 have asked why the Jubilee Park Pool needs to be removed.

Submitter #10 suggested that the appropriate place for the splash pad to be constructed is on the eastern side of the park near the Phoenix Palms.

Submitters #18 and #86 would like to retain the Jubilee Park Pool.

Submitter #40 suggests Council leaves the pool as it is.

Submitter #68 suggests the pool should be turned into a garden and submitter #114 suggests it should be turned into a sandpit.

Submitter #94 is not supportive of the construction of a splash pad and believes further information is required before a decision on the future of Jubilee Park Pool can be made. This information

includes whether the padding pool can be repaired, the accuracy of costs, ongoing maintenance costs and the ability of the project to be fully funded by grants.

Submitter #126 would like to see Jubilee Park Pool rebuilt and made bigger.

Analysis

The Jubilee Park Pool was built in the 1980s and has served the community well over the last 30+ years. However, the pool is in poor condition and nearing the end of its useful life. While it could be repaired, these costs have not been fully investigated as repairing the pool does not address the challenges in maintaining the appropriate water safety standards, or that the pool is not lifeguarded and this poses a risk to our community and Council as the asset owners.

The removal of the pool rather than leaving it empty is preferred, the concrete is already showing signs of breaking up and an empty pool could potentially fill with water from rain and irrigation runoff that would then sit stagnant. Additionally, an unmaintained pool will become an eyesore for the local community. The proposals suggested for the repurposing of the pool would be better addressed by purpose-built areas.

The costing for the splash pad construction has been estimated based on quotes from the splash pad supplier, and infrastructure providers. Full and accurate costs would be sought during the detailed design process, however, they are not anticipated to exceed what has been estimated.

The proposed location of the splash pad at Jubilee Park is towards the eastern area of the park in closer proximity to the toilet block.

Recommendation

The submitters comments are noted, there are no recommendations.

Topic 5: Build a Splash Pad at an Alternative Location

Submissions

Samantha Hutchings (#16), Sue-Ann Russell (#19), Tanya Moleta (#29), Matthew Lepper (#44), Gill Janes (#66), Sarah Ryan (#67), Peter Everton, Lakeview Farm (#79), Pam Good (#112), Deborah Phillips (#133).

Summary of Submissions

These submitters consider that Jubilee Park is not the best location for a splash pad and suggest alternative locations.

Submitters #19, #44 and #67 suggest the splash pad should be located at the Levin Aquatic Centre. Submitter #19 considers the Levin Aquatic Centre as a better location because it is supervised as has existing facilities in place to ensure the health and safety of users and protect the asset. Submitter #67 identifies the Aquatic Centre is a better location as there is access to changing facilities and toilets.

Submitters #16, #29, #66, #79 and #133 believe the splash pad should be located at the Levin Adventure Park.

Submitter #79 states that it would be irresponsible to build on Jubilee Park as they believe it is the site of an old rubbish dump.

Submitter #112 believes that a splash pad should be constructed but not at the Jubilee Park location.

Analysis

One of the key drivers for proposing the splash pad be built at Jubilee Park was a suitable replacement for the pool. We know that the pool is in a poor state of repair and there are risks to both the Council and the public in the operation of the pool. Replacing this aquatic asset with an alternate safer solution still allows for a continued free aquatic provision for the community.

The location of the splash pad at Jubilee Park was identified by the community itself as part of the group who first brought the idea to Council for consideration. As this was community-led, officers left the concept and location as per the community idea and did not propose alternatives for purposes of the Annual Plan consultation.

Council is aware the site was used as an informal landfill by the surrounding residents until the 1960s. If the proposal proceeds further investigation would occur to ensure site stability and suitability.

Levin Aquatic Centre:

Consideration is being given currently to the future of recreation and aquatics in Horowhenua. The outcomes of this feasibility study will inform the upcoming LTP 2021-2041. The concepts include consideration of the use of the entire existing Levin Aquatic Centre site and integration with rugby, tennis and squash. It also includes exploration of the Foxton Pool site.

It would be a fair assumption to make that the concepts will include a splash pad located on that site. However, any development on the Levin Aquatic Centre site could potentially incur a user charge as it would be incorporated into the wider facility. Future redevelopment at Levin Aquatic Centre is at least 10 years away. Constructing the splash pad at Jubilee Park would ensure a free facility is available to use for the entire community including those that may not be able to access current aquatic facilities due to entry cost.

The Levin Adventure Park:

Whilst Council maintains the Levin Adventure Park it does so on behalf of the Levin Adventure Park Trust (LAPT) who are responsible for the administration of the site, and who make decisions on what type of play equipment is installed. We are not aware of any plans LAPT have for installing a splash pad at the Adventure Park. The site is also subject to a treaty claim and therefore any consideration for the future here would need to be in consideration with our iwi partner.

Other locations in the District:

Visitor Solutions are undertaking a feasibility study on the future of aquatic facilities across the Horowhenua. This study will inform the LTP 2021-2041 and shape what future facilities look like across the district and will consider the need for splash pads as part of future facility development.

Recommendation

The submitters comments are noted, there are no recommendations.

Topic 6: Do not build a Splash Pad as it only caters for one demographic within the community

Submissions

Sandra Mary Barclay (#28), Damian Reid (#39), Dominique Cvitanovic (#56), Christine Avery (#108).

Summary of Submissions

Submitter #28 believes the splash pad should not be subsidised by ratepayers in outlying areas or older rate payers who will never use the splash pad.

Submitter #39 believes that money should be allocated to something that benefits the entire community and not just one part.

Submitter #56 states that the park is only used by a few people and that funding should instead be used to allow under 5 year olds free access to local aquatic facilities.

Submitter #108 states they do not live in Levin or have grandchildren that would use it.

Analysis

The splash pad is an enabler for our tamariki to lead an active and healthy lifestyle with no cost barriers to them or their family. While it is predominantly children up to the ages of 12 that will typically get the most enjoyment from a splash pad, families, parents and grandparents will also be able to enjoy the facility alongside their tamariki which will provide wider community benefit.

Recommendation

The submitters comments are noted, there are no recommendations.

Topic 7: Do not build a Splash Pad due to concerns with Water Restrictions, Health and Safety and Maintenance costs

Submissions

Robert James Dick (#38), Damian Reid (#39), Maureen June Delphine Lee (#48), Gill Janes (#66), Lyn MacDonald (#68), Suzanne Havill (#84), Caron Hobbs (#87).

Summary of Submissions

Submitter #38 considered the splash pad presents a danger to young people and raises concerns about maintenance costs.

Submitter #39 is concerned about ongoing maintenance costs and health and safety aspects.

Submitters #48 and #84 believe that a splash pad is not necessary and is an overly expensive option. Submitter #84 has concerns in relation to ongoing maintenance costs and believes it would be subject to vandalism.

Submitter #66 questions what will happen when there are water restrictions.

Submitter #68 raises concern about the location, health and safety, and weather.

Submitter #87 thinks it would be a good option for children, however has chosen option one due to concerns about ongoing maintenance, being prone to vandalism, limited season length and water usage during water restrictions.

Analysis

The splash pad is designed to be a fully recirculated system and water will be treated to New Zealand Standard 5825:2010 and as part of the design we are looking to 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.

The splash pad is zero depth which eliminates the risk of drowning and the need to supervise the site. Because the water will be recirculated it will not be affected by water shortages during the summer months.

With any park, playground or public facility there is the risk of vandalism and, unfortunately, despite best efforts it does occur from time to time. Jubilee Park and the proposed splash pad location is within a residential area, with good visibility from the street which will increase safety and be deterrent for any potential vandalism.

Recommendation

The submitters comments are noted, there are no recommendations.

Topic 8: Supportive of full Council investment to construct a Splash Pad because of the positive impacts it will have with in the community

Submissions

Kimberley Montaperto, Ayurvanna (#11), Maria Clement (#12), Meredith Krieger (#18), April Dale (#33), Adrian Glen, (#49), Rebecca Hartley (#51), Melissa Steedman (#73), Brad Cassidy, Sport Manawatu (#91), Jack and Maureen Shailer (#97), Allen Little (#119).

Summary of Submissions

These submitters provide support for full Council investment in a splash pad and note the following specific comments:

Submitter #11 believes that Council has an obligation to ensure that children on Levin have access to adequate facilities.

Submitter #12 states that she currently takes her grandchildren out of the district to use splash pads and that it would be a benefit to have one in our area.

Submitters #18, #33 and #43, #51, #73 indicate that construction of a splash pad would benefit Levin and would be a frequently used attraction that would bring people to the Horowhenua.

Submitter #91 believes that a splash pad would be good form the community post Covid-19 and is in support of a free recreational activity that can be enjoyed by families.

Submitters #49 and #97 indicate that a splash pad would be a great asset for young people in the district.

Submitter #119 highlights the positive impact the splash pad would have for younger people as part of Council's wider network of public amenities.

Analysis

Recreational activities will play a critical role with the community recovery process post Covid-19. The splash pad will be an excellent project to meet community demand and encourage young people and families to lead healthy lives through participation in play and active recreation. The splash pad will provide a safe area for young people and families to gather.

It will bring different people together from the community creating positive social engagement and being a freely accessible facility that will provide for our community, particularly those children from lower socio-economic families who may struggle to afford entry to Council's aquatic facilities.

Recommendation

The submitters comments are noted, there are no recommendations.

Topic 9: Supportive of full Council investment to construct a Splash Pad due to concerns about the fundraising cost

Submissions

John Murphy (#14), Candace Vazey (#17), Marion Moore (#45), Harjinder Dahella (#37), Pamela Cooper (#63), Steve Cole (#42), Wendy Morgan (#43), Christine Margaret Douglas (#46), Garry Good (#102).

Summary of Submissions

These submitters noted support for full Council investment as they raised concerns about the ability for the community to raise the funds, or the delays that the need to have community fundraising could create.

Analysis

These submitters are all supportive of a splash pad but have highlighted concerns with the time and the amount of money required to fundraise under Option 3. This concern is valid as the amount required to fundraise is substantial and there is the risk of the project stalling or not being completed if the funding is unable to be secured. Officers are aware there are local community groups that would support the fundraising effort.

Recommendation

The submitters comments are noted, there are no recommendations.

Topic 10: Support for Joint Community Funding

Submissions

Josh Madgwick (#4), Emma Swanson (#15), Samantha Hutchings (#16), Dean Bradford Tunnell (#25), Tanya Moleta (#29), Ashleigh-Hope Tatana (#59), Birute Kulvis (#60), Foxton Rugby Club, Nick McVeigh (#65), Gill Janes (#66), Ngaire Newland (#83), Grant Fraser (#88), Kirsten Oliver (#89) Waitarere Beach Progressive and Ratepayers Association - Sharon Freebairn (#92), Peter and Normalyn Burton (#93), Lewis Rohloff Horowhenua Grey Power (#104), Terrence James Hemmingson, Horowhenua Grey Power (#105).

Summary of Submissions

These submitters identified support for Option 3, the construction of the splash pad, with part community funding.

Submitters #4 and #83 believe that the construction of a splash pad would be a good feature for Levin but it does not warrant the full Council investment.

Submitter #15 indicates that her family would really enjoy a splash pad and would love to see one built in Levin, however, does not want to see a large increase in her rates to accommodate this.

Submitters #16 and #88 like the concept and opportunity for the community to contribute to something positive for Horowhenua.

Submitters #25 and #66 believe the community should support a free outdoor area that offers lower socio-economic whanau the ability to enjoy some outdoor areas for children.

Submitter #29 is supportive of building a splash pad and has been involved in conversations regarding this for a number of years. Believes it will benefit local tamariki greatly especially those who cannot access or afford other facilities. Submitter #29 suggests that a community event be held at Jubilee Park to raise funds.

Submitter #59 thinks a splash pad is a great idea.

Submitter #60 believes it is reasonable to raise money from the community.

Submitter #65 considers the splash pad is a great idea and will give the community somewhere to cool down during Summer.

Submitter #89 ratepayers cannot afford to fully fund this project.

Submitter #92 supportive of the project, but recognises it may need to be postponed due to Covid-19.

Submitter #104 and #105 are supportive of the community funded option provided the cost is funded from the Targeted Rate for the Levin Ward.

Submitter #139 notes that if the splash pad goes ahead it should be funded via a Targeted Rate for Levin.

Analysis

The opportunity for Council and the community to work together to establish a splash pad is an exciting prospect. In saying this there is an element of risk given the amount that is required to be fundraised and would require buy in from different community sectors to ensure it was successful. Officers are aware there are local community groups that would support the fundraising effort.

As the project is loan funded, the cost to the ratepayer to fully fund the project is relatively small, with the rate impact starting in the 2021/2022 financial year:

- Full Council funding \$450,000 would result in an estimated 0.16% rates increase or \$3.90 per ratepayer per year for the life of the loan.
- Partial Council funding of \$250,000 would result in an estimated 0.14% rate increase or \$3.43 per ratepayer per year for the life of the loan.

The splash pad would be loan funded, with loan servicing costs funded via a district-wide targeted rate based on SUIPs in accordance with Council's Revenue and Financing Policy.

Recommendation

The submitters comments are noted, there are no recommendations.

Community Facilities

Topic 11: Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō opening hours

Submission

Caron Hobbs (#87).

Summary of Submission

The submitter is concerned that the opening hours at Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō are not accessible for those that work outside of Levin.

Analysis

The current operating hours are:

Monday/Tuesday/Thursday/Friday: 9:00am – 5:30pm
Wednesday: 10:00am – 9:00pm
Saturday: 10:00am – 4:00pm
Sunday: 1:00pm – 4:00pm

These operating hours have been in place since August 2017.

Late night: There has always been only one late night in place since Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō opened in 2012. This was to cater for the Quiz Night, which has been an ongoing "event" for many years. The majority of patrons that frequent Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō on Wednesday nights are there specifically for the quiz. We do not consider that there would be significant benefit to justify opening the facility late other nights.

Sundays: While initially, Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō operated on Sundays from 10am to 4pm. Due to low patronage a decision was made to change the Sunday operating hours to 1pm to 4pm. Since then, there has been no evidence of a fall in door count numbers on Sundays attributed to this change.

At this stage there are no plans to extended operating hours for any of our Community Hubs unless we experience a significant change in demand for services.

Recommendation

The submitters comments are noted, there are no recommendations.

Topic 12: Shannon Community Centre Feasibility Study

Submission

Sharon Williams (#130).

Summary of Submission

The submitter believes that the Shannon Community Centre Feasibility Study should be deferred to a later year and completed once the Management Plan for the Shannon Memorial Hall is completed.

Analysis

A feasibility study in relation to a Community Centre in Shannon was scheduled to occur in Year 2 (2019/2020) of the current LTP 2018- 2038. When officers met with community representatives regarding this it became apparent that the community was focused on the retention and governance of the Shannon Memorial Hall and any feasibility study completed would not achieve the desired outcome.

Council officers are currently working with the Shannon Progressive Association in relation to a Management Plan for the Shannon Memorial Hall and expect this to come to Council for a decision in the not too distant future. Once a decision on the Shannon Memorial Hall has been made officers believe that the community would be better placed to explore the options of a community centre in Shannon.

Recommendation

The submitters comments are noted, there are no recommendations.

Actions

That the Shannon Community Centre Feasibility be considered as part of the development of the LTP 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:

- containing sufficient information about the options and their benefits and costs, bearing in mind the significance of the decisions; and,
- 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	
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Approved by	Nicki Brady Deputy Chief Executive	
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Annual Plan 2020/2021 Deliberations - 3 Waters

File No.: 20/198

1. Purpose

To present to Council for deliberation, the submissions received on the draft Annual Plan 2020/2021 in relation to Council's Three (3) Waters Activities.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That Report 20/198 Annual Plan 2020/2021 Deliberations - 3 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 3 Waters Activities.
- 2.4 That the Key Project 'Waitārere Beach – wastewater treatment plant upgrade' on page 13 of the draft Annual Plan be removed.

3. Topics for Consideration

Topic 1	Wastewater Issues in Shannon Area
Topic 2	Water Supply
Topic 3	3 Waters in Waitārere Beach
Topic 4	Water Restrictions
Topic 5	Water Quality Monitoring
Topic 6	Potential Water Source
Topic 7	Wastewater and Stormwater Concerns
Topic 8	Foxton East Drainage Scheme
Topic 9	Water Tanks

Topic 1: Wastewater Issues in Shannon Area

Submissions

Sandra Barclay (#28), Teri-Robin Whiti (#103).

Summary of Submissions

Submitter #28 is concerned about sewer blockages in the Mangaore Village/Shannon Area, and what is being done to address the situation.

Submitter #103 is concerned that the wastewater system in Shannon is archaic, and that as a result, during heavy rainfall the parū still ends up in the river. The submitter contends that *"we live in a digital age surely there are more economical and environmentally conscious systems that are better than the one we currently have"*.

Analysis

Most wastewater blockages are the result of inappropriate use of the wastewater system by users who flush items like disposable nappies, wet wipes, and sanitary items down the system instead of

the correct action of putting them in the bin. Council have recently run a communications programme called “love your loo” to educate the public about reducing the amount of such items being flushed down the wastewater system.

Asset inspections and conditional assessments are currently being conducted throughout the district, including for Mangaore Village, in order to identify and assess pipe conditions, as well as to ascertain if there are any potential foreign objects in pipes. CCTV examination of specific wastewater pipes in Shannon has also been completed. Any issues have been identified and have been scheduled for repair.

All of Council’s pump stations are monitored by means of SCADA which alarm immediately upon any high level condition, at which point vacuum tankers are used to prevent any wastewater spills. There have been no spills in the last four years. Council have conducted CCTV inspections of the wastewater network in high flow sections to help identify illegal stormwater connections to the wastewater systems, in an effort to reduce the number of times that vacuum tankers are required.

Future plans also include smoke testing to try and identify any illegal stormwater connections to the wastewater systems.

Recommendation

The submitters comments are noted, there are no recommendations.

Topic 2: Water Supply

Submissions

Sandra Barclay (#28), Leone Brown, Horowhenua District Ratepayers and Residents Association (#41).

Summary of Submissions

Submitter #28 is concerned about water leaks in the Mangaore Village/Shannon Area, and what is being done to address the situation.

Submitter #41 is concerned about water quality where parts of the district rely on subterranean water supplies. The submitter states that there must be environmental degradation through leachate from animal farms and horticultural businesses which must be controlled to ensure human health.

Analysis

Significant cost and effort has been invested in the district’s reticulation network in order to identify and reduce water loss. This included the installation of five new bulk water meters on the mains in the Shannon area (including one at the start of Mangaore Village) with associated pressure and flow data logger equipment.

The district’s water supply network is under constant monitoring to fix problems as soon as they arise and to also identify further areas for improvement. For example, the pump which services the transfer of water from the Shannon Water Treatment Plant to Mangaore Village is now operated with a variable speed drive to prevent unexpected changes to water pressure. This is because water leaks can occur when older pipes in the system crack due to sudden changes in pressure. These pressure spikes can also be caused by the unauthorised take of water from fire hydrants. To address this issue, Council is planning to install official Council water-filling standpipes, in Shannon, Foxton and Ōhau, where contractors will be able to draw water, in the same manner as is currently available in Levin at the Hokio Beach Road depot, to provide an easy alternative to illegally using fire hydrants.

Council have water bores, supplying water at Foxton and Foxton Beach, which pump from an aquifer 200m deep. All bores have undergone radiological aging and have been given secure status in terms of the Drinking Water Standards New Zealand. This means that they are totally

disconnected from the surface activities and not subject to the effects of agriculture and horticulture.

Recommendation

The submitters comments are noted, there are no recommendations.

Actions

That Council water-filling standpipes are installed in Shannon, Foxton and Ōhau, by the end of the 2020/2021 financial year, utilising existing budgets as planned.

Topic 3: 3 Waters in Waitārere Beach

Submission

Sharon Freebairn, Waitārere Beach Progressive and Ratepayers Association (#92).

Summary of Submission

The submitter raised the following issues:

- **Water supply to Waitārere Beach:** The community expect to have an active part in the decision making process – either for or against.
- **Wastewater treatment plant upgrade:** Is the planned upgrade in 2020/2021 which is noted to be required “due to the growth in Waitarere Beach” to be paid for by developers? Is it to cope with existing residential need or expected growth?
- **Stormwater issues:** Raises concern over current maintenance and areas within the township where residents continually battle stormwater issues and surface flooding.

Analysis

Water supply to Waitārere Beach: The decision whether or not to provide a reticulated water supply at Waitārere Beach is deemed to be significant and as such, in accordance with Council's Significance and Engagement Policy, the community will be invited to have an active part in the decision making process through various engagement and consultation processes, this will include engagement with the Waitārere Beach Progressive and Ratepayers Association.

Wastewater treatment plant upgrade: The upgrades to the wastewater treatment plant have been completed in 2019/2020. This project was an error in the draft Annual Plan document and needs to be removed.

Stormwater issues: Following previous complaints about blocked drains, CCTV inspections of all stormwater drainage pipes were conducted and the outcome was that all were clear. At times the channels may become full of sand depending on the wind direction and are cleared as required. It would be costly to have inspections and clearing on an almost daily basis when the wind blows. There have been concerns raised in the past regarding stormwater flooding of low lying residential properties which has led to various solutions being implemented at some locations. Council officers are continuing to investigate issues at other affected locations on an ongoing basis with a view to improve the level of service over time.

Recommendation

That the Key Project 'Waitārere Beach – wastewater treatment plant upgrade' on page 13 of the draft Annual Plan 2020/2021 be removed.

Actions

That Council officers engage with the Waitārere Beach Progressive and Ratepayers Association when considering options for water supply to Waitarere Beach.

That Council officers investigate low lying properties to identify possible issues with stormwater and low impact solutions (low flow pumps to ensure the stormwater network is not overloaded) for inclusion into forward works plans.

Topic 4: Water Restrictions

Submission

William Kimber (#109).

Summary of Submission

The submitter is concerned that there is nothing in the draft Annual Plan 2020/2021 to cover increasing the capacity of Levin's water treatment plant and notes that after several months of very dry weather Auckland has yet to go to Level 1 restrictions. Every summer with a few weeks of dry weather Levin ends up in level 3 or 4 restrictions.

Analysis

The water restrictions are due to the amount of water Council is allowed to draw from the Ōhau River due to consent conditions imposed by Horizons Regional Council. The amount of water that can be taken depends on the flow in the Ōhau River, and are imposed in order to protect the river's environmental health. As such, an increase in the water treatment plant's capacity will not result in fewer water restrictions.

With regards to the statement regarding Level 3 or 4 restrictions being implemented on a yearly basis, examination of the flows in the Ōhau River since 1978 indicate that Level 3 and 4 restrictions have very rarely been necessary. Level 4 has only been required, on average, once every 10 years. Level 1 and 2 restrictions are implemented more often as a result of the district having a Mediterranean Climate with dry summers resulting in low flows in the river.

Council has installed a Water Demand Management System throughout Levin which has both decreased the amount of water lost through leaks, and assisted in identifying new leaks rapidly. These water savings have also helped provide further capacity at the Levin plant.

Additional water resources will be investigated and evaluated by the Water Working Party.

Recommendation

The submitters comments are noted, there are no recommendations.

Actions

That the needs and options for additional water resources for Levin be investigated by the Water Working Party.

Topic 5: Water Quality Monitoring

Submissions

Sue- Ann Russell (#19), Vivienne Bold (#121).

Summary of Submissions

The submitters raise issues with toxins from the Lake, Landfill and POT entering the environment, and submitter #121 would like access to the monitoring reports from the Landfill and POT.

Submitter #19 would like to know whether there has ever been a point in history when we have had high standard of drinking water.

Analysis

Council has begun a stormwater testing and monitoring program to establish a baseline data set that will enable upcoming stormwater consent conditions to be based on accurate information. This testing and monitoring is being undertaken over an ongoing period of time to establish seasonal differences i.e. during summer or winter, during low flows or high flows. At present there are no reports to share as it is only data collection that is occurring. Once data collection is complete, and the data has been analysed and collated into a final presented report, the reports

are a matter of public record and, as such, in accordance with the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, are available upon request.

Current parameters are monitored as part of Landfill and Pot consents and the reports are a matter of public record and, as such, in accordance with the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, are available upon request.

All of Council supplied drinking water adheres to drinking water standards.

Recommendation

The submitters comments are noted, there are no recommendations.

Topic 6: Potential Water Source

Submissions

Michael Feyen (#137), Charles Rudd Snr (#140).

Summary of Submissions

Submitter #137 recommends that Council liaise with the owners of the Mangahao Dam to build a business case to source water from the top dam to supply Levin when necessary.

Submitter #140 also identifies that this water resource could be a useful supply for Shannon, Foxton, Waitārere Beach, Hokio Beach and Levin.

Analysis

Officers recognise the Mangahao Dams could be a potential water resource for the Horowhenua. The potential of the dams as a future water resource will be evaluated by the Water Working Party in the future.

However, to date, two potential issues have been identified:

1. The dams are owned by King Country Electricity and used for the generation of hydroelectric power.
2. The dams currently run dry during periods of drought which would be problematic.

Recommendation

The submitters comments are noted, there are no recommendations.

Actions

That the dams, among other options, be evaluated as a potential water resource by the Water Working Party.

Topic 7: Wastewater and Stormwater Concerns

Submissions

Michael Feyen (#137), Charles Rudd (#140).

Summary of Submissions

Submitter #137 requests that an independent expert be engaged to advise Council what is required to change stormwater and wastewater systems to no longer have a negative effect on Lake Horowhenua. Concerns were raised about the cost of litigation and management's approach to dealing with Lake Horowhenua.

Submitter #140 is concerned about the following with respect to wastewater in Levin:

- Wastewater discharges to land-based disposal. All the districts landfills and sewer plants are and/or were sited very close to, and still continue to leach into, waterways.
- Levin Wastewater Treatment Plant is an ongoing threat to Lake Horowhenua, in times of heavy down-pouring rains, such as 1998 and 2008. It has to be relocated elsewhere.
- The odour from it cannot be good for Donnelly Park sports people, international hockey turf visitors to Levin and the children and teachers at Levin Intermediate School.
- The Council's resource consent application for the POT at the end of Sands Road, dune country. With land based disposal of wastewater into porous sand, the leachate goes into two man-made drains which goes into and contaminates the Waiwiri Stream. From there the contaminated Waiwiri Stream goes into the coastal beach of the Tasman Sea, to infect all the edible shellfish. The ground water table from the POT flows into Lake Rakauhamana with contamination and flooding of.

Analysis

Council have, and will continue to, engage consultants to provide specialist, expert advice, where and when required, as a matter of course.

Modelling of the stormwater network has been undertaken to assess network capacity, flooding areas and estimated stormwater quantities. Testing is being undertaken to ascertain the current standard of the stormwater that is entering the lake. The data collected from this testing will be utilised to inform future potential consent conditions.

In 2008 an earthen embankment was constructed around the Levin Wastewater Treatment Plant to prevent the possibility of a spill into the Lake, and a 12 megalitre storm dam has been constructed to receive excessive flows in the event of an extremely severe storm.

Council have not received complaints with respect to odours from the Wastewater Treatment Plant affecting sports or other events. Odours from wastewater treatment plants are known to dissipate readily in the atmosphere.

The disposal of treated effluent at the POT is currently the subject of a Hearing, and the concerns mentioned have been identified at the Hearing and will be considered as part of deliberations with respect to the consent process.

Recommendation

The submitters comments are noted, there are no recommendations.

Actions

That Council officers continue working towards acquiring a discharge consent, for stormwater from Council's stormwater network to Lake Horowhenua, from Horizons Regional Council.

Topic 8: Foxton East Drainage Scheme

Submissions

David John Roache (#107), William Huzziff (#113).

Summary of Submissions

Submitter #107 would like the Foxton East Drainage Scheme Project to be put on hold for 12 months to give time for public input and more vigorous valuation of the cost. If Council vote to go ahead then the submitter requests them to revise the 40/50 split. The \$100K Council has collected in 2019/2020 should be used for a higher maintenance program while the project is on hold for three months.

Submitter #113 identifies themselves as a major ratepayer to the Foxton East Drainage Scheme and is concerned about lack of consultation and costs. The submitter requests that no new works are started by Council and Horizons Regional Council until full consultation has taken place and there is an alternative to the Cook Street diversion pipe and the rumoured Whirokino diversion. This alternative has been fully costed which has revealed the alternative would be effective in dealing with the problems of the Foxton East/Kings Canal Drainage Scheme, with the significant cost of less than \$1 million. This alternative should be given fair consideration.

Analysis

In recent years Foxton has experienced heavy rainfall events which have highlighted the low level of service that the existing drainage system provides. The ingress of excess stormwater from the Foxton East Drainage System (FEDS) into the urban stormwater reticulation network has inundated the system causing localised flooding. Horowhenua District Council and Horizons Regional Council have agreed to joint-funding to be used towards the mitigation of future flooding in and around Foxton.

A broad range of options were initially considered as part of these investigations, but have since been discounted as they did not provide sufficient benefit in relation to their cost. This includes any option to divert water from Kings Canal down Cook Street, or to enlarge the Kings Canal State Highway 1 culvert.

An alternative option is currently being investigated and a cost analysis undertaken. The alternative option will divert water away from the Foxton township and store it on rural land south of Foxton. This option includes a range of elements including storage, conveyancing and diversion pipelines. This option is being designed to cater for a 2% annual exceedance probability flood event, including the effects of climate change out to 2090. Public engagement regarding the proposed option is being planned for later in 2020.

Recommendation

The submitters comments are noted, there are no recommendations.

Actions

That Council officers continue to work with Horizons Regional Council to ascertain, and implement, the best option to reduce flooding events in Foxton.

Topic 9: Water Tanks

Submissions

Michael Feyen (#137), Charles Rudd Snr (#140).

Summary of Submissions

The submitters request that Council consider requiring water tanks as compulsory for all new builds.

Analysis

Urban rainwater tanks would provide immense benefits to the environment of the Horowhenua District in the areas of reducing the demand on local rivers, treatment plants and reticulation systems for water supply and also to act as attenuation to assist stormwater infrastructure to cope with high rainfall events.

A requirement for residential properties to provide rainwater tanks to capture roof runoff is being considered for the proposed 'Gladstone Green' development area in Levin. These tanks may be required to be plumbed into internal non-potable demands (including toilets and cold laundry water) in addition to external seasonal demands such as garden watering. This approach has benefits for stormwater management and may also reduce overall water consumption, but are unlikely to result in any reductions in water demand during peak period such as during summer time, as this is when

the individual tanks are most likely to be empty. This option will be tested as part of the plan change process to rezone the land for residential use. There will be opportunity for public submission as part of this plan change.

Recommendation

The submitters comments are noted, there are no recommendations.

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 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)	Asli Crawford Water & Waste Services Manager	
Approved by	Kevin Peel Group Manager - Infrastructure Operations	

Annual Plan 2020/2021 Deliberations - Solid Waste

File No.: 20/199

1. Purpose

To present to Council for deliberation, the submissions received on the draft Annual Plan 2020/2021 in relation to Council's Solid Waste Activity.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That Report 20/199 Annual Plan 2020/2021 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	Kerbside Recycling
Topic 2	Kerbside Rubbish Collection
Topic 3	Waikawa Beach Recycling Station
Topic 4	Inorganics Collection
Topic 5	Levin Landfill

Topic 1: Kerbside Recycling

Submissions

Christine S. Anderson (#50), Neville Gimblett (#71), Sharon Freebairn, Waitarere Beach Progressive & Ratepayers Association (#92), William Kimber (#109).

Summary of Submissions

Submitters are concerned about the impact that the recycling service has on the Solid Waste Rate.

Submitter #50 suggested that recycling services be discontinued.

Submitter #71 suggested that waste reduction should be led by central government policy, rather than being a cost to the community.

Submitter #109 asks what recycling service is provided.

Analysis

The new recycling service was consulted on during the development of the 2018 Waste Minimisation and Management Plan. This consultation showed that, in majority, the community supported the proposed new service. A contract was established in October 2018 and new recycling wheelie bins were purchased and delivered to the community in July 2019. Prior to the new service, the Solid Waste Rate in the Horowhenua District had been comparatively low compared to many other councils in New Zealand. The 2020/2021 Solid Waste Rate is not unusual for councils with similar services.

Central government is currently working on a number of policies relating to waste reduction and recycling. Some of these policies may have an effect on how the current solid waste services are run if enacted.

Recommendation

The submitters comments are noted, there are no recommendations.

Topic 2: Kerbside Rubbish Collection

Submissions

Christine S. Anderson (#50), Sonya Dawson (#74).

Summary of Submissions

The submitters suggest that Council provide rates funded rubbish wheelie bins for the weekly collection.

Analysis

Solid Waste targets for 2020/2021 include the minimisation of waste generated and sent to landfill within the district. The current target is to have less than 400kg of waste per person sent to landfill. Provision of rates funded wheelie bins for waste would likely increase the capacity per week for Council provided refuse collection, opposing the current targets.

There are currently over five different commercial operators that provide weekly or fortnightly wheelie bin refuse collection in the district. Provision of a rates funded wheelie bin service may have an impact on local businesses that provide a similar service. If an opt out option was made available (so residents could choose to use a commercial provider) this may have an impact on the uptake of a Council system, depending on the comparative cost of service.

Recommendation

The submitters comments are noted, there are no recommendations.

Topic 3: Waikawa Beach Recycling Station

Submission

Waikawa Beach Ratepayer Association (#90).

Summary of Submission

The submitter has identified that the summer recycling station located at the Hank Edwards Reserve carpark has caused noise issues for the neighbouring properties. They suggested that the recycling station's impact on surrounding households should be considered and a target for noise complaints be added alongside litter and odour.

The submitter has suggested that the recycling station could be located in the same area for a shorter period of time, or that Council find an alternative location for the station, or that there be an option for the Waikawa Beach Ratepayers Association to decline having the station at Waikawa Beach.

Analysis

The recycling station at Waikawa Beach was available last summer from mid-December 2019 until mid-March 2020. It is difficult for Council to manage the noise surrounding the recycling stations as they are un-manned and currently accessible 24 hours per day. Options for managing noise could include only collecting non-glass recyclables at the station, or erecting signs asking residents to be considerate of their neighbours when using the recycling station.

The Waikawa Beach Recycling Station is currently in the most suitable location at Waikawa Beach. Other locations have been suggested by the community and investigated by Council but were ultimately deemed unsuitable due to safety concerns. It is unlikely that another suitable location in the village will be found.

If there is a majority community support for the station to be in place for a limited time period or removed completely in coming summers, this would also be a suitable option. In this case the station could be relocated to a community that does not currently have a recycling station.

Recommendation

The submitters comments are noted, there are no recommendations.

Actions

That Council officers engage with Waikawa Beach residents, prior to the start of Summer 2021, to ascertain the level of community support for the station to be in place for a limited time period, or whether it should no longer be provided over upcoming summers.

Topic 4 Inorganics Collection

Submission

Christine S. Anderson (#50).

Summary of Submission

The submitter suggested that large skip bins could be rotated around different streets in the district for free disposal of inorganic/bulky waste. Submitter mentioned that it can be difficult to dispose of bulky household waste at the transfer stations due to difficulty with transportation and the cost of disposal.

Analysis

Currently the transfer stations serve as the main disposal method for bulky household waste. It may be difficult for some to dispose of waste at the transfer stations if they do not have access to appropriate transport. There has also been some concern around fly tipping of these items, particularly outside of second hand stores in the district.

Investigation into options for bulky waste was listed as an infrastructure action in the 2018 Waste Minimisation and Management Plan. This analysis would include the roles of the transfer stations, the potential for a collection system, and the potential for a voucher system. This investigation is scheduled for 2020/2021.

Recommendation

The submitters comments are noted, there are no recommendations.

Actions

That Council officers initiate an investigation into options for a bulky waste collection service during the 2020/2021 financial year.

Topic 5: Levin Landfill

Submissions

Peter Everton, Lakeview Farm Ltd (#79), Jacinta Liddell (#114), Vivienne Bold (#121).

Summary of Submissions

Submitters raise concerns about the environmental effects of the Levin Landfill, and in particular contamination of the surrounding environment.

Submitter #114 questions when the Landfill will close.

Submitter #121 believes the Landfill should close and also raises concerns about the sludge from Foxton Wastewater Treatment Plant being disposed of at the Levin Landfill and suggests it should be taken to a specialist dump site.

Submitter #79 asked if the Levin Landfill had ever really been profitable and when this Landfill will be closed. This submitter also questioned whether the Kāpiti waste that goes into the Landfill contains what would be recycling given that the Kāpiti do not do recycling.

Analysis

The Levin Landfill operates in accordance with resource consents granted by Horizons Regional Council. The environmental effects of the Landfill are extensively assessed through this process, with conditions set out for the operation of the Landfill. The current Landfill operating at the Hokio Beach Road site is a modern, fully lined landfill with a leachate capture system and a gas collection system. Leachate is captured and pumped directly to the Levin Wastewater Treatment Plant for treatment. The old Landfill which was closed in the early 2000's is also managed in accordance with relevant resource consent conditions.

Council has involved in a Project Management Group for the Levin Landfill which is leading the investigation into the early closure of the Levin Landfill. The Project Management Group has oversight from an independent project manager and includes representatives from Council, the community and Iwi. Council will consider a recommendation from the Project Management Group during 2020 on the early closure of the Landfill. Consultation with the residents and ratepayers of the district will be undertaken before a final decision is made by Council.

Wastewater treatment plant sludge can be accepted at the Levin Landfill provided it meets the requirements for disposal at a 'Class B' landfill. These requirements are outlined by the Ministry for the Environment. A special waste permit will only be granted if the required testing is completed and the sludge meets the disposal requirements. Note: As the Levin Wastewater Treatment Plant disposes of sludge at the Levin Landfill on an ongoing basis (around 3 times per week), a separate special waste permit is not required for each instance.

While Kāpiti Coast District Council do not provide a recycling service, their bylaw and waste collectors license terms and conditions require the waste collectors in their district to provide a recycling collection. This recycling collection is paid for through the cost of rubbish collection. As everyone with a rubbish collection also has a recycling collection, the recyclables in the general waste are unlikely to be higher than any other district with a recycling collection.

The costs of the Landfill development and operations come from the development of the Landfill itself, as well as, the resource consent processes and implementing and complying with consent conditions. Through the review of consent conditions in 2016, Horizons Regional Council imposed stricter conditions on landfill operations which increased costs. Income for the landfill comes from charging private waste management providers to dispose of waste at the landfill. The revenue from the landfill does not cover all costs of its operation and development.

Recommendation

The submitters comments are noted, there are no recommendations.

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 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)	Asli Crawford Water & Waste Services Manager	
Approved by	Kevin Peel Group Manager - Infrastructure Operations	

Annual Plan 2020/2021 Deliberations - Parks & Property

File No.: 20/200

1. Purpose

To present to Council for deliberation, the submissions received on the Annual Plan 2020/2021 for the Parks & Property Activities.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That Report 20/200 Annual Plan 2020/2021 Deliberations - Parks & 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 Parks and Property Activities.

3. Topics for Consideration

Topic 1	Street Trees
Topic 2	Community Gardens/Edible Reserves
Topic 3	Improvements to the Playground and Pump Track at Kennedy Park
Topic 4	Improvements to Mangahao Village
Topic 5	Tap Installation at Victoria Park
Topic 6	Mowing of Council Berms
Topic 7	Improvements to Easton Park
Topic 8	Notification Following Weed Spraying on Parks
Topic 9	Funding for Sport Coordinator Role Manawatū-Whanganui
Topic 10	Assessment of Public Walkways
Topic 11	RAMSAR, Manawatū Estuary, Holben Reserve Wetland, Foxton Beach Foreshore Sand Dune
Topic 12	Enhanced Horse Riding Opportunities
Topic 13	Restoration of Shannon Lagoons and Erection of Sculptures at the Northern and Southern Ends of Shannon
Topic 14	Old Shannon Jail at Owlcatraz
Topic 15	Natural Burial Ground
Topic 16	Dunes
Topic 17	Repurpose Non-core Earthquake-prone Council Buildings
Topic 18	Defer Sale of WINZ/MSD Building (18-24 Durham Street)
Topic 19	Foxton Memorial Hall and Foxton Courthouse Museum

Topic 1: Street Trees

Submissions

Tyson Maki (#10), Peter and Normalyn Burton (#93).

Summary of Submissions

Submitter #10 wishes to see the removal of all trees along Sussex Road and submitter #93 is concerned about the size of trees on Winchester Street.

Analysis

Council has a limited budget for street tree management and that budget is focused on removing dead, dying or diseased trees, and maintaining clearances around street signage and power lines. There are currently no plans to remove the trees on Sussex Road or Winchester Street, however officers are in the process of undertaking a condition assessment of its street trees which will include these roads. The results of the condition survey will form the basis of a future street tree work program and move Council from its current reactive approach to street tree management to a more proactive one.

Submitter #10 refers to some areas where trees have been removed. Where wide-scale removal of street trees is undertaken, it is usually as a result of road rehabilitation works undertaken by Council's roading team. In such situations an evaluation is made, and engagement undertaken with residents, prior to removal.

Recommendation

The submitters comments are noted, there are no recommendations.

Actions

That Council officers complete a condition assessment of its street tree stock, including Sussex Road and Winchester Street, during the 2020/2021 financial year.

Topic 2: Community Gardens/Edible Reserves

Submission

Kimberley Montaperto, Avurvanna (#11).

Summary of Submission

The submitter suggests the building of a community vegetable garden and meditation area at Jubilee Park, Levin.

Analysis

As Jubilee Park is more centred on children's play, officers are not of the opinion that the proposal put forward is suitable for this park. The Parks and Property Team are considering edible reserves as a concept (i.e. reserves with fruit trees) because of the reduced level of maintenance and high nutritional and health value associated with consumption of fresh fruit, particularly in areas where access to fresh fruit may be problematic.

Officers will work collaboratively with Council's Community Development Team to explore this concept further. Should an edible garden be considered for another park in Levin, a cost effective and sustainable plan would need to be put in place, and may need to include:

- a formal community structure to manage equal access for all;
- an agreed plan defining responsibilities, access to the site and funding;
- health and safety management;
- community ownership and distribution of fruit; and
- any related public health aspects and requirements.

Council recognises that green space provides mental health benefits as well as physical health benefits. Whilst Council is not considering the development of a meditation garden it will continue to maintain current levels of service in its parks portfolio so that its residents might continue to enjoy restful landscapes.

Recommendation

The submitters comments are noted, there are no recommendations.

Actions

That Council officers investigate the concept of edible reserves during the 2020/2021 financial year.

Topic 3: Improvements to the Playground and Pump Track at Kennedy Park

Submission

Meredith Krieger (#18).

Summary of Submission

The submitter has requested the enlargement of the children's play area at Kennedy Park and an improvement/enlargement of the Pump Track.

Analysis

Kennedy Park is well-used by local children and dog-walkers. Maintenance works are being undertaken on the pump track which will result in a slightly larger run on and run off area, however at this point there are no plans to further extend it.

Officers have a small capital development budget for playgrounds that is used for improvements across Horowhenua. With a limited budget, officers evaluate provision at each Council playground and apply a priority rating. To this point no evaluation has been completed of the play offering at Kennedy Park. Officers will undertake an evaluation of the play provision at Kennedy Park and consider it in terms of priority for funding.

Recommendation

The submitters comments are noted, there are no recommendations.

Actions

That Council officers complete an assessment of play provision at Kennedy Park during the 2020/2021 financial year.

Topic 4 Improvements to Mangahao Village

Submission

Sandra May Barclay (#28).

Summary of Submission

The submitter wants a public BBQ shelter and picnic table at the Mangahao Village Hall that can be used by community, visitors (local, national and international), kayakers and hunters/trampers who exit the Tararua Ranges by the Mangahao Power station.

The submitter similarly wants a weed management plan established in the village for the control of banana passionfruit and other noxious weeds.

Analysis

Mangahao Village and surrounds provide access to some of the best indigenous bush areas in the Horowhenua. The area is criss-crossed with a range of pathways/accessways, some on Council

land and some on private land, that have fallen into disrepair. The Environmental White Water Park is one of only two national/international kayak courses in New Zealand, and is holding the under 23 world championships in April 2021 (subject to those matters arising from the Covid-19 crisis). The village and surrounds offer access to the Tararua Ranges and the Te Araroa Trail via Mangahao Road.

Officers from the Parks and Property, and Strategy and Development Teams are running two processes concurrently for Mangahao Village, being preparation of the Combined Mangahao Reserves Development and Management Plan, and the Mangahao Community Plan. The purpose of the simultaneous processes is to identify opportunities for the community moving forward and develop a framework for community investment. These plans will consider the community holistically and its relationship with nearby Shanon and the wider Horowhenua. Consultation will include the local community, iwi, the Environmental White Water Park Trust (EWWPT), KCE energy and other stakeholders in developing a longer-term vision for the community. The development of these plans will include consideration of the Mangahao Hall Reserve and other public and private greenspace within the village.

Council is required to produce, and has produced, an Operational Weed Management Plan under condition 4.5, of Horizons Regional Council's Regional Pest Management Plan 2017-2037. The Operational Weed Management Plan stipulates those areas and weeds that will be targeted annually for control. Council undertook control of blackberry at Mangaore Reserve during 2019/2020. Council also provides a small annual grant to the EWWPT for control of weed species on that site. Officers will continue to review and prioritise weed management programs annually and will consider the noxious weed issues as they appertain to Mangahao in that process and in the strategic planning processes outlined above.

Recommendation

The submitters comments are noted, there are no recommendations.

Actions

That Council officers continue with the engagement and development of the Combined Mangahao Reserves Development and Management Plan and the Mangahao Community Plan during the 2020/2021 financial year.

Topic 5: Tap Installation at Victoria Park

Submission

New Zealand Motor Caravan Association (NZMCA) (#31).

Summary of Submission

The NZMCA have requested the installation of a fresh water tap at the Motor Caravan stopover at Victoria Park in Foxton.

Analysis

Victoria Park provides a basic stopover point for Motor Caravans which would be improved by the installation of a fresh water tap. Officers would be pleased to discuss with the NZMCA this improvement and welcome the proposal of a cost share approach to installation.

Given the likely focus on domestic tourism post Covid-19, officers would similarly be pleased to discuss other options that might present themselves in terms of potential opportunities at this location and others within the Horowhenua District.

Recommendation

The submitters comments are noted, there are no recommendations.

Actions

That Council officers make contact with NZMCA in 2020/2021 to discuss the installation of a tap at Victoria Park on a cost share basis.

Topic 6: Mowing of Council Berms

Submission

Robert James Dick (#38).

Summary of Submission

The submitter believes berm-mowing can be delivered more efficiently.

Analysis

A significant proportion of councils do not undertake berm mowing as a routine operation. Locally neither Palmerston North City Council nor Kapiti Coast District Council undertake berm mowing on residential roads. However, Council has historically undertaken berm mowing within the Horowhenua District by way of delivering a consistent level of service throughout its communities.

In terms of efficiency, Council tendered its ground maintenance operation in 2015, with the contract to deliver grounds maintenance (including berm mowing) won by Recreational Services. Recreational Services were the lowest priced conforming tender by a significant margin. It is considered therefore that Council does have a cost-efficient service delivery model insofar as the existing operators won the contract on price.

As part of the current ground specification the contractor treats with herbicide roadside swales in the urban residential zone but not the rural and semi-rural zones.

Recommendation

The submitters comments are noted, there are no recommendations.

Topic 7: Improvements to Easton Park

Submission

Nick McVeigh, Foxton Rugby Club (#65).

Summary of Submission

The submitter, on behalf of Foxton Rugby Club has asked for an upgrade to the Easton Park grounds including improvements to the existing grandstand and provision of new floodlights.

Analysis

The submitter has identified that Foxton is growing and that the existing facilities at Easton Park are insufficient to meet the demands of existing users, let alone those brought in by growth.

Easton Park is a site of around 3ha with around 0.5ha as access road and parking. The site is surrounded by residential housing on Whyte Street, Johnston Street, and Cook Street on three sides, and commercial premises on Main Street Foxton. It is adjacent to the Foxton Pool and old Foxton outdoor pool. The submitter has suggested that the old Foxton pool might be considered for netball courts.

Access to Easton Park is via Grey Street from SH1. There is a pedestrian access from Main Street often used by persons attending the Foxton Spring Fling which has historically been held on Easton Park.

The site is relatively constrained in terms of access and parking, an issue likely to be exacerbated by the opening of O2NL. It would be highly recommended that any improvements to the site were

planned in parallel with any improvements proposed for Foxton Pool, and if a sporting hub for Foxton is to be planned there may be merit in considering additional sites such as Victoria Park which currently has minimal use, but is slightly bigger at just over 4ha. Victoria Park is also more accessible with better connections to SH1.

There may be additional value in undertaking a recreational needs analysis for Foxton given growth predictions and the increase in traffic likely arising from New Zealand Transport Agency roading improvements.

Officers look forward to the provision of the plan from Foxton Rugby for further comment.

Recommendation

The submitters comments are noted, there are no recommendations.

Topic 8: Notification Following Weed Spraying on Parks

Submission

Dee Hyde (#70).

Summary of Submission

This submitter would like notification of when weed spraying has been completed on Tokomaru Domain so she can schedule her dog walking activities 24-48 hours after spraying.

Analysis

Council uses a glyphosate based herbicide for weed treatment. Glyphosate is a translocated herbicide that is inactivated on contact with soil and advice from the manufacturer indicates it is safe once dried for animals. Notwithstanding this advice Officers accept that some residents would prefer to wait for a longer period prior to exercising animals.

Council's contractor displays signs whilst spraying and Council offers a no-spray option for residents that wish to manage weeds by non-chemical means on road berms adjacent to their properties, but has not yet investigated electronic notification of weed spraying activities.

Officers will consider the viability of this request via its contractors and the Council's Communications Team.

Recommendation

The submitters comments are noted, there are no recommendations.

Actions

Officers will discuss options as they relate to electronic notification of spraying activities internally and with its contractor during the 2020/2021 financial year.

Topic 9: Funding for Sport Coordinator role Manawatū-Whanganui

Submission

Brad Cassidy, Sport Manawatū (#91).

Summary of Submission

Sport Manawatū have requested funding in the sum of \$7,297 from Council to implement a Sport Coordinator position to work as a support officer/coordinator in consultation with the Manawatū-Whanganui councils and local sports groups and providers.

Analysis

The request from Sport Manawatū 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 Manawatu-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 down-time.

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.

However, there would be a need to set out robust delivery targets and undertake a comprehensive review of deliverables on an annual basis. This aspect of performance could be managed as part of the steering group's brief.

Council is fielding progressively more requests for the development of regional/national facilities from local organisations and groups a point in case being the development of Donnelly Park for first class cricket, the development of the white water park in Mangahao as a national/international kayak slalom course, and more recently the request from Foxton Rugby Club to develop a sports hub for Foxton.

Recommendation

The submitters comments are noted, there are no recommendations.

Actions

That Council officers consider the request from Sport Manawatū to part fund the coordinator position, along with other Manawatū-Whanganui councils, from existing operational budgets, if possible, subject to an annual review being undertaken by the Steering Group.

Topic 10: Assessment of Public Walkways

Submission

Sharon Freebairn, Waitārere Beach Ratepayers and Progressive Association (#92).

Summary of Submission

The submitter wants to ensure that the existing and proposed network of walking paths at Waitārere Beach are regularly assessed for safety

Analysis

There are a number of existing footpaths throughout Waitārere Beach and a number of others proposed. Officers appreciate the value placed on these walkways by the community particularly those that service the beach. As such officers undertake an annual inspection and resurfacing of beach walkways with wood chips. This work generally occurs in November/December prior to the summer season. Officers will ensure this work continues and will consider maintenance of extensions to the existing network as it develops.

It is recommended that any issues noticed on walkways are reported via Council's Customer Service Centre where an individual and unique complaint number will be generated. This allows officers to track completion of the request effectively and report appropriately.

Recommendation

The submitters comments are noted, there are no recommendations.

Topic 11: RAMSAR, Manawatū Estuary, Holben Reserve Wetland, Foxton Beach Foreshore Sand Dune

Submissions

David Roache, Foxton Community Board (#98), Kelvin Lane, Manawatū Estuary Trust (#118), Ted Melton, Foxton Beach Progressive Association (#122).

Summary of Submissions

These submitters are pleased to see the improved cooperation of the statutory managers of the Manawatu Estuary Ramsar site and wish to see that improved co-management be sustained and improved.

Submitter #98 requests that the proposed improvements at Holben Reserve are progressed as soon as possible.

Submitter #118 proposed the construction of a bird viewing platform that Manawatu Estuary Trust will pay for the construction of, but it's on Council's land and they ask that Council take ownership of it following its construction. The submitter also wants statutory managers to assist in maintaining some of the unique plant communities currently present on the Foxton Beach dunes. The submitter invited Elected Members to the Estuary.

Submitter #122 requests that the proposed improvements at Holben Reserve are progressed as soon as possible. This submitter wishes to see a retaining wall established adjacent to the foreshore dune at Foxton Beach to help manage wind-blown sand deposits.

Analysis

Improvements in communication between the statutory managers of the Ramsar site (Horowhenua District Council, Horizons Regional Council and the Department of Conservation (DoC)) were championed by Council officers as part of delivering a much improved and integrated service to interested groups, and for the benefit of the site. Officers are pleased to advise that both the Regional Council and DoC have responded well to the challenge and the three organisations are now taking a more coordinated approach to service delivery that will be for the betterment of the site. An example of this integrated working approach is the recently successful application to the Billion Trees Fund for works to install succession planting at the southern end of the beach.

Council has been working with the Manawatu Estuary Trust in respect of their desire to install a bird viewing platform at the Ramsar site and are happy to continue to assist. Installation of a new bird viewing platform, however, will need to be canvassed with local residents particularly if it has a roof, as there has been a concern from some local residents about obstructing views. Council would be prepared to accept responsibility for the completed structure on the understanding it had been properly consented (by both Council and the Horizons Regional Council), and following the provision of as-built plans and a relevant producer statement.

Officers will continue to work with the Manawatū Estuary Trust to identify and protect unique plant communities within the dune system where possible.

The works proposed at Holben Reserve resolve the majority of those outstanding priorities identified as '9' from the Reserves Investment Plan adopted by Council in 2017, and a number identified as priority '8'. The Reserves Investment Plan arose from an extensive consultation undertaken in 2015-2016 with Foxton Beach Residents that foregrounded improvements to the reserves network in that community. This led to an investment of \$1 million (over 10 years) sanctioned by the Foxton Community Board and Council to complete such improvements. The initial project was the Foxton Beach Pump Track.

Completion of the current proposal will see a significant and unique service offering at Foxton Beach that will help to establish it as a destination site, and deliver a much improved outcome for local residents. The work will similarly see a range of positive ecological outcomes.

The concept plan has been designed with an integrated parking area and addresses connections within Holben Reserve and to the Ramsar site. Officers share the Foxton Community Board's and Foxton Beach Progressives Association's desire to see the work completed and on that basis have commenced consultation with local iwi. Consultation will be extended to the rest of the community at the first opportunity.

Officers similarly accept the need for an integrated response to roading matters in and around the area and will continue to liaise with their roading counterparts to deliver effective outcomes for the board and community concerned.

Officers are actively considering renewals/maintenance programs for a number of other facilities at Holben Reserve including the tennis courts, however any such works will be subject to affordability in what is a trying time for Council, businesses, and residents.

Officers are actively considering an upgrade to the Foxton Beach seating area in the car-park that will include replacing the existing boardwalk with a material more fit for purpose together with a retaining wall. However, no budget has been identified for such work at this point and officers are conscious of the economic constraints currently being experienced by business, and private residents within Foxton Beach and the wider Horowhenua.

Recommendation

The submitters comments are noted, there are no recommendations.

Actions

That Council officers continue planning and consultation in respect of the proposed Holben Reserve wetland utilising existing budgets.

That Elected Members undertake a field trip to the estuary hosted by the Manawatū Estuary Trust.

Topic 12: Enhanced Horse Riding Opportunities

Submissions

Rachel Rolfs (#30), Josien Reinalda (#110), Virginia Corrigan (#120).

Summary of Submissions

Submitter #30 requests the implementation of horse riding tracks, mounting blocks, and float parking.

Submitter #110 would like to see more access for horse riders in local parks and reserves.

Submitter #120 would like to see more access for horses to local parks and reserves, and bridle paths included in Council's shared pathways project.

Analysis

Equine sports and particularly horse-riding do offer an alternative recreation experience for those less interested in more established team sports, and the benefits in facilitating access for mobility impaired persons, and indeed improving motor neuron coordination are well-documented. As indicated by submitter #120 this is evidenced by the local RDA, and the number of similar organisations across New Zealand.

Submitter #110 extols the virtues of horse-riding in facilitating access to the natural environment for those with mobility issues and similarly suggests the sport is particularly attractive to women because it provides opportunities for women to develop self-confidence. This because "it involves freedom, adventure, and physical recreation without having to break into more male dominated activities." Whilst this is noted, it is also true that those field sports i.e. rugby, football, and cricket

historically dominated by men are enjoying increased female participation. One only has to consider the success of the women's sevens team, Football Ferns, and White Ferns in recent times to support the assertion.

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. As a consequence, no new facilities are currently proposed for horse riding. Recreational riding opportunities in the Horowhenua are mainly located on the District's beaches (further information on the bridleways in the District can be accessed at <https://nzbridleways.nzhorseriders.info/Home/NorthIsland/manawatu---wanganui/horowhenuabeaches>).

Submitter #120 raised some specific points responses to these are as below:

- **Make provision for horses in every shared pathway:** Whilst incorporating riding access into shared pathways would be more efficient than retrofitting them there would be an additional cost that would result in fewer kilometres of shared walkway being laid. This would need to be factored into the program of works. Introducing access for horses on shared pathways would do nothing to allay the concerns of other users (particularly young families), sharing the resource. Ideally, horses should be separated from other users in such pathways, however this would significantly increase development costs.
- **Make provision for beach access for horses:** All beach communities currently have access for horses via existing roads and formal entry points. Access over and through dunes is discouraged due to the resulting wear and erosion.
- **Access to parks and reserves:** Officers would be pleased to receive a proposal from the horse-riding fraternity that delivers a balanced and equitable basis for discussion. Any changes to the existing arrangements would need to be discussed and consulted on with other stakeholders and the community at large.

Submitter #110 raised some specific points responses to these are as below:

- **Make provision for horses in every shared pathway. A strip of sand 1m wide will do:** Whilst this would appear to be a low-cost solution in capital terms from an operational perspective there would be ongoing costs in topping up sand, and potentially cleaning if riders do not themselves remove manure. The proposal does not address how public perceptions of safety may be resolved.
- **Make provision for beach access for horses in every location. A sign "bridle way" is sufficient. A horse is very capable of going over the dunes:** All beach communities currently have access for horses via existing roads and formal entry points. Access over and through dunes is discouraged due to the resulting wear and erosion.

- **Make paper roads available for riding and driving. Again a very low cost option:** Paper roads are essentially unformed legal road where access is permitted. The Walking Access Commission of New Zealand has an informative web-site at <https://www.walkingaccess.govt.nz/knowledge-base/unformed-legal-roads/>
- **Develop Target Reserve as an equestrian centre for the lower North Island. This can be done by relocating the other clubs that use the forest, open up the forest and let the equestrians make tracks and build eventing obstacles. An all-weather arena, horse yards, suitable show grounds and amenities are already on site:** Existing users of Target Reserve have expressed a desire to remain on site and all have a legal right of occupation registered in their respective leases. Informal horse-riding already occurs on site. The all-weather arena and horse yards are privately owned.
- **Provide interconnected safe riding and driving loops/network of 5km or more in every locality. Shared pathways and paper roads can be used for this:** See previous responses.
- **Create equestrian facilities for public use:** There are a number of equestrian facilities locally that are provided by private organisations. One of the functions of Council is to provide facilities for the public that otherwise would not be available e.g. public playing fields, walkways over public land. There is limited merit in duplicating facilities offered by the private and voluntary sectors.
- **Foxton has beautiful facilities at the race course, these are however not open for public use. Target Reserve could easily be developed at the equestrian centre for the lower North Island:** Opening of the racecourse to the public is a matter for the private owners, and as noted previously Target Reserve has a range of current users all of which have expressed a desire to remain, this could limit the use of the reserve as a regional destination for horse-riding.
- **The Levin Pleasure Horse Club hires the A&P Showgrounds for their rallies. These grounds are a large proportion of the year unusable because of the wet surface:** Drainage and irrigation of the showgrounds would be a matter for the showgrounds management team.
- **The future of RDA in Kimberley Centre is safe for now, but the arena is not open for public use:** Public access would be a matter for the managers of that facility.
- **Parks and reserves to have a more inclusive access policy for activities such as carriage driving and horse riding:** Officers would be pleased to receive a proposal from the horse-riding fraternity that delivers a balanced and equitable basis for discussion. Any changes to the existing arrangements would need to be discussed and consulted on with other stakeholders and the community at large.
- **Creating a shared pathway/bridleways network to link some of Horowhenua's parks and reserves will provide both recreational and tourism opportunities:** There is no provision in reserves budgets to develop an integrated bridle path network, and horse-riding is not provided specifically in Council's Shared Pathways Strategy. 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 a Council focus at this point.
- **Council to actively support and monitor the public use of unformed roads for recreation and public access. Publish paper roads accessible for horse riders and drivers:** Council has insufficient resources to actively monitor and manage paper roads within its territorial boundaries. The Walking Access Commission of New Zealand has developed a series of maps which includes Unformed Legal Road on <https://maps.walkingaccess.govt.nz/OurMaps/>
- **Whenever a shared pathway/cycling or walking path/track is created to leave a few meters of sandy surface to the side to be used by horses:** The current shared pathways

policy does not consider horse-riding specifically, and as previously discussed whilst installation costs for this solution may be relatively cost-effective there is a significant management and maintenance implication.

- **Council can also help to liaise and advocate with private landowners, such as forest management companies to gain access to these resources. Possibly planning, negotiating or implementing public rights of way / bridle paths on agreed routes to help create trail networks, and/or managing recreational access:** Council already has a liaison role with other private and public organisations in relation to land access agreements. Examples include the Trig access in Levin, Sunset Walkway in Foxton Beach, and Waikawa Beach. However, the focus of these discussions is not specifically in relation to horse-riding, and is unlikely to be so in the future.

Officers thank these submitters for their submissions and would be pleased to discuss responses to the above comments in more detail.

Recommendation

The submitters comments are noted, there are no recommendations.

Actions

That officers consider horse-riding opportunities as a separate body of work and provide a subsequent report to Council for consideration by March 2021.

Topic 13: Restoration of Shannon Lagoons and erection of sculptures at the northern and southern ends of Shannon

Submission

Matthew Pilkington, Te Roopu Taiao o Ngati Whakatere Trust (#131).

Summary of Submission

The submitter wishes to see restoration work done on Te Maire and Taita lagoons in Shannon and some sculptures consisting of carved limestone at the northern access to Shannon and a waterwheel at the southern end.

Analysis

The lead agency on waterbodies in the Manawatū-Whanganui Region is the Horizons Regional Council. The lagoons referred to are not within Council's care. It is suggested that the submitter work with Horizons Regional Council on this matter.

Council currently has no policy on the installation of artwork/sculpture and as such has not formed an opinion or budgeted to install such features. There are no immediate plans to develop sculptures to the entrances of Council's communities, although Council recently assisted the Te Roopu Taiao o Ngati Whakatere Trust to install a Whare on the northern entrance to Shannon at Te Maire Park.

In 2010, the Shannon Progressive Association submitted a resource consent application to Council, to build the water wheel at the southern entrance to Shannon. This however, was not progressed beyond the initial application, due to insufficient information received on a number of aspects of the proposal.

The advice from the Council's Regulatory Team back in 2010, was that there were resource consent issues to resolve, including:

- Daylight set back
- Building and structure set backs
- Possible vehicle access issues
- Agreement from NZTA as an affected party

None of these issues appear to be resolved, and would likely still require addressing. A retrospective resource consent was granted on 20 August 2010 by Horizons Regional Council for earthworks undertaken within 10 metres of Otauru Stream. The earthworks involved the preparation of a level building platform to allow the future construction of a decorative entrance sign/water wheel feature. A separate consent application in September 2010 to build the water wheel itself, although submitted, was not followed through. Again, any advancing of these works would require this to be fully addressed.

It is officers understanding that materials for building the water wheel were donated by local companies before 2010. These are still being held at a nearby private residence. However, it is unclear either what condition this material is in or whether the amount and type of timber, metal, and stone is appropriate for the proposed construction.

The key issues to be addressed with this proposal are:

- a) Stormwater considerations/impact on the adjacent Otauru Stream;
- b) Roothing issues related to the State Highway 57, being NZTA responsibility;
- c) Consenting requirements for both Horizons Regional Council and Horowhenua District Council. There are planning and building issues required to be addressed and resolved before construction could start;
- d) Issues around the suitability of the materials for the purpose intended;
- e) Design considerations, including:
 - a. whether the existing design is followed, or a new design is required;
 - b. whether it is feasible to have a working water wheel, or whether the water wheel would simulate this feature only (i.e. replica);
 - c. the nature of the foundation.
- f) Cost, given that this proposal is unbudgeted and the costs of construction of a working water wheel and appropriate reinforced footings of a structure over 6 metres in height are likely to be considerable;
- g) Additional requirements, such as car parking, landscaping, and planting; and
- h) Ongoing issues of erosion. The close proximity of the stream to the proposed water wheel site continues to undermine the original earthworks on this narrow site.

Council officers are in the process of engaging a consultant to review the site and proposal, for feasibility. It is anticipated this will include a rough order cost for installation.

Recommendation

The submitters comments are noted, there are no recommendations.

Topic 14: Old Shannon Jail at Owlcatraz

Submission

Marilyn Cranson (#136).

Summary of Submission

The submitter wishes to see the old Shannon Jail returned to Council and placed on Te Maire Park should Owlcatraz be sold.

Analysis

The Old Shannon Jail is the property of Council who insure it in case of damage. The Jail House was relocated to Owlcatraz in March 2000 in response to the ongoing and sustained vandalism experienced on the structure at its previous location at Te Maire Park, Shannon. The Jail House is currently subject to a lease with the owners of Owlcatraz who pay an annual fee of \$20. The lease is subject to a 12 months' cancellation period.

In light of the sale of Owlcatraz, officers will write formally to the Lessees reasserting Council's ownership, and requesting clarification of their intentions for this Council structure moving forward.

Officers acknowledge the submitter's request that the Jail House is re-sited at Te Maire Park, but is conscious in relocating it to this location vandalism may once again become an issue

Recommendation

The submitters comments are noted, there are no recommendations.

Actions

That officers will write formally to the Lessees of Owlcatraz, before the end of June 2020, reasserting Council's ownership of the Old Shannon Jail, and requesting clarification of their intentions for this Council structure moving forward.

Topic 15: Natural Burial Ground

Submission

Maurice John & Jacqueline Sophie Campbell (#75).

Summary of Submission

The submitter queried if Council would consider developing a natural burial ground.

Analysis

Natural burials in terms of bereavement options are a relatively new development. There is however a growing demand for the service as people consider sustainability and become more environmentally conscious. Natural burials require that the deceased is not embalmed, and that the burial is in an environmentally friendly casket or shroud. Natural burial plots are shallower than traditional plots and do not have headstones/monuments. They are generally recorded via gps or natural marker, and often have a tree planted above the burial site or in close proximity to it.

Given the increasing demand for such options officers are actively considering a natural burial site at the Avenue cemetery as part of the recent expansion. It is similarly considering a range of other options including a book of remembrance and much-improved ash scattering facility as part of its future planning.

Recommendation

The submitters comments are noted, there are no recommendations.

Actions

That officers to consider natural burials in its ongoing planning at The Avenue and Foxton cemeteries.

Topic 16: Dunes

Submission

Christina Paton (#139).

Summary of Submission

The submitter believes that the dunes at Foxton Beach, near the surf club should not be lowered. They felt it was contrary to the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement and reducing resilience to natural hazards.

Analysis

Council under resource consent 102904/1 is required to maintain the seawall at this location. The seawall is constantly exposed to localised erosion during storm events and high tides. This results in periodic wave cut of the toe of the foredune which expose it to erosion and damage via driftwood impacts and undermining through ongoing wave action. In addition, the height of the dunes

encourages wind attrition with resulting 'blow-outs'. Similarly, the height of the dunes results in sand-spread into and onto the existing boardwalks making them inaccessible. This results in further damage to the dunes because people walk over the dunes to access the beach rather than using the boardwalks installed for the purpose.

The works recently completed were in line with the maintenance requirements of the existing resource consent as administered by Horizons Regional Council, they have stabilised the seawall by reducing impact damage and undermining of it, by providing a buffering layer of sand. The reduction in height of the dunes has opened up the boardwalks thereby encouraging beach goers to utilise the formal access over the dunes rather than creating informal pathways with the resultant wear and tear to the dune structure. It is further anticipated that this approach will allow flora and fauna to regenerate at a faster rate than would allowing normal processes to continue. The proposed maintenance regime will build longer-term resiliency into the dune system because the added protection of the seawall in the form of a well profiled dune gradient will continue to minimise damage impact, and undermining of the sea wall.

Both in times of localised erosion and more extensive erosion there is a need to protect the integrity of the seawall from physical damage arising from undermining and driftwood impact. The most obvious and effective way of reducing such damage is to have the facility to re-profile the existing dune, and transplant established sand binding species in parallel with planting additional sand-binding species as is necessary. Such a process maintains the integrity of the seawall, builds resilience in the dune system, and subjects existing populations to no more significant distress than as accrues through the natural process of erosion and accretion. The interventionist strategy proposed should allow such colonies to recover at a quicker rate than would leaving it to natural processes alone.

Recommendation

The submitters comments are noted, there are no recommendations.

Topic 17: Repurpose non-core earthquake-prone Council buildings

Submission

Leone Brown, Horowhenua District Ratepayers and Residents Association (#41).

Summary of Submission

The submitter suggests that those buildings not to be seismically strengthened may be able to be repurposed into accommodation or retail premises.

Analysis

Council in its Significant Financial Assumptions in the Long Term Plan (LTP) 2018-2038 stated it would sell seven million dollars-worth of non-core property within the first two years of the plan, and that it would reduce the property portfolio to core properties only by 2028.

Whether buildings are to be seismically strengthened or not, will depend in part on whether they are core to Council's business. Council's property portfolio is currently being evaluated on this basis and the evaluations are an ongoing piece of work. Where properties are non-core, they are unlikely to be strengthened, whereas core buildings will likely be strengthened where it is feasible to do so.

Earthquake-prone properties considered non-core may be disposed of in several ways these include to existing community groups where those groups can provide an acceptable business case that meets the requirements of Council in terms of ongoing operation and seismic strengthening. Alternatively, non-core earthquake prone buildings may be disposed of via an expression of interest, private sale, or open tender. In any disposal process Council will endeavour to get the appropriate market price and earthquake strengthening, where a building is not demolished, will be a core requirement.

In terms of the disposal of non-core, earthquake-prone buildings Council does not propose to stipulate what the ongoing use might look like, unless some element of prescription is necessary to give effect to outcomes in the community plan. Similarly, Council does not propose to refurbish/redevelop its own earthquake-prone, non-core property into retail or residential property unless as previously indicated, this is necessary to give effect to long-term plan outcomes, or other strategic project.

Recommendation

The submitters comments are noted, there are no recommendations.

Topic 18: Defer Sale of WINS/MSD Building (18-24 Durham Street)

Submission

David Roache (#102).

Summary of Submission

The submitter suggests the sale of the WINZ building should be deferred.

Analysis

Council in its Significant Financial Assumptions in the LTP 2018-2038 stated it would sell seven million dollars-worth of non-core property within the first two years of the plan.

At its meeting of March 2019 Council confirmed that one of those properties that should be offered for sale was 18-24 Durham Street, Levin (the WINZ building). The building was subsequently sold in October 2019 and is no longer owned by Council.

Recommendation

The submitters comments are noted, there are no recommendations.

Topic 19: Foxton Memorial Hall and Foxton Courthouse Museum

Submission

Michael Feyen (#137).

Summary of Submission

The submitter suggests that the Foxton Memorial Hall and Foxton Courthouse be retained and improved by Council.

Analysis

Foxton Courthouse Museum is currently leased to the Foxton Historical Society on an annual lease. The property was closed to public access in 2014 as a result of being earthquake-prone. Council has chosen not to complete seismic strengthening and 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”*.

The Foxton Historic Society have recently requested and been awarded, a two-year extension to the lease to prepare a proposal to take over the building in its entirety and complete the necessary strengthening works. Officers are awaiting that proposal.

Foxton Memorial Hall is currently available for public hire, however costs of managing the service have significantly outstripped income for a number of years as indicated below:

Foxton Memorial Hall	Operational Income (\$)	Operational Expenditure (\$)
2017-2018	0	19,742
2018-2019	730	17,014
2019-2020 (part year estimate)	869	21,471

The building is earthquake-prone and a retrofit concept design was completed in 2014 that suggests the building could be strengthened to achieve greater than 44% of the New Building Standard (NBS) in its current configuration. However, Council will likely require the building to be strengthened to at least 67% of NBS under any proposal to seismically strengthen it. This would require the demolition and rebuild of significant portions of the building.

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*”.

There are no lease arrangements in place on the property.

Recommendation

The submitters comments are noted, there are no recommendations.

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:

- containing sufficient information about the options and their benefits and costs, bearing in mind the significance of the decisions; and,
- 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 Property and Parks Manager	
Approved by	Kevin Peel Group Manager - Infrastructure Operations	

Annual Plan 2020/2021 Deliberations - District Wide Matters

File No.: 20/201

1. Purpose

To present to Council for deliberation, the submissions received on the draft Annual Plan 2020/2021 in relation to Council's District Wide matters.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That Report 20/201 Annual Plan 2020/2021 Deliberations - District Wide Matters 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 District Wide matters.
- 2.4 That Council continues with the development of the Annual Plan 2020/2021 with a view to adopt this plan by 30 June 2020.

3. Topics for Consideration

Topic 1	Consulting on Annual Plan During Covid-19 Lockdown
Topic 2	Potential Effects of Covid-19 on Annual and Long Term Planning
Topic 3	Covid-19 Response and Recovery
Topic 4	Elected Members and Staff Remuneration Cuts for Covid-19
Topic 5	Covid-19 Potential Effects on Growth and Housing Requirements
Topic 6	Civil Defence and Emergency Management
Topic 7	Bottom-up Decision Making
Topic 8	Council Staff Numbers, Costs, Turnover and Qualifications
Topic 9	Amalgamation / Shared Services
Topic 10	Lake Horowhenua and the Horowhenua District Environment
Topic 11	Horticulture
Topic 12	Conflicts of Interest
Topic 13	Asset Management
Topic 14	Sun-Smart Policy
Topic 15	Horowhenua Trust

Topic 1: Consulting on Annual Plan during COVID-19 'Lockdown'

Submissions

Tyson Maki (#10), Leone Brown, Horowhenua District Ratepayers and Residents Association (#41), Judith Bryers Holloway (#57), Sharon Freebairn, Waitarere Beach Progressive and Ratepayers Association (#92), Lewis Rohloff, Horowhenua Grey Power (#104), Terence James Hemmingsen, Horowhenua Grey Power (#105), William Kimber (#109), Jacinta Liddell (#114), Maisie Kimber (#125), John Bauer (#127), Christina Paton (#139), Suzanne MacFarlane (#142).

Summary of Submissions

Many of these submitters considered it was inappropriate for Council to consult on its Annual Plan 2020/2021 during a global pandemic and/or level 4 and 3 lockdown for various reasons. The following reasons were presented as to why Council should cease (or push out) the development of its Annual Plan 2020/2021 and/or consultation on it:

- Distribution of a hard copy of the consultation document was withheld due to Covid-19 lockdown;
- Lack of community meetings during the consultation period;
- Families would be focused on their own struggles and not be able to provide feedback on the Annual Plan;
- It was insensitive of Council to be consulting and sending out colourful notices with limited options at this time;
- The Annual Plan was drafted prior to lockdown when Council did not understand (and therefore had not made allowances for) the implications of Covid-19. The Annual Plan should be reworked to lessen the financial implications on the community and/or reprioritise spending and proposed work programmes. Council should then re-engage the community on the revised plan;
- Many people in the District do not have access to a computer, and therefore, are not able to input into the Annual Plan process. This is not fair, it discriminates against the elderly or lower socio-economic sections of our community, and means that the Council will not have heard from a good cross section of the community;
- Council might be legally obliged to adopt an Annual Plan within certain timeframes but the submitter did not feel that the central government would sue Council for revisiting the current plan;
- Seek government support for revising and re-engaging on the Annual Plan under its current emergency procedures to allow additional time beyond the statutory requirements; and
- The fact that submissions will be heard remotely, moving constructive dissent to a 'closed' meeting – thus not meeting legislative requirements for transparency. Hearings should be held face-to-face.

One submitter thanked Council for giving them the opportunity to have their say. Another submitter commended Council for their efforts to engage with residents and ratepayers at this time and for utilising all available forms of communication to encourage feedback.

Analysis

Council recognises that Covid-19 has resulted in a lot of disruption and hardship for the people of our community. Council is required under section 95(3) of the Local Government Act 2002 to adopt its Annual Plan by 30 June each year. Therefore, whilst it was not ideal timing, Council moved forward with the planned consultation on its draft Annual Plan 2020/2021 during the lockdown period. Our consultation process was adapted to ensure that people were aware that consultation on the draft Annual Plan was underway and to give them as many opportunities as possible (within the restrictions in place at the time) to have their say.

Unfortunately, we were unable to go ahead with the community engagement events we had originally planned for consultation; and we were unable to print hard copies of the consultation document 'What's Out Plan 2020/2021' or the draft Annual Plan and make these available for

people to collect from our service centres. Instead we used our website, social media, radio and a flyer (which was delivered to every house in the district) to reach people and encourage them to provide feedback. We realise that not everyone has the ability to submit online, and therefore, postal submissions and telephone submissions were also provided for. As a result, we received 142 submissions, more than the number of submissions we received on our last two Annual Plan consultations combined; this is a great effort from our community during a challenging time.

Uncertainty around what restrictions would be in place at the time also meant that we planned for our Hearings to be held remotely. The remote Hearings were run in a similar format to the Council meetings held during the lockdown period; with Elected Members and submitters attending the meeting remotely via 'Zoom' instead of in-person. These meetings were livestreamed for the public to view and officers attempted to make this different approach to Hearings as easy as possible for submitters; including running a 'test' meeting to ensure any submitters who had not used Zoom before could become acquainted with it and to help them with any technical difficulties.

Council and officers realise the Covid-19 pandemic has hit the people and businesses in Horowhenua particularly hard. This will require Council to re-evaluate the Annual Plan for the 2020/2021 year based on submissions received to the draft Annual Plan and the need to balance any reduction in rate increases while still providing funding for critical projects.

Council needs to exercise restraint but also be cognisant of the need to invest in key projects like the renewal of our water and wastewater infrastructure, roading projects with government and New Zealand Transport Agency funding and construction projects. These investments are important for economic recovery and will sustain local jobs and support local businesses.

Recommendation

That Council continues with the development of the Annual Plan 2020/2021 with a view to adopt this plan by 30 June 2020.

Topic 2: Potential Effects of Covid-19 on Annual & Long Term Planning

Submissions

Ingo Schleuss (#9), Judith Bryers Holloway (#57), Peter Everton (#79), Lee-Ann Strange (#100), William Kimber (#109), Suzanne MacFarlane (#142).

Summary of Submissions

These submitters indicate that the Annual Plan or the Long Term Plan (LTP) processes should be suspended until Council has a clearer understanding of the implications brought about by the global pandemic Covid-19.

These submitters raise concerns that there is too much uncertainty for Council to be moving ahead with the development of either its Annual Plan or its LTP. It is suggested that Covid-19 will have serious economic implications, which we do not understand just yet and it will cause a recession.

One submitter states that a lot depends on when a vaccine becomes available or the central government elections and that this will dictate what the re-build looks like.

Another submitter suggests that Council needs to rework the Annual Plan, cutting projects and operational cost or deferring them to ensure that it is affordable for the community given the financial uncertainty of this difficult period.

Analysis

The submitters comments are noted. Council is required under section 95(3) of the Local Government Act 2002 to adopt its Annual Plan by 30 June each year and as such we are working to this timeframe. The Annual Plan is important because it provides the information for Council to base its yearly rates on and as such it is beneficial to work within this timeframe.

While a LTP covers a period of no less than 10 years, it is reviewed every three years in accordance with the Local Government Act 2002. Council will commence work on its next LTP (2021-2041) this year, with it to be adopted by 30 June 2021.

Council needs to plan for its community in all manner of social/economic circumstances because the services and infrastructure we provide are crucial. As such Council should continue to plan and make decisions even in the current, unprecedented situation. However, whilst Council plans for and makes decisions relating to the Annual Plan 2020/2021 process it will no doubt carefully consider the known and potential implications of Covid-19 on our community and how it can best respond to these and ensure that the community is not unduly burdened.

Recommendation

That Council continues with the development of the Annual Plan 2020/2021 with a view to adopt this plan by 30 June 2020.

Topic 3: Covid-19 Response & Recovery

Submissions

Ingo Schleuss (#9), Leone Brown, Horowhenua District Ratepayers and Residents Association (#41), Dominique Cvitanovic (#56), Ashleigh-Hope Tatana (#59), John Baird (#72), Peter Everton (#79), Sharon Freebairn, Waitarere Beach Progressive & Ratepayers Association (#92), Joe Havill (#99), Garry Good (#102), Christine Toms (#111), Jacinta Liddell (#114), Sharon Williams (#130), Errol Brown (#123), Christina Paton (#139).

Summary of Submissions

These submitters raise questions and concerns about the Covid-19 response and recovery. A number of submitters raise concerns about the economic impact on the district resulting from Covid-19. Submitters state that this will be the most challenging period Council has faced and that the extent of the impact and implications for the district needs to be understood in order to develop a comprehensive recovery package. Other comments raised include:

- Covid-19 will impact on all ratepayers, and significantly local businesses;
- Assistance is needed for business owners;
- One submitter notes that they believe Council is up to the challenge;
- There is the opportunity to re-imagine what the district could look like;
- Unemployment mitigated through Council giving priority to work schemes e.g. Queen Street upgrades, Oxford Street upgrades, train station refurbishment, shared pathways;
- One submitter suggests the free delivery of medicines and other essential items from pharmacies to patients in the district;
- One submitter questions what Council's response to the pandemic is and how Council plans to overcome the economic effects of the virus;
- One submitter suggests Council invite key community leaders from across all sectors to assist;
- Contracts for Council's capital works should be given to local businesses and residents; and
- Plans should be made which can take advantage of potential central government funding.

Analysis

Council recognises that Covid-19 has resulted in economic disruptions and hardship for our district's people and businesses. Council has formed a Financial Resilience Working Party to identify the areas of greatest hardship, provide strategic advice, and identify opportunities and barriers to economic recovery.

Economic recovery will be complex and take several years for Council and businesses alike. Each sector will be affected to differing degrees and Council wants to ensure it is well placed to make informed decisions.

The Working Party will provide appropriate information and options to the Council before decisions are made. This will be a balance of continuing to deliver Council's core functions, assessing economic impact data, and identifying capital project opportunities to underwrite recovery.

Recommendation

The submitters comments are noted, there are no recommendations.

Topic 4: Elected Member and Staff Remuneration Cuts for Covid-19

Submissions

Leone Brown, Horowhenua District Ratepayers and Residents Association (#41), Margaret Hood (#62), Peter Everton (#79), Bill Timmer-Arends (#85), Christine Toms (#111), Federated Farmers (#115), Errol Brown (#123), Sharon Williams (#130).

Summary of Submissions

The submitters noted the impact Covid-19 has had on the community, with many people losing jobs or taking pay cuts. These submitters suggested Council shows solidarity with the community and take leadership shown by central government by taking pay cuts.

Submitter #79 asks whether Council applied for the wage subsidy for its staff.

Analysis

The submitters comments are noted. Council needs to plan for its community in all manner of social/economic circumstances because the services and infrastructure we provide are crucial. As such Council will continue to plan and make decisions even in the current, unprecedented situation. Council will carefully weigh up the implications of Covid-19 for our organisation as well as the wider community.

Council investigated the central government funded wage subsidy for its staff during the Covid-19 Level 4 lockdown, however, local government workers were not eligible for the subsidy.

Recommendation

The submitters comments are noted, there are no recommendations.

Topic 5: Covid-19 Potential Effects on Growth and Housing Requirements

Submission

Geoff Kane (#24).

Summary of Submission

The submitter feels that the Covid-19 situation has created change and indicates that Council should review its growth predictions (as these may go backwards) and that housing requirements may change

Analysis

The submitters comments are noted. Council is due to review its growth predictions as part of the development of its LTP 2021-2041 and this will likely take into consideration of the potential implications of Covid-19.

It is unclear what the submitter means by 'housing requirements may change' in relation to Covid-19. It is however recognised that housing requirements change overtime anyway, and therefore, this is something that Council needs to consider as it plans for future development and growth.

Recommendation

The submitters comments are noted, there are no recommendations.

Topic 6: Civil Defence and Emergency Management

Submissions

Sandra Barclay (#28), Christine Toms (#111).

Summary of Submissions

Submitter #28 asks what the learnings have been from the Nelson Fires, particularly regarding the evacuation of properties, including animals during an emergency.

Submitter #111 suggests the Civil Defence facility for Horowhenua should be reinstated at the civic building. The submitter notes this facility is important during the pandemic.

Analysis

Council's Civic Building is the Main Civil Defence and Emergency Management (CDEM) facility for our district. Our Emergency Operations Centre is activated and operates from this building when required. During the pandemic, Council has been operating an Incident Management Team remotely. The remote operation of this team was the best option in this situation for reducing the contact and keeping 'bubbles' as small as possible to ensure the safety of staff and their families and the wider community.

Council officers are aware of the two reports commissioned by Fire and Emergency New Zealand regarding the response to the Nelson Tasman Fires and will apply relevant learnings to our future CDEM responses. Council's CDEM response focuses on providing accommodation for people who are displaced (including companion and lifestyle animals). The Ministry of Primary Industries are the lead agency to provide support for farmers for cattle, however, Council will assist where possible. CDEM encourages all residents to be prepared and have an evacuation plan that can be implemented if necessary for families and companion animals.

Recommendation

The submitters comments are noted, there are no recommendations.

Topic 7: Bottom-up Decision Making

Submission

Leone Brown, Horowhenua District Ratepayers and Residents Association (#41).

Summary of Submission

The submitter seeks a different mode of operation with greater consultation and disclosure among the community that live in the Horowhenua District. They request bottom-up processes with consultation undertaken with a clean sheet and not something that has already been prescribed or agreed to. The submitter expresses their desire to see open discussion, common sense driven by the big picture (not by 'pet projects'), and ground up development of ideas to that Councillors can make evidence-based decisions.

Analysis

It is important to get the balance right between consulting with the community to ensure that major decisions on projects or services are made in an open and transparent way, but also not to 'over consult' with the community which could result in consultation fatigue or decisions not being made in a timely manner.

When consulting on major projects, plans, or services Council works to ensure that the community has a good understanding of the decision that needs to be made (including challenges, opportunities, costs, and implications of different options), and that they are able to contribute to the decision making process and shape Council's view.

Council's approach to consultation is tailored as some matters are constrained by legislation or practical options, whereas other matters can be completely led by community input. Consultation is treated as a sliding scale and it depends on factors like how much time Council has to make the decision, the significance of the decision, legislative requirements/constraints, and level of community interest in a matter.

Council has worked hard in recent years to change the way it consults and to make it easier for people to get involved and have their say. Consultation is typically done online, through hard copy information, community meetings and workshops, and by targeting specific interest groups. An example of where Council has more recently followed a more bottom-up approach is the development of the Waitārere Beach Community Plan. An initial information gathering exercise was undertaken with an online survey, flyer drop and a community engagement event, further workshops were held as the Plan was developed, and another survey was done, and finally community input was sort once the plan was drafted including a community open day.

Recommendation

The submitters comments are noted, there are no recommendations.

Topic 8: Council Staff Numbers, Costs, Turnover & Qualifications

Submissions

Leona Brown, Horowhenua District Ratepayers and Residents Association (#41), Michael Morgan (#81), Christine Toms (#111), Federated Farmers (#115), William Huzziff (#113), Michael Feyen (#137).

Summary of Submissions

Submitter #41 questions the \$1.93 million increase in employee benefit expenses and asks whether this means Council is paying staff more or employing more.

Submitter #81 state they believe the salary of the Chief Executive is too high.

Submitter #111 suggests there needs to be an audit of staff and staff turnover to reduce staff numbers and retain experienced personnel.

Submitter #113 would like to confirm Council staff numbers and number of HDC staff at the Alliance.

Submitter #115 requests Council looks for opportunities to make savings on personnel. Fair remuneration is needed to retain staff; however, Council is proposing an increase of staff remuneration of over \$1.5 million. This submitter also raised concerns about the amount of work being completed by consultants.

Submitter #137 suggests Council needs to reduce staff numbers, raises concern about the amount of work completed by external consultants, suggests a need to investigate turnover and personal grievances. The submitter suggests breaches of human rights have occurred. This submitter also states concerns about senior staff without relevant qualifications

Analysis

The submitters comments are noted. Horowhenua District Council employs a total of 234 staff of which 6 are embedded in the Alliance. Through the Annual Plan process Council will review and confirm the budget for employee expenses.

Recommendation

The submitters comments are noted, there are no recommendations.

Topic 9: Amalgamation / Shared Services

Submissions

Christine Toms (#111), Federated Farmers (#115), Errol Brown (#123).

Summary of Submissions

Submitters #111 and #123 suggest that Council should be proactive in working with other councils on amalgamation proposals. The submitters suggest Council may be forced to amalgamate, and submitter #111 notes there could be benefits to the district and ratepayers resulting from amalgamation.

Submitter #115 suggests that Council should consider further opportunities to work with other councils through shared services arrangements. They consider the pooling of resources will increase capability, while reducing costs.

Analysis

Horowhenua District Council, along with all other councils within the Horizons Region are part of Manawatū-Whanganui Local Authority Shared Services (MW LASS). Efficiencies are made through working together to find ways to provide services at a cheaper cost and in some cases in a more productive way. Some of the services MW LASS provide are:

- Procurement
- Information services
- Valuation services
- Financial services
- Insurances
- Document and archive storage
- Aerial photography

Recommendation

The submitters comments are noted, there are no recommendations.

Actions

That Council to continue to look for opportunities to collaborate with other councils where the sharing of services is of benefit to the district.

Topic 10: Lake Horowhenua and the Horowhenua District Environment

Submissions

Leone Brown, Horowhenua District Ratepayers and Residents Association (#41), Valerie Du Plooy (#87), Michael Feyen (#137), Charles Rudd Snr (#140).

Summary of Submissions

Submitter #41 is concerned that the current state of the Lake damages the perception of the area. The restoration of the Lake should be a priority.

Submitter #87 suggests Council should liaise with Iwi to improve Lake Horowhenua water quality so it can be used safely.

Submitter #137 identifies Council should become more proactive in challenging the upstream provinces pollution of the Manawatu River.

Submitter #140 suggests the Horowhenua District is the most contaminated in Aotearoa and asks what Council is going to do about it.

Analysis

As a privately owned lake, any work carried out on or around Lake Horowhenua must be agreed upon by its owners. Council will support and actively participate in lake restoration work agreed to by key stakeholders. Council representatives have a good relationship and actively work with members of Muaūpoko Iwi who are appointed as representatives of working groups, Board members and others involved in Council related activity. Council is proud of these relationships and the partnership formed over the last few years.

The Council is committed to the improvement of waterways in the Manawatū Catchment, particularly the state of the Manawatū River, so that it is safe, accessible, swimmable, and provides good recreation and food resource. Of relevance, Council lodged submissions to the Governments Draft National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (NPS-FM) and to Horizons Regional Council on Proposed Plan Change 2 to the One Plan and the Draft Annual Plan 2020/2021.

Council is also a committed member of the Manawatū River Leaders' Accord and strongly supports the 2016-2021 Action Plan which has around \$12.3 million worth of projects (assisted by \$5.84 million from the Ministry for the Environment's Freshwater Improvement Fund in 2017) to help with the long term restoration of the Manawatū River. Information on the Manawatū River Leaders' Accord and its progress to date can be found at www.manawaturiver.co.nz

Recommendation

The submitters comments are noted, there are no recommendations.

Topic 11: Horticulture

Submission

Leone Brown, Horowhenua District Ratepayers and Residents Association (#41).

Summary of Submission

This submitter suggests Horowhenua as an ideal place to grow heirloom seeds for export, and to process high value exportable consumable products.

Analysis

The submitter's views are noted. Horowhenua has a temperate climate which is ideal for growing horticultural crops and it is also well situated to process high value exportable consumable products. The primary sector is a key economic sector for Horowhenua. Council officers work closely with the economic development agencies within the region (CEDA – the Central Economic Development Agency, the Horowhenua Company, and Whanganui & Partners) to promote and leverage the many opportunities in the District and, as relevant, advise on the programmes to support and grow our businesses and community. A key focus is on our elite, high class soils, our processing and manufacturing infrastructure and excellent transport links. Council officers have been developing joint thinking around a food and logistics strategy for the Lower North Island

Officers note that Council has an important role to support primary sector interests and innovation as appropriate. Council officers regularly lodge submissions to Central Government on their National Policy Statements (national direction proposals) and to Horizons Regional Council. They also engage in other planning processes and forums to support the interests of our primary sector, which is a key economic sector for the district, and our community.

Recommendation

The submitters comments are noted, there are no recommendations.

Topic 12: Conflicts of interest & tendering

Submission

Michael Feyen (#137).

Summary of Submission

This submitter raises concerns that staff and elected members have conflicts of interest in development. They noted the 2019 sale of a business property to an elected member for 25% less than the 2015 valuation.

This submitter also suggests that Council is not conducting transparent tendering processes.

Analysis

Regarding the submitter's comments for conflict of interest, there is insufficient detail and examples provided to prepare a meaningful officer comment.

Council's tenders are undertaken via an electronic tender process using an electronic tender provider, such as Tenderlink. The tender provider is a company who manages the electronic tender site and is managed independently of Council. Those wishing to submit tenders need to register with the electronic tender provider and submit their tender through this party. Once the tenders close, Council is provided with the tenders from the tender provider. Council does not have access to the tenders prior to the closing date. Council conduct tender evaluation using methods from the Government Rules of Sourcing. Each evaluation process is documented and recorded in detail.

Recommendation

The submitters comments are noted, there are no recommendations.

Topic 13: Asset Management

Submission

Leone Brown, Horowhenua District Ratepayers and Residents Association (#41).

Summary of Submission

This submitter asks what asset management technology Council use to help decide the value of Council spending.

Analysis

Council has a significant portfolio of infrastructure it manages the maintenance and renewal of. Council officers use asset management software to assist with the management of this portfolio. RAMM is used for roading assets and IPS Hansen is used for the three waters network. These asset management systems are commonly used throughout New Zealand and assist in the management of significant quantity of information about the infrastructure assets, which assists officers to make informed decisions about maintenance and renewal schedules.

Recommendation

The submitters comments are noted, there are no recommendations.

Topic 14: Sun-Smart Policy

Submission

Kerry Hocquard, Cancer Society of New Zealand Manawatū Centre Inc. (#128).

Summary of Submission

The submitter wishes Council to renew its commitment to the Sun-Smart Policy developed in 2001.

Analysis

A Sun-Smart Environment Policy was developed in 2001 and updated in 2017. The Policy signals a review in three years which is yet to be completed. The Sun-Smart Policy focuses on sun-smart practices for Council officers. It includes education for staff, personal protective equipment such as sunscreen and hats, the reasonable provision of shade and sun-smart practices at Council led events.

In terms of protection for workers Council provides sun block to its officers and emphasises the use of appropriate PPE for all field staff. The Health and Safety Committee provide education to staff reminding them of the PPE available, and the importance of undertaking appropriate sun-smart practices.

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 recent examples of shade sails being erected are in the Waitāre Beach Domain (2019), and the new BBQ area at Hyde Park (2018).

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.

Council has outsourced its grounds maintenance function. Its contractors emphasise the use of sun protection PPE and sun block to staff particularly during the summer, and provide appropriate protective equipment as necessary and as is required under existing Health and Safety legislation. The contractor similarly considers which of its fleet are provided with canopies. Where canopies are not provided appropriate PPE is issued.

Officers have already developed a draft street tree policy to ensure appropriate selection, planting and maintenance of street trees. It focuses tree maintenance works on dead, diseased and dying trees. Healthy street trees will not be removed. Council is undertaking a condition survey of its street tree stock in 2019/2020 to move from a reactive maintenance position to a proactive one.

Council officers also consider whether shade is available at Council run events.

Recommendation

The submitters comments are noted, there are no recommendations.

Actions

The Council's Health and Safety Committee lead the review of the Sun-Smart Environment Policy during the 2020/2021 financial year.

Topic 15: Horowhenua Trust

Submission

Vivienne Bold (#121).

Summary of Submission

The submitter raises concern that the Horowhenua Trust are being sold cheap land and developing for the sake of increasing the city. No respect for the next generation.

Analysis

There is insufficient detail and examples provided by the submitter to prepare a meaningful officer comment.

Recommendation

The submitters comments are noted, there are no recommendations.

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 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)	Tiffany Gower Strategic Planner	
Approved by	David McCorkindale Group Manager - Customer & Strategy	

Annual Plan 2020/2021 Deliberations - Finance

File No.: 20/203

1. Purpose

To present to Council for deliberation, the submissions received on the draft annual Plan 2020/2021 in relation to Council's financials.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That Report 20/203 Annual Plan 2020/2021 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 Council's financials.
- 2.4 That Council considers the concerns raised by submitters about any rate increase, in the year that the impacts of Covid-19 will affect many in the Horowhenua community, when finalising the rate requirement for the 2020/2021 year.
- 2.5 That Council considers the suggestions raised by submitters regarding the delaying or deleting of non-essential capital projects, in year that the impacts of Covid-19 will affect many in the Horowhenua community, when finalising the Annual Plan capital and expenditure programme for the 2020/2021 year.
- 2.6 That Council considers the need for a review of the Revenue and Financing Policy as part of the LTP 2021-2041 for minor amendments only.
- 2.7 That Council embark on a more major review of the Revenue and Financing Policy in the 2021/2022 financial year to consider significant amendments such as the introduction of a capital value rating, new targeted rates and changes to differentials.
- 2.8 That the development of a Rates Postponement Policy for senior citizens be considered as part of the LTP 2021-2041 process.
- 2.9 That Council considers developing and consulting on a Development Contributions Policy concurrent to the LTP 2021-2041.

3. Topics for Consideration

Topic 1	Rates and Implications of Covid-19
Topic 2	Re-prioritisation of Council Spending Because of Covid-19
Topic 3	Changes to the Rating System
Topic 4	Equity of Rural Rates
Topic 5	Rates Rebates
Topic 6	Rates Postponement Policy
Topic 7	Rates Refund due to Covid-19
Topic 8	Rates and Rates Revaluation
Topic 9	Rates for Businesses
Topic 10	Separately Used or Inhabited Part (SUIP)

Topic 11	Development Contributions
Topic 12	Management of Council's Finances
Topic 13	Council's Financial Strategy
Topic 14	Debt and Liabilities
Topic 15	Reserve Funding Renewals
Topic 16	Balanced Budget and Borrowing for Operational Expenditure
Topic 17	Fees and Charges

Topic 1: Rates and Implications of Covid-19

Submissions

John Murphy (#14), Geoff Kane (#24), Sandra Barclay (#28), Damian Reid (#39), John Beattie (#40), Leone Brown, Horowhenua District Ratepayers and Residents Association (#41), Maureen June Delphine Lee (#48), Christine Anderson (#50), Graham Pringle (#53), WR & LM Ingram (#55), Judith Bryers Holloway (#57), Graham Milligan (#61), Margaret Hood (#62), Gill Janes (#66), Sarah Ryan (#67), Lyn MacDonald (#68), Graeme Jorgensen (#69), Neville Gimblett (#71), Peter Everton (#79), Michael Morgan (#81), Ngaire Newland (#83), Caron Hobbs (#87), Kirsten Oliver (#89), Sharon Freebairn, Waitārere Beach Progressive & Ratepayers Association (#92), Ann Thomas, Horowhenua Farmers Ratepayers Group (#94), Brian and Anne Thomas (#95), Trevor Hinder (#96), David Roache, Foxton Community Board (#98), Carolyn Cordery (#101), Teri-Robyn Whiti (#103), Lewis Rohloff, Horowhenua Grey Power (#104), Terence Hemmingsen, Horowhenua Grey Power (#105), David Roache (#107), Christine Avery (#108), William Kimber (#109), Christine Toms (#111), Federated Farmers (#115), Vivienne Bold (#121), Errol Brown (#123), Diane Brown (#124), Maisie Kimber (#125), John Robert Bauer (#127), Sharon Williams (#130), Michael Feyen (#137), Mike Lepper (#138), Christina Paton (#139), Suzanne MacFarlane (#142).

Summary of Submissions

A number of submitters have raised a variety of concerns relating to rates and the impact Covid-19 will potentially have on the community and the affordability of rates. A number of submitters specifically referenced the number of people in the district with low fixed incomes. Suggestions these submitters raised for Council to consider/put in place include:

- Zero rates increase (or a 'rate freeze')
- Reduced rates increase
- Rates reduction
- Rates relief for financial hardship, including payment plans
- Rates support to businesses suffering financial hardship
- Remission of penalties during the pandemic response
- Rates deferment

A number of submitters provided reference to other Councils implementing either a zero rates increase, or much lower rates increases than Horowhenua.

Submitter #94 suggests that the only increases should go to people who have completed a house build recently with their property moving from being rated as a bare section to the capital value based on the 2019/2020 rates, and land in growth areas subject to the rates rebate which has changed ownership or land use e.g. if the land has been subdivided then it should be charged rates at the residential value based on 2019/2020 rates.

Submitter #107 suggested that Council operated on the income from 2019/2020, therefore without any increases to levels of service, Council should be able to achieve a zero rates increase.

Submitter #115 asked why the money generated from population growth was not enough to avoid the need to increase Council's rates income.

Submitter #130 suggests a task group is created to problem solve the issue of rates increases.

Analysis

Council has established a Financial Resilience Working Party to understand the financial impacts of Covid-19 and investigate short and long term options for Council's response. For Council to implement a zero rates income increase, \$2.678m would need to be removed from current budgets for 2020/2021. It is unlikely that Council will be able to achieve this without affecting levels of service to some extent.

The assumption made by some submitters that if Council does not increase any of its levels of service for 2020/2021 then rates income will not need to increase is incorrect. Rate increases are caused by many things, some examples relevant for Horowhenua for 2020/2021 include;

- The new Solid Waste collection and recycling contract has increased the costs and level of service for this function. If Council does not subsequently increase the Solid Waste Targeted Rate it would be forced to borrow to fund the increased costs of this contract;
- Inflation is a factor as the construction costs for example rose 2.2% against the CPI increase of 1.7% (construction costs and the cost of bitumen and aggregate have implications for the cost of Council maintaining its infrastructure and services);
- Council spent \$21m on renewals and new assets which increased depreciation and the cost of rate funding this. *Depreciation is the systematic allocation of the depreciable amount of an asset over its useful life and aims to ensure that ratepayers pay their fair share for the consumptions of assets;* and
- Council raised \$10m in extra borrowing to finance some of these assets, the interest and repayment on this borrowing increases Council's costs.

Growth means that there are more ratepayers to spread Council's rates requirement across. However, increases in rates are driven by multiple factors (as outlined above), and therefore, growth was not able to cover the rates income increase proposed in the Draft Annual Plan for 2020/2021.

Even if Council implemented a zero rates income increase for the 2020/2021 financial year, due to the property revaluation done last year (that takes effect from 1 July 2020), some ratepayers will receive a rates increase regardless. This increase is driven by how much their property has increased in value compared to other properties in the district (e.g. an above average increase in value will result in an increase in rates).

Council must be careful as it considers how much of a rates income increase it wants to impose for the 2020/2021 financial year. Covid-19 has created a unique situation and it is acknowledged that many ratepayers are likely to be concerned about the affordability of rates. Council should, however, take a holistic approach and consider longer term implications; any reduction in rates must result in a budget reduction or a decision to fund something by alternative means (e.g. loan funding).

Council is considering the establishment of a Rates Postponement Policy to come into effect for the 2020/2021 financial year. In the mean-time any ratepayers concerned about being able to pay their rates can contact Council and discuss a payment plan, that can be tailored to suit individual circumstances.

Recommendation

That Council considers the concerns raised by submitters about any rate increase, in the year that the impacts of Covid-19 will affect many in the Horowhenua community, when finalising the rate requirement for the 2020/2021 year.

Topic 2: Re-prioritisation of Council Spending Because of Covid-19

Submissions

Leone Brown, Horowhenua District Ratepayers and Residents Association (#41), Derek Arthur Canvin (#47), Judith Bryers Holloway (#57), Margaret Hood (#62), Caron Hobbs (#87), Neville Gimblett (#71), Peter Everton (#79), John Baird (#72), Kirsten Oliver (#89), Ann Thomas, Horowhenua Farmers Ratepayers Group (#94), Trevor Hinder (#96), Joe Havill (#99), Lewis Rohloff, Horowhenua Grey Power (#104), David Roache (#107), William Kimber (#109), Christine Toms (#111), Jacinta Liddell (#114), Federated Farmers (#115), Maisie Kimber (#125), John Robert Bauer (#127), Sharon Williams (#130), Mike Lepper (#138), Charles Rudd Snr (#140), Olaf Eady (#141), Suzanne MacFarlane (#142).

Summary of Submissions

These submitters have requested that Council undertakes a re-assessment of spending (operational and capital) and focuses only on essential services, with unessential spending deferred. A number of submitters indicated that essential should focus on infrastructure repair and maintenance e.g. drinking water, wastewater, roads. One submitter noted this needed to occur by cutting costs, rather than increasing debt.

A range of projects were suggested as being 'non-essential' - Levin Town Centre Strategy (Al Fresco Dining), Queen Street Green Street, shared pathways, the proposed splash pad, new requests for funding made by community groups, destination management, the Horowhenua Integrated Transport Strategy, some projects for community facilities and services (e.g. Waitārere Domain, library spending, park improvements, replacement of vehicles), any 'improved level of service' spending.

Submitter #141 requested that progress on amending the budgets is reported via livestream daily, with a weekly summary via the Chronicle.

Analysis

Council has established a Financial Resilience Working Party to understand the financial impacts of Covid-19 and investigate short and long term options for Council's response. The Working Party has investigated various options to prioritise capital spend for the 2020/2021 financial year.

Officers have identified capital projects that Council could consider delaying or deleting from the 2020/2021 financial year. These will be considered as part of the deliberations of Council for the 2020/2021 Annual Plan.

Recommendation

That Council considers the suggestions raised by submitters regarding the delaying or deleting of non-essential capital projects, in year that the impacts of Covid-19 will affect many in the Horowhenua community, when finalising the Annual Plan capital and expenditure programme for the 2020/2021 year.

Topic 3: Changes to the Rating System

Submissions

Leone Brown, Horowhenua District Ratepayers and Residents Association (#41), Geoff Kane (#24), Ann Thomas, Horowhenua Farmers Ratepayers Group (#94), Brian and Ann Thomas (#95), Lewis Rohloff, Horowhenua Grey Power (#104), Terence Hemmingsen, Horowhenua Grey Power (#105), Jacinta Liddell (#114), Federated Farmers (#115).

Summary of Submissions

These submitters are seeking a rating system that is fair to everyone but does not restrict growth of any sector.

Submitter #115 indicates that Council should review the rural differential on the General Rate.

Submitter #41 requests Council removes differentials.

Submitter #114 requests a rates system based on income (suggested that it be set at no more than 5% of income).

Submitter #104 considers that the current rating system is unaffordable to low and middle income ratepayers and that the rating impact on residential and productive sectors is higher than for businesses. This submitter raises concerns about equity across all of Council's activities.

Submitter #105 is concerned about affordability and suggests Council should consider capital value rating.

Analysis

Any change to the rating system would require a review of the Revenue and Financing Policy which cannot be carried out prior to Council adopting its Annual Plan for 2020/2021 due to time constraints.

Council can make a decision to review its Revenue and Finance Policy in the 2020/2021 financial year. Minor changes to this Policy could be incorporated into it as part of the Long Term Plan (LTP) 2021-2041 process. A more thorough review of this Policy with major changes (e.g. the proposed introduction of a Capital Value Rating System or alteration, removal or introduction of differentials) is a significant undertaking and may not be achievable within the LTP timeframes.

Councils do not currently have the ability to tax on the basis of income.

Recommendation

That Council considers the need for a review of the Revenue and Financing Policy as part of the LTP 2021-2041 for minor amendments only.

That Council embark on a more major review of the Revenue and Financing Policy in the 2021/2022 financial year to consider significant amendments such as the introduction of a capital value rating, new targeted rates and changes to differentials.

Topic 4: Equity of Rural Rates

Submissions

Dean Tunnell (#25), Melissa Steedman (#73).

Summary of Submissions

These submitters do not consider that, as rural ratepayers, there is equity in the rates they pay with their residential counterparts.

Submitter #25 notes they do not receive a water supply or wastewater disposal service and have to pay for rubbish collection and disposal.

Submitter #73 considers rural properties should get discount on water and/or septic tanks to compensate for them having to pay extra for these as rural ratepayers.

Analysis

Only people receiving the service will pay for water and wastewater provision. The targeted rates for three waters (being water supply, wastewater disposal and stormwater management) are set on urban properties that receive the service and are in addition to those rates that are levied district-wide, which include rural ratepayers.

The Solid Waste targeted rate covers much more than just refuse collection and disposal but also fly tipping clean-up costs etc. There is also a differential in favour of rural ratepayers whereby those ratepayers pay only 20% of the total cost.

Recommendation

The submitters comments are noted, there are no recommendations.

Topic 5: Rates Rebates

Submissions

Birute Kulvis (#60), Graeme Jorgensen (#69).

Summary of Submissions

These submitters are concerned that the rates rebate scheme will not increase as much as rates, particularly in situations where household income did not grow as much as the new proposed rates increases.

Analysis

The rates rebate increases with inflation. Central Government, through the Department of Internal Affairs (DIA), provides rates rebates independently of Council. As such there is no correlation between the increase in the rebate and any proposed increase in rates.

Council's role in the rates rebate scheme is to act as an agent to help facilitate people in the community receiving applicable rebates. The rates rebate income eligibility values are set by the DIA, and are usually variable depending on the level of rates payable. For example, the higher the rates, the lower the income threshold for eligibility. For 2019/2020 (the current financial year) the rebate was up to \$640. The DIA will review the eligibility criteria and rebate value for 2020/2021, however, Council is not yet aware of what changes to the values may be made.

Recommendation

The submitters comments are noted, there are no recommendations.

Topic 6: Rates Postponement Policy

Submission

Terry Hemmingsen, Horowhenua Grey Power (#105).

Summary of Submission

This submitter suggests Council implement a voluntary Rates Postponement Policy for citizens over 65 years of age.

Analysis

Such a policy was put up for consideration by Councillor Sam Jennings to the Council meeting of 6 May 2020 but it is yet to be considered through a formal Council process.

Grey Power suggested that a rates postponement policy in favour of senior citizens would be more secure than what could be offered to Small and Medium Enterprises (SME's). There is no distinction under the applicable legislation, both senior citizens and SME's would be payable as both would be subject to a statutory land charge and be payable when a property was sold, or sooner.

Council is considering a Rates Postponement Policy to give rate relief to SME's affected by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Recommendation

That the development of a Rates Postponement Policy for senior citizens be considered as part of the LTP 2021-2041 process.

Topic 7: Rates Refund due to Covid-19

Submission

Christine Toms (#111).

Summary of Submission

Submitter #111 suggests that because Council's facilities have been closed Council should provide a rates rebate to all ratepayers for the time these facilities have been closed.

Analysis

While the doors of our facilities were closed to the public during alert level 4 and 3, a number of services were made available including the library e-platform and digital loans, sign-ups for Spark SkinnyJUMP broadband initiative, homelink sign-up and contactless delivery in level 3, and the streaming of music events and programmes for all ages to name a few.

These facilities were only closed for a relatively short period and still incurred fixed costs associated with each activity. Council did not qualify for any wage subsidies from Central Government and yet many of the staff from these facilities worked in some capacity during the level 4 and 3 lockdown period.

Recommendation

The submitters comments are noted, there are no recommendations.

Topic 8: Rates and Rates Revaluation

Submissions

Graham Pringle (#53), Lyn MacDonald (#68), Michael Morgan (#81), Bill Timmer-Arends (#85), Sharon Freebairn, Waitāre Beach Progressive & Ratepayers Association (#92), Vivienne Bold (#121), Michael Feyen (#137).

Summary of Submissions

These submitters raise questions about rates generally, or the revaluation/valuations.

Submitter #53 questions the significant rates increase at Foxton Beach (13%). This submitter also notes that the population of Foxton Beach grew by 85 ratepayers, so would like an explanation for why the rates increase at Foxton Beach is so high.

Submitter #68 questions why the rates for Horowhenua are so expensive. They live in Levin, but state that rates in Tauranga where they lived previously were cheaper and they received more and better services.

Submitter #81 is concerned about the high level of rates in Levin - their property has a proposed rates increase of 9.8%. This submitter is also concerned that rates do not decrease when house prices do.

Submitter #85 suggests that new property valuations will be inaccurate due to Covid-19, and states that house prices will fall more than 20%.

Submitter #92 questions the increases for libraries, community development, community grants and funding which are not explained in the budgets.

Submitter #121 is concerned about the significant rates increase for residents at Hōkio Beach and asks what value these ratepayers get for the rates they pay.

Submitter #137 questions the rates paid at Speldhurst and suggests they are less than houses with equivalent value owned by others in the district.

Analysis

Rating revaluations are done only once every three years at a particular date. For the Horowhenua District these were last done 1 August 2019. These rateable values then remain for the next three years regardless of any subsequent market movements up or down.

Rating revaluations can have implications for rates and how the rates burden is spread. For properties where their value has increased by more than average (when compared to other properties across the district) their rates will increase. For example, Foxton Beach Land Values rose 103.9% against an average residential properties increase of 101.4%, therefore many properties in Foxton Beach will receive a rates increase as a result of the valuation increase.

If a property has received a below average increase in value (when compared to other properties across the district) then the rates will either stay the same or may decrease.

Large cities such as Tauranga have economies of scale that Horowhenua District cannot match. They have more ratepayers to pay for services so the rate per property is generally less. District's like Horowhenua also tend to have numerous water and wastewater treatment plants/schemes with smaller populations to pay for these.

Recommendation

The submitters comments are noted, there are no recommendations.

Topic 9: Rates for Businesses

Submissions

Leone Brown, Horowhenua District Ratepayers and Residents Association (#41), Margaret Alice Hood (#62).

Summary of Submissions

Submitter #41 believes that how Council charges a business for wastewater in comparison to a residential property is unfair. They suggested that a business might have a lot more people in the building, and therefore, should be charged a lot more. They used the Council's office building as an example.

Submitter #62 argues that rates are the largest cost to most of the businesses in the district and that they get nothing in return.

Analysis

In regards to rating for wastewater, there is no legal rating mechanism that allows for the number of people that use a building. There is the ability to rate per toilet for non-residential ratepayers. However, this has proven administratively difficult for places that have tried to use this mechanism and it does not recognise that some businesses and schools are not always occupied all year round or may have lower numbers (or higher) than the number of toilets were designed to service.

Council provides important services and infrastructure (e.g. local roads and footpaths, and the three waters) which businesses benefit from just as other parts of the community do, therefore, it is only fair that they pay for these through rates as well.

Recommendation

The submitters comments are noted, there are no recommendations.

Topic 10: Separately Used or Inhabited Part (SUIP)

Submissions

Leone Brown, Horowhenua District Ratepayers and Residents Association (#41).

Summary of Submissions

The submitter indicated that SUIPS are calculated so that only one set of Targeted Rates set by fixed (uniform) charge is applied per property. Targeted Rates set by fixed charge include those set district-wide for libraries, swimming pools, representation and community leadership, and solid waste but also for water and wastewater where the service is provided.

Analysis

The submitters belief that rates set on a SUIP basis only sets one set of Targeted Rates using fixed charges is incorrect. Council is legislatively obliged to define what a SUIP is. This definition can be found in the Funding Impact Statement on page 92 of the Draft Annual Plan 2020/2021. The intent is to apply a set of Targeted Rates to every different use or habitation. Therefore, a building with several shops would get a set of Targeted Rates for each shop, similarly a farm with several houses would get a set of Targeted Rates per house.

Recommendation

The submitters comments are noted, there are no recommendations.

Topic 11: Development Contributions

Submissions

Dean Tunnell (#25), Leone Brown, Horowhenua District Ratepayers and Residents Association (#41), Judith Bryers Holloway (#57), Neville Gimblett (#71), Michael Morgan (#81), Caron Hobbs (#87), Sharon Freebairn, Waitāre Beach Progressive & Ratepayers Association (#92), Ann Thomas, Horowhenua Farmers Ratepayers Group (#94), Brian and Ann Thomas (#95), William Kimber (#109), Federated Farmers (#115), Vivienne Bold (#121), Maisie Kimber (#125), Michael Feyen (#137), Mike Lepper (#138), Christina Paton (#139), Charles Rudd Snr (#140).

Summary of Submissions

These submitters have asked for the cost of development and growth to be paid by the developers, not by ratepayers. They have requested that Council reintroduces development contributions, or lump sum contributions.

One submitter requested that Council defer growth related spending until development contributions have been reintroduced.

Submitter #92 noted that Council stated they were going to review Development Contributions in the first year of the LTP 2018-2038. This submitter is concerned about the cost of infrastructure improvements required to meet projected growth.

Analysis

Council made the decision as part of the development of its LTP 2015-2025 that it would no longer charge Development Contributions. Following this decision, the Horowhenua District started to experience a period of increased growth.

For the LTP 2018-2038 Council considered infrastructure requirements, including options for funding, and as a result of matters raised in submissions on this LTP, Council made the following resolution: *That Council explore during the 2018/19 financial year different options including development contributions for funding infrastructure growth as part of the 2019/20 Annual Plan process.*

Council then discussed and considered development contributions at its August and November 2018 Strategy Committee meetings. At this time Council concluded that it was not necessary to

charge development contributions, however, Council indicated that it would continue to investigate and consider whether it needs to introduce new policy tools (such as development contributions) to help fund infrastructure upgrades going forward.

A Development Contributions Policy must be reviewed (in some capacity) every three years in accordance with section 106(6) of the Local Government Act 2002. As we move towards commencing preparation on the LTP 2021-2041 Council should consider whether it would like to develop and consult on a Development Contributions Policy concurrent with this LTP.

However, even if Development Contributions (or some other mechanism is introduced) this is unlikely to fund all growth related infrastructure costs in the short-term as there is a lag between the up-front costs of providing the infrastructure necessary for growth to occur and the development of the areas served by that infrastructure.

Recommendation

That Council considers developing and consulting on a Development Contributions Policy concurrent to the LTP 2021-2041.

Topic 12: Management of Council's Finances

Submissions

Damian Reid (#39), Leone Brown, Horowhenua District Ratepayers and Residents Association (#41), Michael Morgan (#81), Trevor Hinder (#96), Christine Toms (#111), William Huzziff (#113), Kim Sylvia Turton (#129), Michael Feyen (#137).

Summary of Submissions

Submitter #39 asks Council to find a better way of being transparent around the actual costs of infrastructure so ratepayers can understand rates increases better.

Submitter #41 states that all projects should have a ROI provision that local businesses are preferred. This submitter suggests there is a need for governance to increase the control of Council spending.

Submitter #81 is concerned that Council does not keep to its budgets.

Submitter #96 requested that staffing costs for capital projects are reviewed to ensure the employee costs of these projects are not shown as operational costs. This submitter also requests the reasons why proposed capital expenditure, revenue and costs differed from the LTP and specifically requests details by any line item in the Annual Plan differs by +/- \$100K.

Submitter #111 states that only solid investments should be entered into with valid, independent and transparent advice and auditing. Future and swaps must no longer be entertained. All losses on high risk and other tenuous markets, including overseas gains and losses should be publicly disclosed. Losses should be attributed to Council and councillors not ratepayers. Potential and/or real mortgage sales in the event of high risk losses should be disallowed and the onus brought back on Council/councillors.

Submitter #113 suggests the Chief Executive has a discretionary fund of \$1 million.

Submitter #129 believes that Council's finances have been mismanaged.

Submitter #137 suggests Council needs to undertake a full independent audit for the previous 12 years. This submitter recommends the audit needs to include the processes of the Audit office. Concerns that Council has been ignoring recommendations by the Office of the Auditor General. This submitter questions the reasons for the delay of the 2019 Audit until after elections. This submitter also suggests Council is hiding payments made to Iwi and does not like futures or swaps.

Analysis

Council works hard to increase transparency around costs of infrastructure and other Council business. Council meetings including FAR meetings are open to the public and livestreamed so

that people can view these from the comfort of their own homes. Information is released via Council reports, Annual Plan and Long Term Plan processes, Annual Reports and consultation on major projects. Where we can we try to make this information as easy to follow as possible and officers or elected members are available to answer questions.

Council is embarking on a review of current expenditure in response to the pandemic. An external audit is conducted every year as part of the Annual Report, and an internal audit is being conducted in the current year. Any further audit would be costly at a time when Council is trying to eliminate unnecessary costs.

Council does cost staff time to capital projects and these costs reduce operational costs. Projects are costed as estimates initially. The estimate is refined once the project design has occurred this may increase the project costs above the initial estimate.

Swaps are not investments, nor are they obtained through the stock market, Council is not involved in the futures market and none of our debt is secured by mortgage.

The 2019 Audit was not delayed as submitter #137 described, but had more to do with the resources and issues around asset revaluations.

The Chief Executive does not have a discretionary fund of \$1million, he does have delegated authority to allow for spending on projects of up to \$1million.

Recommendation

The submitters comments are noted, there are no recommendations.

Topic 13: Council's Financial Strategy

Submissions

Sharon Williams (#130), Charles Rudd Snr (#140).

Summary of Submissions

Submitter #130 notes the importance of Council's goal of 'managing growth while living within its means' in the current environment.

Submitter #140 questions Council's Financial Strategy in the Long Term Plan 2018-2038 because changes are made within annual plans, as a result of unforeseen event such as Covid-19, and increased inflation. This submitter considers that Council's goal of 'managing growth while living within its means' is a false statement because Council does not set out a 20 year rate charging term and stick to it.

Analysis

Council is required to develop a Financial Strategy in accordance with the requirements of section 101A of the Local Government Act 2002. Council's current Financial Strategy was developed as part of the LTP 2018-2038 and will be reviewed and revised as part of the development of the LTP 2021-2041.

The Financial Strategy sets Council's overall financial direction and is a guiding document; something for Council to strive for as it aims to manage its finances in a sustainable and prudent manner. Changes to the Financial Strategy would require a LTP amendment.

Recommendation

The submitters comments are noted, there are no recommendations.

Topic 14: Debt and Liabilities

Submissions

Leone Brown, Horowhenua District Ratepayers and Residents Association (#41), Michael Morgan (#81), Federated Farmers (#115), Diane Brown (#124), Kim Turton (#129), Suzanne MacFarlane (#142).

Summary of Submissions

Most of these submitters raise concerns about Council's debt levels and liabilities. A number of submitters indicated that Council should reduce its debt. However, submitter #124 identifies that local government collectively has a large asset base which gives them an ability to borrow to support the local economy.

Analysis

Debt is generally considered an appropriate funding mechanism available to councils across New Zealand. When investing in major projects like a wastewater treatment plant councils apply the principle of inter-generational equity. One way of doing this is to borrow the cost of the construction of the plant and pay it off during its operational life time (e.g. over 50 or 100 years), ensuring that each generation which benefits also contributes.

Council is in the process of reassessing and reprioritising all capital projects as well as the consequential debt levels. The revised Annual Plan will show this. Council do not treat liabilities as assets.

Recommendation

The submitters comments are noted, there are no recommendations.

Topic 15: Reserve Funding Renewals

Submission

William Kimber (#109).

Summary of Submission

This submitter suggests that if Council had been prudent in funding renewals, then ratepayers would not have to pay the full cost.

Analysis

Council funds renewals from reserves by funding depreciation for the three waters and roading, using debt only when available funds are exhausted. However, the age of some of the three waters infrastructure means that renewals are now quite high which is putting pressure on prefunding of renewals.

Recommendation

The submitters comments are noted, there are no recommendations.

Topic 16: Balanced Budget and Borrowing for Operational Expenditure

Submissions

William Huzziff (#113), Charles Rudd Snr (#140).

Summary of Submissions

These submitters raise concerns of Council's sustained unbalanced budgets, overspending budgets, borrowing for operational expenditure and increases in operational expenditure.

Analysis

Councillors are aware of the situation described by the submitters, Council will review the expenditure outlined in the Draft Annual Plan 2020/2021 and will review this situation as part of the preparation of LTP 2021-2041 and Financial Strategy.

Recommendation

The submitters comments are noted, there are no recommendations.

Topic 17: Fees and Charges

Submissions

Sharon Freebairn, Waitārere Beach Progressive & Ratepayers Association (#92), Mike Lepper (#138).

Summary of Submissions

These submitters suggest that fees and charges should remain at 2019/2020 levels.

Analysis

There will be no increase to the fees and charges for Council services and facilities for the 2020/2021 financial year. Council adopted the schedule of fees and charges for 2020/2021 at its meeting on 6 May 2020. The majority of fees and charges will remain unchanged in the 2020/2021 financial year, with a small number of new fees and fee reductions.

This decision excluded fees and charges for food businesses subject to the Food Act 2014 and for planning services subject to the Resource Management Act 1991. Council is required to undertake public consultation on these fees and charges, and has proposed a zero increase. Consultation occurred during April/May 2020, with no submissions received. Council will make a decision on 10 June 2020.

Recommendation

The submitters comments are noted, there are no recommendations.

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:

- containing sufficient information about the options and their benefits and costs, bearing in mind the significance of the decisions; and,
- 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	
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Approved by	Nicki Brady Deputy Chief Executive	
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