

It's steady as we grow

# Long Term Plan 2018-2028

## Key Decisions Document

Thank you for your feedback - See inside for decisions your Council has made on the key issues, priorities and projects for the District in the next 10 years.



*Western Bay of Plenty  
District Council*



## Message from the Mayor

# Welcome

## to this 2018-28 Long Term Plan (LTP) Key Decisions Document



In the following pages you will find details of the decisions your Council has made on key issues the community raised during our pre-engagement and consultation processes.

### It's About You

We started consulting on our LTP in early 2017 and since then we have held community conversations, workshops, drop-in meetings and encouraged online submissions to ensure the feedback we received was from as broad a range of people in our community as possible.

The decisions we made have been reached only after reading, analysing and deliberating on 419 submissions.

The message that you, our ratepayers, have given us is that you want us to plan appropriately for growth while making sure rates remain affordable and Council debt is managed prudently (for more information see the full LTP).

### We have listened

This plan includes a number of significant policy, planning and infrastructure projects to accommodate growth over the next ten years, while keeping rates increases to less than four percent per annum (including inflation but excluding growth).

The average annual increase to existing ratepayers over the 10 years is forecast to be less than 2.7 percent.

### Key Decisions

While we always have an eye on the future, we have not lost sight of our day-to-day business.

We are determined to, wherever possible, improve the lives of our existing residents through better access to art, amenities, and community building activity.

This LTP process sought feedback on four proposals, each with a preferred option. The topics and preferred options included:

#### ✓ 1. Walkway and cycleway investment

Council's preferred option was to increase funding to \$450,000 per year to enable faster development. Support was almost equally split between those in favour of the increase and those who wanted funding to remain the same. Because of that feedback we have

decided to implement a stepped increase in funding across the first three years of this LTP. *More details are on page 9.*

#### ✓ 2. Western Bay Museum funding

The preferred option was to provide \$70,000 per year in support through District-wide rates for the next three years. Following feedback we have decided to fund the museum at \$70,000 per annum, through District-wide rates for the next 10 years, but will review this approach if a museum is established in Tauranga City.

#### ✓ 3. Arts and culture investment

The preferred option was to enable Creative Bay of Plenty and The Incubator Creative Hub to partially implement the sub-regional Arts and Culture Strategy. Based on the feedback we have decided to continue with the approach proposed in the Consultation Document.

#### ✓ 4. Debt management approach

Council currently contributes \$2.5m from general rates towards interest and debt repayments per year. Given the rate of growth it was proposed to reduce this to a \$1m contribution for year one of the LTP and review this decision annually to take into account growth. Through deliberations, Council decided to continue with this approach as proposed in the Consultation Document.

### Steady as we grow

We know that in the coming years we will need to be proactive in planning for the development and growth of our District but for now we are firmly committed to the 'steady as we grow' philosophy.

I hope you find the plan we have for the District strikes the right balance between looking ahead and planning for change, while balancing rates affordability and prudently reducing Council's debt.

**Garry Webber**  
Mayor, Western Bay of Plenty District



## Your Mayor & District Ward Councillors

### Katikati / Waihi Beach Ward

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### Te Puke / Maketu Ward

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## It's about you

Council began the process of developing our Long Term Plan in February 2017. We wanted to hear from our communities on what was important to them, the direction they wanted the District to go in, and what they wanted from Council. So we did a roadshow and visited 13 locations across the District.

The feedback we gained through this process helped us identify key themes and areas the community felt Council needed to focus on. We developed four key themes (that we have continued to use through the consultation period and this decision story), and then ran focus groups to get more understanding of what people thought about those themes, what we planned to do, and if Council was on the right track.

Next we developed our Long Term Plan Consultation Document, and ran "Have Your Say" events and an online feedback process. Five events were held across the District where people gave feedback on the key proposals of the Consultation Document, the key themes and other matters in the Draft LTP.

Overall we received 419 submissions through this process. Most of the feedback was received online and was about the four key proposals. There was also feedback received from the community on specific topics. These are included under each theme - The Pace of Change, Getting Around, Protecting our Environment and Resources, and Building Communities.





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# Key Decisions Document

The Key Decisions Document sets out our decisions on the topics we received feedback on through the “Have Your Say” formal consultation process. We received the most feedback on our four key proposals. Submitters also raised specific projects they wanted to either give feedback on or were seeking funding for. We also had submissions from our service delivery contract holders and other organisations requesting funding for specific programmes or projects.


Not every submission has an individual response - where the topic was the same, we've grouped submissions and made an overall decision. Under each topic there's information provided that gives the context for the decision.

**We've grouped our decisions under the following five key themes:**


## 01 – The pace of change

-  **Includes Future Focus Areas:**
  - **Planning for growth**
  - **Enabling the housing our community needs**


## 02 – Getting around

-  **Includes Key Proposal:**
  - **Walking and cycling**

## 03 – Protecting our environment and resources

-  **Includes Future Focus area:**
  - **Investigating alternative rubbish and recycling collection models**

## 04 – Building communities

-  **Includes Key Proposals:**
  - **Funding the Western Bay Museum**
  - **Increasing funding for arts and culture**

## 05 – Managing our finances

-  **Includes Key Proposal:**
  - **Change our debt management approach**

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The pace of change

# 01

## The District is growing rapidly.

Growth brings a lot of benefits but also challenges. We manage our growth in partnership with Tauranga City Council, Bay of Plenty Regional Council and Tangata Whenua, through SmartGrowth.

Determining how and where the District grows, and how to fund and service that growth is core business for Council. We are also focusing on how to enable the housing our community needs, as we grow and our population ages.

We received various feedback relating to how and where the District will grow, and how Council could support delivery of the housing the community needs.



## Future Growth Areas

Western Bay of Plenty District Council, Tauranga City Council and Bay of Plenty Regional Council set up the SmartGrowth partnership as a way for the three councils to work together on planning for growth and development.

We are currently working with our SmartGrowth partners to prepare a Future Development Strategy, which will set out residential and business land requirements and locations to cater for a population in 30 years' time.

We received the following feedback on future growth areas:

- *Whether Omokoroa will actually grow to the size predicted*
- *Request for zoning changes in Te Puke for more residential land*
- *Request for rule changes to allow more lifestyle blocks in the rural zone*
- *Requests to enable residential development in Paengaroa*
- *Requests for zoning changes for more residential land in Katikati*
- *Request for a spatial plan for Rangataua.*

### Our Decision

Council will consider the feedback received on new growth areas and zoning changes through the Future Development Strategy, which will be progressed in 2018.

Council is already working through a process with the Katikati community to decide where the best place is to zone more residential land.

## Other impacts of growth

Some submitters raised concerns that planning is too narrow and doesn't consider the environmental, social and cultural impacts enough, including how to plan in the face of climate change and an ageing population. They seek more community involvement in planning.

### Our Decision

Council acknowledges the concerns about the environmental, social and cultural impacts growth can have. Planning for growth needs to ensure the sustainable use of natural and physical resources. We will continue to work to ensure all land use planning practices address environmental, social and cultural impacts.

## Tangata Whenua involvement in planning for growth

Tangata Whenua have requested that they participate in:

- *Cultural heritage mapping work*
- *Resource consents where matters of importance to Tangata Whenua are affected*
- *Building the relationship between the District Plan and Iwi/Hapū management plans*
- *The wider review of the residential zone.*

### Our Decision

Council will progress these requests from Tangata Whenua through the Tauranga Moana / Te Arawa ki Takutai Partnership Forum, and is committing staff resources to progress this work.

## Wairoa River Valley Strategy

The Wairoa River Valley Strategy has been in place since 2005. It is a joint strategy and was developed to protect the values of the Wairoa River Valley environment.

The proposed development of Tauriko West has raised the need to understand the values of the river, and protect its significance.

Two submitters - Te Kauae a Roopu and Pirirakau Hapū raised the need to review the strategy, now that the environment of the valley is likely to change from a rural to a much more urbanised environment.

### Our Decision

Council will discuss the review of the Wairoa River Valley Strategy in the development of its 2020 work programme, noting that Tauranga City Council and Bay of Plenty Regional Council would need to partner on the review. We will consider any funding required to undertake the strategy review through an Annual Plan process.



# Enabling the housing our community needs

## Housing Action Plan

Council received several submissions about housing from across the District. Concerns centered on the cost of housing, the need for innovation to deliver more and different types of housing to meet people’s needs, and homelessness. Key areas submitters raised were:

- *How to enable different types of housing*
- *How to support the development of more social housing*
- *Whether Council-owned land can be used to enable more affordable/social housing developments*
- *Consideration of inclusionary zoning*
- *Enabling more seasonal worker accommodation.*

### Our Decision

Council flagged in the consultation document that it is developing a Housing Action Plan in 2018. We have (with others) already completed a Housing Demand and Need Assessment, and the Action Plan will respond to what’s come out of that study. It will also align with SmartGrowth’s Housing Action Framework. We will be working with key stakeholders on the Plan, which will include actions to be carried out over the next three years.

All submissions received on housing matters will be considered in the development of the Housing Action Plan, including the submissions from Tangata Whenua.

Council is also working with the post-harvest sector (kiwifruit packhouses and orchard owners) to look at how our District Plan can better support accommodation for seasonal workers.

## Tangata Whenua housing projects

Tangata Whenua have raised the possibility of creating Māori housing areas in and around marae, and would like to see the current Joint Agency Group approach to facilitating development of papakainga (communal housing) on Māori land continued. They requested Council consider ways to remove barriers to Māori land development, such as a fee abatement policy or reductions in financial contributions.

Tangata Whenua have also requested continued funding for the “Healthy Whare” Project. The “Healthy Whare” Project is a multi-party approach that works in communities with severe housing needs, to improve the quality of the existing housing stock.

### Our Decision

Council will continue to provide funding of \$40,000 per annum for the Joint Agency Group, towards Papakainga initiatives.

We will also continue to support the “Healthy Whare” project, and have budgeted \$40,000 per annum for this project.

Council has also agreed to provide a fee abatement scheme for consent applications on Maori land.

## Short Term Accommodation

The Hospitality Association requested Council consider developing a short-term accommodation policy to address the growing number of private short-term accommodation providers (such as those listed on Air BnB). This policy would consider applying commercial rating to these properties.

### Our Decision

Council will consider development of a short term accommodation policy through future work programmes.

## LTP strategic assumptions

Decisions on Council’s strategic assumptions are made by looking at trends and challenges, and how we think they will impact on our business over the next 10 years. At a high level, they guide Council’s work programme.

One submitter requested some changes to the LTP strategic assumptions.

### Our Decision

Council agreed to some minor amendments to the assumptions for environmental sustainability and community expectations. These will be included in the final Long Term Plan.



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Getting around

# 02

## A safe and efficient transport network is essential for our District to support the movement of goods and people.

We are continuing our advocacy to NZTA for state highway improvements as we understand how critical these are for the District. Within our own network we continue with maintenance, safety improvements and seal extensions within our agreed levels of service.

We received a lot of feedback on our key proposal to increase funding for walkways and cycleways, to start to facilitate people using alternative modes of transport.

We also received submissions on specific walking, cycling and roading projects, and on state highway improvements, specific roading improvements, seal extensions and the provision of footpaths.





## Key proposal

# Walking and cycling

Council wanted to increase how much it spends on developing walkways and cycleways across the District, because there are many benefits to having an efficient walking and cycling network. These include: providing an alternative way to get around; health and fitness benefits; and recreation and tourism opportunities. Our investment in specific projects is matched with a 51 percent subsidy from NZTA, for qualifying walking and cycling projects.

Our proposal was to increase funding for walkway/cycleway development to \$450,000 per year so that more could be done, faster. We received 265 pieces of feedback. Over 90 percent of submitters supported Council funding walkways and cycleways. 48 percent of submitters supported an increase in funding, while 46 percent supported keeping the funding at the same level (\$345,000 per annum).



**265** Pieces of feedback received



**90%+**

Supported Council funding walkways and cycleways.



**48%**

Supported an increase in funding.



**46%**

Supported keeping the funding at the current level.

## Our Decision

We decided to do a stepped increase in funding for walkways/cycleways, from \$350,000 in year 1 of the LTP, to \$400,000 in year 2, and \$450,000 in year 3. This programme allows us to align with the direction central government is taking in investing in alternative modes of transport (walking and cycling rather than driving).

By increasing our spend and accessing available subsidies from central government, we can complete the network faster. We can also prioritise links in local communities, like connections to packhouses.

## Specific walkway/cycleway developments

Each year, Council prepares a work programme of walkway/cycleway developments and prioritises what work will be progressed. The Community Boards in Waihi Beach, Katikati, Omokoroa, Te Puke and Maketu also develop their work programmes and decide which projects they will fund such as footpaths and minor roading improvements. We received the following feedback on specific walkway/cycleway developments:

### Waihi Beach

Although many submitters supported the development of walkways and cycleways, they were concerned about, or opposed, some of the specific route locations being planned, in particular in Pio Shores and Waikanoi Place.

### Katikati

Submitters wanted to see more funding for walkways in Katikati, in particular funding for the Haiku Pathways and connections to the forestry block development between Thompsons Track and Lund Road.

### Te Puke/Paengaroa

Submitters supported the Te Ara Kahikatea walkway, and wanted to see investment in connections between Paengaroa and Te Puke, including pedestrian bridges.

### Maketu

The Maketu Community Board requested a footpath from Spencer Avenue to the cemetery, and extending the cycleway along Wilson Road through to Paengaroa and a new footpath on Arawa Avenue.

### Omokoroa

The Omokoroa Community Board requested budget for an 'around the peninsula' walkway.



## General Comments

Council also received submissions requesting development of more bridleways as part of walkway/cycleway developments, use of unformed paper roads to create connections, and potential use of the rail corridor.

### Our Decision

Council will take into account the submissions received on specific walkway/cycleway projects as part of prioritising and developing the annual work programme.

When a walkway/cycleway project is due to commence, we will engage with that community. We will also continue to engage with Waihi Beach residents over the proposed new walkway/cycleway and its location through the Katikati/Waihi Beach Reserve Management Plan process which is now underway.

### Our Decision

We will continue to actively advocate for investment in and improvements to the State Highway network, including the Katikati Bypass.

## Public transport

Our Council does not have an active role in the provision and management of public transport, however we are involved in planning and advocacy. Bay of Plenty Regional Council (BOPRC) is responsible for public transportation in the region. We work collaboratively with BOPRC to inform transport planning and to encourage public transport use.

We received seven submissions suggesting that an increase in public transport provision was necessary. Suggestions included park and ride facilities, increased services and use of rail. We have passed on these comments to BOPRC for their consideration as well.

### Our Decision

Council will continue to work closely with BOPRC, the Bay of Plenty Regional Transport Committee, NZTA and others in public transportation planning and advocacy.

## State highway network

Funding and works on State Highways is the responsibility of the New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA). Council actively advocates for state highway improvements for the District, and has been working hard to see safety improvements to State Highway 2 prioritised, particularly at Omokoroa and for network flow improvements such as the Katikati bypass and the Tauranga Northern Link. Council's active advocacy has seen these routes achieve higher priority in the Regional Land Transport Plan.

We received several submissions seeking improvements to SH2, primarily between Waihi and Tauranga, including the Katikati Bypass. Safety concerns were also raised with the road, including intersections with Omokoroa Road and Wilson Road.



## Road safety, speed limits and seal extensions

We received 21 submissions on speed limits, road safety and seal maintenance and extensions.

### Seal Extensions

We received 10 submissions on seal maintenance and extensions, which generally covered the need for more seal extensions, road widening, quality of work and prioritising over cycleways.

Council has a Seal Extension Policy which sets the priority order for projects. The speed at which projects are delivered is determined by the amount of funding available.

#### Our Decision

We decided to continue with the current network improvements plan for seal extension and low risk low cost projects (including road widening) as the planned annual funding allocations permit. We will revisit our allocation through the next Annual Plan (2019/20).

### Speed Limits

We received eight submissions seeking a reduction in speed limits for rural roads, including for Minden Road, and to introduce variable speed limits on State Highway 2 between Waihi and Bethlehem.

We are already advocating for reduced speed limits along certain sections of State Highway 2 and will continue to contribute to the NZTA state highway speed management process. We undertake speed limit reviews on local roads under the speed limit bylaw process.

#### Our Decision

Council decided to continue to advocate for reduced speed limits along certain sections of State Highway 2 between Waihi Beach and Bethlehem, noting that consultation on any proposed changes will need to be undertaken by NZTA. We will review speed limits on local roads between Tauranga and Katikati, including Minden Road, in conjunction with the NZTA State Highway 2 speed limit review process.

### Safety Improvements

We received three submissions on road safety initiatives, intersection improvements, rural roading investment, and upgrade of the kerb and channel for Waihi Beach Road and Williams Road.

#### Our Decision

We will continue with our road safety education and awareness projects through our joint road safety activity with stakeholders.

The specific requests from Waihi Beach will be referred to the Waihi Beach Community Board to consider through their community roading budget.





## Specific roading improvements

As well as District-wide road network improvements, we received 13 submissions on improving specific roads:

### Omanawa Road

We received a submission from Tauranga City Council (which own the Omanawa Falls Park) to add yellow lines and minor improvements for the proposed Omanawa Falls Park car park (being developed by Tauranga City Council).

#### Our Decision

We decided to work with Tauranga City Council to scope required improvements to Omanawa Road, if the proposal for improving Omanawa Falls Park goes ahead. Council will also install yellow no parking lines, where appropriate.

### Youngson Road

We received a submission from Whakamarama Community Inc to widen Youngson Road to meet our Development Code standards, increase sight distances from access ways, and improve vertical curves which impede visibility.

#### Our Decision

We decided to review requirements for upgrading Youngson Road once NZTA's decisions on State Highway 2 are finalised, as these decisions will have significant impacts on the local road network.

### Goodall Road

We received four submissions regarding Goodall Road, seeking to vest the private/Māori road with Council and improve the road conditions.

#### Our Decision

We decided to investigate the vesting of Goodall Road with Council, and will consider the implications from a policy and financial perspective once the investigation is completed in 2018.

### Minden Road

We received four submissions, including a submission from Te Puna Heartlands, regarding safety along Minden Road, seeking a reduction in the speed limit and citing concern for pedestrian safety and the need for a range of safety improvements, including widening, a walkway / cycleway and bus stops.

#### Our Decision

Council decided to include a review of the speed limit on Minden Road in conjunction with the next speed limit review process. We will also scope the cost estimate for providing a footpath on Minden Road for consideration in future budgets.

### Te Puna Station Road and Munro Road

We received three submissions, including a submission from Whakamarama Community Inc, largely on traffic flow management of Te Puna Station Road in relation to State Highway 2 traffic, and widening of Munro Road for walking/cycling.



### Our Decision

Council will continue to liaise with NZTA on their work on traffic flow management options on the state highway and options to reduce the impacts of local traffic entering and exiting Te Puna Station Road.

Council has decided not to widen Munro Road for walking and cycling at this time. Over the next three years Council will be reviewing its rural footpath priorities and will consider Munro Road through this process.

### Kaituna Link

We received a submission from the Te Tumu Landowners Group requesting the inclusion of the Kaituna Link in the Long Term Plan. This is a proposed connection from the eastern end of the Te Tumu Urban Growth Area in Tauranga City across the Kaituna River, to the proposed Tauranga Eastern Link (TEL) interchange at the Rangiuru Business Park.

The project is being considered as part of the Te Tumu structure planning process, which will determine whether the link is required, when, and how it will be funded.

### Our Decision

We decided not to include the Kaituna/Te Tumu Link in the 2018-2028 Long Term Plan. We will advocate for Tauranga City Council to include this in their future plans, as per agreements through SmartGrowth.

## Western Bay Sub-regional Transportation Strategy

We received two submissions requesting development of a Western Bay Sub-regional Transportation Strategy. Priority One sought innovative short term solutions (including park-and-ride facilities) and the development of longer term solutions, and Te Tumu Landowners Group sought a medium to long term focused strategy. Both submitters would like to see a multi-modal approach and increased use of public transport.

Through SmartGrowth, a sub-regional approach is already being taken, with staff working closely with our sub-regional partners, including Bay of Plenty Regional Council, Waikato Regional Council, Tauranga City Council, New Zealand Transport Agency, Iwi and others. The strategy seeks cost-effective options for transportation solutions and considers increased use of public transportation. This aligns with the proposed Sub-regional Transport Centre.

We are also involved in more immediate planning, including BOPRC's recent Public Transport Blueprint, which has led to increased services being provided in some areas. In addition, we are involved in the Tauranga Transport Programme, Tauriko programme business case and state highway business case projects including SH2, SH29, and SH33.

### Our Decision

We decided to continue working with sub-regional partners on transportation planning and to raise the idea of a Sub-regional Transportation Strategy with the Regional Transportation Committee.

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Protecting our  
environment and resources

# 03

**Our communities  
are proud of the  
Western Bay  
environment,  
and want to look  
after what we have.**

Communities value natural areas such as rivers, streams and urban parks, and want to look after them for future generations.

To manage these assets we need to manage our resources well, this means reducing waste, being smart about how we use water and managing the impacts on the quality of our water.

Council received feedback on how we manage our wastewater, stormwater and solid waste. We also received feedback on how we manage the natural environment, along with requests to support organisations to do more in this space. Council's role in managing climate change and coastal erosion was also raised by submitters.



# Continuing investment in water, wastewater and stormwater management

## Wastewater

Council received five submissions relating to wastewater. Submitters raised the following areas for focus:

- concerns with the changing environment in the Tauranga Harbour and possible contamination from septic tanks
- consideration of alternative wastewater disposal options for Katikati
- funding to upgrade the Te Puke wastewater treatment plant to accept wastewater from the Rangioru Business Park
- tradewaste disposal and how this is managed.

### Septic Tanks and harbour contamination

Onsite effluent treatment systems (septic tanks) are managed by the Bay of Plenty Regional Council, which has standards and rules in place to ensure contamination doesn't occur. Where Regional Council's OSET plan identifies the need for reticulation, the two Councils have worked together to assist with funding a reticulated system for the affected communities. With the completion of the Ongare Point and Te Puna West systems this year all areas identified for reticulation will be completed.

### Katikati wastewater disposal options

A working group is looking at alternative disposal options for the Katikati wastewater treatment plant. The preferred option is likely to be included as a key topic in the 2021-2031 Long Term Plan.

### Te Puke wastewater treatment plant upgrades

Council has planned to undertake a number of upgrades for Te Puke wastewater treatment plant in the 2018-2028 LTP. The planned upgrades are currently based on no discharge from Rangioru Business Park. At this stage it is difficult to determine any upgrades or funding requirements as a result of discharge from Rangioru. In addition any upgrades would need to be funded by the development.

#### Our Decision

Council staff will work with Quayside Properties Ltd (owners of Rangioru Business Park) and other parties, in accordance with the Rangioru Plan, to determine the best options for managing wastewater and tradewaste from the Business Park.

## Management of Trade Waste

Council has a Trade Waste Bylaw which sets the standards for discharge of industrial waste into Council's network. Trade waste discharges are monitored by Council staff and any non-compliance is managed. Council has the ability to restrict discharge into its network if there is a risk to Council's network, discharge consents or harbour contamination.

## Stormwater

Eight submissions were received relating to the stormwater activity. The main themes were:

- Stormwater treatment - In particular contamination of Tauranga Harbour, Ongatoro/Maketu Estuary and the Kaituna due to stormwater runoff
- The management of the earth dam at Waihi Beach, including a request that the process for managing the dam be improved
- Waihi Beach stormwater management projects identified in the 2018/28 Long Term Plan
- Conversion of Highfields stormwater pond (semi-dry pond) to a recreational asset (permanent wet pond).

### Stormwater treatment

Council is in the process of applying for District Wide Comprehensive Stormwater Consents. The comprehensive consents will include increased stormwater quality monitoring which will then enable Council to prioritise stormwater treatment methodologies and devices. This project will help to improve the quality of stormwater being discharged into Tauranga Harbour, Ongatoro/Maketu Estuary and the Kaituna River.

#### Our Decision

Council will consult the community as part of the comprehensive consent application. The eastern stormwater comprehensive consent application will be consulted on in July 2018.



### Waihi Beach Earth Dam management

Council recently reviewed its process for managing the Waihi Beach earth dam. This was communicated to the Waihi Beach community via a media release.

The Waihi Beach Reservoir is a popular community recreational spot but, first and foremost, it is a stormwater asset. The reservoir and spillway are managed to ensure people and property are not endangered from heavy rainfall. Council endeavours to keep the pond one-third full at all times so the habitat for fish, eels and other aquatic species is not damaged. However on occasion the water level has dropped below the set level due to mechanical faults.

#### Our Decision

Council will continue to manage the earth dam in accordance with current practices, and will continue monitoring to identify any further faults.

#### Our Decision

Council will proceed with stormwater works at Waihi Beach. Council staff will continue to work with the Waihi Beach Community Board on wetland management within Broadlands Block.

### Waihi District Drainage Society

Waihi District Drainage Society (WDDS) requested an increase to the targeted rate collected on their behalf, by \$100,000. This is to enable the Society to build up a long term maintenance fund. This means a \$53 (approximately) increase to ratepayers in the WDDS scheme, from \$245 to \$298 per year.

#### Our Decision

Council decided to accept the request from WDDS, and will amend the targeted rate accordingly.

### Waihi Beach Stormwater Management Projects

Submissions received on this topic, including from the Waihi Beach Community Board, were generally in support of the projects that had been included in Council's Long Term Plan.

One submitter raised concerns with stormwater drains being upgraded in Broadlands Block, and instead requested the block be converted to a wetland area so the stormwater can be attenuated and the speed and flow to Two Mile Creek reduced. This is consistent with the purpose of Council's stormwater project in Broadlands Block, which is about enhancing the existing drains through cleaning and planting, and is not to enlarge the drains. The Waihi Beach Community Board have also committed funding to increasing biodiversity and wetland management within Broadland Block. The resource consent for bank protection works at Two Mile Creek may also require environmental enhancement of the stormwater reserve.

### Highfields stormwater pond

Council and staff have been working with the Community Board over the past 18 months undertaking ground water monitoring to determine the feasibility of converting the Highfields stormwater pond from a semi-wet pond to a permanent wet pond. The pond could then be utilised as a recreational/wetland area. The proposal received positive feedback during an earlier Community Board open day. Two submissions were received on the pond - the Katikati Community Board sought inclusion of the proposal in the Long Term Plan, whilst the Haiku Pathway Focus Committee did not want the proposal included as they were concerned it could mean the loss of wetland habitat.

#### Our Decision

We decided to continue with ground water monitoring to determine the feasibility of converting the pond to a permanent wet pond, and refer the matter to the 2019/20 Annual Plan for further consideration.



### Future Focus

## Investigating alternative recycling and rubbish collection models

The way Council manages our rubbish and recycling is an area we've been focused on over the last year. We've reviewed our Waste Management and Minimisation Plan and included an action to investigate alternative recycling and rubbish collection models. Council has included a budget of \$75,000 in 2018/19 to carry out the investigations, which will include possible options for kerbside rubbish and recycling services.

We received 25 submissions on rubbish and recycling, all supporting Council taking a greater role. The majority suggested a Council-provided service would be positive, and pointed to examples from Europe and elsewhere.

### Our Decision

All feedback received will be used to inform the investigations into alternative recycling and rubbish collection models, to provide a starting point for understanding the community's views and preferences.

### Omokoroa green waste and recycling facilities

Submissions were received on the need for recycling and green waste facilities in Omokoroa. Council has budgeted \$1.29 million between 2020 and 2023 to develop a facility. More detailed planning will be carried out as part of the investigations into alternative kerbside recycling and rubbish collection models.

Due to the Special Housing Area development, the green waste facility is being relocated to an alternative site in Omokoroa.

## Natural environment

Thirteen submitters gave feedback on Council's approach to the natural environment and the work Council supports in this area. The submissions supported the environmental education programmes run (in part) with Council funding. They wanted to see more investment into local environmental groups and landowners to support the creation of new wetlands in low lying areas. They also supported existing pest control projects, with Whakamarama Community Inc

requesting more funding to establish Pest Free Communities, as part of the nationwide Pest Free 2050 initiative.

Biodiversity monitoring and restoration projects was another area of focus, with submitters requesting funding to support scientifically based studies that can be used to ensure environmental programmes are effective.

Water quality was raised by the Tourism Industry Association, which views preservation of the District's natural assets as key to tourism's success as an industry. One submitter requested funding and resources to enhance streams and drains in Te Puke.





The regulation of genetically modified organisms was also raised as an area where Council should develop some policy.

### Our Decision

All submissions received on the natural environment will be considered through the review of the Natural Environment Strategy, which is commencing in 2018. These submitters will be identified for further engagement, alongside the wider community.

## Funding for sustainability programmes

Envirohub is an umbrella organisation that works to help local communities and organisations take action on environmental issues, and grow sustainability.

Council has worked with Envirohub over the last 10 years, and has provided one-off support to specific projects that contribute to Council's environmental goals.

Envirohub sought funding of \$40,000 per annum, to support the delivery of sustainability programmes in Te Puke and Katikati, with a particular focus on waste management and minimisation. As Council is currently investigating alternative kerbside rubbish and recycling models, it is too soon to support the specific programme suggested by Envirohub. However Council supports the wider sustainability programmes Envirohub currently runs, such as Sustainable Backyards and Enviro expos.

### Our Decision:

Council decided to provide funding of \$20,000 per year for the next three years to support Envirohub's general environmental sustainability programmes, with a review through next year's Annual Plan.

## Funding for Predator Free Bay of Plenty

Envirohub are also partnering with other organisations to deliver Predator Free Bay of Plenty. The initiative works with identified communities to remove possums, rats and mustelids by setting traps at 1 in 5 households, teaching groups how to use the traps, and collecting data to monitor how effective the project is. Eradicating these pests means native bird and plantlife can thrive.

Envirohub submitted seeking funding of \$15,000 per annum to support the delivery of Predator Free Bay of Plenty.

### Our Decision

Council decided not to provide direct funding to Predator Free Bay of Plenty at this time.

## Funding for Bay Conservation Alliance

Bay Conservation Alliance (BCA) is an incorporated society, established by four large community conservation groups operating in the Western Bay of Plenty. BCA aim to support and expand the work of its members by professionalising provision of core functions and increasing the capacity of members. It is based on international best practice models. BCA also seeks to develop new, larger landscape-scale conservation projects.

BCA submitted seeking funding of \$30,000 per annum for the next three years to support their operations.

### Our Decision

Council decided not to fund BCA at this time, but invites BCA to apply to the Community Matching Fund for Council funding assistance.



## Climate change

Council received four submissions seeking more action on climate change.

Two submissions supported the work Council is currently doing on climate change adaptation.

One submitter sought the consideration of large-scale tree planting at TECT Park, or on other Council land, to help achieve the 2050 net carbon zero target.

Three submitters requested Council form policy and actions for climate change mitigation, and to guide the District towards becoming a low carbon economy, and to increase the budget to deliver climate change initiatives.

Two submitters also noted that further research is required to understand the District's carbon footprint, to understand where emissions come from and where actions can be targeted to reduce emissions.

### Our Decision

Council is developing a climate change action plan, commencing in 2018. All submissions will be used as a starting point for the scope and actions to be considered in this work. Council will be undertaking further community engagement on this action plan later in the year.

## Coastal erosion protection

Coastal erosion is a key focus for Council. Council recently adopted the Coastal Erosion Responses Policy which provides a framework for Council to make decisions on managing coastal erosion where public assets are affected. A budget of \$220,000 per annum is included in the LTP for coastal erosion protection works.

Council received several submissions on coastal structures and erosion protection, including:

- *One submission relating to the Maketu Beach seawall loan,*
- *Ten submissions about coastal erosion at Waihi Beach, and*
- *Eight submissions on other specific structures.*

### Maketu Beach Seawall Loan

The Maketu Community Board made a submission asking if Council would consider repaying the remaining debt on the Maketu seawall, which currently stands at \$92,000. The debt was incurred as a result of the widening of Beach Road, which required the creation of the seawall.

### Our decision

Council has decided to decline the request from the Community Board, as there are sufficient funds available in the Board's community roading budget and reserve account to repay the loan if the Community Board chooses to do so.





## Coastal Erosion at Waihi Beach

Ten submissions were received from Waihi Beach residents concerned about erosion caused by drainage from Two Mile Creek. Some submitters requested that Council continue with the rock revetment wall along the unprotected length of Shaw Road, while others requested that Council review potential options and consult with the community to determine the best solution. This is in line with the resource consent requirement for the existing wall, which requires Council to undertake comprehensive investigations for the long term management of the coastal hazard risk at Waihi Beach by the end of 2020.

### Our Decision

Council has scheduled the investigations for the long term management of coastal hazard risk at Waihi Beach for 2018/19. This will inform any further work to be undertaken, to be progressed once the investigation is complete.

## Coastal Structures

For existing coastal and estuarine structures, Council has a maintenance schedule in place which is reviewed every year. Priorities for work are identified and budgeted for from this schedule.

Council also carries out condition assessments and case-by-case assessments to assist with prioritising work on coastal structures.

Council received eight submissions in relation to the specific coastal protection structures, summarised as follows:

- *Uretara bank is eroding significantly and needs urgent rockwall treatment*
- *Coastal structure funding is inconsistent, and needs to be more aligned to retreating and restoring coastal margins*
- *The coastal erosion budget of \$220,000 per year is insufficient in the case of a major event*
- *The concrete pier along the estuary and around the boat ramp at Pukehina Beach is crumbling and needs repair*

- *More sustainable beach access structures are needed at Waihi Beach, that don't wash away with high tides/storm events*
- *Opureora Marae requested funding for erosion protection works to protect the marae and cottage as a central hub for the Hapū of Matakana Island*
- *Maketu Seawall needs maintenance and replacement of decaying rocks. This will be addressed under the road maintenance contract when work is necessary*
- *Tanners Point - request for action to be taken to address erosion at the end of Moana Drive, which is affecting the reserve. An assessment was undertaken in March 2018. No future action is planned at this time other than ongoing monitoring of the site.*

### Our decision

Council will continue to prioritise coastal structures work through the maintenance schedule, as part of the Reserves and Facilities Asset Management Plan. Condition assessments will also be carried out on identified structures to prioritise work, consistent with Council's Coastal Erosion Responses Policy.

The budget of \$220,000 per annum for specific coastal erosion protection works is considered sufficient at this time.



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## Building Communities

# 04

**Our District has many distinct communities, who value community connections and have a strong sense of identity.**

Council supports communities by providing facilities such as parks and reserves, playgrounds, and community halls (with hall committees). Council also has service delivery contracts to support social services, arts, culture and events. Council supports marae to be sustainable places that meet the needs of the community.

Council supports local communities to grow their economies through town centre development and specific service delivery contracts for economic development.

We received a lot of feedback on our key proposals to provide funding for the Western Bay Museum, and to increase funding for arts and culture.

We also received submissions about community halls, parks and reserves requesting various projects, swimming pools, coastal structures, and marae sustainability.

Submissions were also received on town centre development and service delivery contracts.



### Key proposal

## Funding the Western Bay Museum

Over the last three years Council has provided operational funding of \$60,000 each year to the Western Bay Museum. This was agreed through the 2015-25 Long Term Plan.

Through the development of the LTP 2018-2028 Council received a lot of feedback on the need to protect the District's cultural heritage. Council agreed that while it wasn't in the business of directly providing a museum, Council does have a role in protecting our District's cultural heritage. The preservation and use of the Council-owned heritage collection is one way of doing this.

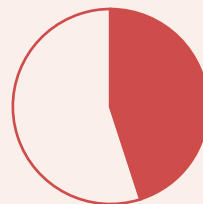
Council decided to consult on continuing to support the Western Bay Museum, with an annual grant of \$70,000. Council's preferred option was for this to be funded from District-wide rates. This was to recognise the value that the heritage collection has to our whole community, and to recognise the options being explored by the museum to locate parts of the collection through the District, and to run events and exhibitions across the District.

268 submissions were received on the Western Bay Museum:

- 45 percent supported Council's preferred option (to fund the museum through District-wide rates).
- 36 percent wanted no support to be provided.
- 18 percent wanted funding to be split 50/50 between District-wide rates and a targeted rate for Katikati.



**268** Pieces of feedback received



**45%**  
Supported Council's preferred option to fund the museum through District-wide rates.



**36%**  
Wanted no support to be provided.



**18%**  
Supported a 50/50 funding split between District-wide rates and a targeted rate for Katikati.

Two submitters sought funding beyond the three years in the LTP. Three supported the museum, but did not specify how they would like it to be funded. Some submitters didn't choose an option, but commented.

Comments were also received that a museum would be better placed in Tauranga where it would be more accessible, and that the two Councils should be working together on managing and preserving their collections. Some submitters didn't choose an option, but commented.

### Our Decision

Council has decided to proceed with our preferred option, to fund the museum from District-wide rates. We have included the funding for the next 10 years in the LTP. This is on the basis that the museum is working to take its exhibitions and events out across the District, and is

preserving and building the heritage collection on behalf of the District.

Council will continue to work with Tauranga City Council on plans for a museum in Tauranga, and will review its approach if a sub-regional museum proceeds.





## Key proposal

# Funding for arts and culture

Council currently has a service delivery contract with Creative Bay of Plenty to support their work as the umbrella organisation for arts and culture in the Western Bay of Plenty.

In 2016, Council funded Creative Bay of Plenty to facilitate the development of a new sub-regional Arts and Culture Strategy. In 2017, Council endorsed the new strategy, noting that funding for implementation would be decided through the Long Term Plan.

We decided to consult with the community on increasing funding for Creative Bay of Plenty, to enable them to continue with their business as usual activity and to implement key actions identified in the arts and culture strategy.

Council also decided to consult on providing a grant to The Incubator Creative Hub, to support their service delivery as a key organisation identified in the Arts and Culture Strategy.

Our preferred option was to provide additional funding to both Creative Bay of Plenty and The Incubator to assist them to implement key actions from the Arts and Culture Strategy. The funding was as follows:

\$50,000 per annum to Creative Bay of Plenty

A grant of \$10,000 in year one, \$15,000 in year two, and \$20,000 in year three of the Long Term Plan to The Incubator Creative Hub.



**259** Pieces of feedback received



**43%**  
Supported  
Council's  
preferred option.



**40%**  
Opposed  
an increase  
in funding.



**17%**  
Wanted to see  
more funding  
provided.

A total of 259 submissions were received on this key proposal. Of those submissions, 43 percent supported Council's preferred option. 40 percent opposed an increase in funding, while 17 percent wanted to see more funding provided (an additional \$173,000 per annum).

Overall, 60 percent of submitters supported an increase in funding for Creative Bay of Plenty, and funding for The Incubator Creative Hub.

## Our Decision

Council has decided to proceed with our preferred option, which is to provide additional funding to both Creative Bay of Plenty and The Incubator to assist them to implement key actions from the Arts and Culture Strategy. The funding is as follows:

- \$50,000 per annum to Creative Bay of Plenty
- A grant of \$10,000 in year one, \$15,000 in year two, and \$20,000 in year three of the Long Term Plan to The Incubator.



## Community halls

Our community halls are owned, operated and maintained by hall committees. Areas of benefit are defined for each hall and a targeted rate is charged on properties within that area to fund the hall.

We received submissions on specific halls, requesting funding. Council has considered these against our Community Halls Policy.

Council is reviewing its Communities Strategy in 2018/19. The review will consider the role of community halls in building communities, and the level of service that's provided.

### Whakamarama Hall

Whakamarama Community Centre Incorporated Society requested a loan of \$200,000 to provide seed funding in order to undertake significant refurbishment of the Whakamarama Hall, to be funded via targeted rates.

#### Our Decision

Council decided not to approve a loan, but funding support may be reconsidered once the following work has been undertaken:

- Details and estimate of the proposed upgrade
- A survey of ratepayers in the area to determine level of support for the upgrade and willingness to pay an increased hall rate
- A full funding plan and procurement plan
- A Spaces and Places Strategy feasibility assessment
- Other external funding secured.

Any increase to the targeted rate would be consulted on by Council through an Annual Plan process.

## Community hubs/ libraries

We received nine submissions regarding the provision of community hubs / libraries. Five of the submissions related to the provision of a community hub/library on the Omokoroa peninsula, and two supported the establishment of a community centre in Te Puke to house a community market, cultural youth development and a recreational centre. One submission was received in support of funding for the Maketu Community Hub by the Maketu Community Board for the amount of \$20,000. Submitters were also concerned that a library/service centre/community hub complex is not budgeted for within the Long Term Plan for Omokoroa.

#### Our Decision

Council is reviewing its Communities Strategy in 2018/19, and will consider how to provide for community hubs through that process. The requests for community hubs will be referred to that process.

We decided that the investigation of options for an interim (5-15 years) Library and Service Centre in Omokoroa will be undertaken in 2018/19.

### Waihi Beach Community Centre

The Waihi Beach Community Centre and two other submitters requested the introduction of a fixed rates levy of \$10 per ratepayer for repairs and maintenance and for the fund to be built up to undertake upgrades when needed. This would see an increase in rates from \$8.45 to \$10 per ratepayer.

#### Our Decision

We have decided to increase the rates levied per ratepayer from \$8.45 to \$10 over the Waihi Beach Community Board area, to give the hall committee the ability to undertake repairs and maintenance as required.

# Parks and recreation

## Reserve Improvements and Management

We received 40 submissions on how to manage and improve our reserves, including playground upgrades, jetties and boat ramps, parking at Omokoroa Domain, the BOP Coast Rowing Club reserve, freedom camping, reserve acquisition (Tahatahara), improvements to Jubilee Park in Te Puke, cemeteries, reserve management, and Maramatanga park courts.

### Playground upgrades

One submitter sought to generally upgrade old playgrounds. Paengaroa Community Association and another submitter raised specific issues with Paengaroa and requested the \$80,000 budgeted for playground renewal work be used to build a new playground in Conway Road Reserve.

#### Our Decision

Council is in the process of preparing a concept plan for Conway Road Reserve. Once the plan is complete we will know what work needs to be done and its cost, and will consider a budget for that through the Annual Plan 2019/20. Renewal of the playground at Eastern Districts will proceed as planned.

### Jetties and boat ramps

We received 11 submissions covering several specific boat ramps and jetties, including:

- Northern Harbour boat ramp, seeking more detail, questioning cost versus benefit, and one seeking removal of the project from the LTP
- Omokoroa boat ramp upgrade proposal, including one in support, two in opposition, one suggesting a user-pays system, and two questioning if the benefits outweigh the costs with such a limited user group
- To increase parking at the Omokoroa boat ramp by utilising the Omokoroa Domain
- Beach Road ramp, with a proposal to double the existing width, increase length, and protect from erosion, with funds matched by the Katikati Boating Club
- Boat ramps in the eastern corridor, requesting funds to upgrade the Bell Road boat ramp, and parking provision for the boat ramp at Uncle Boy's Tukotahi Marae (Maketu)
- Opposition to proposed reclamation of land for car parking in relation to boat ramps
- To rename the "Haiku Park - Two Jetties" project to reflect that the proposed location for the jetties is the area around The Landing.

In the draft LTP, we set aside \$5.12 million for construction of a northern harbour boat ramp (2025/26), and \$6.1 million for an upgrade of the Omokoroa boat ramp (2028). The inclusion of these budgets is subject to further planning and consultation before confirmation through subsequent Long Term Plan processes. Submissions for these projects will be referred to their respective processes for further assessment.

Council is also commencing a review of the Recreation and Leisure Strategy, which will take these submissions into account. This strategy includes the provision of boat ramps and jetties, and will include a review of Council's levels of service for all recreational facilities.

#### Our Decision

We decided to proceed with the current work programme for boat ramps and jetties, consider the provision of and levels of services for boat ramps and jetties as part of the review of the Recreation and Leisure Strategy, and to amend the "Haiku Park - two jetties" to read "The Landing - Jetty."

Council also decided, through the Tauranga Harbour Advisory Group, to request development of a joint Tauranga Harbour Access Strategy to inform future decision making for launching facilities.

### Bay of Plenty Rowing Club Reserve

The Club requested modifications to the existing reserve on Wairoa Road, including formal classification as recreation reserve, provision of appropriate infrastructure such as public toilets and car parking, installation of an 18-20 metre pontoon and gangway, construction of a low level retaining wall and re-contouring of the grass to improve public access to the river. Council was asked to contribute \$70,000 in year one of the LTP, being 50 percent towards expected improvement costs for the proposed public access.

#### Our Decision

We decided to divert the submission points for further consideration in the development of the Wairoa River Esplanade Reserve concept plan process, and to support the pontoon project with a capital grant of \$70,000 in the 2018/19 financial year.



### **Freedom Camping**

We received two submissions on freedom camping, seeking increased restrictions at Waihi Beach and to locate sites away from beach reserves such as Anzac Bay, and to effectively manage freedom camping throughout the District.

#### **Our Decision**

We are reviewing the Freedom Camping Bylaw later in 2018. As such, feedback relating to freedom camping will be considered through the upcoming Freedom Camping Bylaw review process.

### **Tahataharoa Acquisition and Development**

The Tahataharoa land is at the mouth of the Wairoa River. The site offers the opportunity for increased biodiversity values, education opportunities, sedimentation retention, recreation opportunities, and is of high cultural significance. Acquisition of this land for reserve purposes has been identified in the Pirirakau Hapū Management Plan. Three submissions were received regarding the Tahataharoa land, all in support of the acquisition and establishment of a reserve.

#### **Our Decision**

We decided to allocate \$404,000, split between 2018/19 and 2019/20 to assist with the purchase of the Tahataharoa land. Bay of Plenty Regional Council has also agreed to contribute funding to assist with the purchase of the land. External funding will also be sought.

### **Cemeteries**

We received six submissions with four requesting Council involvement in establishing a natural cemetery. Whakamarama Community Inc suggested consideration of alternative memorial arrangements such as an arboretum or memorial garden. Katikati Community Board requested improved access to the urupā on Tutaetaka Island.

#### **Our Decision**

Council decided to refer these submissions to the review of the Communities Strategy in 2018. This review will include consideration of alternative cemetery and memorial options, and the level of service that Council provides in relation to cemeteries and urupā.

### **Jubilee Park Improvements**

We received one submission with a range of suggestions for improvements to Jubilee Park in Te Puke, including a skate bowl/pool, rose garden walk, stall shops, power for sound equipment, outdoor cinema and other events.

#### **Our Decision**

Requests for capital projects will be referred to the next review of the Maketu/Te Puke Reserve Management Plan, which is scheduled for the 2021/22 Financial Year. It is noted that Jubilee Park is available for event bookings, and Council encourages community groups to do so.





### Reserve management planning

We received 14 submissions on our reserve management planning, which raised the following points:

- *General comments regarding the importance of recreational activities and reserves*
- *Five comments relating to the Katikati - Waihi Beach Ward Reserve Management Plan (RMP), which is a project for 2018*
- *Funding for Moore Park*
- *Four comments relating to the Te Puke - Maketu Ward RMP, around provision for a skate park at Paengaroa, new toilets at Paengaroa, levelling work for Spencer Avenue in Maketu, more seating and tables in reserves in Maketu, and support for drainage improvements at Centennial Park*
- *Two comments related to the Kaimai Ward RMP, requesting a Wairoa River Management Plan*
- *The Omokoroa Community Board suggested developing the stormwater reserve at Western Avenue into a passive reserve and budgeting for an 'around the peninsula' walkway*
- *Te Puke Gymsport requested funding of \$100,000 in 2020/21 to extend the carpark at Centennial Park to provide more parking for the proposed new Gymsport facility.*

#### Our Decision

We decided to divert Reserve Management Plan (RMP) comments to the ongoing RMP reviews, and associated concept plan development/review. Council will work with Community Boards and other bodies to develop concept plans and operational projects where suitable.

Council will consider the request for the carpark at Centennial Park to be extended through an Annual Plan process, once the detailed design for the new Te Puke Gymsport Club facility has been completed, and external funding for the build has been secured.

### Maramatanga Park netball courts

Two submissions were received seeking capital funding for the construction of two netball courts in the vicinity of the Te Puna Rugby Clubrooms, noting the delay in implementing concept plans.

#### Our Decision

We decided not to include \$140,000 in the 2018/28 Long Term Plan for the construction of two netball courts at Maramatanga Park in the vicinity of the rugby clubrooms. The recently adopted concept plan does not include these courts and the joint WBOPDC / TCC Levels of Service Demand analysis does not show demand for the courts.

### Swimming Pools

We received 10 submissions specifically on swimming pools in the District, on the Dave Hume Pool (Katikati), Te Puke Swimming pool and a proposed Omokoroa swimming pool.

One submitter requested that Council collaborate with TCC and other potential partners to explore pool space provision in the Tauranga and Western Bay areas. This work has been progressed through the Spaces and Places Strategy.

#### Dave Hume Pool

Council received a submission from the Dave Hume Trust seeking an increase in operational (Service Delivery Contract) budget of \$20,000 to provide for additional lifeguard costs and increasing consumable expenses such as power and chemicals for water treatment. Katikati Community Board sought commitment to an indoor aquatic facility, potentially located at Moore Park.

A total of \$521,000 capital spend is currently budgeted in 2021 for District Wide Swimming pools.

## Our Decision

We decided to increase the Dave Hume Swimming Pool Service Delivery Contract budget by \$242,000 over 10 years in the Long Term Plan, and to include a budget of up to \$50,000 to update the feasibility study into an indoor aquatic centre at Katikati in the 2018/19 year.

### Te Puke Swimming Pool

We received seven submissions on the Te Puke swimming pool, three generally supporting it, one opposing Maketu ratepayers funding the pool, one to continue maintenance of the existing pool, and two general comments on the community leading the project.

## Our Decision

Council decided to continue to operate the Te Puke Memorial Pool for the undetermined remaining life of the facility, at the existing levels of service, noting that the new proposed facility is a community-driven initiative and further direction is expected from the Aquatic Centre Action Group.

### Omokoroa Swimming Pool

One submitter requested an aquatic centre for Omokoroa.

## Our Decision

As structure planning for Omokoroa is underway, we have decided to consider the need for a new swimming pool at Omokoroa once this process has been completed. The need for a new swimming pool will be assessed against the Regional Spaces and Places Strategy.

## Tangata whenua initiatives and Marae sustainability

### Support for marae

Marae are a key feature of Māori society. The Marae is a place where the Māori language can be spoken, where customs can be explored and debated, and where important ceremonies, such as welcoming visitors, meeting inter-tribal obligations, or farewelling the dead can be performed. The Marae is wāhi tapu, a 'sacred place' which carries great cultural meaning.

Marae across the District are important as community meeting places, as community hubs and in some instances as places of refuge for the wider community during disasters. Marae often provide a base for educational, health, justice and social services. Marae also provide a critical role for all of the community as part of civil defence emergencies.

Marae operate in a similar way to community halls and have a key role in supporting our communities. A Marae committee or trust is usually tasked with managing day-to-day operations. In order to carry out its business, there is a raft of regulations and requirements the committee needs to ensure are met (e.g. insurance, fire protection, maintenance schedules, and health and safety requirements).

Council currently provides funding of \$33,000 per year which Iwi and Hapū within the District can apply to, to help with the cost of maintaining their Marae. The fund is important as it allows Marae to keep up with maintenance and to leverage external funding for bigger projects.

Council received two submissions relating to support for Marae, requesting:

- An increase to the funding available for Marae maintenance, to \$50,000 per year
- Development of a toolkit for Marae to use to navigate their various legal and maintenance requirements, and to act as a repository for information from various agencies.



### Our Decision

Council has decided to increase the marae maintenance fund to \$50,000 per annum, and to provide funding of \$50,000 over two years to develop a Marae toolkit to support ongoing operations, maintenance and development projects for Marae.

### Support for Iwi/Hapū and Council partnership development

Council works with the District's Iwi and Hapū to build the capability and capacity of both parties to work together and meet their Treaty of Waitangi obligations.

Council's Partnership Forum's submission to the LTP sets out further ways to support the work between Council and Iwi and Hapū and to implement Te Ara Mua, the strategic plan adopted by the Partnership Forum in 2016:

- *Setting up an internship between Iwi organisations and Council*
- *Increasing funding support for developing Iwi/Hapū management plans*
- *Providing funding to establish Te Mana Whakahono-a-rohe - an Iwi participation arrangement entered into between local authorities and Iwi authorities, and provided in the Resource Management Act*
- *Developing a Te Reo Māori Strategy*
- *Working on effective ways to protect cultural heritage, including using the District Plan to provide greater mechanisms for protecting cultural heritage.*

### Our Decisions

Council agreed that the initiatives outlined above will be beneficial in meeting Treaty of Waitangi obligations, implementing Te Ara Mua, and enhancing the capability and capacity of both parties.

We will budget \$50,000 per year in Years 1 to 3 of the LTP for internships, subject to external funding of at least 50% of the costs being secured.

Funding for Iwi/Hapū management plans and the establishment of Te Mana Whakahono-a-Rohe agreements will be provided at \$60,000 per year.

Council will also include the development of a Te Reo Māori Strategy in its work programme for 2019/20, to be progressed jointly with the Partnership Forum.

We will continue to work with tangata whenua on ways to protect cultural heritage, and will make staff resources available to progress a review of the District Plan as it relates to the classification of activities. We will also adopt initiatives that incorporate art, story boards and design the reflect Tangata Whenua cultural heritage in our projects.





## Community safety

We received specific submissions regarding the safety of our community, relating to smoke-free public places, water safety, and surf life saving:

### Smoke Free Public Spaces Policy

The Western Bay of Plenty Smoke Free Coalition requested that Council review its Smoke Free Public Spaces Policy (2009), due to the fact that the review is overdue. The submitter noted that there are other public spaces that could be included in the policy (bus stops, alfresco dining, all sports grounds and facilities, and main streets with high pedestrian traffic). The submitter seeks Council implement all appropriate signage, as set out in the policy.

#### Our Decision

We referred the review of the Smoke Free Public Spaces Policy to the Policy Committee, for consideration as part of future work programmes. In the meantime we committed to ensuring our approach to signage (as set out in the existing policy) is implemented in 2018/19.

#### Our Decision

We decided to work with Bay of Plenty Regional Council on its Regional Water Safety Strategy, and to invite Water Safety NZ to be part of the sub-regional Welcoming Communities Pilot Programme's coalition network, to work on upskilling and education on preventable drownings.

### Surf Life Saving NZ

Surf Life Saving New Zealand requested an increase in funding progressively from \$94,000 in 2018/19 to \$102,000 in 2020/21, largely to cover the rising costs in service delivery, particularly with predicted increases in the minimum wage.

#### Our Decision

Council decided to increase funding to Surf Life Saving New Zealand's annual service delivery contract over a three-year period by \$1000 in year one, \$3000 in year two and \$5000 in year three of the LTP. We will also advocate to Bay of Plenty Regional Council for the funding to be spread across the region.

## Water Safety

A submission was received from Water Safety New Zealand, advocating Council to prioritise water safety planning and implementation. It also sought support for the development and implementation of a BOP Regional Water Safety Strategy that reduces the numbers of preventable drownings occurring especially amongst Māori and Asian ethnicities (statistically over-represented), and to consider variations to the current model of funding water-based activity undertaken in and around the Western Bay of Plenty District.



## Community support and service delivery contracts

### Te Puke Community Centre

The Te Puke Community Centre Steering Committee proposed the establishment of a community centre in Te Puke, being a one-stop-shop that acts as a front door to Te Puke for both citizens and visitors, a place that provides information and civic engagement opportunities, a place where all citizens feel represented and welcome, and advocating and focussing on community development. The Committee requested funding of \$30,000 per year for three years to contribute to setup and promotion costs, as well as negotiation of a service delivery contract to contribute to staff costs. The Committee also suggested a targeted rate could be introduced in future years, similar to how community halls are funded.

#### Our Decision

We decided to refer this matter to the Communities Strategy review in 2018-19, to determine levels of service and community need within a comprehensive strategy.

### Multi-Cultural Tauranga

Multicultural Tauranga requested funding of \$10,000 annually to assist them to participate actively and fully in the Welcoming Communities project, including the strengthening of organisational capacity to broaden the delivery of community services into Western Bay of Plenty communities.

#### Our Decision

We decided to fund Multicultural Tauranga at \$10,000 per year for two years, as a key agency involved in delivering the Welcoming Communities project.

### SocialLink

SocialLink submitted for funding of \$15,000 for one year, plus two years at \$5,000 to continue to deliver a pilot project in the social sector area in Te Puke. The project would include engagement with key agencies to create a collaborative model to deliver projects across youth development, empowerment village (solution for homelessness), and connected communities.

Council has previously worked with Sociallink on specific community-based projects.

They act as an umbrella organisation for the social sector.

#### Our Decision

We decided to fund Sociallink up to \$25,000 over three years, through a service delivery contract, to deliver a collaborative pilot project in the social sector area, initially in Te Puke.

### BOP Film

BOP Film have not submitted for any change to their existing contract, which has been extended to 2020, however one submission was received from Te Puke's Vector Group supporting BOP Film's work and asking Council to consider supporting film and other creatives in our region - particularly groups and individuals engaged in film/media, documentaries and local stories.

#### Our Decision

We decided to continue with the level of funding support that we give to BOP Film, which is \$18,000 in year one and \$19,000 in year two of the LTP.



## Sport BOP

We received a submission from Sport BOP requesting continuation of their current service delivery contract.

### Our Decision

Council agreed to continue to deliver to work with Sport BOP as they continue to deliver effective contract outcomes, and consistently exceed service delivery measures and expectations. Our current funding support for Sport BOP is \$59,921 per annum.

## Citizens Advice Bureau

Tauranga City Council submitted in support of Western Bay District Council's approach to funding various sub-regional community programmes including Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB). We have an existing service delivery agreement with CAB and the organisation continues to meet our delivery expectations.

We will continue our funding commitment to CAB at \$18,000 in 2018/19, with adjustments annually.

## Tauranga Western Bay Safer Communities and Welcoming Communities Pilot Programmes

These groups are led and delivered in partnership, between Western Bay of Plenty District Council, Tauranga City Council, key government and non-government stakeholders. Tauranga City Council submitted that both programmes will deliver results and support new initiatives in communities across the sub-region. Two submissions in support of Safer Communities and Welcoming Communities were also received through the consultation process.

### Our Decision

We allocated Tauranga Western Bay Safer Communities funding of \$30,000 for 2018/19, and Welcoming Communities funding of \$10,000 for 2018/19.

## Community Building/Community Plans

We received five submissions on community building regarding the following:

- *Support and welcome any inclusive/diverse programmes and cross-cultural activities including the Welcoming Communities programme, youth development and engagement, and engagement with the Asian and Pacific Island groups*
- *Generally in support of Council's Community Matching Fund process*
- *Request to take a more active role in the charitable/voluntary/social sectors including having the resources to enable a more active role*
- *Provide funding to support the social sector (no specific funding amounts were indicated).*
- *encouraging and supporting partnerships to build "Age Friendly" communities.*

### Our Decision

We decided to consider the feedback received through the Communities Strategy review in 2018-19, to determine levels of service and community need within a comprehensive strategy. We also decided to invite these submitters to present at the Community Committee, and to be part of the sub-regional Welcoming Communities Pilot Programme's coalition network.





## Support for the Elderly

One submission was received about the voluntary work of The Friends' Place in Waihi Beach in helping to support, enable and connect the older people living in this area. The submitter requested Council funding of \$70,000 per annum for The Friends' Place and for this funding to be included in the LTP budget.

### Our Decision

We decided not provide any funding support, instead inviting the submitter to apply to the Community Matching Fund for Council funding assistance.

## Poppy Places Trust

The New Zealand Poppy Places Trust has submitted that Council should add poppies to all road signs that relate to war veterans. The trust suggested eight road names which may be relevant, with further research required. Who would do the research and fund the installation of the poppies was not determined.

### Our Decision

Council decided to discuss the request further with the Poppy Places Trust to get an understanding of the future implications for Council.

## Economic development

Council currently provides for the District's economic development through:

- Service delivery contracts with providers of economic development services
- Funding for town centre development
- Contributing to digital enablement across our communities.

This approach is set out in our Economic Strategy.

Through the Long Term Plan specific submissions were received from our service delivery contract holders, seeking additional funding to provide more economic development services in local communities.

## Council's approach to funding economic development

Tauranga Chamber of Commerce requested that Council take a 'global look' at its approach to economic development, including that some economic development funding seemed to be 'historical' and potentially too skewed towards tourism.

Our current economic strategy and funding approach aligns with the sub-regional economic strategy and the funding approach of Tauranga City Council. A review would best be undertaken jointly with the city.

### Our Decision

We decided to discuss plans for any future review of the economic strategy with the WBOPDC / TCC Joint Governance Committee in the first instance.



## Tourism Bay of Plenty

Tourism Bay of Plenty is a council controlled organisation (CCO) whose purpose is to promote our region as a visitor and tourist destination through marketing and management. Since 2014, visitor spend in the Western Bay of Plenty has grown 37.5 percent.

Council currently provides funding of \$195,000 per annum to Tourism Bay of Plenty.

Six submissions were received related to funding for Tourism Bay of Plenty:

- *Four were supportive and wanted funding to remain as is or to be increased*
- *One was negative and asked Council to remove all funding from Tourism Bay of Plenty*
- *One submission was neutral on Tourism Bay of Plenty, but supported using some of their current funding to support the Te Puke EDG proposal to promote local tourism.*

### Our Decision

Council decided to fund Tourism Bay of Plenty at a rate of \$210,000 per year, plus annual CPI adjustments.

## Katch Katikati

Council has a service delivery contract with Katch Katikati to provide local events, promotions and economic development support services to the Katikati area. This includes running the Business Awards, ECHO Festival and the Christmas Concert.

Katch Katikati is taking over management of the current library and service centre building when Council vacates the building, and will provide a visitor information service. Negotiations on this handover are still taking place.

Katch Katikati submitted requesting an additional \$25,000 per year (over and above the \$71,524 they currently receive) to cope with growing demand and a need for more coordinator hours. They also asked Council to set a fixed targeted rate so that as the population increases their income would too.

### Our Decision

Council decided to fund Katch Katikati at \$800 per rateable residential unit and \$310 per commercial property (\$78,981). We will review whether a fixed targeted rate is an option in the future.

## Te Puke Economic Development Group

Council has a service delivery contract with Te Puke EDG for economic development services in the Te Puke/Maketu Ward area.

Te Puke EDG requested the following adjustments to their contract:

- *\$60,000 per year (from existing Tourism BOP funding) to be used for 'international promotion and product development of the Te Puke specific tourism offering*
- *Up to \$60,000 per annum to be used as a tourism promotional and development fund (70 percent contestable - 30 percent tagged). Any unspent funds to be returned to Council each year*
- *Up to \$30,000 per year to be used as a business attraction marketing fund to attract new business to Te Puke, with any unspent funds returned to Council each year.*

Council received two submissions on the proposed targeted rate for Maketu ratepayers of \$5.84 for services provided by Te Puke EDG. The Maketu Community Board requested the targeted rate be diverted to fund a Maketu projects coordinator. The other submitter supported the proposed funding going to Te Puke EDG.



### Our Decision

Council decided to fund Te Puke EDG at \$71,000 per annum to undertake the specific economic development deliverables set out in their service delivery contract. Council will not divert funding from Te Puke EDG to fund the Maketu Project Coordinator, and notes that this would require consultation to amend targeted rates for both Te Puke and Maketu.

Council will continue to contract Tourism BOP to market and manage the region as a visitor and tourist destination, and to contract Priority One to oversee strategic economic development in the Western Bay of Plenty.

## Waihi Beach Events and Promotions

Council has a service delivery contract with Waihi Beach Events and Promotions to provide local events, promotions and economic development support services to the Waihi Beach area.

In their submission to Council, Waihi Beach Events and Promotions requested a \$10,000 increase to their budget for each of the next three years, to:

- *Increase the coordinator hours from 20 hours each week to 25 over the peak period. The role has reached capacity*
- *Fund ongoing costs of operating and maintaining the Information Centre*
- *Increase the range of brochures and printed material for the information centre and other iSites that are not already self-funding through advertising.*

Council also received submissions from the Waihi Beach Community Board and Priority One, supporting the work of Waihi Beach Events and Promotions.

### Our Decision

Council decided to increase funding for Waihi Beach Events and Promotions, from \$41,494 in 2017 to \$51,000 in 2018/19, with CPI adjustments in the following years, to undertake events, promotions and economic development activity deliverables set out in their service delivery contract

## Town Centre Development

Council currently provides funding annually for town centre development. The fund is rotated between communities, and runs for a period of three years in each location. Some towns have town centre development plans in place which are implemented through this fund.

Six submissions were received relating to various aspects of town centre development:

- *Four submitters related to Katikati town centre*
- *One related to Te Puke town centre*
- *One related to Maketu.*

### Katikati Town Centre Development

The Katikati Community Board has requested a review of their town centre plan, to begin in 2019 with staff support and facilitation. The timing of the review of the Katikati Town Centre Plan had been programmed to align with the proposed bypass, however with the timing of the bypass now uncertain the town centre plan scope needs to be reviewed. The scope of the review needs to consider both pre and post bypass conditions and take into account work that NZTA may undertake in the interim.

One submitter also raised concerns with the footpaths and kerbing in the main street. This could be considered for funding from the Katikati Community Board community roading budget.



### Our Decision

Council decided to consider the timing for a review of the Katikati Town Centre Plan once the Government Policy Statement on Land Transport and the Transport Agency Investment Proposal have been finalised. Council will refer specific parking, kerb and channel and footpath projects to the Community Board to consider through their community roading budget.

We received two submissions on digital enablement, one supporting the current programme and one from Whakamarama Community Inc requesting that Council advocate on behalf of its communities to broadband providers for upgraded infrastructure to provide better internet services.

### Our Decision

We decided to continue to fund the digital enablement programme at \$50,000 in year one, \$102,000 in year two and \$104,200 in year three of the LTP, and to continue to lobby industry providers and central government for better broadband.

### Te Puke Town Centre Development

The Te Puke Economic Development Group (Te Puke EDG) sought Council support for improved signage as part of the State Highway revocation project. This will require property owner permission and resource consent application for the signage. Budget has not been allocated through the Long Term Plan.

### Our Decision

Council supports improved signage and will work with Te Puke EDG on progressing this.

### Maketu

The Maketu Community Board requested funding for 10-15 new carparks to be provided in the commercial area.

### Our Decision

Council will discuss with the Community Board the use of the community roading budget to provide the new carparks.

## Digital Enablement

Since 2015, we have been working to extend the reach of ultra-fast fibre, broadband and mobile telecommunications across the District through accessing central government's UFB2, RBI2 and Mobile Black Spot funding programme.

In partnership with Tauranga City Council we have a Digital Enablement Programme, which is implemented by the Venture Centre. The programme aims to enhance the digital skills and capability of the community. It provides start-up projects for young people, workshops to digitally enable established businesses, and starter initiatives for first-time businesses.

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## Managing our finances

# 05

**Through the Draft LTP we set our proposed rates for the next 10 years, our forecasted income, expenditure and debt levels, and how we intended to manage our finances over the next 10 years.**

We received a lot of feedback on our key proposal to change our debt management approach for year one of the LTP. We also received feedback on rates affordability, the transition from financial contributions to development contributions, and on our revenue and financing policy.



## Key proposal **Debt management**

Council currently contributes \$2.5 million from general rates towards interest and debt repayments. This decision was made through the 2015-2025 LTP. This has worked well and Council's debt level has reduced over the last three years. The District's growth has contributed by bringing in additional revenue. Council's net debt per rateable property has been steadily decreasing since 2012, from \$7194 in 2012 to \$4638 in the 2017/18 financial year.

Council consulted on reducing the contribution from rates to interest and debt repayments from \$2.5 million a year to \$1 million a year. Given the volatile nature of growth, Council consulted on doing this reduction for one year only, and reviewing it annually to take into account the growth rate.

We received 233 submissions on this topic. A total of 61 percent supported Council's preferred option to reduce the contribution from rates to interest and debt repayments to \$1 million in year one with an annual review. The remaining 39 percent supported the option to continue with the current approach of contributing \$2.5 million per annum from rates to interest and debt repayments.

Overall, many submitters commented that Council's debt



**233** Pieces of feedback received



**61%**

Supported Council's preferred option to reduce the contribution from rates to interest and debt repayments to \$1 million in year one with an annual review



**39%**

Supported the option to continue with the current approach of contributing \$2.5 million per annum from rates to interest and debt repayments.

is too high, and is a key factor in high rates – therefore reduce debt to reduce rates. However, the majority of submitters supported reducing the debt contribution to \$1m for year one of the LTP.

### Our Decision

We decided to change the debt management approach to a \$1 million contribution from rates to debt management for year one (2018/19) of the LTP only, and continue with the current approach of contributing \$2.5 million per year from rates to debt management

from year two onwards. While reducing debt would reduce interest repayments, we consider that it is appropriate to have some level of debt to provide for intergenerational equity in funding our key assets over their lifetime.

More information is available at [www.westernbay.govt.nz/LTP2018-2028](http://www.westernbay.govt.nz/LTP2018-2028)





## Rates affordability

We received 24 submissions on rates affordability, covering issues of staff wages, Council's approach to expenditure in relation to rates, including increases in relation to inflation, that rates are too high, and equitable approaches.

### Our Decision

We decided to set the rates increase at no more than 4 percent on average per year for existing ratepayers.

### Our Decision

We decided to continue with the development of the project scope for the transition from financial contributions to development contributions for the LTP 2021-2031 process, as per the changes to the Resource Management Act 1991.

## Transition from financial contributions to development contributions

At the moment, projects that are needed to cater for population growth are funded (fully or partly) by charging financial contributions under the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) to those undertaking the development, so they pay their fair share of infrastructure costs. Changes to the Resource Management Act in 2017 mean councils will not be able to charge financial contributions beyond 2022. So Council must transition to development contributions under the Local Government Act 2002.

We received three submissions on the transition to development contributions, including that Fire and Emergency New Zealand should be exempt from any development contributions. We also heard that delaying adoption of development contributions will delay development of projects as investors cannot recover funds – notably for Rangiora Business Park.

## Revenue and financing policy

We received submissions from Ngati Pikiāo Ki Tai and Federated Farmers of New Zealand, raising concerns with Council's Revenue and Financing (R&F) Policy, including that resource consent fees do not cover the full costs of consent hearings and that there is an element of general rates in the funding of resource consent hearings, and that farmers are paying too great a share when compared to their sector's benefits.

### Our Decision

As a result of the abolition of Financial Contributions, we will be developing a Development Contributions Policy by June 2021. This process will provide Ngati Pikiāo Ki Tai and Federated Farmers of New Zealand with an opportunity to be involved in the decision-making process around growth funding.

Until then, we have decided to confirm the activity Revenue and Financing Policies and the Overall Revenue and Financing Policies as proposed in the LTP 2018-2028 supporting documentation.

# Thank you for your feedback

View the full Long Term Plan 2018-2028

[www.westernbay.govt.nz/LTP2018-2028](http://www.westernbay.govt.nz/LTP2018-2028)

If you require further information  
or have any questions please phone our  
Customer Services Team on **07 571 8008**  
or visit your nearest library and service centre:

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**Katikati Library & Service Centre**

36 Main Road, Katikati • P 07 571 8008

**Waihi Beach Library & Service Centre**

Waihi Beach Community Centre, Waihi Beach  
P 07 571 8008

**Omokoroa Library & Service Centre**

McDonnell Street, Omokoroa • P 07 571 8008

**Te Puke Library & Service Centre**

130 Jellicoe Street, Te Puke • P 07 571 8008

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Te Kaunihera a rohe mai i nga Kuri-a-Whare ki Otamarakau ki te Uru

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