

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

Date: Wednesday 24 May 2017
Time: 1.00 pm
Meeting Room: Council Chambers
Venue: 126-148 Oxford St
Levin

Council

OPEN AGENDA

MEMBERSHIP

Mayor	Mr Michael Feyen	
Deputy Mayor	Mr Wayne Bishop	
Councillors	Mr Ross Brannigan	
	Mr Ross Campbell	
	Mr Neville Gimblett	
	Mr Barry Judd	
	Mrs Victoria M Kaye-Simmons	
	Mrs Jo Mason	
	Mrs Christine Mitchell	
	Ms Piri-Hira Tukapua	
	Mr Bernie Wanden	
Reporting Officer	Mr David Clapperton	(Chief Executive)
Meeting Secretary	Mrs Karen Corkill	

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

Full Agendas are also available to be collected from:
Horowhenua District Council Service Centre, 126 Oxford Street, Levin
Foxton Service Centre/Library, Clyde Street, Foxton,
Shannon Service Centre/Library, Plimmer Terrace, Shannon
and Te Takere/Library, Bath Street, Levin

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1 Apologies

2 Public Participation

Notification to speak is required by **5.00 pm on the day prior to the meeting** (23 May 2017). Further information is available on www.horowhenua.govt.nz or by phoning 06 366 0999.

3 Late Items

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

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

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

4 Declaration of Interest

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

5 Announcements

Deliberations - Annual Plan 2017/18 - Shared Pathways

File No.: 17/237

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to present to Council for deliberation, the submissions received on the draft Annual Plan 2017/18 in relation to Shared Pathways.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That Report 17/237 Deliberations - Annual Plan 2017/18 - Shared Pathways be received.
- 2.2 That this matter or decision be recognised as not significant in terms of s76 of the Local Government Act 2002.
- 2.3 That Council allocates \$250,000 in 2017/18 to commence the development of a shared pathways network for the Horowhenua District.
- 2.4 That Council supports the Horowhenua Shared Pathways Network group and other stakeholders in prioritising the development of the shared pathways network for 2017/18.
- 2.5 That Council supports the Horowhenua Shared Pathways Network group and other stakeholders in developing a ten (10) year 'implementation plan' of the Horowhenua Shared Pathways Strategy (inclusive of a funding plan), so that required funding can be consulted on in the draft Long Term Plan 2018-2028.

3. Shared Pathways

Submissions:

No. 1 (Sam Ferguson), No. 2 (Katie de Roo), No. 3 (John Nicholson), No. 7 (Linda Morgan), No. 8 (Waitare Beach Progressive and Ratepayers Association), No. 9 (Rose Boyle), No. 12 (Junette Haronga), No. 13 (Humana Haronga), No. 14 (Teneia Haronga), No. 15 (Horowhenua Shared Pathways Network), No. 16 (Ian Scott), No. 17 (Kevin Burns), No. 18 (Tokomaru Village and Community Association), No. 20 (Vincent and Maureen Shaw), No. 22 (Allen Little), No. 26 (Matt Sword), No. 27 (Malcolm Ragg), No. 28 (Horizons Regional Council), No. 29 (Hokio Progressive Association), No. 31 (Joanna Sim), No. 32 (Geoff Kane), No. 33 (Colin Brown), No. 34 (Graeme Galley), No. 35 (Marilyn Cranson), No. 36 (Vivienne Bold), No. 38 (Diana Timms), No. 40 (Dietlinde Geist), No. 41 (Robert Hoskins), No. 42 (Katherine Irvine), No. 43 (Laurie Smaling), No. 44 (Garry Good), No. 45 (Bryan Ten Have), No. 46 (John Murdoch), No. 47 (Michael Tate), No. 49 (Horowhenua Farmers Ratepayer Group), No. 50 (Carl Robinson), No. 52 (Sharon Humphrey Williams), No. 53 (Foxton Community Board), No. 54 (Linda Savage), No. 55 (Managore Village Resident's Association), No. 56 (Phillippa Martin), No. 59 (Sarah Walsh), No. 61 (Bruce and Sharon Batten), No. 63 (Terry Taylor), No. 64 (Keith McCartney), No. 65 (Environment Network Manawatu), No. 66 (Garth Flores), No. 67 (MidCentral Health's Public Health Service), No. 68 (Patricia Cottle), No. 69 (Diane Brown), No. 70 (Deborah Burns), No. 73 (Judith Sayer), No. 74 (Cheryl Tyler) and No. 76 (Ann Thomas).

Summary of Submissions:

The allocation of money in 2017/18 towards the development of Shared Pathways was one of the key topics that Council has sought public feedback on as part of its 2017/18 Annual Plan.

In total Council received 54 submissions on this consultation topic. Some of the key matters raised by submitters in support of allocating funding towards shared pathways in 2017/18 included that shared pathways:

- promote economic development,
- provide recreational opportunities,
- connect communities within our district and links us to neighbouring districts,
- promote environmental sustainability, and
- provide tourism opportunities.

Several of the local progressive and ratepayers associations put forward ideas for shared pathways that could be developed in and around their communities including the Tokomaru Village and Community Association which has developed its own Strategy which it wishes to have included in Council's overall strategy.

Several submitters highlighted that Council should (or could) use any funding it allocates to leverage other funding that might be available.

The submitters that were not supportive of funding being allocated towards shared pathways noted reasons such as:

- they felt that not enough detail was provided about what projects the money would go towards, or
- that Council should focus on core infrastructure projects.

Analysis:

Council consulted on the following options for shared pathways:

Option 1 - Maintain the Status Quo. Carry out minor maintenance of existing paths and minor improvements to the network within existing budgets.

Option 2 - Allocate \$100,000 for the development of shared pathways for 2017/18. The extra funding will allow for some additional or upgraded shared pathways to be developed.

Option 3 - Allocate \$250,000 for the development of shared pathways for 2017/18. The extra level of funding will allow for additional or upgraded shared pathways to be developed.

There is significant support from the community to establish a Shared Pathways Network with approximately 88% of submitters in the current round of consultation (Annual Plan 2017/18) supporting the development of a Shared Pathways Network. Of that 88% a further 75% support the allocation of funding at the higher level (\$250,000). Officers are in general accord with the community's wishes and are of the opinion there is a need to improve the quality and quantity of shared pathways in the Horowhenua.

The Ministry of Transport report into shared pathways *'Raising the Profile of Walking and Cycling in New Zealand'* clearly identifies the benefits that can be achieved including stimulating economic activity; promoting accessibility; reducing congestion; improving road safety; reducing the emission of green-house gases; and generally improving personal health.

There are in addition benefits relating to tourism; personal finance; and the overall liveability of the Horowhenua. Liveability refers to the environmental and social quality of an area as perceived by residents, employees, customers and visitors. It involves perceptions of personal and public safety; environmental quality; social interactions; cultural resources; aesthetics; and access to recreation and leisure opportunities.

With this in mind the importance of shared pathways in improving local access to leisure and recreation opportunities; encouraging growth; and tourism in the Horowhenua can be seen.

In regards to concerns put forward by submitters that there is not enough detail about which projects the money would go towards, this is because Council would like to work with the Horowhenua Shared Pathways Network to identify which projects to focus on in the short term. For the longer term, Council is working on a process to guide decision making on future pathway projects.

Recommendation:

That Council allocates \$250,000 in 2017/18 for the development of a shared pathways network for the Horowhenua District.

That Council supports the Horowhenua Shared Pathways Network group and other stakeholders in prioritising the development of the shared pathways network for 2017/18.

That Council supports the Horowhenua Shared Pathways Network group and other stakeholders in developing a ten (10) year 'implementation plan' of the Horowhenua Shared Pathways Strategy (inclusive of a funding plan), so that required funding can be consulted on in the draft Long Term Plan 2018-2028.

Attachments



There are no attachments for this report.

Confirmation of statutory compliance

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

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

Signatories

Author(s)	Arthur Nelson Property and Parks Manager	
Approved by	Monique Davidson Group Manager - Customer and Community Services	

Deliberations - Annual Plan 2017/18 - Heritage Incentive Funding

File No.: 17/238

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to present to Council for deliberation, the submissions received on the draft Annual Plan 2017/18 in relation to Heritage Incentive Funding, which was one of the key topics that was consulted on.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That Report 17/238 Deliberations - Annual Plan 2017/18 - Heritage Incentive Funding be received.
- 2.2 That this matter or decision be recognised as not significant in terms of s76 of the Local Government Act 2002.
- 2.3 That, from 1 July 2017, Council allocates \$100,000 per annum to the 'Heritage Incentive Fund' for the preservation and enhancement of local heritage buildings, structures and sites in the Horowhenua District.
- 2.4 That officers develop a report by 30 September 2017, for Council's consideration, exploring the various incentive tools available to heritage property owners, for the allocation of the Heritage Incentive Fund.
- 2.5 That Council reviews the funding allocation to the Heritage Incentive Fund in 2021/22.

3. Heritage Incentive Funding

Submissions:

No. 1 (Sam Ferguson), No. 2 (Katie de Roo), No. 3 (John Nicholson), No. 5 (Anthony Hunt – Foxton Historical Society), No. 6 (James and Sarah Harper), No. 7 (Linda Morgan), No. 8 (Waitarere Progressive and Ratepayers Association), No. 9 (Rose Boyle), No. 10 (Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga), No. 12 (Junette Haronga), No. 13 (Humana Haronga), No. 14 (Teneia Haronga), No. 16 (Ian Scott), No. 19 (Kerry Geertson), No. 20 (Vincent and Maureen Shaw), No. 22 (Allen Little), No. 27 (Malcolm Ragg), No. 29 (Rose Cotter), No. 34 (Graeme Galley), No. 35 (Marilyn Cranson), No. 36 (Vivienne Bold), No. 38 (Diana Timms), No. 40 (Dietlinde Geist), No. 41 (Robert Hoskins), No. 42 (Katherine Irvine – Edible Backyard), No. 43 (Laurie Smaling), No. 44 (Garry Good), No. 46 (John (*Tony*) Murdoch), No. 49 (Horowhenua Farmers Ratepayer Group), No. 50 (Carl Robinson), No. 52 (Sharon Humphrey Williams), No. 53 (Foxton Community Board), No. 54 (Linda Savage), No. 55 (Mangaore Village Resident's Association), No. 56 (Phillippa Martin), No. 61 (Bruce and Sharon Batten), No. 64 (Keith McCartney), No. 65 (Environment Network Manawatu), No. 66 (Garth Flores), No. 70 (Deborah Burns), No. 72 (Federated Farmers of New Zealand), No. 73 (Judith Sayer), No. 74 (Cheryl Tyler) and No. 76 (Ann Thomas).

Summary of Submissions:

This was one of the key topics that Council sought feedback on as part of consultation on the 2017/18 Annual Plan. It relates to whether the community would be supportive of Council setting aside an annual amount to be put towards Council providing some form of heritage incentive funding.

In total Council received 44 submissions on this consultation topic. Some of the key matters raised by submitters in support of allocating funding towards the provision of heritage incentives include:

- That our heritage is important and worth preserving;

- That heritage adds to local tourism;
- History and heritage buildings are an essential element of a community's identity;
- Funding should focus on buildings, structures or sites that are available to the public to access;
- That well looked after heritage buildings, structures and sites are a source of pride;
- That once heritage buildings or structures are gone they cannot be replaced; and
- That Foxton and Shannon are 'heritage towns' and this should be celebrated.

Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga and Mr and Mrs Harper provided ideas/suggestions for what kind of heritage incentive/s could be put in place as part of their submissions. Mr and Mrs Harper recommend a two (2) year review along with the selection of option 3.

The submitters that were not supportive of funding being allocated towards provision of heritage incentives noted reasons such as:

- That this matter should be discussed as part of the Long Term Plan when it can be measured against other claims on Council's funding;
- That funding should not be made available to the owners of private property as they should have been aware of the cost of upkeep when they purchased them;
- That heritage incentive funding could be seen as interference from Council;
- Rather than providing funding Council could just waive consent fees; and
- That the money would be better invested in essential infrastructure (e.g. water and sewerage).

Some other common themes in the comments from submitters included the fact that some of the heritage buildings are earthquake prone and therefore they would benefit from funding, and several submitters queried what was happening with the buildings, structures and sites that were nominated by the public in 2015/2016.

Analysis:

Council provided three options for submitters to consider and choose from in relation to this key consultation topic and these were:

Option 1 - Maintain the Status Quo – offer no incentives to heritage property owners.

Option 2 - Allocate \$50,000 per annum to be made available to heritage property owners.

Option 3 - Allocate \$100,000 per annum to be made available to heritage property owners.

Of the submissions we received on this topic: nine (9) submitters were supportive of Option 1; eleven (11) submitters were supportive of Option 2; nineteen (19) submitters were supportive of Option 3; and five (5) submitters did not select an option but commented on this topic.

Given the relatively low number of submissions Council received on its 2017/18 Annual Plan, it is not possible to really gauge whether the wider community is supportive of introducing some form of heritage incentive/s. However, it is recognised that the majority of submitters that provided feedback on this issue are supportive.

Furthermore, our local heritage gives us a sense of place and helps to tell our unique story to visitors. Listing heritage buildings, structures and sites in the District Plan has a public good component and aims to ensure that these buildings, structures and sites are preserved for future generations. Although it also places a burden on property owners; and Council providing some form of heritage incentive/s would help to relieve this burden whilst also encouraging property owners to preserve and enhance the heritage values of their property.

As such, officers recommend that Council allocates \$100,000 per annum to providing heritage incentive funding. Council can then explore different incentive tools available such as rates

remissions, waiving consent fees or creating a discretionary fund, and decide what incentive/s the \$100,000 will be allocated towards in this coming financial year (2017/18). If possible the incentive/s should be made available for property owners in 2017/18; although this may depend on the type of incentive/s Council decides to go with (i.e. to provide rates remissions Council would need to revise its Rates Remission Policy before this could be put in place).

A number of submitters who were not supportive allocating money towards heritage incentive funding did indicate that they would be supportive of resource consent fees waiver being put in place for heritage property owners. It should be noted that to waive consent fees this money still needs to be accounted in Council's budget.

Officers also recommend that the funding provision is reviewed in the 2020/21 financial year to understand whether the incentive/s are achieving their purpose and to assess whether a lesser or greater amount is needed, or whether the incentive/s on offer are appropriate. If the review indicates that a larger amount would be more beneficial then Council will be able to include this in its 2021-2031 Long Term Plan.

Recommendation:

That, from 1 July 2017, Council allocates \$100,000 per annum to the 'Heritage Incentive Fund' for the preservation and enhancement of local heritage buildings, structures and sites in the Horowhenua District.

That officers develop a report by 30 September 2017, for Council's consideration, exploring the various incentive tools available to heritage property owners, for the allocation of the Heritage Incentive Fund.

That Council reviews the funding allocation to the Heritage Incentive Fund in 2021/22.

Attachments



There are no attachments for this report.

Confirmation of statutory compliance

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

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

Signatories

Author(s)	Tiffany Williams Strategic Planner	
Approved by	David McCorkindale Senior Manager - Strategic Planning	

Deliberations - Annual Plan 2017/18 - Significance and Engagement Policy

File No.: 17/239

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to present to Council for deliberation, the submissions received on the draft Annual Plan 2017/18 in relation to Significance and Engagement Policy.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That Report 17/239 Deliberations - Annual Plan 2017/18 - Significance and Engagement Policy be received.
- 2.2 That this matter or decision be recognised as not significant in terms of s76 of the Local Government Act 2002.
- 2.3 That Council adopts the Draft Significance and Engagement Policy.
- 2.4 That Council rescinds the Community Engagement Strategy.

3. Shared Pathways

Submissions:

No. 1 (Sam Ferguson), No. 2 (Katie de Roo), No. 3 (John Nicholson), No. 7 (Linda Morgan), No. 8 (Waitarere Beach Progressive and Ratepayers Association), No. 12 (Junette Haronga), No. 13 (Humana Haronga), No. 14 (Teneia Haronga), No. 16 (Ian Scott), No. 17 (Kevin Burns), No. 20 (Vincent and Maureen Shaw), No. 22 (Allen Little), No. 24 (Horowhenua Grey Power Association Inc.), No. 27 (Malcolm Ragg), No. 29 (Hokio Progressive Association), No. 34 (Graeme Galley), No. 35 (Marilyn Cranson), No. 36 (Vivienne Bold), No. 38 (Diana Timms), No. 39 (Margaret Williams), No. 40 (Dietlinde Geist), No. 42 (Katherine Irvine), No. 43 (Laurie Smaling), No. 44 (Garry Good), No. 46 (John Murdoch), No. 49 (Horowhenua Farmers Ratepayer Group), No. 50 (Carl Robinson), No. 52 (Sharon Humphrey Williams), No. 53 (Foxton Community Board), No. 54 Linda Savage, No. 55 (Mangaore Village Resident's Association), No. 56 (Phillip Martin), No. 61 (Bruce and Sharon Batten), No. 62 (Christina Paton), No. 64 (Keith McCartney), No. 65 (Environment Network Association), No. 66 (Garth Flores), No. 70 (Deborah Burns), No. 72 (Federated Farmers of New Zealand), No. 73 (Judith Sayer), No. 74 (Cheryl Tyler) and No. 76 (Ann Thomas)

Summary of Submissions:

Council is required to have a Significance and Engagement Policy under the Local Government Act 2002 which it can review from time-to-time to make sure the Policy is current.

The review of the Significance and Engagement Policy was one of the key topics Council consulted on as part of its 2017/18 Annual Plan.

Key themes that were raised by submitters included:

- That the Policy should be simplified, in particular the language used was viewed as not easily understandable;
- A number of people mentioned the importance of Council communicating and engaging with the community;
- Many noted they would like more opportunities to engage, share and contribute; and

- Several submitters that engaging with iwi/hapu is of utmost importance and stronger connections should be created.

Analysis:

Council received 42 submissions with regard to this key topic. The three options that Council consulted on were:

Option 1 - Maintain the Status Quo (retain the existing Policy). There is no change to the level of service and cost implications are minimal. However, a review of the current Community Engagement Strategy is due.

Option 2 - Adopt the draft Significant and Engagement Policy and rescind the Community Engagement Strategy. There are no cost implications or any change to current levels of service.

Option 3 - Update the draft Significance and Engagement Policy following feedback from the community and adopt it. Also, rescind the Community Engagement Strategy. There are no cost implications or any change to current levels of service.

Overall, two (2) submissions were in support of Option 1; five (5) submissions were in support of Option 2; thirty-two (32) submissions were in support of Option 3; and three (3) did not specify an option.

There were a limited number of submissions received for this Annual Plan, however, of the submissions received for this topic they were mostly in support of Option 3.

Feedback on the Draft Policy has confirmed how important consultation is to the community. Although limited comment was received from submitters on the actual content of the Draft Policy, a common theme was that a simplified summary of the Draft Policy would be a useful tool to make available for the community to help them navigate and understand the Policy.

Also Council is committed to creating a Māori Engagement Strategy, following the establishment of the Iwi Advisory Group. The Strategy will be widely consulted on with māori, iwi and hapū.

Action:

That Council officers develop an easy to read summary which outlines what the Significance and Engagement Policy is and what it aims to do will be developed by 31 July 2017.

That Council officers develop an Iwi Engagement Strategy during 2017/18, which identifies the importance of partnership and consultation with Iwi.

Recommendation:

That Council adopts the Draft Significance and Engagement Policy.

That Council rescinds the Community Engagement Strategy.

Attachments



There are no attachments for this report.

Confirmation of statutory compliance

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

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

Signatories

Author(s)	Lacey Wilson Communications Lead	
Approved by	Monique Davidson Group Manager - Customer and Community Services	

Deliberations - Annual Plan 2017/18 - Miscellaneous Matters

File No.: 17/236

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to present to Council for deliberation, the submissions received on the draft Annual Plan 2017/18 in relation to Miscellaneous Matters (i.e. submission points that do not fit comfortably within one Council Activity).

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That Report 17/236 Deliberations - Annual Plan 2017/18 - Miscellaneous Matters be received.
- 2.2 That this matter or decision be recognised as not significant in terms of s76 of the Local Government Act 2002.
- 2.3 That Council remains committed to the Lake Accord and continues to work on Action Plan items that have been allocated to Horowhenua District Council.

3. Topics for consideration

Topic One	Lake Horowhenua
Topic Two	Request for Monitoring Reports
Topic Three	Funding Request - Whakawehi Marae
Topic Four	Potential Bypass of Levin
Topic Five	Officer Training and Development
Topic Six	Consideration of the health and flow of the Hokio Stream
Topic Seven	Community Views and Consultation
Topic Eight	Open, Transparent Democratic Accountability
Topic Nine	Financial Statements
Topic Ten	Dredging of Lake Horowhenua
Topic Eleven	Coastal Erosion and River Controls - Waikawa River
Topic Twelve	Beautification of Levin Town Centre
Topic Thirteen	Annual Plan Process
Topic Fourteen	Staff Numbers and Engaging Consultants
Topic Fifteen	Opening of Council's Financial Records
Topic Sixteen	Consultation Via Rates Notices

Topic Seventeen	Development Planning – Waitarere Beach
Topic Eighteen	Use of the Foxton Beach Freehold Fund
Topic Nineteen	Solar on Council buildings

Topic One: Lake Horowhenua

Submissions:

No. 7 (Linda Morgan), No. 43 (Laurie Smaling), No. 45 (Bryan Ten Have), No. 61 (Bruce & Sharon Batten) and No. 74 (Cheryl Tyler)

Summary of Submissions:

Several submitters would like Council and/or the Lake Accord to prioritise improving the water quality of Lake Horowhenua.

The submitters highlight Lake Horowhenua is an asset to the community. Some of the submitters would also like to see beautification projects and recreation improvements made to enhance the Lake.

Analysis:

Horowhenua District Council, as a signatory to the Lake Horowhenua Accord, is committed to The Lake Horowhenua Accord Action Plan which was launched by partners in 2014.

Lake Horowhenua Accord partners are able to progress the action plan with financial support from the Ministry for the Environment's Fresh Start for Freshwater Clean-up Fund. Minister Amy Adams announced \$540,000 funding from the Ministry for the Environment, as part of a total \$1,270,500 Clean-up Fund programme on 25 February 2014. The remainder of the funding is being contributed from local councils (Horizons Regional Council and Horowhenua District Council) and through in-kind contributions from industry (Tararua Growers Association and Dairy NZ).

The interventions that were selected for the Lake Horowhenua Clean-up project link strongly to the management actions outlined in the Lake Horowhenua Accord.

Eight projects were selected in order to improve the suitability of the Lake for recreational use, reduce the inputs of sediment and nutrients into the Lake and to improve native fish populations in the Lake. The selection process for the projects in the Action Plan was informed by the criteria set out in the Freshwater Clean-up Fund.

Overall the projects are being managed through a contractual arrangement between the Ministry for the Environment and Horizons Regional Council.

The eight projects are:

1. Purchase and operation of lake weed harvesting equipment;
2. Provision of a boat wash facility in Levin Township;
3. Riparian fencing and planting;
4. Installing stormwater treatment systems;
5. Installing a sediment trap/treatment wetland on the Arawhata inflow to the Lake;
6. Creating integrated drainage and sediment control plans for up to 500ha of cropping farms;
7. Preparing sustainable milk production plans for dairy farms in the catchment; and
8. Fish pass and habitat improvement for native fish.

Many of these actions are underway or have been completed.

Recommendation:

That Council remains committed to the Lake Accord and continues to work on Action Plan items that have been allocated to Horowhenua District Council.

Topic Two: Request for Monitoring Reports

Submission:

No. 8 (Waitarere Beach Progressive and Ratepayers Association)

Summary of Submission:

The submitter notes that Council's Long Term Plan (quarterly) Performance Reports specific to Waitarere Beach are no longer being received. They would like these reinstated.

Analysis:

Officers can send a quarterly Long Term Plan 2015-2025 Monitoring Report to the Waitarere Beach Progressive and Ratepayers Association.

Action:

That a Council officer sends an updated quarterly Long Term Plan 2015-2025 Monitoring Report to the Waitarere Beach Progressive and Ratepayers Association.

The submitter's comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the 2017/18 Annual Plan.

Topic Three: Funding Request - Whakawehi Marae

Submissions:

No. 11 (Robyn Mouzouri – Shannon 'Get It Done' Group), No. 12 (Junette Haronga), No. 13 (Humana Haronga), No. 14 (Teneia Haronga) and No. 71 (Lani Ketu – Shannon 'Get It Done' Group)

Summary of Submissions:

The submitters request funding to aid with upgrades at the Whakawehi Marae. The submitters highlight a number of things at the Marae that need to be upgraded including:

- Additional toilets;
- An outdoor cooking area; and
- Drainage.

The submitters highlight that the Marae is used widely used, not only by locals but also by visitors.

Analysis:

Council does not currently have a policy on the provision of funding and local marae. This is something that it should develop going forward.

There are other funds available for marae to apply for to aid with the development and upgrade of their facilities. Council officers would be happy to arrange a time to discuss the funds that the Marae Trust can apply to and to provide guidance on making applications.

Action:

That Council officers be available to discuss what funding options are available with the Marae Trust.

The submitter's comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the 2017/18 Annual Plan.

Topic Four: Potential Bypass of Levin

Submissions:

No. 7 (Linda Morgan), No. 22 (Allen Little) and No. 30 (Susan Lee),

Summary of Submissions:

Several submitters mentioned the potential bypass of Levin in their submissions. The submission covered a range of matters including:

- One submitter considers further discussion about Levin's Town Centre to be pointless until the New Zealand Transport Agencies 'roading options' are known and that the New Zealand Transport Agency and Council appear not to be on the same page on issues such as a possible bypass of Levin;
- One submitter highlighted the need to engage in robust conversations with local communities and other key stakeholders;
- One submitter considered that there should be an active consciousness concerning the impact on community and business, consequential to any traffic by-pass. That people need early reassurance concerning the affects any diversion will have on both property and business;
- One submitter is supportive of a bypass as it would improve traffic flow and travel times, it would also reduce the heavy flow of arterial traffic through Levin township itself.

Analysis:

The Otaki to North of Levin Project (O2NL) aims to provide a modern state highway network that can accommodate expected future traffic volumes and enhance inter-regional and national economic growth and productivity.

Over the past three years plans have been developed to improve the state highway network and to develop a four lane expressway to Levin.

The New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA) are taking a staged approach to this work, concentrating on safety and efficiency improvements as a first priority. The project is still in the investigation phase with extensive work being carried out by NZTA who are liaising with Council and stakeholders groups including Iwi.

Council will continue to liaise with NZTA and communicate any progress to the community as appropriate. However, the Otaki to North of Levin Project is led by the NZTA and as such Council, like the community, is relying on information that they provide.

The submitter's comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the 2017/18 Annual Plan.

Topic Five: Officer Training and Development

Submission:

No. 22 (Allen Little)

Summary of Submission:

The submitter suggests that Council needs to increase its investment in staff training and development in this financial year.

Analysis:

Council looks to continuously improve how services are delivered on an ongoing basis, in all areas of the business.

An example of this is the development and implementation of a Customer Excellence Strategy which has identified areas for improvement and has an action plan in place.

In addition, a Customer Satisfaction Survey is carried out each year to gain an understanding of what, as an organisation, we are doing well at and where we potentially need to improve our service. Once analysis of the survey has taken place, officers implement changes accordingly.

A budget is allocated for staff training and development that has been identified through staff 'performance review and development plans'.

The submitter's comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the 2017/18 Annual Plan.

Topic Six: Consideration of the health and flow of the Hokio Stream

Submission:

No. 29 (Hokio Progressive Association)

Summary of Submission:

The Hokio Progressive Association requests that Council considers the health and flow of the Hokio Stream. The Association raises the following, that:

- The stream does not have sufficient flow to self-clean and remove excess water from the lake.
- The stream poses an issue at the beach for residents in terms of flooding of the park and properties, toilets unable to be flushed, erosion of properties and the stream causing flooding across Hokio Beach Road.
- This will continue to be an issue unless the stream is thoroughly cleaned from the weir to the beach.
- Weeds, grasses, willows and other debris impede its flow and the problem will get worse not better without intervention.
- There is no maintenance plan in place for the stream.

Analysis:

Waterways are the responsibility of Horizons Regional Council and as such requests for maintenance work as suggested by the submitter should be referred to Horizons Regional Council in the first instance. Horowhenua District Council is, however, open to working with Horizons Regional Council and other stakeholders, such as the Association, to help make the waterways of our district (including the Hokio Stream) healthier.

The submitter's comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the 2017/18 Annual Plan.

Topic Seven: Community Views and Consultation

Submission:

No. 34 (Graham Galley)

Summary of Submission:

The submitter would like to see Council facilitate discussions and forums in order to hear the ideas and views of the community.

He would also like to see a major initiative held that will draw the general public to contribute to a broader view of what the Horowhenua will look like after the expressway is completed.

Analysis:

The views, ideas and aspirations of the community are important to both elected members and Council officers. The best way for these to be considered is via the Annual Plan or Long Term Plan process which enables Council to also consider financial implications and budgetary constraints. Council is also keen for the public to get involved in other more project specific consultation as it takes place.

Officers are exploring new and different ways that Council can engage with stakeholders and the wider community on projects.

The submitter's comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the 2017/18 Annual Plan.

Topic Eight: Open, Transparent Democratic Accountability

Submission:

No. 36 (Vivienne Bold)

Summary of Submission:

The submitter queries why the public and the media are being banned from forum meetings.

Analysis:

Most Council and committee meetings are open to the public. Public meetings are advertised in the local newspaper, on our website and on our Facebook page. There is also a meeting calendar distributed which includes the meeting schedule for the year, as adopted by Council.

There are times however, that Council need to make decisions 'In Committee' due to matters of a commercial or sensitive nature. This is allowed for in the Local Government Official Information & Meetings Act 1987.

The submitter's comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the 2017/18 Annual Plan.

Topic Nine: Financial statements

Submission:

No. 36 (Vivienne Bold)

Summary of Submission:

The submitter requests full financial statements.

Analysis:

Council is open to the public having access to financial information. Full financial statements are presented to Council's Finance, Audit & Risk Subcommittee on a quarterly basis. On the months between, a summary financial report is presented to the Finance, Audit & Risk Subcommittee. The agenda for these meetings is made available to the public via our website and hardcopies are available at Council, Te Takere, and the Shannon and Foxton libraries. This is as per the requirements of the Office of the Auditor General.

The submitter's comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the 2017/18 Annual Plan.

Topic Ten: Dredging of Lake Horowhenua

Submission:

No. 48 (Lakeview Farm Ltd – Peter Everton)

Summary of Submission:

The submitter notes the dredging of Lake Horowhenua in consultation with the local Iwi in their submission.

Analysis:

Lake Horowhenua is a privately owned lake and as such any work on the lake must be agreed upon by its owners.

There is a Lake Horowhenua Accord action plan in place which was developed after extensive investigation and consultation.

Eight projects were selected in order to improve the suitability of the Lake for recreational use, reduce the inputs of sediment and nutrients into the Lake and to improve native fish populations in the Lake. The selection process for the projects in the Action Plan was informed by the criteria set out in the Freshwater Clean-up Fund.

Overall the projects are being managed through a contractual arrangement between the Ministry for the Environment and Horizons Regional Council.

The eight projects are:

1. Purchase and operation of lake weed harvesting equipment – purchased
2. Provision of a boat wash facility in Levin Township – completed
3. Riparian fencing and planting - ongoing
4. Installing stormwater treatment systems
5. Installing a sediment trap/treatment wetland on the Arawhata inflow to the Lake – plans underway
6. Creating integrated drainage and sediment control plans for up to 500ha of cropping farms

7. Preparing sustainable milk production plans for dairy farms in the catchment
8. Fish pass and habitat improvement for native fish – plans underway

Any addition/s to the action plan should be pursued through Lake Horowhenua Accord partners.

The submitter's comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the 2017/18 Annual Plan.

Topic Eleven: Coastal Erosion and River Controls - Waikawa River

Submission:

No. 51 (Waikawa Beach Ratepayers Association)

Summary of Submission:

The Waikawa Beach Ratepayers Association state that there is a need to develop an action plan on the coastal erosion and river controls on the Waikawa River.

There is no evidence of anything happening in the last few years to address the very serious scenarios that have left both residents and visitors impacted by the lack of action by the Council.

Analysis:

Coastal erosion and river controls are primarily the responsibility of the applicable Regional Council. However, Horowhenua District Council is keen to work with Horizons Regional Council as well as other stakeholders including property owners and the Department of Conservation on how to manage these issues.

To start to address the concerns raised, it is recommended that a meeting be held between Horowhenua District Council, Horizons Regional Council and the Ratepayers Association to understand the current issues and start to explore potential solutions.

Action:

That Council officers facilitate a meeting between Waikawa Beach Ratepayers Association and Horizons Regional Council to discuss coastal erosion and river controls on the Waikawa River.

The submitter's comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the 2017/18 Annual Plan.

Topic Twelve: Beautification of Levin Town Centre

Submissions:

No. 61 (Bruce & Sharon Batten) and No. 39 (Margaret Williams)

Summary of Submissions:

Mr and Mrs Batten would like to see the beautification of the Levin Town Centre. They suggest simple things in the short term like some incentive for shop owners to clean up their shop fronts (e.g. replace broken signs and hose down verandahs). Longer term solutions could include revamping the mall and adding green spaces.

Mrs Williams notes that the redevelopment of the Levin Town Centre appeared to be high on Council's priority not many months ago.

Analysis:

Council has begun work on a Levin Town Centre Strategy which includes looking at how to revitalise and beautify Levin's Town Centre. Further investigation and consultation with community will take place prior to any decisions about the Levin Town Centre Strategy. The Strategy will also be informed by New Zealand Transport Agency decisions on the Otaki to North of Levin road.

The submitter's comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the 2017/18 Annual Plan.

Topic Thirteen: Annual Plan Process

Submission:

No. 35 (Marilyn Cranson)

Summary of Submission:

The submitter raises concern that people do not realise that this is the time to submit ideas and suggestions other than Council requesting feedback on only a few, not all funding allocations.

The submitter notes that the last page of the submission form asks for ideas etc for 2018/19. People want to address this year's issues.

Analysis:

In 2014 the Central Government enacted an amendment to the Local Government Act 2002. Part of this amendment focused on making consultation on Long Term Plans and Annual Plans more efficient and flexible.

As a result of this amendment Council's consultation on Annual Plans now focuses on 'significant or material' changes from what was proposed and approved in the relevant Long Term Plan. Councils can no longer produce a Draft Annual Plan; instead consultation must be done via a 'Consultation Document'. The idea is to reduce duplication and not rehash projects or other matters that have already been consulted on, and decided on, as part of the Long Term Plan.

As such Council's Consultation Document focuses on certain projects or the allocation of funding where this was not covered in the Long Term Plan or that is considered to be a significant or material change for what was provided for in the Long Term Plan.

This does not mean that Council does not want to hear the ideas/suggestions that the community has. The purpose of providing a space for people to make suggestions for 2018/19 and beyond is because development of the next Long Term Plan will be starting soon and it was a good opportunity for some of the community's ideas to be considered early, and therefore, provided for in the Long Term Plan where appropriate.

The submitter's comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the 2017/18 Annual Plan.

Topic Fourteen: Staff Numbers and Engaging Consultants

Submission:

No. 35 (Marilyn Cranson)

Summary of Submission:

The submitter queries why staff numbers at Council have increased but consultants are still being engaged.

Analysis:

Consultants are engaged where Council does not have the expertise required in-house. This is often for specialist type jobs that do not require a full or part time employee but do need to be undertaken (e.g. where an archaeological assessment is required for works to be undertaken on a site).

The submitter's comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the 2017/18 Annual Plan.

Topic Fifteen: Opening of Council's Financial Records

Submission:

No. 35 (Marilyn Cranson)

Summary of Submission:

The submitters would like to see a greater level of transparency. The submitter indicates that ratepayers would like to know how, when and why money is being spent.

Analysis:

Council is open to the public having access to financial information. Full financial statements are presented to Council's Finance, Audit & Risk Subcommittee on a quarterly basis. On the months in-between, a summary financial report is presented to the Finance, Audit & Risk Subcommittee.

The agenda for these meetings is made available to the public via our website and hardcopies are available at Council, Te Takere and the Shannon and Foxton Libraries. This is as per the requirements of the Office of the Auditor General.

Furthermore each year Council produces an Annual Report which covers Council's planned projects and spend for a financial year, against actuals. The Annual Report is available at the end of October for the public to view.

The submitter's comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the 2017/18 Annual Plan.

Topic Sixteen: Consultation Via Rates Notices

Submission:

No. 35 (Marilyn Cranson)

Summary of Submission:

The submitter asks that a form be sent with rates demands to consult on major decisions on projects, in order for people to have some input into decisions.

Analysis:

The views of the community are important to both elected members and Council officers. Major projects are consulted on as part of an Annual Plan or Long Term Plan process.

Council uses a variety of methods to encourage people to get involved and provide feedback as part of an Annual Plan or Long Term Plan consultation process. This includes newspapers, social media, Council's website and we have sent out information sheets or pamphlets with rates letters previously, as it is a good way to ensure that every ratepayer is aware of what Council is consulting on and how they can contribute.

The submitter's comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the 2017/18 Annual Plan.

Topic Seventeen: Development Planning – Waitarere Beach

Submission:

No. 8 (Waitarere Beach Progressive and Ratepayers Association)

Summary of Submission:

The submitter notes that with increased accessibility to the region from the South the Association would like assurance that sufficient funds are available to include Waitarere Beach as a destination in regional development planning.

Analysis:

Council acknowledges that Horowhenua is likely to experience significant change in the future, in part due to improved accessibility to the Wellington Region. This change will impact our District's towns and settlements in different ways. Council is committed to enabling good community outcomes across the entire District. Waitarere Beach will continue to feature in Council's "regional development planning" going forward.

The submitter's comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the 2017/18 Annual Plan.

Topic Eighteen: Use of the Foxton Beach Freehold Fund

Submission:

No. 62 (Christina Paton)

Summary of Submission:

The submitter requests urgent attention be given to the use of the Freehold Fund within the boundaries of Foxton Beach. The submitter suggests the following:

- Upgrading of Foxton Beach roads and provisions of footpaths;
- Stormwater Management;
- The use of Dawick Street reserve which is designated as commercial; and
- Provision of a public hall.

The submitter notes that Foxton Beach is developing fast and that the Foxton Beach Freehold Fund is unique. The submitter suggests that it could take the strain off the rest of the District and assist in providing the civic amenities that the community needs.

Analysis:

The submitter's suggestions are noted. Council and the Foxton Community Board may wish to consider the use of the Foxton Beach Freehold Fund in the lead up to the development of the 2018-2028 Long Term Plan.

The submitter's comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the 2017/18 Annual Plan.

Topic Nineteen: Solar Panels on Council buildings

Submission:

No. 1 (Sam Ferguson)

Summary of Submission:

The submitter suggests solar panels on Council buildings. The submitter notes that solar technology continues to become cheaper and workplaces that are occupied during the day to use the energy as it is produced are best placed to gain maximum value. In many cases the Return on Investment is around 7 years. Solar is an opportunity for the council to reduce future power expenses which in turn saves the rate payer money. It is also an opportunity for the council to reduce the carbon footprint associated with council activities by a noticeable percentage.

Analysis:

Council has entered into a Collaboration Agreement with the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority (EECA) and a number of other Councils. Regular meetings are held where Council officers and the EECA discuss emerging technologies, energy management projects they have been working on and lessons learnt. Solar panels are a regular talking point, although Council officers have not pursued solar technology at this time for a number of reasons, including:

- Siting of buildings being a limiting factor on efficiency (i.e. not north facing);
- Additional costs and health and safety requirements around cleaning of solar panels on roof spaces;
- Strengthening of rooves to support panels which result in additional capital cost;
- Lessons learnt from other Councils where expected gains have not occurred; and
- Expected increase in energy conversion efficiencies in coming years.

Officers will continue to explore opportunities for energy efficiency and Council may wish to invest in solar panels or other renewable energy technology in the future.

The submitter's comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the 2017/18 Annual Plan.

Attachments



There are no attachments for this report.

Confirmation of statutory compliance

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

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

Signatories

Author(s)	Tiffany Williams Strategic Planner	
Approved by	David McCorkindale Senior Manager - Strategic Planning	

Deliberations - Annual Plan 2017/18 - Finance

File No.: 17/235

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to present to Council for deliberation, the submissions received on the draft Annual Plan 2017/18 in relation to Finance.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That Report 17/235 Deliberations - Annual Plan 2017/18 - Finance be received.
- 2.2 That this matter or decision be recognised as not significant in terms of s76 of the Local Government Act 2002.
- 2.3 That Council continues to explore joint service arrangements with neighbouring councils to reduce 'back office expenditure' where it is practicable to do so.
- 2.4 That any increase in the use of Targeted rates be considered by Council during the review of the Revenue and Financing Policy in 2017/18.
- 2.5 That Council review the Financial Strategy debt limits and affordability of debt levels as part of the preparation of the Long Term Plan 2018-2028.
- 2.6 That Council review the Financial Strategy rates limits and affordability of rates as part of the preparation of the Long Term Plan 2018-2028.
- 2.7 That Council consider transitioning to full capital value rating as part of the preparation of the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 and the review of the Revenue and Financing Policy.

3. Topics for consideration

Topic One	Rates Affordability – Waitarere Beach
Topic Two	General financial observations
Topic Three	Rates setting/reason for rates reduction
Topic Four	Effect of General Rates Increases on Farmers
Topic Five	Debt Levels
Topic Six	Rates increases
Topic Seven	Revaluation effect on Farmers
Topic Eight	General Rate and Capital Value Rating
Topic Nine	Farming Differential
Topic Ten	Uniform Annual General Charge.
Topic Eleven	Phase in Capital Value Rating
Topic Twelve	Debt levels and Borrowing

Topic One: Rates Affordability – Waitarere Beach

Submission:

No. 8 (Waitarere Progressive and Ratepayers Association)

Summary of Submission:

The submitter raises concern that Waitarere rates have increased over 6% for this coming year which is more than the pension or wage increases.

The submitter notes that the principle that 'high value' residences pay for lower value houses to assist affordability seems not only inequitable, but the submitter considers it a short-sighted policy.

The submitter is opposed to the concept of rates as a tax. The submitter holds the common view that rate payment represents a payment for services. This is especially important if there is substantial variance in the services received.

The submitter highlights that from the Indicative Rate Chart – Waitarere rates are virtually the same as Levin. Residents have an expectation of receiving the same services and therefore value as Levin ratepayers. Pool and Library rates are uniform. The submitter suggests they do not have a problem with this, but are mindful that, for Waitarere residents, to go to the library or pool is a vehicle trip.

Analysis:

The rates for 2017/18 will be affected by 3 things,

1. The new revaluations which saw a reduction in rates for Waitarere Beach community of \$26,000 which represents a reduction of 1.3%. Ironically the capital value based components were the largest contributor to this decrease.
2. The policy change where the differentials for Towns will increase over the 10 years starting in the 2009/10 year, phasing out all differentials except Rural.
3. The increase in Council's budgeted rates income which is 5.64% less than the predicted LTP year 3 figure of 7.72%.

The reasons for above normal rate increases were explained in the Long Term Plan (LTP). They were that Council needed to increase rates to fund infrastructural renewals in order to keep debt levels down.

Capital value rating was brought in to help affordability. Although as you point out there is a broad assumption that higher valued properties always have higher income inhabitants, however, generally it is true that such properties tend to have higher income households, Capital value rating is the only tool that government have given councils to spread rates to those who are likely to afford them.

Although you are of the view that rates are not a tax, value based rates are seen by the industry and by the various cases that have gone to court as a tax. They cannot possibly be used as a user pays system and were never designed to be so.

Waitarere Beach rates will in fact be the same as Levin for an equivalent valued property in the 2019/20 financial year if Council retains the present rating system.

Any change to the funding and rating policies can only be done through a review of the Revenue and Financing Policy which will occur in the next 12 months as part of the LTP 2018/28 preparation. This review will afford the Association a chance to air its concerns over the perceived inequities the Association has put forward.

The urban centres revaluation effect is conversely retained within the 75% General Rate differential for other than rural rating units.

Generally rates and values in Levin (and to a lesser degree Shannon and Foxton Beach) increased while all other urban centres decreased. The valuation effect on urban rates was contained within the 75% urban/lifestyle differentials for the General rate. This was due primarily, for the General rate, by land value and for the Roding and Stormwater rate by capital value. The effect is shown in the table below.

Residential Area	Average % change in capital values	Average % change in land values
Levin	18.5%	9.8%
Foxton	6.4%	-20.0%
Foxton Beach	9.9%	8.8%
Shannon	5.5%	14.6%
Waitarere Beach	3.4%	3.2%
Tokomaru	5.7%	6.6%
Hokio Beach	0.7%	-5.0%
Waikawa Beach	2.9%	-4.7%
Ohau	4.9%	-0.4%
Manakau	2.8%	0.0%
Average Residential	11.7%	4.8%

Those properties above the average would have rate increases in the General Rate, for land value, and Roding and Stormwater rates for capital value. You will note the decrease in land value for Foxton; explains why there is a general rates decrease for this community.

However, urban and lifestyle properties have an extra rating effect caused by the phasing out of the Township and Lifestyle property General rate differential over 10 years (2017/18 year is the 9th year).

The proximity (or lack thereof) to facilities should be reflected in the capital value of rating units. This is borne out by the relatively higher increase in capital values for Levin than other urban centres.

The submitter's comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the 2017/18 Annual Plan.

Topic Two: General financial observations

Submission:

No. 8 (Waitarere Progressive and Ratepayers Association)

Summary of Submission:

The submitter makes some general financial observations about Council's forecast spending in Foxton, Council's forecast increase in debt and Council's forecast increase in operational payments to suppliers.

Analysis:

The increase in capital expenditure for Foxton is to do with timing delays to Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom and Foxton Wastewater projects.

The debt increase for 2017/18 reflects the delays in some infrastructural projects, primarily the Foxton Wastewater project. You will note from our Statement of Financial Position that our debt is predicted to be \$82m by 30 June 2018, \$1m lower than the amended LTP had disclosed. This could well be lower depending on whether any further delays to projects occur.

The increase in operation expenditure reflects Council's reaction to the projected increase in growth which has already increased the building and resource consents activity, but also sparks the need to increase our planning and preparedness for the growth to enable the growth to happen unimpeded.

Council is a shareholder in the Manawatu/Whanganui Shared Services Company. This company was set up to explore ways in which councils of the region could co-operate to reduce costs. Cost saving joint services such as debt collection and archives are already in place with more being investigated. Part of the collaboration includes significant saving in joint procurement of insurance and rating valuation services to name just two.

Recommendation:

That Council continues to explore joint service arrangements with neighbouring councils to reduce 'back office expenditure' where it is practicable to do so.

Topic Three: Rates setting/reason for rates reduction

Submission:

No. 22 (Allen Little)

Summary of Submission:

The need to take care to ensure the adoption requirements are complied with. In the past decisions have been made in the context of Annual and Long Term Planning processes, to be later denied for political expediency.

Analysis:

Council's rates reduction has in the most part been achieved through savings in interest costs due to delays in projects reducing the levels of anticipated debt coupled with the unprecedentedly low interest rate environment as well as some operational savings offset in part with Council gearing up to plan for the growth that is expected to occur in the next 10 to 20 years.

Council does take the upmost care in following the rates setting process under the two acts that you have outlined. Council officers do use all the 'know how guides' as well as many other resources and training opportunities to ensure that the correct process has been followed. We have also on occasion had the process and rates resolutions peer reviewed by qualified auditors.

The process is extremely complex and is reviewed by Audit New Zealand on behalf of the Auditor General, however, the Auditor General does not "prescribe" the process as you suggest but merely audit that the process set out by legislation and various court cases has been followed.

Officers suggest that any explanation of the rate setting process would require some communication by media or from a meeting setup for the purpose.

Officers are unaware of any projects or programmes that have been "denied for political expediency" and would need an example of this occurring before they could comment.

Action:

That Council officers communicate the rate setting process to the community through the various media outlets, website or public meeting.

The submitter's comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the 2017/18 Annual Plan.

Topic Four: Effect of General Rates Increases on Farmers

Submissions:

No. 32 (Geoff Kane), No. 37 (Wilf Vickers), No. 48 (Lakeview Farm Ltd – Peter Everton) and No. 76 (Ann Thomas)

Summary of Submissions:

The submitters generally consider that Council's rating system is placing an unfair burden on farmers and that Council should explore ways to reduce the General Rate and increase the use of Targeted Rates.

Lakeview Farm Ltd (Peter Everton) suggests Council should move to a capital value rating system in 2017/18.

Mr Kane consider Economic Development to be important but suggests it could also be self-funding as the new highway brings growth.

Analysis:

The general rate has increased by 5.88%. This has affected all ratepayers not just farmers. The Rural differential of 25% was put in place to mitigate the effect of a land value based rates adversely affecting the farming community.

The rates for 2017/18 (the Annual Plan Year) are effected (for those in the rural differential) by two factors; the recent revaluations and the Council's budget increases.

Many farming properties were affected by the revaluations whereby their increase in values were above average for rural properties and so attracted an increased share of the value based rates.

The increases in land value within the differential were as follows;

Arable	14.6%
Dairy	14.9%
Pastoral	15.2%
Horticulture	7.9%
Specialist livestock	10.5%
Average	14.3%

Any farming property with an increase in land value above 14.3% would have attracted more rates from those below 14.3%.

The General rates increase appears worse in percentage terms for rural farming properties as it is not mitigated by the Water and Sewer rates for the urban centres that decreased. The decrease in these two targeted rates lowered the rate increase for urban properties receiving these services and so reducing the overall rate increase in percentage terms for these properties.

Council would be unable to implement a full capital value rating system for the 2017/18. The move to full capital value rating system would require a review of the Revenue and Financing Policy which in itself requires public consultation. There is no time to do this in the current Annual Plan timetable as Council needs to adopt the Annual Plan before 30 June 2017.

Future growth in the rating base cannot be fully maximised using the hybrid of land value and capital value rating system that is currently in place, but will nevertheless help in lowering future rate increases to existing ratepayers. However, it would not be possible to direct this “extra” income to pay for Economic Development alone. So it could not be used to “self-fund” the increase in Economic Development costs.

A targeted rate for Economic Development may be considered but all changes in use of Targeted rates can only be done as part of the Revenue and Financing Policy review as part of the Long Term Plan process.

Recommendation:

That any increase in the use of Targeted rates be considered by Council during the review of the Revenue and Financing Policy in 2017/18.

Topic Five: Debt Levels

Submission:

No. 72 (Federated Farmers of New Zealand)

Summary of Submission:

Sustainability of Council’s projected debt levels.

Analysis:

Debt is incurred solely for long-life capital assets in infrastructure, primarily sewer schemes funded from urban rates, but do include community assets funded from the district. Debt is incurred primarily in the building of new assets and assets needed to sustain the urban growth expected to occur in the next 20 years. Therefore, it is expected that most of the debt burden will fall to urban ratepayers. The sustainability of this on urban ratepayers will be reviewed during the preparation of the next Long Term Plan (LTP). That may include a review of Council’s capital expenditure programme.

Council has a lot of headroom for debt. We have set a self-imposed limit of 175% of net debt to operating income, however, Council’s A+ Credit Rating would allow Council to go to 250% before breaching the Local Government Funding Agency covenant.

The debt increase for 2017/18 reflects the delays in some infrastructural projects, primarily the Foxton Wastewater project. You will note from our Financial Position Statement that our debt is predicted to be \$82m by 30 June 2018, \$1m lower than the amended LTP had disclosed. This could well be lower depending on whether any further delays to projects occur.

Recommendation:

That Council review the Financial Strategy debt limits and affordability of debt levels as part of the preparation of the Long Term Plan 2018-2028.

Topic Six: Rates increases

Submission:

No. 72 (Federated Farmers of New Zealand)

Summary of Submission:

Rates increases effect on farming properties.

Analysis:

The General rate has increased by 5.88% while the Rooding Rate has increased 18.48%. This has affected all ratepayers, not just farmers. The Rural differential of 25% was put in place to mitigate the effect of a land value based rate (i.e. the General Rate) adversely affecting the farming community while the Business differential of the Rooding rate sets the rate in the dollar lower for farming properties (and businesses properties generally) than the non-business district wide rate (i.e. 0.00067792 against 0.00078921 on Capital value).

The rates for 2017/18 (the Annual Plan Year) are effected (for those in the rural differential) by two factors; the recent revaluations and the Council's budget increases.

Many rural properties were affected by the revaluations whereby their increase in values were above average for rural properties and so attracted an increased share of the value based rates. You will note from the list of sample properties that one at least has a rates decrease due primarily to the revaluation effect. Note that for the General rate, at least, the movements were contained within the 25% Rural Differential; this will be explained further in the section relating to revaluations.

The General rates and Rooding rates increase appears worse in percentage terms for rural farming properties as it is not mitigated by the Water and Sewer rates for the urban centres that have decreased slightly from the current year and are quite a lot lower than predicted due to delays in the underlying capital projects, especially the Foxton wastewater project. This decrease in these two targeted rates lowered the rate increase for urban properties receiving these services and so reducing the overall rate increase in percentage terms for these properties.

Development contributions do not directly reduce rates. Development contributions are used, instead of debt; to fund growth related assets and so only have an indirect effect on rates through lower debt servicing costs, again primarily affecting urban ratepayers.

Above inflation rates increases were primarily caused by Council's policy of increasing rate funding (often called depreciation funding) used for renewing infrastructural assets. This will, in the long-run, be primarily borne by urban ratepayers but has been delayed somewhat by the delays occurring in these projects. Council has lowered this funding on Rooding assets that are being adequately funded from rates while increasing the rates for urban assets where this funding is needed. Rooding rates make up a significant proportion of rural rates.

The high dependence on rates as a source of income is well understood by Council. The need to increase sources of revenue from fees and charges is limited and quite often an increase can cause a reduction in usage and ultimately prove counter-productive, (i.e. increases to aquatics swimming fees). Some sources of funding (e.g. library membership fees) are prohibited by legislation while other sources are limited by regulation. Councils with higher sources of income other than rates are quite often those councils that have (or had) Electricity Lines Companies Shares devolved to them in the 1990s process on reorganisation of Electricity Lines Companies.

However, our civic leaders at the time decided to devolve the assets to consumers or a trust and not Council.

Other councils have invested in things like forestry over a number of years. To decrease their dependency on rates to any meaningful extent would involve investing in high returning investments. Such investments are inherently risky and council would need to borrow to fund such an investment. This would mean that it would incur fixed costs associated with borrowing while being exposed to risk of fluctuating returns from the investments.

Recommendation:

That Council review the Financial Strategy rates limits and affordability of rates as part of the preparation of the Long Term Plan 2018-2028.

Topic Seven: Revaluation effect on Farmers

Submission:

No. 72 (Federated Farmers of New Zealand)

Summary of Submission:

That the revaluation effect is adversely affecting the farming community.

Analysis:

The rates for 2017/18 (the Annual Plan Year) are effected (for those in the rural differential) by two factors; the recent revaluations and the Council's budget increases. Some farming properties within the differential saw above average valuations while others were below average. Those that were above average attracted more rates from those below average. This effect was all contained within the rural differential for the General rate at least, so not all farmers had a 9% rate increase.

The increases in land value within the differential were as follows;

Arable	14.6%
Dairy	14.9%
Pastoral	15.2%
Horticulture	7.9%
Specialist livestock	10.5%
Average	14.3%

Any farming property with an increase in land value above 14.3% would have attracted more rates from those below 14.3%.

The urban centres revaluation effect is, conversely, retained within the 75% General rate differential for other than rural rating units.

Generally rates and values in Levin (and to a lesser degree Shannon and Foxton Beach) increased while all other urban centres decreased, again within the 75% differential. This was due primarily, for the General rate, by land value and for the Rooding and Stormwater rate by capital value. The effect is shown in the table below.

Residential Area	Average % change in capital values	Average % change in land values
Levin	18.5%	9.8%

Residential Area	Average % change in capital values	Average % change in land values
Foxton	6.4%	-20.0%
Foxton Beach	9.9%	8.8%
Shannon	5.5%	14.6%
Waitarere Beach	3.4%	3.2%
Tokomaru	5.7%	6.6%
Hokio Beach	0.7%	-5.0%
Waikawa Beach	2.9%	-4.7%
Ohau	4.9%	-0.4%
Manakau	2.8%	0.0%
Average Residential	11.7%	4.8%

Those properties above the average would have rate increases in the General rate, for land value, and Roding and Stormwater rates for capital value. You will note the relatively high decrease in land value for Foxton; explains why there is a General rates decrease for this community.

However, urban and lifestyle properties have an extra rating effect caused by the phasing out of the Township and Lifestyle property General rate differential over 10 years (2017/18 year is the 9th year).

All changes in use of Targeted rates can only be done as part of the Revenue and Financing Policy review as part of the Long Term Plan (LTP) process. Council has chosen to use fixed sum Targeted rates in preference to setting a uniform annual charge. Council is predicting to be at 27% of the possible 30% cap for the 2017/18 year. This leaves little head room to increase fixed charge based targeted rates or a uniform annual charge.

A rural differential on the General rate exists but may be subject to review if Council moves to full capital value, as differentials tend to become less relevant or even required under a capital value rating regime.

Remissions for bare land and farms not held in common ownership are already available and were put in place with the last LTP. This has increased Council's cost by approximately \$350k mostly for the benefit of the farming community. Ironically these have increased the percentage rate increases for such properties that do not have the mitigating effect of the fixed charge targeted rates, as your members have noticed.

The submitter's comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the 2017/18 Annual Plan.

Topic Eight: General Rate and Capital Value Rating

Submission:

No. 72 (Federated Farmers of New Zealand)

Summary of Submission:

The General Rate and Capital Value Rating.

Analysis:

It is not possible to “use the General Rate where there is a correlation between ratepayer’s property values and benefits they receive...”. This is because the General Rate is a tax on property values and can never approximate benefits received.

However, in so much as Capital Value should reflect the earnings capability and proximity to services a capital value rating system would account for the economic effect on Council services as you have pointed out on page 8, and would be better than a land value based system.

The submitter’s comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the 2017/18 Annual Plan.

Topic Nine: Farming Differential

Submissions:

No. 72 (Federated Farmers of New Zealand)

Summary of Submission:

The submitter proposes a separate farming differential.

Analysis:

While a separate farming differential is possible, Officers are not sure that it will necessarily achieve the intended outcome. The district is on the cusp of increases in growth, in fact there are already signs of this occurring. The growth is expected to occur in the urban residential and business sectors. A farming differential, if it was to be created would not benefit from the growth in the rating base expected from this growth. Maybe the “goodwill” component is valued in, or is it the premium place on the lifestyle that farms have that are not enjoyed by their urban counterparts. However, all observations contained in paragraphs 31 and 33 in particular, appear to be opinion. If some analysis has been done by Federated Farmers to support these, then Council would welcome the Federation sharing these studies.

Council has endeavoured to show above that as far as the General rate is concerned valuation increases are kept within the rural differentials while only the Roothing rate would be affected by shifts in rating costs between businesses. It would be false to assume that valuation effect rate increases are always borne by farmers.

It is noted above the Roothing Business differential is currently set below the residential level. Should Council move to increase the business level to the extent Federated Farmers has suggested in paragraph 37, then the effect on farming business units will be taken into consideration.

In regards to the transparency issue of General rates in relation to targeted rates, Council supplies a breakdown by activity for the General rate when we issue the yearly Rates assessment notice required under the Rating Act.

In relation to the stormwater rate, although the infrastructure is for the benefit of urban ratepayers, farmers are exacerbaters in that a farming operation can cause flooding to adjacent urban areas. Council notes that Horizons Regional Council’s rating schemes acknowledges exacerbaters and set a targeted rate on such properties adjacent to the various catchment scheme rating systems.

The submitter’s comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the 2017/18 Annual Plan.

Topic Ten: Uniform Annual General Charge.

Submissions:

No. 72 (Federated Farmers of New Zealand)

Summary of Submission:

Uniform Annual General Charge.

Analysis:

A Uniform Annual General Charge (UAGC) forms part of the General rate and so loses the transparency that the Federation desires. It also loses the rigor of being definable and easily quantified where UAGCs tend to be set subjectively. Council believes that Targeted rates based on fixed charges achieve the same result but with better transparency. However, Council's ability to do either is constricted by the 30% cap. Council's 2017/18 rates will see the Fixed Charge rate component at 27% leaving little head room for this mechanism of setting rates.

Officers would like to note that in relation to paragraph 46 of Federated Farmers submission, Council does not use "targeted uniform charges for Roading" or stormwater. These rates use capital value as their basis.

The submitter's comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the 2017/18 Annual Plan.

Topic Eleven: Phase in Capital Value Rating

Submissions:

No. 38 (Diana Timms) and No. 76 (Ann Thomas)

Summary of Submissions:

Mrs Timms suggests that Council should phase in Capital Value rating over a period of time and Mrs Thomas requests that Council revisit Capital Value rating.

Analysis:

Phasing in capital value is a common way Councils have transitioned to full capital value rating. This method avoids the issue of "rate shock" when capital value is implemented in year one (1). Transitioning over more than 1 year makes the move to full capital value more palatable.

Council may wish to consider transition to a full capital value rating system as part of the development of its next Long Term Plan.

Recommendation:

That Council consider transitioning to full capital value rating as part of the preparation of the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 and the review of the Revenue and Financing Policy.

Topic Twelve: Debt levels and Borrowing

Submissions:

No. 58 (Christine Moriarty) and No. 60 (Hokio Environment & Kaitiaki Association)

Summary of Submissions:

The submitters comment on Council's debt level and borrowing. They also note the need to discuss Council's financials with the community.

Analysis:

Council will be reviewing its debt limits and borrowing etc as part of the review of its Financial Strategy during the development of the Long Term Plan 2018-2028. The Financial Strategy is a key part of the Long Term Plan and will be made available for public comment.

The submitter's comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the 2017/18 Annual Plan.

Attachments



There are no attachments for this report.

Confirmation of statutory compliance

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

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

Signatories

Author(s)	Doug Law Chief Financial Officer	
Approved by	David Clapperton Chief Executive	

Deliberations - Annual Plan 2017/18 - Land Transport

File No.: 17/227

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to present to Council for deliberation, the submissions received on the draft Annual Plan 2017/18 in relation to Land Transport.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That Report 17/227 Deliberations - Annual Plan 2017/18 - Land Transport be received.
- 2.2 That this matter or decision be recognised as not significant in terms of s76 of the Local Government Act 2002.
- 2.3 That Council continues with the Main Street upgrade as planned and previously agreed.
- 2.4 That Council continues to advocate on behalf of the community for improvements to local public transport.
- 2.5 That Council undertake rehabilitation work on a section of Waitarere Beach Road as programmed.

3. Topics for consideration

Topic One	Foxton Main Street
Topic Two	Public Transport
Topic Three	Waitarere Beach Road uneven surface
Topic Four	Waitarere Beach Footpaths
Topic Five	Pedestrian Crossing on the State Highway in Shannon
Topic Six	Request for a new footpath on Ballance Street
Topic Seven	Seal Grand Street
Topic Eight	Footpaths on Stout Street
Topic Nine	Speed Limits - Tokomaru
Topic Ten	Footpaths - Tokomaru
Topic Eleven	Highway Intersections
Topic Twelve	Additional Street Lighting - Tokomaru
Topic Thirteen	Pedestrian Crossings in Levin
Topic Fourteen	Street Lighting - Shannon
Topic Fifteen	Edinburgh Terrace – Foxton Beach
Topic Sixteen	Signage on Avenue Road - Foxton

Topic Seventeen	Levin Town Centre Upgrade
Topic Eighteen	Speed Limits (rural roads)
Topic Nineteen	Hazards Register
Topic Twenty	Footpath Cracks

Topic One: Foxton Main Street

Submissions:

No. 7 (Linda Morgan)

Summary of Submission:

Submitter notes the differing views on the upgrade of Main Street in Foxton and queries whether a nice, wide street can be made safe and be well maintained.

Analysis:

Officers can advise that the new pedestrian refuges will make Main Street much safer and as the build-outs are low the perception of the wide street will be maintained.

Recommendation:

That Council continues with the Main Street upgrade as planned and previously agreed.

Topic Two: Public Transport

Submissions:

No. 7 (Linda Morgan), No. 18 (Tokomaru Village & Community Association), No. 30 (Susan Lee) and No. 39 (Margaret Williams)

Summary of Submissions:

The Submitters have indicated a desire to see public transport being better provided for including:

- A feeder bus service from Foxton and Shannon to Levin;
- A 'day out' bus or similar for Tokomaru and Opiki;
- A bus service in Levin (even just a circle loop).

Analysis:

While Horowhenua District Council is generally supportive of increased local public transport, Horizons Regional Council is responsible for public transport in the region. Officers recommend that submitters put in a submission to Horizons Regional Council's next Long Term Plan.

Recommendation:

That Council continues to advocate on behalf of the community for improvements to local public transport.

Topic Three: Waitarere Beach Road uneven surface

Submission:

No. 8 (Waitarere Beach Progressive and Ratepayers Association)

Summary of Submission:

The Waitarere Beach Progressive and Ratepayers Association indicated in their submission that Waitarere Beach Road, from Bagrie's Corner to Easton's stock underpass, has a section that is requiring rehabilitation.

Analysis:

Officers can advise that the 1200 meters of Waitarere Beach Road, from Bagrie's Corner to Easton's stock underpass, is programmed to be rehabilitated in the 2017/18 financial year.

Recommendation:

That Council undertake rehabilitation work on a section of Waitarere Beach Road as programmed.

Topic Four: Waitarere Beach Footpaths

Submission:

No. 8 (Waitarere Beach Progressive and Ratepayers Association)

Summary of Submission:

The Waitarere Beach Progressive and Ratepayers Association highlight in their submission that Waitarere Beach has several streets without a footpath on a least one side of the street.

Analysis:

Council has a budget of \$100,000 annually for new footpaths for the entire district. Waitarere Beach has recently had the footpath work carried out around Kent Avenue/Gloucester Street from this budget. Further work will be determined by its priority on a district wide basis.

Action:

That Council officers continue to determine where to provide new footpaths in the District based on priority.

The submitter's comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the 2017/18 Annual Plan.

Topic Five: Pedestrian Crossing on the State Highway in Shannon

Submissions:

No. 11 (Robyn Mouzouri - Shannon "Get It Done" Group), No. 12 (Junette Haronga), No. 13 (Humana Haronga), No. 14 (Teneia Haronga), No. 21 (Hele Taylor) and No. 71 (Lani Ketu)

Summary of Submissions:

Submitters consider the pedestrian crossing on the corner of Ballance Street and Plimmer Terrace in Shannon to be unsafe and request that it be moved. Suggest alternative location such as by the Four Square.

Analysis:

The transport corridor in question is the NZTA's and as such is not under Council's control, however, Council officers have had discussions with NZTA regarding the State Highway's pedestrian crossings in Shannon, Foxton and Levin and will continue to lobby NZTA for safety improvements.

Action:

That Council officers continue to lobby the New Zealand Transport Agency for safety improvements to pedestrian crossings in Shannon, Foxton and Levin.

The submitter's comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the 2017/18 Annual Plan.

Topic Six: Request for a new footpath on Ballance Street

Submissions:

No. 11 (Robyn Mouzouri - Shannon "Get It Done" Group), No. 21 (Helen Taylor), No. 68 (Patricia Cottle) and No. 71 (Lani Ketu)

Summary of Submissions:

Submitters request that a footpath be installed on Ballance Street from the Domain to the Kohanga Reo or from Margaret Street corner to Clapham Street.

Analysis:

Council has a budget of \$100,000 for new footpaths for the district. New footpaths are determined by their priority on a district wide basis. The Ballance Street footpath will be taken into consideration in the future.

Action:

That Council officers arrange for the construction of the footpath on Balance Street, from the Domain to the corner of Clapham Street, during the 2017/18 Financial Year.

The submitter's comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the 2017/18 Annual Plan.

Topic Seven: Seal Grand Street

Submission:

No. 12 (Junette Haronga)

Summary of Submission:

Mrs Haronga in her submission would like Council to seal Grand Street to the river.

Analysis:

There is a limited budget for seal extensions. Seal extensions are being completed on roads that have high grading and metalling costs e.g. Wall Road. Currently the priority for Grand Street is low.

Action:

That Council officers continue to undertake seal extensions throughout the District based on priority.

The submitter's comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the 2017/18 Annual Plan.

Topic Eight: Footpaths on Stout Street

Submission:

No. 14 (Teneia Haronga)

Summary of Submission:

Miss Haronga indicates in her submission that a new footpath is required on Stout Street up past the Presbyterian Church to the corner. She also indicates that the across the road between Venn and Vogel Streets needs renewing.

Analysis:

Council has a budget of \$100,000 for new footpaths for the district. New footpaths are determined by its priority on a district wide basis. Streets where there is no footpath on either side of the street are the priority at this point in time.

Action:

That Council officers continue to determine where to provide new footpaths in the District based on priority.

That officers investigate the footpath between Venn and Vogel Streets on Stout Street and if renewal is required address this under the footpath renewal programmes.

The submitter's comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the 2017/18 Annual Plan.

Topic Nine: Speed Limits - Tokomaru

Submission:

No. 18 (Tokomaru Village & Community Association)

Summary of Submission:

The Tokomaru Village & Community Association raised the following matters in their submission with regard to speed limits:

- Lowering the rural road speed limits.
- Speed restrictions on ALL the roads surrounding the village i.e. Karaka Street, Rewarewa Street, etc.
- Speed restrictions to 10km/hr Tokomaru East Road, from the gate down to Horseshoe Bend.
- Speed limits outside Tokomaru School, on Tokomaru East Road.

Analysis:

Tokomaru Village & Community Association concerns are noted, however, Council has been requested by the NZTA not to make any speed limit change requests while the Speed Limit Review was underway. The review, which is being undertaken by NZTA, is yet to be finalised and a completion date yet to be announced.

A working party for the reviewing of speed limits within Tokomaru is not necessary at this stage however, officers will engage with Tokomaru Village & Community Association when the Speed Limit Review by New Zealand Transport Agency is finalised to discuss the need for any changes to speed limits.

Action:

That officers wait for the completion of the Speed Limit Review that the New Zealand Transport Agency is currently undertaking and then explore potential speed limit change requests.

The submitter's comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the 2017/18 Annual Plan.

Topic Ten: Footpaths - Tokomaru

Submission:

No. 18 (Tokomaru Village & Community Association)

Summary of Submission:

Tokomaru Village & Community Association raised the following matters in their submission:

- Lime footpaths, failure to follow up with a plan and further works.
- Lime path maintenance, no maintenance plan in place.
- Footpaths from Tawa Street to underpass and Tokomaru East Road to Domain.

Analysis:

Tokomaru Village & Community Association's comments are noted. Council maintains over 200kms of footpath and maintenance is carried out on a priority basis. While Council is aware that footpath improvements are needed in Tokomaru, it must balance this with the requirements of the entire footpath network it is responsible for.

Action:

That Council officers continue to determine where to provide new footpaths in the District based on priority.

The submitter's comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the 2017/18 Annual Plan.

Topic Eleven: Highway Intersections - Tokomaru

Submission:

No. 18 (Tokomaru Village & Community Association)

Summary of Submission:

The Tokomaru Village & Community Association raised the following matters relating to intersections in their submission:

- Intersection of SH57 and Rewarewa Street (with NZTA).
- Intersection of Tokomaru Road and SH57 (with NZTA).
- Williams Road intersection with SH57 (with NZTA).
- Visibility issue through the underpass fence.

Analysis:

The transport corridor in question is the NZTA's and as such is not under Council's control. Council officers have had discussions with NZTA regarding the State Highway's intersections in Tokomaru and will continue to lobby NZTA for safety improvements. There is very little that Council can do besides continue to lobby NZTA in support of the Tokomaru Village & Community Association's requests.

Action:

That Council officers lobby the New Zealand Transport Agency in support of the Tokomaru Village & Community Association's requests for improvements at the State Highway's intersections.

The submitter's comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the 2017/18 Annual Plan.

Topic Twelve: Additional Street Lighting - Tokomaru

Submission:

No. 18 (Tokomaru Village & Community Association)

Summary of Submission:

The Tokomaru Village & Community Association has requested additional street lighting be erected in the vicinity of the Dairy.

Analysis:

The requirement for an additional streetlight has been investigated by officers. The Tokomaru Village & Community Association requested extra streetlights on Tokomaru Road when Council converted the Tokomaru streetlights to LED two years ago. The extra lights were installed at that time. The current situation is that there is a streetlight right outside the dairy and a second streetlight only 45 meters down the road (normal spacing is around 80m). Therefore this area is well within specification and officers do not consider that additional lighting is required. Better under veranda lighting on the dairy itself would provide extra lighting, however, under veranda lighting is the responsibility of the business owner.



Photo showing location of current streetlights.

The submitter's comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the 2017/18 Annual Plan.

Topic Thirteen: Pedestrian Crossings in Levin

Submission:

No. 30 (Susan Lee)

Summary of Submission:

In her submission Ms Lee would like more places to cross on Queen Street and a mid-block crossing on Oxford Street between Bath and Queen Streets in Levin.

Analysis:

Options for pedestrian crossings on Queen Street are currently being investigated.

The Oxford Street transport corridor in question is the responsibility of the NZTA and as such is not under Council's control. However, Council officers have had discussions with NZTA regarding the State Highway's pedestrian crossings in Shannon, Foxton and Levin and will continue to lobby NZTA for safety improvements.

Action:

That Council officers continue to lobby the New Zealand Transport Agency for safety improvements to pedestrian crossings in Shannon, Foxton and Levin.

The submitter's comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the 2017/18 Annual Plan.

Topic Fourteen: Street Lighting (Shannon)

Submission:

No. 40 (Dietland Geist)

Summary of Submission:

In her submission Mrs Geist would like further street lighting on the intersection of Grand and Vogel Streets in Shannon.

Analysis:

The street lighting in the vicinity is compliant with current standards with spacing of approximately 35 to 40 meters and therefore officers do not consider that additional lighting is required.

The submitter's comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the 2017/18 Annual Plan.

Topic Fifteen: Edinburgh Terrace, Foxton

Submission:

No. 53 (Foxton Community Board)

Summary of Submission:

The Foxton Community Board (FCB) feel that Edinburgh Terrace has matured from a 'country road' to an 'important thoroughfare', bearing in mind the Forbes Road and other private subdivisions in the area. FCB recommend widening the road and also would recommend a 50% contribution from the Foxton Beach Freeholding Fund.

Analysis:

Edinburgh Terrace was resealed in 2016 following the installation of a footpath. The section between Queen Street and Flagstaff Street was widened slightly at that time as trucks were using that section when going to the Four Square.

The latest traffic counts (2016) do not support the idea that Edinburgh Terrace has "matured". It only has 171 vehicles per day with a mean speed of 36.3km/hr (85th percentile of 43.7km/hr). Therefore, at this point in time, there is no justification for widening or upgrading Edinburgh Terrace.

The submitter's comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the 2017/18 Annual Plan.

Topic Sixteen: Signage on Avenue Road, Foxton

Submission:

No. 54 (Linda Savage)

Summary of Submission:

Ms Savage would like a "School" or "Children" signage on Avenue Road at the approach of Coley Street School/Futter Street/Spring Street. There is currently no sign warning speeding drivers that they are entering a school zone where primary aged children are crossing the roads and/or judder bars prior to Futter Street and Spring Street to slow the traffic along Avenue Road.

Analysis:

Officers note that there are already signs at this location (see photos below, taken from Google Maps (image capture date: April 2015)).



Avenue Road is a Secondary Collector road and as such judder bars are not a viable option on this classification of road.

The submitter's comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the 2017/18 Annual Plan.

Topic Seventeen: Levin Town Centre Upgrade

Submission:

No. 62 (Christina Paton)

Summary of Submission:

Mrs Paton would like Council to evaluate the effects of the changes resulting from the Foxton Main Street Upgrade and the effects of the Roads of National Significance before Council moves forward on the Levin main street upgrade.

Analysis:

Council will indeed be cognisant of any effects when looking at future planning for Levin's town centre.

The submitter's comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the 2017/18 Annual Plan.

Topic Eighteen: Speed Limits (rural roads)

Submission:

No. 69 (Diane Brown)

Summary of Submission:

In her submission Mrs Brown would like all rural roads made 80km/hr and she raises some examples of rural roads that she believes should have a 80km/hr speed limit including Wall Road, Buller Road and Potts Road.

Analysis:

Currently, by government legislation, all rural roads are 100km/hr and cannot be lowered unless certain criteria are met. The criteria are laid out in a document called 'Speed Limits New Zealand'.

However, Council have been requested by New Zealand Transport Agency not to make any speed limit change requests while the currently ongoing Speed Limit Review is underway. The review is yet to be finalised but there is a possibility that it may be easier following the review to lower rural speeds.

Action:

That officers wait for the completion of the Speed Limit Review that the New Zealand Transport Agency is currently undertaking and then explore potential speed limit change requests.

The submitter's comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the 2017/18 Annual Plan.

Topic Nineteen: Hazards Register

Submissions:

No. 69 (Diane Brown)

Summary of Submission:

In her submission Mrs Brown recommends that Council set up a road hazard register.

Analysis:

This suggestion is noted. Officers can confirm that road safety is paramount and Council does its utmost to identify and resolve road hazards. Members of the public are welcome to contact Council to alert us to any road hazards they come across.

The submitter's comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the 2017/18 Annual Plan.

Topic Twenty: Footpath Cracks

Submissions:

No. 57 (Charles Rudd Senior)

Summary of Submission:

The submitter considers that cracks in footpaths are a health and safety issue.

Analysis:

The footpath renewal budget was increased from \$230,000 to \$400,000 in the current Long Term Plan to allow for more renewal work to be carried out on the district's 200kms of footpath. At the same time the footpath specification was changed from the traditional 75mm thick (generally with no basecourse aggregate below) to 100mm thick with 100mm of basecourse below which makes a stronger footpath. Reinforcing mesh is now also being used on all heavy duty crossings.

The submitter's comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the 2017/18 Annual Plan.

Attachments



There are no attachments for this report.

Confirmation of statutory compliance

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

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

Signatories

Author(s)	Kevin Peel Roading Services Manager	
Approved by	Gallo Saidy Group Manager - Infrastructure Services	

Deliberations - Annual Plan 2017/18 - Three Waters

File No.: 17/228

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to present to Council for deliberation, the submissions received on the draft Annual Plan 2017/18 in relation to Three Waters (i.e. Water Supply, Wastewater and Stormwater).

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That Report 17/228 Deliberations - Annual Plan 2017/18 - Three Waters be received.
- 2.2 That this matter or decision be recognised as not significant in terms of s76 of the Local Government Act 2002.

3. Topics for consideration

Topic One	Rainwater Tanks
Topic Two	Water Reticulation
Topic Three	Water Supply
Topic Four	Allocation for sewerage maintenance
Topic Five	Infrastructure Projects
Topic Six	Wastewater discharge to land
Topic Seven	Levin Wastewater Disposal
Topic Eight	Stormwater discharge to Lake Horowhenua
Topic Nine	Cleaning of street sumps - Waitarere Beach
Topic Ten	Stormwater outlets - Waitarere Beach
Topic Eleven	Stormwater issues at Tokomaru
Topic Twelve	King Canal Flooding - Foxton
Topic Thirteen	Drain paper road
Topic Fourteen	Stormwater issue Ohau
Topic Fifteen	Cover Open Drain Network - Tokomaru
Topic Sixteen	North East Levin Stormwater Upgrade

Topic One: Rainwater Tanks

Submissions:

No. 1 (Sam Ferguson), No. 38 (Diana Timms) and No. 76 (Ann Thomas)

Summary of Submissions:

The submitters raise the issue of requiring rainwater tanks for every new dwelling to be used for toilets, the garden, swimming pools etc. as discussed by Council two years ago. Benefits of rainwater tanks highlighted by the submitters included that they can reduce demand on Council's water supply and reduce pressure on the stormwater system.

Analysis:

Council considered the various pros and cons of having a rainwater tank for every new dwelling and a briefing was given to Council last year. At that time it was not considered a priority and the decision was made not to continue with this option at this point in time. This is something that Council may wish to revisit as part of the preparation of the next Long Term Plan.

Action:

That in the preparation of the next Long Term Plan, Officers will review the water demand management plans which will include a business case for the use of water meters and rainwater tanks for new subdivisions.

The submitters comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the 2017/18 Annual Plan.

Topic Two: Water Reticulation

Submission:

No. 67 (MidCentral Health's Public Health Service)

Summary of Submission:

MidCentral Health's Public Health Services commends Council's on-going commitment to replacing drinking-water reticulation.

MidCentral Health's Public Health Services notes that some of their staff have been involved in the Havelock North Drinking Water Inquiry and they are keen to meet with Horizons Regional Council and Horowhenua District Council to discuss the findings, and to implement any pertinent recommendations once the official report is made public.

Analysis:

Horowhenua District Council would be keen to discuss and understand the findings of Havelock North Drinking Water enquiry with MidCentral Health's Public Health Services.

Action:

That Council officers make themselves available for a meeting to discuss the findings of Havelock North Drinking Water enquiry.

The submitter's comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the 2017/18 Annual Plan.

Topic Three: Water Supply

Submission:

No. 57 (Charles Rudd Senior)

Summary of Submission:

The submitter considers that Council's water supply is becoming over stretched (specifically refers to the Ohau River). Mr Rudd recommends that life style development blocks should not be attaching to the town's main water supply. Mr Rudd recommends that water tanks and soak hole pits should be required for new houses, especially life style blocks.

Analysis:

Where a lifestyle block is located on the periphery of a town then it may be able to connect to the town's water supply. Otherwise lifestyle blocks must have their own water supply (e.g. rainwater tanks).

Horowhenua District Council has undertaken to reduce water losses in a programmed manner in terms of the Ohua River Take Consent which is currently under negotiation.

Council officers have recently considered the various pros and cons of requiring a rainwater tank for every new dwelling and a briefing was given to Council last year. At this time it was not considered a priority and the decision was made not to continue exploring this as an option at this point in time. This is something that Council may wish to revisit as part of the preparation of the next Long Term Plan.

Action:

That in the preparation of the next Long Term Plan, Officers will review the water demand management plans which will include a business case for the use of water meters and rainwater tanks for new subdivisions.

The submitter's comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the 2017/18 Annual Plan.

Topic Four: Allocation for sewerage maintenance

Submission:

No. 8 (Waitarere Progressive and Ratepayers Association)

Summary of Submission:

The Waitarere Beach Progressive and Ratepayers Association noted that \$241,000 has been allocated for sewerage maintenance for the 2017/18 financial year.

Analysis:

The \$241,000 is allocated to the Waitarere Wastewater Treatment Plant strategic upgrade and the allocated funds are for the renewal of the resource consent application and minor associated works.

The submitter's comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the 2017/18 Annual Plan.

Topic Five: Infrastructure Projects

Submission:

No. 28 (Horizons Regional Council)

Summary of Submission:

Horizons Regional Council notes the significant moves by Council to dispose of wastewater to land, especially in Shannon. Horizons Regional Council is keen to continue working with Horowhenua District Council to ensure that consent processes for discharges of treated wastewater are completed in a timely fashion.

With regard to the major projects Horowhenua District Council will be delivering in 2017/18, Horizons Regional Council acknowledges and supports our commitment to on-going infrastructure upgrades.

Analysis:

Horowhenua District Council acknowledges and appreciates Horizons Regional Council's continued support towards its on-going infrastructure upgrades.

The submitter's comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the 2017/18 Annual Plan.

Topic Six: Wastewater discharge to land

Submission:

No. 67 (MidCentral Health's Public Health Service)

Summary of Submission:

MidCentre Health's Public Health Services strongly supports the upgrade to the Foxton Wastewater Treatment Plant to discharge to land rather than the river.

However, they object to the wording "This would mean that 100% of the District's treated wastewater is discharged to land". As the Tokomaru wastewater treatment plant is not discharging only to land but to a drain into the Tokomaru River. If the intention is for the Council to be in-line with the district plan then all wastewater plants should discharge to land.

Analysis:

The submitter's comments are noted.

No recommendation is necessary with regard to the 2017/18 Annual Plan.

Topic Seven: Levin Wastewater Disposal

Submissions:

No. 57 (Charles Rudd Senior), No. 58 (Christine Moriarty) and No. 60 (Hokio Environment and Kaitiaki Association)

Summary of Submissions:

The submitters request that the Levin Sewerage Treatment Plant be moved away from the vicinity of Lake Horowhenua.

Mr Rudd considers it to be a risk, threat and serious health and safety issue for Maori, recreational users of the land and visitors.

The submitters also suggest that the Pot effluent disposal area is too small and needs to be relocated because of contamination of the Waiwiri Stream and Beach area.

Analysis:

The Levin Wastewater Treatment Plant does not discharge or surcharge to Lake Horowhenua, and as such there is no risk to the users of the Lake.

Years of monitoring and investigations of the impact of treated wastewater disposal on the environment at the Pot show no evidence of contamination of the Waiwiri stream. The consent for the Pot is due for renewal in 2018 and is currently being processed. The consenting process will address any negative impact that the activity is having on the environment.

The submitters comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the 2017/18 Annual Plan.

Topic Eight: Stormwater discharge to Lake Horowhenua

Submission:

No. 4 (Anne Hunt), No. 57 (Charles Rudd Senior), No. 58 (Christine Moriarty) and No. 60 (Hokio Environment and Kaitiaki Association)

Summary of Submissions:

The submitters raise concerns over stormwater disposal into Lake Horowhenua (and surrounding streams) and the effectives that this has on the Lake and the surrounding environment.

The submitters want to see the state of the Levin area drainage, lake and stream management improved and/or the stormwater discharge to Lake Horowhenua to stop.

Analysis:

Council has started the process of preparing resource consent applications for all of its stormwater discharges. As part of this process, Council will be working with the Regional Council and will also brief key stakeholders of the scope and extent of this works. Effects of stormwater disposal will be considered as part of the consent process.

The submitters comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the 2017/18 Annual Plan.

Topic Nine: Cleaning of street sumps - Waitarere Beach

Submission:

No. 8 (Waitarere Beach Progressive and Ratepayers Association)

Summary of Submission:

The Waitarere Beach Progressive and Ratepayers Association would like to ensure adequate funds are allocated towards street sump cleaning.

Analysis:

Cleaning of road's stormwater sumps are part of the Council's Road Maintenance Contract and is done as per the contract schedule. Officers continue to work with Council's contractor to ensure it is done as per specifications.

The submitter's comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the 2017/18 Annual Plan.

Topic Ten: Stormwater outlets - Waitarere Beach

Submission:

No. 8 (Waitarere Beach Progressive and Ratepayers Association)

Summary of Submission:

The Waitarere Beach Progressive and Ratepayers Association highlight in their submission that stormwater outlets on the beach need extending due to the accretion of the sand dunes.

Analysis:

Council is aware that the stormwater outlets need to be extended and we are currently planning for this to be implemented as part of the next Long Term Plan process with necessary approvals from the Horizons Regional Council.

Action:

That Council officers will plan for the extension of the stormwater outlets at Waitarere Beach as part of the next Long Tern Plan process.

The submitter's comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the 2017/18 Annual Plan.

Topic Eleven: Stormwater issues at Tokomaru

Submission:

No. 50 (Carl Robinson)

Summary of Submission:

The submitter raises issues of drainage and stormwater flooding at Tokomaru.

Analysis:

Council is evaluating options for stormwater, and ways we can attenuate flooding areas, across the District by developing Stormwater Catchment Management Plans.

Council has brought forward its preparation of the Stormwater Catchment Management Plan for Tokomaru (which was scheduled for the 2017/18 financial year) to the 2016/17 financial year. This plan will help inform future decision making regarding drainage in Tokomaru.

The submitter's comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the 2017/18 Annual Plan.

Topic Twelve: King Canal Flooding - Foxton

Submission:

No. 53 (Foxton Community Board)

Summary of Submission:

The Foxton Community Board requests that Council continue working with Horizons Regional Council (HRC) regarding the Kings Canal and Purcell Street drainage and flooding issues.

Analysis:

Council officers have had discussions with Horizons Regional Council regarding the flooding issues surrounding King's Canal and Purcell Street and will continue to engage with them regarding the maintenance and any improvements that may be required.

Action:

That Council officers will continue to engage with Horizons Regional Council regarding the flooding issues surrounding King's Canal and Purcell Street and the maintenance/improvements that may be required.

The submitter's comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the 2017/18 Annual Plan.

Topic Thirteen: Drain paper road

Submission:

No. 54 (Linda Savage)

Summary of Submission:

The submitter would like Council to drain the old paper road between Field Street and Spring Street. The submitter claims that the open drain along the paper road has not been maintained for over 20 years. It cannot drain and release water into the stormwater system as it has collapsed along its entirety.

Analysis:

As the property owner Council are obligated to clean out, if required, any drainage systems on their property to ensure that it is not causing flooding. As such Council officers will investigate this site and if necessary then arrange for the drain to be cleaned out.

Action:

That Council officers will investigate the site and, if required, instruct Council's maintenance contractor to clean out the drain and ensure it is free of obstructions.

The submitter's comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the 2017/18 Annual Plan.

Topic Fourteen: Stormwater issue Ohau

Submission:

No. 59 (Sarah Walsh)

Summary of Submission:

Mrs Walsh would like the stormwater issue at the eastern end of Wairiri Crescent, Ohau investigated.

Analysis:

Council as part of the development of its stormwater catchment management plans for its communities is looking at various flooding areas and addressing them as per risk. Mrs Walsh's stormwater issue is noted and will be investigated as part of the overall stormwater catchment management planning.

Action:

That Council officers continue with the development of stormwater catchment management plans.

The submitter's comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the 2017/18 Annual Plan.

Topic Fifteen: Cover Open Drain Network - Tokomaru

Submission:

No. 18 (Tokomaru Village and Community Association)

Summary of Submission:

The Tokomaru Village and Community Association request a plan/timeline for the covering of the open drain network in the village.

Analysis:

There is currently no plan to cover the open drains in the Tokomaru Village or elsewhere in the District due to the high capital cost and on-going operational costs to maintain them.

The submitter's comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the 2017/18 Annual Plan.

Topic Sixteen: North East Levin Stormwater Upgrade

Submission:

No. 58 (Christine Moriarty) and No. 60 (Hokio Environment and Kaitiaki Association)

Summary of Submissions:

The submitters question why ratepayers are paying for the North East Levin Stormwater Upgrade. They also query why Development Levies are no longer charged when they would contribute towards infrastructure costs.

Analysis:

Council resolved to no longer charge development contributions following consultation on its Long Term Plan 2015-2025. Council had intended to introduce Financial Contributions, however, given the recent amendment to the Resource Management Act which will phase out the use of Financial Contributions this is no longer a practical option.

Council will now explore options for developers to contribute to the cost of new infrastructure.

The submitters comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the 2017/18 Annual Plan.

Attachments



There are no attachments for this report.

Confirmation of statutory compliance

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

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

Signatories

Author(s)	Paul Gaydon Water and Waste Services Manager	
Approved by	Gallo Saidy Group Manager - Infrastructure Services	

Deliberations - Annual Plan 2017/18 - Solid Waste

File No.: 17/229

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to present to Council for deliberation, the submissions received on the draft Annual Plan 2017/18 in relation to Solid Waste.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That Report 17/229 Deliberations - Annual Plan 2017/18 - Solid Waste be received.
- 2.2 That this matter or decision be recognised as not significant in terms of s76 of the Local Government Act 2002.
- 2.3 That Council support the Solid Waste Services Review.
- 2.4 That Council support investigations into improving these facilities and the Solid Waste Services Review.

3. Topics for consideration

Topic One	Solid Waste Service Delivery
Topic Two	Solid Waste Services Delivery – Waitarere Rise
Topic Three	Enviroschools
Topic Four	Levin Landfill
Topic Five	Recycling Centre
Topic Six	E-Waste

Topic One: Solid Waste Service Delivery

Submission:

No. 7 (Linda Morgan)

Summary of Submission:

The submitter has asked that if there is any intention by Council to drop rubbish and recycling services as a core activity and for it to be stated explicitly.

Analysis:

Officers can confirm that there is currently no intention to drop or diminish these services, although a review will be undertaken in the coming months to outline how Council can improve these services.

Recommendation:

That Council support the Solid Waste Services Review.

Topic Two: Solid Waste Services Delivery – Waitarere Rise

Submission:

No. 8 (Waitarere Beach Progressive and Ratepayers Association)

Summary of Submission:

The Waitarere Beach Progressive and Ratepayers Association query why there is no kerbside recycling or rubbish collection services for Waitarere Rise and yet the residents pay a rate for this.

Analysis:

The solid waste rates are part of the annual rates so all properties would be paying these whether they get kerbside collection or not. Officers can advise that there is a district-wide review to be undertaken on these services in the coming months and this is something that will be considered as part of that review.

Recommendation:

That Council support the Solid Waste Services Review.

Topic Three: Enviroschools

Submissions:

No. 28 (Horizons Regional Council) and No. 65 (Environment Network Manawatu)

Summary of Submissions:

The submitters would like Horowhenua District Council to provide funding for schools to join the Enviroschools program.

Analysis:

Horowhenua District Council already has in place contracts with organisations that offer similar services to the Enviroschools program. In addition, Horowhenua District Council provides 100% of funding for other initiatives in the district that also aim at reducing waste in schools and waste minimisation education.

At the expiry of these contracts, Council will assess the available services, which will include Enviroschools. Horowhenua District Council is also implementing additional environmental education services from using in-house expertise.

Action:

That at the expiry of its current contracts Council assesses the various education services that are available.

The submitters comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the 2017/18 Annual Plan.

Topic Four: Levin Landfill

Submissions:

No. 48 (Peter Everton – Lakeview Farm Ltd), No. 57 (Charles Rudd Senior), No. 58 (Christine Moriarty) and No. 60 (Hokio Environment and Kaitiaki Association),

Summary of Submissions:

The submitters would like Council to no longer accept waste into the Levin Landfill from the Kapiti Coast District and/or close the Levin Landfill.

Mr Rudd also requests that Council stops the old Levin Landfill from leaching into private property and then into the Hokio Stream.

Ms Moriarty notes the number of odour complaints that have been made by a neighbouring property and the issue of leachate from the Landfill and how it is being treated.

Analysis:

The financial requirements and the signed agreements between several parties require us to accept waste from Kapiti Coast District. Council may review this at some point in the future.

Odour management and leachate collection and disposal are managed in accordance with consent requirements. Groundwater and surrounding water bodies are sampled quarterly to ensure that landfill activities do not significantly impact surrounding water bodies. Also a new gas flare as specified by Horizons Regional Council is currently being installed at the landfill to manage landfill odours.

Action:

That officers continue to operate the landfill in accordance with the resource consent requirements.

The submitter's comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the 2017/18 Annual Plan.

Topic Five: Recycling Centre

Submission:

No. 57 (Charles Rudd Senior)

Issue/s:

The submitter requests that Council create a proper, purposeful and meaningful recycling centre, like other places in New Zealand.

Analysis:

Improvements are currently being investigated for the recycling facilities as part of the Solid Waste Services Review.

Recommendation:

That Council support investigations into improving these facilities and the Solid Waste Services Review.

Topic Six: E-Waste

Submission:

No. 60 (Hokio Environment and Kaitiaki Association)

Issue/s:

The submitter outlines the issues with e-waste and questions why Council does not have an e-waste disposal facility.

Analysis:

Officers are currently investigating various options for providing e-waste disposal. This is a complex issue as it can be quite expensive.

Action:

That officers investigate options for e-waste management and report the findings to Council by January 2018.

The submitter's comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the 2017/18 Annual Plan.

Attachments



There are no attachments for this report.

Confirmation of statutory compliance

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

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

Signatories

Author(s)	Ryan Hughes Graduate Water Services Engineer	
Approved by	Gallo Saidy Group Manager - Infrastructure Services	

Deliberations - Annual Plan 2017/18 - Regulatory Services

File No.: 17/230

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to present to Council for deliberation, the submissions received on the draft Annual Plan 2017/18 in relation to Regulatory Services.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That Report 17/230 Deliberations - Annual Plan 2017/18 - Regulatory Services be received.
- 2.2 That this matter or decision be recognised as not significant in terms of s76 of the Local Government Act 2002.

3. Topics for consideration

Topic One	Shannon Waterwheel
Topic Two	Dogs in Te Maire Park
Topic Three	District Plan - Subdivision
Topic Four	District Plan – Natural Hazards at Foxton Beach
Topic Five	Liquefaction and Predicted Sea Level Rise
Topic Six	Notable Trees
Topic Seven	Hostel/backpackers - Shannon

Topic One: Shannon Waterwheel

Submissions:

No. 11 (Robyn Mouzouri), No. 12 (Junette Haronga), No. 21 (Helen Taylor – Shannon 'Get It Done' Group), No. 40 (Dietlinde Geist), No. 68 (Patricia Cottle) and No. 73 (Judith Sayer)

Summary of Submissions:

The submitters would like to see the Shannon Waterwheel project go ahead.

Analysis:

A resource consent was applied for in 2010 for a waterwheel to be installed on a section in Margaret Street, Shannon, however approval from the New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA) was not able to be obtained at the time and the project stalled.

In December 2014 advice was given to the parties that the consent needed to be withdrawn and a new consent applied for addressing the criteria for the Open Space Zone. This has not occurred. Officers are available to meet with the applicant to go over what they need to do for the project to move forward.

The submitter's comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the 2017/18 Annual Plan.

Topic Two: Dogs in Te Maire Park

Submissions:

No. 12 (Junette Haronga), No. 13 (Humana Haronga) and No. 14 (Teneia Haronga)

Summary of Submissions:

Submitters do not want dogs on Te Maire Park in Shannon as they indicate that dog owners have been irresponsible with cleaning up after their dogs.

Analysis:

Te Maire Park is currently designated as a 'dogs on leash area' recognising that people use this park as a rest area (amongst other uses) and it is ideal for stretching both the human and dog legs safely. There is a requirement for people to 'pick up' after their dogs. There have been no reported or observed matters for concern in respect of dog 'issues' at Te Maire Park and as such we are comfortable with the this Park remaining available for dogs to be walked on leash at this time.

The submitter's comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the 2017/18 Annual Plan.

Topic Three: District Plan - Subdivision

Submission:

No. 38 (Diana Timms)

Summary of Submission:

The submitter expresses concern that new subdivisions for housing to accommodate the influx of people to the district should not be on 'class 1 or 2 land' (Versatile Soils). Lifestyle blocks should be discouraged as urban people do not understand the implications that these lifestyle blocks cause (e.g. animal welfare).

Analysis:

Council Officers are currently undertaking work to plan for the future population growth anticipated for the district. This work includes exploring the different options that are within Council's control of how this growth can be accommodated in a sustainable way.

One of the options that Council officers are currently working on includes adjusting some of the current rules in the Residential Zone to provide greater opportunities for development within the Residential Zone, where the infrastructure is already in place and without requiring additional rural land.

Council officers are also working on a Growth Strategy which will potentially identify new growth areas for some of the existing settlements. In deciding the location of these growth areas the current land use and the soil type are just some of the many factors that get considered in determining the appropriateness of a growth area. Reverse sensitivity concerns are included in those considerations. Any process that involves rezoning land will be subject to a submission and hearing process enabling those that could be potentially affected by the change in zoning to raise their concerns.

Action:

That officers consider the matters raised as part of the current work that they are undertaking in responding to the growth pressures.

The submitter's comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the 2017/18 Annual Plan.

Topic Four: District Plan – Natural Hazards at Foxton Beach

Submissions:

No. 46 (John Murdoch) and No. 53 (Foxton Community Board)

Summary of Submissions:

The submitters raise the need to address the concerns around the potential for natural hazard issues such as flooding, tidal surge, liquefaction and erosion in the Foxton Beach area where ground water tables are rising.

The submitters suggest that not enough is being done to consider these risks and ensure appropriate protection. One submitter considers that the rules and information that officers work from are impractical and outdated. A suggestion has been made for a consultative working group to be established to help deal with these challenges and provide some sensible decisions to inform the next Long Term Plan.

Analysis:

The responsibilities for avoidance and mitigation of natural hazards in Horowhenua are divided between Horizons Regional Council and Horowhenua District Council. Horizons Regional Council sets the region wide policy through the One Plan. As a district council, our role is to implement the policy by making rules in our district plan and granting or declining consents. Horizons Regional Council also implements the policy through methods including gathering, analysing and communicating information such where the flooding will or is likely to occur.

The provisions in the Horowhenua District Plan relating to development in a Flood Hazard or Coastal Hazard area reflects the legislative requirements of Horizons One Plan and the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement. The move to avoid development within a 100 year level to 200 year level came through the development of the One Plan. The relationship to understand here is that Horizons Regional Council set the policies and district councils, such as Horowhenua District Council, are legislatively required to implement those policies through rules in their District Plan.

The information contained in the Horowhenua District Plan which is used to identify the flood hazard areas is based on the information provided by Horizons Regional Council as part of the preparing the Horowhenua District Plan (2015).

For portions of the district this information is not site specific. Other parts of the district, where the flood information has been informed by LIDAR information, the flooding areas are much more accurate at a site level. In light of the available information it does mean that the District Plan takes a precautionary approach, which unhelpfully at times can mean elevated landforms can be identified as being within a flood hazard area. In most situations a site specific analysis confirmed by Horizons Regional Council can be sufficient to enable the development to proceed where there is no flood risk.

Until more detailed and accurate flood mapping is available for the Foxton area, the Horowhenua District Council will continue to rely on the best information it has. The provision of more detailed and accurate flood mapping would be provided by Horizons Regional Council and the timing would be dependent on their work programme and available budget. A formal change to the District Plan would be necessary to incorporate any new flood maps.

As part of the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 Council needs to consider the impact of climate change on the district including Foxton and Foxton Beach. As part of considering the impacts, Council will look at the potential response(s), risks and costs.

The submitters suggestion of establishing a working group to explore this issue is a positive one. In terms of hazards, Horizons Regional Council would be a key player in this work given that they are currently the providers of hazard information and flood protection to our district. They would need to be involved in any working group given the outcomes of the working group would potentially have an impact on the Horizon Regional Council's future work programme and budgets.

Action:

That Council officers continue to work with Horizons Regional Council to apply the best hazard information available to decision making for future development.

That, in advance of the Long Term Plan 2018-2028, officers explore the option of a working group involving Horizons Regional Council to understand the concerns raised for the Foxton Beach area and identify potential solutions that could inform the long term planning for Horizons Regional Council and/or Horowhenua District Council.

The submitter's comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the 2017/18 Annual Plan.

Topic Five: Liquefaction and Predicted Sea Level Rise

Submissions:

No. 62 (Christina Paton)

Summary of Submission:

Mrs Paton raises concern about how liquefaction and predicted sea level rise will affect predicted population increase concurrent with development maintenance of basic infrastructure in our coastal communities.

Analysis:

As part of the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 Council needs to consider the impact of climate change, predicted sea level rise and liquefaction on the district including the coastal communities. As part of considering the impacts, Council will look at the potential response(s), risks and costs and factor these into the forward work programme and budgets.

The consideration of these matters is directly relevant to the preparation of the Asset Management Plans, Infrastructure Strategy and Council's Growth Strategy.

In preparing the Long Term Plan 2015-2025 Council used the assumption that *"although Horowhenua District may be affected by climate change in the long term (in parallel with predicted national change), that climate change will not impact on this District during the life of this Long Term Plan"*.

Since 2014, when the Long Term Plan was developed, increasing levels of information have been made available to assist Councils with their planning for these matters. The Ministry for the Environment (the Ministry) has undertaken a review of its guidance manuals for adapting to

Climate Change. The Ministry in 2016 released the report on Climate Change Projections for New Zealand. An updated version of 'Coastal hazards and climate change – A guidance manual for local government in New Zealand' is being developed and has yet to be released. It was anticipated to be released late 2016.

The Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment released the report 'Preparing New Zealand for rising seas: Certainty and Uncertainty' in November 2015. Council officers recognise that they are not experts in this field and are reliant on expert information and guidance to inform the decisions Council makes. Council will be considering the available information and its application to the Horowhenua District as it plans for the future including the preparation of the Long Term Plan 2018-2028.

The submitter's comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the 2017/18 Annual Plan.

Topic Six: Notable Trees

Submission:

No. 70 (Deborah Burns)

Summary of Submission:

The submitter notes that the tree register needs to be amended to include non indigenous trees such as oaks planted as war memorials.

Analysis:

Council's Notable Tree register, which is in Schedule 3 of the District Plan, does include introduced tree species (not just native species). The District Plan is freely available for members of the public to view.

If someone would like a tree to be added to the register then they can contact Council and officers will arrange for the tree to be assessed by a suitably qualified person. If the tree meets certain criteria then it can be included as part of a plan change and added to the Notable Tree register.

The submitter's comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the 2017/18 Annual Plan.

Topic Seven: Hostel/backpackers - Shannon

Submissions:

No. 12 (Junette Haronga) and No. 13 (Humana Haronga)

Summary of Submission:

The submitters make reference to a hostel or backpackers in their submissions. Mrs Haronga suggests the corner of Grey Street and Plimmer Terrace. Mr Haronga suggests it could be used by the canoe club, trampers, walkers, hunters and visitors.

Analysis:

There is potential for someone to develop a hostel or backpackers in Shannon if they wish to. The site on the northern side of Grey Street, where it meets Plimmer Terrace is currently part of the school.

The site on the southern side of Grey Street, where it meets Plimmer Terrace is currently vacant and zoned for Commercial purposes. The use of a commercially zoned site for a hostel or backpackers would be appropriate (subject to compliance with the provisions in the District Plan).

The submitter's comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the 2017/18 Annual Plan.

Attachments





There are no attachments for this report.

Confirmation of statutory compliance

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

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

Signatories

Author(s)	Tiffany Williams Strategic Planner	
	Mike Lepper Customer and Regulatory Services Manager	
Approved by	David McCorkindale Senior Manager - Strategic Planning	
	Monique Davidson Group Manager - Customer and Community Services	

Deliberations - Annual Plan 2017/18 - Community Facilities

File No.: 17/231

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to present to Council for deliberation, the submissions received on the draft Annual Plan 2017/18 in relation to Community Facilities (which includes Community Centres and Libraries and Aquatics Centres).

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That Report 17/231 Deliberations - Annual Plan 2017/18 - Community Facilities be received.
- 2.2 That this matter or decision be recognised as not significant in terms of s76 of the Local Government Act 2002.
- 2.3 That Council considers the potential development of a community hub in Shannon as part of the preparation of the next Long Term Plan.
- 2.4 That Council encourages that, a Community Development application is made by Manawatu College for Council funding as part of a collaborative community partnership.
- 2.5 That Council proceed with its earlier support to continue to operate Foxton Pool as a five (5) month operation.
- 2.6 That Council facilitate discussions with the Tokomaru Village and Community Association, the Ministry of Education and the Board of Trustees and/or principals of the Tokomaru and Opiki Schools regarding the provision of aquatic services in northern Horowhenua.
- 2.7 That a provisional sum of \$10,000 be included in the 2017/18 Annual Plan for aquatic activities agreed by the parties.

3. Topics for consideration

Topic One	Mobile Library Services and Wi-fi Access - Waitarere Beach
Topic Two	Shannon Swimming Pool
Topic Three	Shannon Community Hub and Youth Centre
Topic Four	Christmas Lights
Topic Five	Funding – Garden to Table for Schools
Topic Six	Consultation – Shannon Community Centre
Topic Seven	Shannon Library Use
Topic Eight	Community Electronic Sign
Topic Nine	Foxton Swimming Pool
Topic Ten	Aquatics Rate Proposal

Topic One: Mobile Library Services and Wi-fi Access - Waitarere Beach

Submission:

No. 8 (Waitarere Beach Progressive and Ratepayers Association)

Summary of Submission:

In their submission the Waitarere Beach Progressive and Ratepayers Association request a mobile library service be provided.

The Association also notes that wi-fi is provided in Levin, Foxton and Shannon as part of the library services and it would like a wi-fi modem installed in a public spot at Waitarere Beach.

Analysis:

Council is currently increasing digital access to library services, so that residents and ratepayers can access library services online from the comfort of their own home 24 hours a day. Council will also investigate other options associated with increased access by Waitarere Beach residents to library services.

Free wi-fi was arranged outside the local Four Square Store in Waitarere in 2016. This service is available as a free week long trial for non-Spark customers but is unlimited to Spark customers. Council is prepared to investigate further wi-fi options from a publicly accessible area.

Action:

That Council officers further investigate the provision of wi-fi from a publicly accessible area at Waitarere Beach.

The submitter's comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the 2017/18 Annual Plan.

Topic Two: Shannon Swimming Pool

Submissions:

No. 11 (Robyn Mouzouri), No. 12 (Junette Haronga), No. 14 (Teneia Haronga), No. 21 (Helen Taylor), No. 52 (Sharon Humphrey Williams) and No. 71 (Lani Ketu)

Summary of Submissions:

The submitters would like to see the Shannon Swimming Pool upgraded and better maintained. Some submitters suggested that the upgrades could include covering the pool, heating the pool or upgrading the changing rooms.

Analysis:

The Shannon Swimming Pool is owned by the Ministry of Education (MoE). The MoE is responsible for any upgrades of this pool facility. Council would be supportive of the MoE undertaking an upgrade; however, it is considered unlikely as the MoE is currently reducing the number of pools it owns.

For 2016/17 season a total of 511 individual visits to the Shannon Swimming Pool over the season (15th December 2016 – 29 January 2017 (Weather Permitting)) were recorded.

The submitter's comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the 2017/18 Annual Plan.

Topic Three: Shannon Community Hub and Youth Centre

Submissions:

No. 11 (Robyn Mouzouri), No. 12 (Junette Haronga), No. 13 (Humana Haronga), No. 21 (Helen Taylor) and No. 40 (Dietlinde Geist)

Summary of Submissions:

The submitters would like to see a community hub developed in Shannon, with some also requesting that a community youth centre could be established in the old UEB building.

Mrs Geist suggests that the Shannon Memorial Hall could be repurposed at the Community Hub.

Analysis:

The Council is keen to explore opportunities for multipurpose facilities (i.e. community hubs), as and when it decides to refurbish/replace community facilities or as other opportunities present themselves with external organisations. Council may wish to explore the possibility of developing a community hub in Shannon as part of the development of its 2018-2028 Long Term Plan.

Council officers are exploring delivery of additional youth activities and programmes in Shannon.

Action:

That Council officers continue to explore options for the delivery of youth activities and programmes in Shannon.

Recommendation:

That Council considers the potential development of a community hub in Shannon as part of the preparation of the next Long Term Plan.

Topic Four: Christmas Lights

Submissions:

No. 11 (Robyn Mouzouri), No. 12 (Junette Haronga), No. 13 (Humana Haronga) and No. 14 (Teneia Haronga)

Summary of Submissions:

The submitters would like to see the Christmas lights returned to Shannon's main streets.

Analysis:

The Shannon Progressive Association has previously gifted Christmas lights to Council to take responsibility for Christmas light displays. The New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA) has restricted where lights can be displayed around Shannon. In the preparation for 2016/17 Christmas period, Council installers identified unsafe building eaves and one particular business was not keen to have Christmas lights displayed around their business.

These various factors have limited options for Christmas lights display and Council officers are currently considering a freestanding travelling Christmas lights display to move between Shannon, Foxton and Levin each year.

Action:

That Council officers continue to explore options for the display of Christmas lights in Shannon, Foxton and Levin.

The submitter's comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the 2017/18 Annual Plan.

Topic Five: Funding – Garden to Table for Schools

Submission:

No. 42 (Katherine Irvine – Edible Backyard)

Summary of Submission:

The submitter highlights the fact that there is a lack of funding available for schools to join the 'Garden to Table' initiative and she suggests that Council may help.

Analysis:

Council sees value in community gardens and there are opportunities for community groups to apply for Council Community Grant funding for such projects. While Council Community Grant funding is not generally available for schools there is scope for consideration of special projects. It should be noted however that grants such as Community Development Grants are routinely oversubscribed and not all projects that are eligible are funded.

The submitter's comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the 2017/18 Annual Plan.

Topic Six: Consultation – Shannon Community Centre

Submission:

No. 52 (Sharon Humphrey Williams)

Summary of Submission:

Mrs Humphrey Williams expresses an interest in the 'Shannon Community Centre' as noted on page 11 of the Consultation Document and requests that any decisions regarding this are undertaken with full consultation with the Shannon community.

Analysis:

A Community Centre in Shannon is a topic Council has indicated that it will consider as part of the development of the 2018-2028 Long Term Plan. If Council is to further explore developing a Community Centre in Shannon then this would be done in consultation with the community.

The submitter's comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the 2017/18 Annual Plan.

Topic Seven: Shannon Library Use

Submission:

No. 52 (Sharon Humphrey Williams)

Summary of Submission:

The submitter would like to see further exploration of the use of Shannon Library for community education activities. The submitter notes that the Library is the hub of the community and it would be awesome to expand its usage. This would also go towards alleviating the transport poverty Shannon experiences.

Analysis:

Horowhenua Library Services currently deliver community education programmes across the district. Programmes include literacy programmes (including digital), history and heritage as well as lifelong learning.

Action:

That Council officers explore further options for the Library Services delivery of community education programmes in Shannon/Shannon Library.

The submitter's comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the 2017/18 Annual Plan.

Topic Eight: Community Electronic Sign

Submission:

No. 53 (Foxton Community Board)

Summary of Submission:

The Foxton Community Board indicates that it is supportive of the application from Manawatu College to erect a Community Electronic Sign.

Analysis:

Council sees value in community information and noticeboards and there are some opportunities for community groups to apply for Council Community Grant funding for such projects. While Council Community Grant funding is not generally available for schools there is scope for consideration of special projects.

It should be noted however that grant applications commonly exceed funding available of particular relevance for any consideration by Community Consultation Grant would be the role of community groups (outside of Manawatu College itself) in the governance/operational management of such an initiative and the proportion of signage space/time dedicated to community events/ activities and initiatives outside of Manawatu College and local schools.

Recommendation:

That Council encourages that, a Community Development application is made by Manawatu College for Council funding as part of a collaborative community partnership.

Topic Nine: Foxton Swimming Pool

Submission:

No. 62 (Christina Paton)

Summary of Submission:

At the Hearing the submitter noted the lack of submissions on the Foxton Swimming Pool, indicating a lack of interest from the community in either the upgrading or retention of the facility. Mrs Paton therefore suggested the facility could be closed and/or adapted for another purpose that may be used in promoting Foxton and Foxton Beach so that the initial donation of \$500,000 from the Foxton Beach Endowment Fund is appropriately honoured.

Analysis:

Refer to the Foxton Community Board Report on the Foxton Swimming Pool, 20 February, 2017. This Report provided the background on the physical building and pools, as well as usage of the facility and cost per capita. The report also outlines options available to extend the annual pool season of operation and costs and any projected benefits/ efficiencies. This Report was tabled in 2017 with Foxton Community Board and with Horowhenua District Council.

There was significant community engagement associated with the preparation for and during the extended season at Foxton Pool. Feedback on the Foxton Swimming Pool Report was also reported back by officers to meetings with Foxton Pool Users Group.

Council is intending to prepare a 10 year plan for Council Built Sport and Recreation Facilities, informed by the Regional Sports Strategy across six (6) local authorities. It is anticipated that priority for Council will be on the provision of multi-use, adaptable facilities that are capable of being used for a variety of sports and recreation activities. Further investment or closure may be considered by Council, following the Plan's completion, and as part of the development of the 2018-2028 Long Term Plan.

Recommendation:

That Council proceed with its earlier support to continue to operate Foxton Pool as a five (5) month operation.

Topic Ten: Aquatics Rate Proposal

Submission:

No. 18 (Tokomaru Village and Community Association)

Summary of Submission:

Tokomaru Village and Community Association has proposed Council could "remit" 70% of the "local" swimming pool rate to fund pools at Tokomaru and Opiki schools. The submitter expressed a desire to extend the swimming season for these schools, improve maintenance of the swimming pools and improve swimming lessons for students.

Analysis:

The swimming pool rate is to cover the costs of the existing levels of service. To forward 70% of the income for the area by mesh block. This would increase the Aquatics Rate further as this proposal will increase the level of service. Such a proposal is outside the jurisdiction of an Annual

Plan and must be considered as part of the next Long Term Plan along with the necessary changes to the Revenue and Financing Policy.

Options to increase the swimming pool rate benefit to Tokomaru and Opiki residents, particularly school children should be considered through a Council facilitated discussion with the Tokomaru Village and Community Association, the Ministry of Education and the Board of Trustees and/or principals of the Tokomaru and Opiki Schools. This discussion should take place before the 2017/18 summer season.

Recommendation:

That Council facilitate discussions with the Tokomaru Village and Community Association, the Ministry of Education and the Board of Trustees and/or principals of the Tokomaru and Opiki Schools regarding the provision of aquatic services in northern Horowhenua.

That a provisional sum of \$10,000 be included in the 2017/18 Annual Plan for aquatic activities agreed by the parties.

Attachments



There are no attachments for this report.

Confirmation of statutory compliance

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

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

Signatories

Author(s)	Denise Kidd Community Services Manager	
Approved by	Monique Davidson Group Manager - Customer and Community Services	

Deliberations - Annual Plan 2017/18 - Parks and Reserves

File No.: 17/232

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to present to Council for deliberation, the submissions received on the draft Annual Plan 2017/18 in relation to Parks and Reserves.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That Report 17/232 Deliberations - Annual Plan 2017/18 - Parks and Reserves be received.
- 2.2 That this matter or decision be recognised as not significant in terms of s76 of the Local Government Act 2002.
- 2.3 That the existing budget allowed for reprofiling of dunes at Waitarere Beach is held over until completion of the new surf lifesaving club building.
- 2.4 That a capital sum of \$15,000 is made available in the 2017/18 Annual Plan to redecorate the toilets under Shannon Grandstand, and that operational budgets for Shannon Domain are increased by a further \$15,000 to allow the toilets to remain open for the benefit of park users during 2017/18.
- 2.5 That Council is supportive of officers facilitating the removal of the Shannon Domain cycling/running track for health and safety reasons, as previously requested by the Shannon Domain User Group.
- 2.6 That Council consider the special nature of the Ramsar site at Foxton and make provision in the upcoming Long Term Plan (2018-2028) to provide a budget for improvement and maintenance.
- 2.7 That Council consider the funding requirements to achieve the strategic development plan of the Levin Adventure Park in the upcoming Long Term Plan (2018-2028).
- 2.8 That the Adventure Park Trust, in consultation with Council officers, consider whether a children's bike park be desirable in the context of the strategic plan.

3. Topics for consideration

Topic One	Waitarere Domain Improvements
Topic Two	Spinifex Planting and Dune Reshaping
Topic Three	Shared Community Facility
Topic Four	Wairarawa Stream
Topic Five	Reserve improvements for Shannon
Topic Six	Spending on Beautification Projects
Topic Seven	Assessment of sports and recreation facilities
Topic Eight	Support for Save our River Trust and Foxton Wildlife Trust

Topic Nine	Lighting at Stuart Donnelly Park
Topic Ten	Reserve improvements for Mangaore Village
Topic Eleven	Manawatu Estuary (Ramsar site)
Topic Twelve	Addition of kids bike safety park similar to that at Napier

Topic One: Waitarere Domain Improvements

Submission:

No. 8 (Waitarere Beach Progressive & Ratepayers Association)

Summary of Submission:

Waitarere Beach Progressive and Ratepayers Association notes that they been planning, with Council, for improvements to Waitarere Domain and they query whether money has been set aside for improvements to continue.

Analysis:

Officers have been in consultation with the Waitarere Beach Progressive and Ratepayers Association concerning a Development Plan for the Domain. Officers recognise that there is the requirement for communities to have access to a range of different recreational opportunities both in terms of proximity and function.

The Domain has been identified as a key component in the leisure and recreation offering at Waitarere Beach through the review/preparation of the Waitarere Beach Combined Reserve Management Plan. Officers will be submitting to the Long-Term Plan in 2018-2021 for a Waitarere Domain improvement budget. Officers have a budget in 2017/18 for woodland and tree management in the Domain.

Action:

That Officers continue to liaise with the Waitarere Beach Progressive and Ratepayers Association in respect of the proposed Waitarere Domain Development Plan including the preparation of a budget for submission to the Long-Term Plan process.

The submitter's comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the 2017/18 Annual Plan.

Topic Two: Spinifex Planting and Dune Reshaping

Submission:

No. 8 (Waitarere Beach Progressive & Ratepayers Association)

Summary of Submission:

Waitarere Beach Progressive and Ratepayers Association note that they are pleased that \$40,000 has been set aside for spinifex planting. They also note that \$103,000 has been set aside for dune management but that this is proposed for the works around the new surf lifesaving building. Waitarere Beach Progressives and Ratepayers Association indicate that there are other dune areas that require maintenance.

Analysis:

Council undertakes an annual Spinifex planting programme and has established a continuous beach facing Spinifex dune. The only area on the foredune that remains primarily a marram dune is the area which has been designated as the building site for the new surf lifesaving clubrooms. The existing \$100,000 for dune re-profiling including Spinifex planting is being held over to facilitate the work that will be required following the re-siting of that community building. However, this will not impact on Council's ongoing Spinifex planting scheme for Waitarere, Foxton and Waikawa Beaches. The annual Spinifex planting program will continue to be targeted to those areas having the greatest need as has been the case thus far.

Action:

That officers continue with a Spinifex replanting program in Waitarere, Foxton and Waikawa Beaches, prioritised annually in line with the existing process.

Recommendation:

That the existing budget allowed for reprofiling of dunes at Waitarere Beach is held over until completion of the new surf lifesaving club building.

Topic Three: Shared Community Facility

Submission:

No. 8 (Waitarere Beach Progressive & Ratepayers Association)

Summary of Submission:

Waitarere Beach Progressives and Ratepayers Association would like to see a shared facility available for the community. They are not sure of the surf club progress or position. They would like Council to explore an arrangement.

Analysis:

No information has been presented to Council in terms of the progress of the surf life club rebuild. Officers are aware of the request of the local community for access to shared facilities. There are several buildings locally that might provide opportunity including the old tennis club building and the scout hall on Waitarere Domain.

Action:

That officers continue to discuss with the Waitarere Beach Progressive and Ratepayers Association options for shared use of a local community facility for on-going community use.

The submitter's comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the 2017/18 Annual Plan.

Topic Four: Wairarawa Stream

Submission:

No. 8 (Waitarere Beach Progressive & Ratepayers Association)

Summary of Submission:

Waitarere Beach Progressives and Ratepayers Association state that Wairarawa Stream and its bank need clearing of weeds and is likely to need straightening.

Analysis:

Officers are aware that the stream course has once again moved towards the South and are considering options under the existing resource consent (December 2016). Officers are in consultation with local Iwi in relation to weed management and riparian planting along the Wairarawa Stream.

Actions:

That officers continue to monitor the Wairarawa Stream course as it enters the beach with a view to maintaining access for vehicles and minimising erosion to the existing Spinifex dune.

That officers continue to liaise with Iwi and the Waitarere Beach Progressives and Ratepayers Association in relation to the opportunities to undertake weed management and complete riparian planting along the banks of the Stream.

The submitter's comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the 2017/18 Annual Plan.

Topic Five: Reserve improvements for Shannon

Submissions:

No. 11 (Robyn Mouzouri – Shannon 'Get It Done' Group), No. 12 (Junette Haronga), No. 13 (Humana Haronga), No. 14 (Teneia Haronga), No. 21 (Helen Taylor – Shannon 'Get It Done' Committee), No. 40 (Dietlinde Geist), No. 71 (Lani Ketu) and No. 73 (Judith Sayer)

Summary of Submissions:

The submitters have requested that the following improvements be made to parks and reserves in Shannon:

- **Hyde Park** - toilets, shade, drinking fountain, rubbish bins, bike stands and a BBQ.
- **Shannon Domain** - toilets, shade cloths, drinking fountain, a BBQ, lighting, bike stands, strengthen the grandstand (or replace it), renew cycle track, new basketball court, fill-in drain by skate park, outdoor exercise area, develop a mural for the grandstand and move bins.
- **Te Maire Park** – benches, toilets (or signage directing people to the nearest public toilets), drinking fountain and rest area.
- **Parks in general** – lighting for all parks, better signage for public toilets and provision of a caravan stopover.

Analysis:

The submitters have raised a large number of requests for improvements to the parks and reserves in Shannon including the installation of lighting, public toilets, shade cloths, the installation of a number of BBQ's, a new cycle track, basketball court, and grandstand strengthening for Shannon Domain.

Some of the matters raised such as the relocation of rubbish bins could be relatively easy to address, whereas other matters are larger and require a greater level of consideration.

Officers have previously had discussions with the Shannon Domain User Group (SDUG) who have expressed a desire to remove the cycle track – work which is currently being programmed by officers. Similarly, some of the lower level items requested e.g. drainage issues adjacent to the skate park have already been raised with officers via SDUG and local elected members; officers are currently investigating these issues with a view to resolution.

The capital works requested by the submitters would have a significant cost to Council and it would need to take on debt to facilitate the improvements requested. Therefore it is important that Council take a strategic view regarding investment in its recreation and leisure portfolio whether in Shannon or other areas of the Horowhenua. This is to ensure money is invested where the investment can be maximised. There are a number of reserves in Shannon that are well utilised (e.g. Shannon Domain) and others that are rarely utilised (e.g. Moynihan Park).

Several submitters indicated that access to additional publicly toilet facilities is needed in Shannon. Shannon Domain has an existing toilet beneath the grandstand which could be opened in the interim period (with minimum investment) for park users.

Council is currently reviewing its Reserve Management Plans. These are area-based, strategic documents that look at a range of factors including current use, potential growth, and reserve distribution. The process provides an overview of the leisure and recreation needs of the community which is directed to a great extent via community consultation. The plans are then used to take a strategic approach to leisure provision and in so doing achieve the 'best bang for buck' in delivering a portfolio of services endorsed by the community. The process of developing reserve management plans help Council and the community understand what facilities are required where.

This approach has been effective in defining leisure needs in a number of other Horowhenua communities and is the process officers would use to define those needs in Shannon in consultation with the community.

Action:

That officers develop a Reserve Management Plan for Shannon Reserves in consultation with the community, to provide strategic direction for reserve investment.

That officers continue to investigate opportunities to resolve the standing water issues on Shannon Domain.

That officers work with the Shannon Domain User Group and Shannon Get It Done Group to have the rubbish bin at the skate park relocated.

Recommendation:

That a capital sum of \$15,000 is made available in the 2017/18 Annual Plan to redecorate the toilets under Shannon Grandstand, and that operational budgets for Shannon Domain are increased by a further \$15,000 to allow the toilets to remain open for the benefit of park users during 2017/18.

That Council is supportive of officers facilitating the removal of the Shannon Domain cycling/running track for health and safety reasons, as previously requested by the Shannon Domain User Group.

Topic Six: Spending on Beautification Projects

Submission:

No. 35 (Marilyn Cranson)

Summary of Submission:

The submitter indicates that Council should stop spending on beautification projects.

Analysis:

Council undertakes a range of beautification projects on streets and reserves. The majority of projects are requested by local communities or community groups. Beautification projects are assessed on a case-by-case basis with the intention of meeting Community Outcomes which include.

- **A healthy local economy and a District that is growing** – in this context Beautification assists in making the Horowhenua a destination site for business and potential residents by providing a high quality environment
- **A sustainable environment** – a number of beautification projects involve riparian planting, and the planting of native sand-binding species such as Spinifex. Both are processes that help reduce erosion and increase bio-diversity.
- **A community of knowledge, culture and diversity where people are proud to live** – Beautification projects provide local improvements and invest the community with ownership of their green spaces that provide 'a sense of place'.
- **Positive leadership and effective partnerships** – community driven projects support a partnership approach in service delivery and recognise the local community's aspirations.

Action:

That officer's continue to work with the community to determine its aspirations and expectations in relation to beautification projects.

The submitter's comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the 2017/18 Annual Plan.

Topic Seven: Assessment of sports and recreation facilities

Submissions:

No. 52 (Sharon Humphrey Williams)

Summary of Submission:

The submitter is encouraged to see that an assessment of sports and recreation facilities across the district is due to occur. She indicates that it seems illogical and a waste of resources maintaining assets barely used when that money could be diverted into developing other assets. The submitter indicates the assessment of the facilities should consider the halls and hall hire charges and how to best use these assets in the future.

The submitter also requests a toilet facility at Hyde Park and Shannon Domain.

Analysis:

Mrs Humphrey Williams has raised a number of requests around increasing toilet provision at Hyde Park and Shannon Domain. She has suggested that some well-used parks such as Shannon

Domain should be the subject of investment (e.g. outdoor exercise area), whereas others that are not so well-used (e.g. Moynihan Park) should be considered for some other purpose.

Mrs Humphrey Williams has also expressed her agreement that Council take a regional view of recreation and leisure provision in the Horowhenua as per the current regional analysis being undertaken by the Manawatu Councils in consultation with Sport Manawatu and Sport New Zealand.

Officers are of the opinion that the best 'bang for buck' is achieved by taking a strategic approach to investment in reserves. It is currently doing this via the regional planning document referred to, and adopting an area based approach to reviewing its reserve management plans. The regional document will identify weaknesses and strengths in a regional context, the emphasis placed on community consultation in reserve management plans will refine the regional overview in the local context

Mrs Humphrey Williams has requested the installation of toilet blocks at Hyde Park and Shannon Domain. No toilets are present at Hyde Park however there is an existing toilet block at Shannon Domain beneath the grandstand. It is possible these toilets can be opened to the public in the short term whilst a longer-term view is taken about on-going investment in Shannon Reserves via the reserve management plan process.

Action:

That officers develop a Reserve Management Plan for Shannon Reserves in consultation with the community, to provide strategic direction for reserve investment.

Recommendation:

That a capital sum of \$15,000 is made available in the 2017/18 Annual Plan to redecorate the toilets under Shannon Grandstand, and that operational budgets for Shannon Domain are increased by a further \$15,000 to allow the toilets to remain open for the benefit of park users during 2017/18.

Topic Eight: Support for Save Our River Trust and Foxton Wildlife Trust

Submissions:

No. 53 (Foxton Community Board) and No. 65 (Environment Network Manawatu)

Summary of Submissions:

The submitters request continued support for Save Our River Trust and the Foxton Wildlife Trust.

Analysis:

Save Our River Trust (SORT) has for a number of years been undertaking a series of beautification works in and around the river loop and in 2015-2016 received a grant of \$32,000 from Horowhenua District Council to gain a consent for dredging works at the river loop, and to commence operations. A 30 year consent was issued to SORT with the support of Horowhenua District Council in 2017 by Horizons Regional Council. SORT are in the process of completing operational and sediment control plans prior to commencing work.

Council officers are supportive of SORT in producing an integrated plan to improve the leisure and recreation value of the river loop area. It is anticipated a well-resourced and effective plan will add value to the regeneration of Foxton when undertaken with other local initiatives such as Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom and the Main Street upgrade.

The Foxton Wildlife Trust has for a number of years been making significant strides in engaging the Foxton community in maintaining and improving bio-diversity with an integrated program of Musselid control in partnership with Horizons Regional Council.

Whilst Horizons Regional Council are the principal authority tasked with predator control in the area Horowhenua District Council are supportive of initiatives to improve bio-diversity in and around Foxton.

Action:

That officers continue to work with SORT to progress an integrated development plan at the river loop that maintains and improves access to leisure and recreation opportunities for locals and visitors.

That officers continue to facilitate and assist Foxton Wildlife Trust and Horizons Regional Council (as appropriate) to improve the local ecology and bio-diversity of species within the river loop and wider area.

The submitters comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the 2017/18 Annual Plan.

Topic Nine: Lighting at Stuart Donnelly Park

Submission:

No. 54 (Linda Savage)

Summary of Submission:

Ms Savage has requested lighting at Stuart Donnelly Park.

Analysis:

Stuart Donnelly Park has been identified as the sole public reserve on the eastern side of Foxton through the development of the draft reserve management plan for Foxton Reserves. As such it has been identified as an area requiring potential upgrade. Officers will be looking at options to improve the leisure and recreation benefits in consultation with the local community.

Action:

That officers consider a development plan for Stuart Donnelly Park in consultation with local residents, Iwi, and Coley Street School following the completion of the Reserve Management Plan.

The submitter's comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the 2017/18 Annual Plan.

Topic Ten: Reserve improvements for Mangaore Village

Submission:

No. 55 (Mangaore Village Resident's Association)

Summary of Submission:

Mangaore Village Resident's Association has suggested an upgrade to the surroundings of the Mangaore Hall as they consider that it would improve tourism.

Analysis:

It is unlikely that improvements to the Mangaore Hall in isolation would improve Mangaore as a destination site and as such increase tourism. However, Mangaore does have a number of features that are reasonably unique in the Horowhenua. These include the environmental white water park which hosts local, national and international competitions; a rural outlook; some good quality native bush, rare elsewhere in the Horowhenua; and a picturesque outlook in the region of the river.

There are, however, a number of constraining factors not least the limited number of Reserves owned by Council in Mangaore.

It is the opinion of Officer's there is the need to consider the development of Mangaore Village in a holistic manner through the mechanism of a Reserve Management Plan. This will provide a strategic understanding of the risks and opportunities present at Mangaore Village and will assist in an integrated development proposal for the area.

Action:

That officers develop a Reserve Management Plan for Mangaore Village in consultation with the community, to provide strategic direction for reserve investment.

The submitter's comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the 2017/18 Annual Plan.

Topic Eleven: Manawatu Estuary (Ramsar site)

Submission:

No. 65 (Environment Network Manawatu)

Summary of Submission:

The submitter suggests that the Manawatu Estuary as an area where Council should be investing significant energy and resource.

The submitter notes that Council is responsible for management of the dune lands at the foreshore end of the site and also the bird sanctuary spit, both of which are habitats that require significant investment over time to keep them in good condition.

The submitter encourages Council to increase its funding for these special reserve lands and making sure that they still have these internationally recognised environments, and the flora and fauna which they provide for, for future generations.

The submitter also encourages Council to continue to work actively with the Manawatu Estuary Trust and the Manawatu Estuary Management Team to be able to ensure that decisions about this estuary are made multilaterally across organisations in consultation with the community.

Analysis:

The Manawatu Estuary Trust and Management Team have an interest in maintaining habitats, reducing predator, and noxious weed incursions into the Ramsar site for the benefit of the bird populations using the site as a habitat and food source. There is representation on the management team from Environment Network Manawatu, Horowhenua District Council, Horizons Regional Council, the Department of Conservation, Iwi, and the local community.

All parties recognise the special significance of the site, its potential to enhance eco-tourism, and the need to maintain and improve the natural habitat for the birds currently utilising it. There is the

need to balance nearby recreational use of the Sunset walkway and the beach with maintaining the environment.

There is a need to review the strategic documents informing management of the site and ensure they are 'fit for purpose' and can be used as a resource to inform on-going improvements to the site in terms of its ecological and recreational benefits.

Recommendation:

That Council consider the special nature of the Ramsar site at Foxton and make provision in the upcoming Long Term Plan (2018-2028) to provide a budget for improvement and maintenance.

Topic Twelve: Addition of kids bike safety park similar to that at Napier

Submissions:

No. 25 (Matt Beissel)

Summary of Submission:

Mr Beissel has requested the addition of kid's bike safety park similar to that at Napier.

Analysis:

Levin Adventure Park is a facility on SH1 that attracts a lot of local and through traffic. The Adventure Park is managed in partnership with the Levin Adventure Park Trust (LAPT) and Horowhenua District Council.

The park has a strategic development plan but it is currently not resourced. The strategic development plan does not include for a bike park at this time.

Recommendation:

That Council consider the funding requirements to achieve the strategic development plan of the Levin Adventure Park in the upcoming Long Term Plan (2018-2028).

That the Adventure Park Trust, in consultation with Council officers, consider whether a children's bike park be desirable in the context of the strategic plan.

Attachments



There are no attachments for this report.

Confirmation of statutory compliance

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

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

Signatories

Author(s)	Arthur Nelson Property and Parks Manager	
Approved by	Monique Davidson Group Manager - Customer and Community Services	

Deliberations - Annual Plan 2017/18 - Property

File No.: 17/233

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to present to Council for deliberation, the submissions received on the draft Annual Plan 2017/18 in relation to Property.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That Report 17/233 Deliberations - Annual Plan 2017/18 - Property be received.
- 2.2 That this matter or decision be recognised as not significant in terms of s76 of the Local Government Act 2002.
- 2.3 That no further capital investment is made by Council in Coronation Hall in 2017/18.
- 2.4 That capital funding of renewals, and lease renewal beyond 2020 be consulted on in preparation for the 2018-2021 Long Term Plan.

3. Topics for consideration

Topic One	Opposition to transfer of Pensioner Housing
Topic Two	Property Strategy
Topic Three	Memorial Hall - Shannon
Topic Four	Seismic Strengthening and Deferred Maintenance – Coronation Hall
Topic Five	Sale of Council Buildings (WINZ and other non-core assets)
Topic Six	Supportive of transfer of Pensioner Housing
Topic Seven	Earthquake Prone Buildings
Topic Eight	Tokomaru Steam Museum

Topic One: Opposition to transfer of Pensioner Housing

Submissions:

No. 7 (Linda Morgan), No. 12 (Junette Haronga), No. 13 (Humana Haronga), No. 14 (Teneia Haronga), No. 35 (Marilyn Cranson), No. 36 (Vivienne Bold), No. 45 (Bryan Ten Have), No.58 (Christine Moriarty), No. 60 (Hokio Environment and Kaitiaki Association), No. 62 (Christina Paton), No. 69 (Diane Brown) and No. 73 (Judith Sayer)

Summary of Submissions:

The submitters have requested that Council halts and reassesses the sale of Pensioner Housing.

Analysis:

In 2016 Council consulted with the community on a Community Housing Proposal as part of an amendment to the Long Term Plan 2015-2025. After a comprehensive review process which included community consultation, Council resolved on 13 April 2016 that:

- Horowhenua District Council no longer provides Pensioner Housing as a core Council service;
- Horowhenua District Council seeks expression of interests from Community Housing Providers for the stock transfer of Council's Pensioner Housing Portfolio;
- Horowhenua District Council continues to take a leadership role in advocating and facilitating for wider community issues with regards to accessibility and affordability of quality housing.

The review identified that the most sustainable way forward for delivering pensioner housing in the Horowhenua was to transfer the stock to a Community Housing Provider that would have the focus and resources to respond to the various social housing needs that the district may have in the future and be in a position to provide a holistic wrap-around service to tenants.

The Long-Term Plan Amendment 2015-2025 was adopted by Council on 4 May 2016.

The submitters comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the 2017/18 Annual Plan.

Topic Two: Property Strategy

Submissions:

No. 7 (Linda Morgan)

Summary of Submission:

The submitter indicates that the implications of the Property Strategy should be made clear (e.g. which property assets are like to be disposed of).

Analysis:

The reason Council holds property is to enable it to deliver services as defined in the Local Government and Amendment Acts of 2002 and 2012 respectively. In particular the overriding purpose of local government is defined in Section 10 of the Local Government Act (LGA). This puts an obligation on all local authorities *"to meet the current and future needs of communities for good quality local infrastructure, local public services, and performance of regulatory functions in a way that is the most cost effective for households and businesses."*

In the LGA "good quality" is defined and measured as:

- Efficient; and
- Effective; and
- Appropriate to present and future circumstances.

Having established that Council must deliver a number of services as a result of regulatory and legislative imperatives it is important to note the majority of them require land-based assets and infrastructure. Consequently, local authorities must by reason of their function, hold and maintain assets whether as owners; lessees; or in some other form e.g. as stakeholders in trusts, partnerships etc.

The purpose of the Property Strategy is to provide an overarching framework which assists Horowhenua District Council in decision making with regard to whether buildings/land in its

portfolio are core/strategic, or deliver some other community outcome that is essential and is provided efficiently in a cost-effective manner.

Action:

That Council officers continue to evaluate Council's property portfolio against the Property Strategy framework to determine whether its buildings and/or land are core, strategic or delivering some other community outcome.

The submitter's comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the 2017/18 Annual Plan.

Topic Three: Memorial Hall - Shannon

Submissions:

No. 12 (Junette Haronga),

Summary of Submissions:

The submitters consider the cost to use the Memorial Hall at Shannon is too high.

Analysis:

Council owns and maintains the Shannon Memorial Hall and it currently has two rates for use; those being a community rate and standard rate. The community rate is around 20-30% cheaper than the standard rate. Fees and charges have remained static at Shannon Memorial Hall for the last 2 years, however, use is continuing to fall. Furthermore the building is earthquake prone.

Councils Revenue and Financing Policy provides the direction for how fees and charges are to be set. It is noted that this policy is due to be reviewed by Council.

The submitters comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the 2017/18 Annual Plan.

Topic Four: Seismic Strengthening and Deferred Maintenance – Coronation Hall

Submissions:

No. 23 (MAVtech Trust) and No. 53 (Foxton Community Board)

Summary of Submissions:

Request the inclusion of \$223,000 for seismic strengthening and deferred maintenance on Coronation Hall in Foxton for the upcoming Long Term Plan cycle (2018-2028).

Analysis:

Coronation Hall in Foxton is currently leased by the MAVtech Trust from Horowhenua District Council for \$100 per annum. The lease expires on 1/10/2020. The building is classified as earthquake prone achieving only 20% of the New Building Standard (NBS) for an IL2 structure (normal building use).

It has been estimated the cost of seismic strengthening would be in the region of \$85,000 (not including detailed design and consent fees). This would achieve an estimated NBS of 34%.

Engineers have advised it is not possible to achieve a higher NBS rating on the building without significant demolition and rebuilding of the hall.

Coronation Hall has been subject to several condition surveys over recent years and other works that will be required within a ten year timeframe, include:

- \$120,000 for reroofing;
- \$88,000 is required for additional waterproofing; and
- approximately \$125,000 for other renewals.

Capital investment required over the next ten years is therefore estimated to be \$418,000 (or roughly \$42,000 per annum).

The property was recently evaluated under the Property Strategy and was not considered a strategic or core asset for Council. The evaluation further indicated that the EBITDA (Earnings Before Interest, Taxes, Depreciation and Amortization) was in the region of -\$57,000 per annum.

MAVtech Trust have not yet provided their annual report, year ended 31 March 2017, however the report ending March 2016 indicates the facility was attended by 1,500 visitors in 2015-2016. The facility was operated at a deficit in 2016.

As such, considering the high value of capital investment required and operational deficit, back-grounded against the current suite of development projects in Foxton, officers do not further capital investment is made by Council in Coronation Hall at this stage.

Recommendation:

That no further capital investment is made by Council in Coronation Hall in 2017/18

That capital funding of renewals and lease renewal beyond 2020 be consulted on in preparation for the 2018-2021 Long Term Plan.

Topic Five: Sale of Council Buildings (WINZ and other non-core assets)

Submission:

No. 35 (Marilyn Cranson)

Summary of Submission:

The submitter suggests a number of Council buildings, such as the WINZ building, which could be sold instead of pensioner flats.

Analysis:

The reason Council holds property is to enable it to deliver services as defined in the Local Government, and Amendment Acts of 2002 and 2012 respectively. In particular the overriding purpose of local government is defined in Section 10 of the LGA. This puts an obligation on all local authorities *"to meet the current and future needs of communities for good quality local infrastructure, local public services, and performance of regulatory functions in a way that is the most cost effective for households and businesses."*

In the LGA "good quality" is defined and measured as:

- Efficient; and
- Effective; and
- Appropriate to present and future circumstances.

Having established that Council must deliver a number of services as a result of regulatory and legislative imperatives it is important to note the majority of them require land-based assets and infrastructure. Consequently, local authorities must by reason of their function, hold and maintain assets whether as owners; lessees; or in some other form e.g. as stakeholders in trusts, partnerships etc.

Council has developed a Property Strategy that provides an overarching framework which assists Horowhenua District Council in decision making with regard to whether buildings/land in its portfolio are core/strategic, or deliver some other community outcome that is essential.

The property Strategy has been applied to a number of Council buildings including WINZ/Contact Energy which have been found to be non-core or strategic in nature. Council's other property holdings will be subject to the same process to determine whether they are core/non-core or strategic in nature. If buildings are found to be non-core, non-strategic other options will be considered including divestment.

In 2016 Council consulted with its community on a Community Housing Proposal as part of an amendment to the Long Term Plan 2015-2025. After a comprehensive review process which included community consultation, Council resolved on 13 April 2016 that:

- Horowhenua District Council no longer provides Pensioner Housing as a core Council service;
- Horowhenua District Council seeks expression of interests from Community Housing Providers for the stock transfer of Council's Pensioner Housing Portfolio;
- Horowhenua District Council continues to take a leadership role in advocating and facilitating for wider community issues with regards to accessibility and affordability of quality housing.

The review identified that the most sustainable way forward for delivering pensioner housing in Horowhenua was to transfer the stock to a Community Housing Provider that would have the focus and resources to respond to the various social housing needs that the District may have in the future and be in a position to provide an holistic wrap-around service to tenants.

The Long-Term Plan Amendment 2015-2025 was adopted by Council on 4 May 2016.

Action:

That Council Officers continue to evaluate HDC's property portfolio against the Property Strategy framework in order to determine whether its buildings/land is core, strategic, or delivering some other community outcome.

The submitter's comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the 2017/18 Annual Plan.

Topic Six: Supportive of transfer of Pensioner Housing

Submissions:

No. 38 (Diana Timms) and No. 49 (Horowhenua Farmers Ratepayers Group)

Summary of Submissions:

The submitters indicate that they are supportive of Council's position on Pensioner Housing and wish to see the money go towards reducing debt.

Analysis:

In 2016 Council consulted with its community on a Community Housing Proposal. After a comprehensive review process which included community consultation, Council resolved on 13 April 2016 that:

- Horowhenua District Council no longer provides Pensioner Housing as a core Council service;
- Horowhenua District Council seeks expression of interests from Community Housing Providers for the stock transfer of Council's Pensioner Housing Portfolio;
- Horowhenua District Council continues to take a leadership role in advocating and facilitating for wider community issues with regards to accessibility and affordability of quality housing.

The review identified that the most sustainable way forward for delivering pensioner housing in Horowhenua was to transfer the stock to a Community Housing Provider that would have the focus and resources to respond to the various social housing needs that the District may have in the future.

The Long-Term Plan Amendment 2015-2025 was adopted by Council on 4 May 2016.

The submitter's comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the 2017/18 Annual Plan.

Topic Seven: Earthquake Prone Buildings

Submissions:

No. 45 (Bryan Ten Have)

Issue/s:

The submitter requests information on 'our' earthquake prone buildings.

Analysis:

Council has assessed a number of buildings it owns under its property portfolio. Buildings classed as earthquake prone (less than 34% of NBS) include:

- Shannon Grandstand
- Foxton Memorial Hall
- Foxton Courthouse Museum
- Levin Domain Grandstand
- Levin Memorial Hall
- Foxton Memorial Hall
- Foxton Coronation Hall

Users are notified of the earthquake prone nature of the relevant buildings via notices that are displayed publicly on the buildings affected.

Foxton Courthouse Museum is currently closed due to the potential for a catastrophic collapse in event of a moderate sized earthquake.

The submitter's comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the 2017/18 Annual Plan.

Topic Eight: Tokomaru Steam Museum

Submissions:

No. 34 (Graeme Galley)

Issue/s:

The submitter suggests Council considers purchasing the Tokomaru Steam Museum and convert this into a steam punk attraction, similar to that one in Oamaru. This could be a joint venture or bought/backed/started by Council and then on-sold or leased off for another revenue stream.

Analysis:

The submitter's comments are noted. Council may wish to explore such a venture, although this would not be a core strategic asset.

No recommendation is necessary with regard to the 2017/18 Annual Plan.

Attachments



There are no attachments for this report.

Confirmation of statutory compliance

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

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

Signatories

Author(s)	Arthur Nelson Property and Parks Manager	
Approved by	Monique Davidson Group Manager - Customer and Community Services	

Deliberations - Annual Plan 2017/18 - Community Support

File No.: 17/234

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to present to Council for deliberation, the submissions received on the draft Annual Plan 2017/18 in relation to Community Support (which includes Rural Fire, Communications and Economic Development).

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That Report Deliberations - Annual Plan 2017/18 - Community Support be received.
- 2.2 That this matter or decision be recognised as not significant in terms of s76 of the Local Government Act 2002.

3. Topics for consideration

Topic One	Rural Fire
Topic Two	Council's Website
Topic Three	Annual Plan Consultation Document
Topic Four	Economic Development Funding
Topic Five	Cost of Economic Development
Topic Six	Agriculture and Economic Development

Topic One: Rural Fire

Submission:

No. 39 (Margaret Williams)

Summary of Submission:

The submitter comments on the amalgamation of local fires services with national fire service and comparisons made with similar UK model that has improved cost efficiency.

Analysis:

Council understands the intent with establishing "Fire and Emergency New Zealand (FENZ)", an amalgamation of the New Zealand Fire Service, the National Rural Fire Authority, 12 enlarged rural fire districts and 26 territorial authority rural fire authorities, is to build a modern, nationwide service integrating what are currently separate urban, rural, volunteer and paid firefighting forces. Council further understands this arrangement should improve fire service delivery and reduce duplication of costs.

The nation-wide community consultation that informed the changes emphasised the importance of strong links between the fire services and their communities, the need for strong support for volunteers, effective service delivery and options for improving funding sources.

The submitter's comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the 2017/18 Annual Plan.

Topic Two: Council's Website

Submission:

No. 22 (Allen Little)

Summary of Submission:

The submitter considers the Council's website to not be very user friendly and difficult to use.

Analysis:

Council endeavours to have an accessible and easy to use website. One of the reasons Council chose their current website provider was due to their Level AA from Vision Australia, meeting Web Content Accessibility Guidelines.

Council's website is also assessed every year by the Association of Local Government Information Management and last year was ranked 17/78. We are still waiting to receive this year's assessment but will implement any recommendations should they be viable.

Officers would like to understand any issues that Mr Little has had with the website and as such recommend meeting with him.

Action:

That a meeting between Mr Little and the Communications Lead be arranged to discuss his specific points regarding the Council's website and to address these where possible.

The submitter's comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the 2017/18 Annual Plan.

Topic Three: Annual Plan Consultation Document

Submission:

No. 22 (Allen Little)

Summary of Submission:

The submitter raised his concern that the Annual Plan Consultation Document is not available as a MS Word document or writable PDF.

Analysis:

Officers can confirm that the Annual Plan Consultation Document did originally start as a MS Word document, however it was moved to an 'InDesign document' at which point in the process all updates and changes were made in InDesign. Therefore, there was no final MS Word document version of the Consultation Document available.

It should also be noted the Annual Plan Consultation Document cannot be available as writeable, as that opens Council up to risk of false documents circulating. However, it is possible to make a submission online or receive a submission form as a MS Word document.

The submitter's comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the 2017/18 Annual Plan.

Topic Four: Economic Development Funding

Submission:

No. 32 (Geoff Kane)

Summary of Submission:

The submitter believes Economic Development is important and that it may become self-funding if Horowhenua's potential growth can be planned and realised.

Analysis:

Council has acknowledged the importance of Economic Development to the future wellbeing and prosperity of Horowhenua.

Economic growth underpinned by good planning and policy will create opportunities for new funding mechanisms for a variety of Council activities including Economic Development.

The submitter's comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the 2017/18 Annual Plan.

Topic Five: Cost of Economic Development

Submission:

No. 38 (Diana Timms)

Summary of Submission:

The submitters raises concern over the cost of Economic Development as rural ratepayers pay a large portion of the general rate towards this.

Analysis:

Council's Revenue & Financing Policy (2015-2025 Long Term Plan) shows how the Council recovers the costs of its activities from various sources of funds including rates, user fees, charges and borrowing.

Council currently considers the Economic Development activity to be a 'public good' and therefore it is funded as a true tax (General Rate) with no user charge element.

Changes to Council's Revenue & Financing Policy will be considered as part of the development of the Long Term Plan 2018-2028.

The submitter's comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the 2017/18 Annual Plan.

Topic Six: Agriculture and Economic Development

Submission:

No. 72 (Federated Farmers of New Zealand)

Summary of Submission:

Federated Farmers support Council's role in Economic Development as an enabler of improved economic outcomes in Horowhenua and wish to reiterate the importance of farming to the District.

Federated Farmers believe that the Economic Development Activity would be best funded through a Uniform Annual General Charge, and that Council should implement necessary funding and rating mechanisms to realise the District's potential without compromising agricultural prosperity.

Federated Farmers are keen to actively engage on the topic of harnessing growth in preparation for the development of the Long Term Plan 2018-2028.

Analysis:

Council acknowledges the importance of farming and agriculture to Horowhenua's economy and community.

Council notes the principles provided by Federated Farmers, as they relate to the scope, role, and importance of economic development to enhancing agricultural prosperity.

Council's Revenue & Financing Policy (2015-2025 Long Term Plan) shows how the Council recovers the costs of its activities from various sources of funds including rates, user fees, charges and borrowing. Council currently considers the Economic Development Activity to be a 'public good' and therefore it is funded as a true tax (General Rate) with no user charge element. Changes to Council's Revenue & Financing Policy will be considered as part of the development of the Long Term Plan 2018-2028.

Council looks forward to continuing to engage with Federated Farmers on matters of shared interest and welcome discussions relating to the preparation of the Long Term Plan 2018-2028.

The submitter's comments are noted, no recommendation is necessary with regard to the 2017/18 Annual Plan.

Attachments


There are no attachments for this report.


Confirmation of statutory compliance

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

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

Signatories

Author(s)	Denise Kidd Community Services Manager	
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	Shanon Grainger Economic Development Manager	
Approved by	Monique Davidson Group Manager - Customer and Community Services	