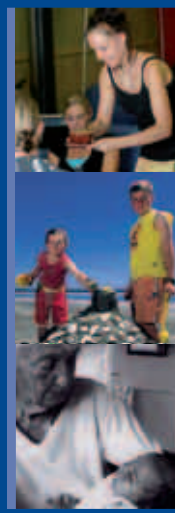




Whakatane District Council

# BYWAYS

MAY 2009



# Summary Draft Long Term Council Community Plan 2009-2019

## Welcome to this Summary

Welcome to this summary of the 2009-19 Long Term Council Community Plan (LTCCP). The information contained in this summary brings together the key issues from the full draft LTCCP.

## What is the LTCCP?

The LTCCP sets out the Council's proposed strategic direction, priorities and intended work programme for the next ten years (2009-19). It is a key strategic planning document and provides a long term focus for the Council's decision-making. All councils in New Zealand are required to produce these plans once every three years. The LTCCP provides information about the activities provided by the Council including the level of service the community can expect. It also provides a long term financial strategy explaining what the Council's programme will cost over the next 10 years and how it will be paid for.

It is important to remember that this document is a summary of the full draft LTCCP which outlines a wider range of information in more detail. The full draft LTCCP is available for viewing at Council offices and libraries, as well as on the website [www.whakatane.govt.nz](http://www.whakatane.govt.nz). To keep costs down, the Council has produced only a limited number of hard copies of the plan but CD versions are available through Customer Services on 306 0500.

## What's in this LTCCP?

In the LTCCP the Council identifies significant issues and major challenges that face the District now and will continue to impact on the Council's future decision making processes over the next ten years.

As part of developing this LTCCP, the Council has had to consider some major changes in the activities and the levels of service it provides. This Summary of the LTCCP outlines these proposed changes for the community to provide feedback on through submissions. The changes proposed include:

- Closure of the Murupara Service Centre
- Sale of pensioner housing units
- Sale of property (rural halls, certain reserves and operational property no longer required)
- Representation changes
- A reduction in expenditure in the area of community development

The Council is also seeking the community's views on

changes proposed to how it charges rates for services that the District and rateable properties receive. The changes proposed include:

- Changes as a result of the Council's Rates Review
- Changes to the definition of a Separately Used or Inhabited parts of a Rating Unit (SUIPs)
- A revised Development Contributions Policy
- Use of the Harbour Endowment Fund (a review of the use of the fund, funding to support the District-wide disaster mitigation costs, funding to support economic development and the Town Vision Strategy)

There are other issues explained in this Summary where the Council is seeking community feedback, such as major projects proposed. Some of these projects have already been through a consultation process but costs and/or timeframes may have changed. Therefore the Council seeks feedback on these proposed changes. Major projects proposed include:

- Projects to address the closure of the Burma Road landfill (transfer station, composting plant, and alternative landfill site)
- Arts and Culture Centre
- Review of the Whakatane District Plan
- Wastewater schemes in Matata and Te Teko

## Your views

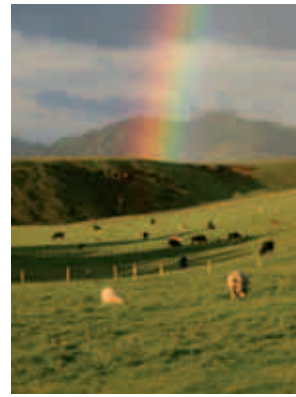
It is important that the Council gets its planning right and it needs your input to achieve that. A copy of this Summary is being sent to households across the District and the Council is inviting everyone to express their views by completing and returning a submission form by 8 June 2009. Submission forms are available at Council offices in Whakatane: Civic Centre, Commerce St; in Murupara at Civic Square, Pine St; at public libraries or on the Council's website [www.whakatane.govt.nz](http://www.whakatane.govt.nz).



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# Our place... our future... towards 2019

This is the third Long Term Council Community Plan (LTCCP) for the Whakatane District Council. There has been a substantial body of work completed to support the development of the Plan for 2009-19. An important focus of the last three years has been on developing a better understanding of the state of the infrastructure that the Council manages on behalf of the community.

This work established that the Council has a large catch up programme to ensure the infrastructural integrity and long term sustainability of our assets. The challenge for the Council has been one of developing a programme to bring infrastructure up to standard, without incurring huge increases in rates. The world economic crisis and the uncertainty that it has brought has certainly had a strong influence on the Council giving added pressure to re-examine its priorities and expenditure in detail.

The Council has looked at ways of being able to fund this infrastructural programme. Some hard decisions have to be made if the Council is going to be able to deliver affordable and reliable infrastructure.

A comprehensive review of the services provided by the Council was carried out. This review extended to all aspects of operations and governance as well as a detailed analysis of funding options. The Council is proposing to exit some services including pensioner housing and community halls and reduce the level of funding in areas such as community development in order to be able to focus its funding on core services. Across most areas of the Council many operational projects and activities have been either cut or deferred to minimise the cost increases to the ratepayer in the next three years.

The Council will be embarking on a programme of selling properties and reserves that are no longer required to support service delivery. The Plan also signals a proposal for a smaller Council (moving from 10 Councillors over 4 wards to 8 Councillors over 2 wards) and abolishing Community Boards. The Council will be making this decision in a separate public consultation process following the draft LTCCP as it is required to do under the Local Government Electoral Act 2001.

Despite many changes, a considerable amount of capital expenditure has also been postponed in the early years of this Plan:

- Stormwater; \$10 million worth of stormwater capital works (some 40+ projects) have been deferred for three years.
- Roading; this is an activity that the community sees as being a high priority but has approximately \$3.2 million worth of proposed works delayed for up to six years.
- Water services; more than \$8 million of large projects have been deferred for up to three years.
- Wastewater; a critical activity that has a number of high risk areas and requires immediate attention. There are a few small projects deferred.

Projects in the area of solid waste cannot be deferred. The

Council is facing major costs in the area of solid waste with the closure of the Burma Road landfill at the end of 2009. The cost of transporting waste out of the District is estimated to be \$1.8 million each year. The Council is working on options to divert waste streams and therefore minimise future transportation and disposal costs. Some of these are yet to reach the stage where any benefits can be included in the draft LTCCP. The development and construction of a transfer station in 2009/10 at a total cost of \$1.2 million is also currently being re-examined. Decisions are expected to be included in the adopted Plan. Meanwhile a proposal for a new landfill is signalled in 2013/14 at a cost of \$7.8 million. This is a long-term regional solution.

The impact of solid waste cost increases accounts for 4.2% of the proposed rates rise of 6.36% in 2009/10. There is a forecast average rates rise of 8.3% over the ten year period of the Plan.

Not only is it important to ensure that adequate funding is being provided for infrastructure maintenance, renewal and development, the Council continues to look to the future. The District needs to be well placed to ensure sustainable growth and development when the economic climate improves. There are some key projects included in this Plan which support the future growth and wellbeing of the District.

The Council is proposing a three year project to develop a new District Plan. This provides an opportunity to address many of the planning issues that have been adversely impacting on the development of the District. The review will be able to build on the body of strategic work that the Council has already completed (retail strategy, residential growth strategy, industrial land study, transportation study and Whakatane Airport Master Plan).

Last year the Council also approved a long term strategy to guide the development of the Whakatane town centre. The Whakatane Town Vision provides a framework for the Council, developers and the wider community to:

- Protect special features that characterise the town centre;
- Enable appropriate scaled development within the town centre;
- Provide an investment environment that is conducive to encouraging appropriate development within the town centre.

It is important to commence implementing this strategy so that the Council is in a strong position to respond to development opportunities when they arise.

In the last LTCCP, the Council signalled that it wanted to proceed with the development of a new library, museum and gallery. The investigations for this project were recently completed. The Plan includes a commitment in the first three years to a \$10.47 million project. The Council will contribute \$4.4 million:

- \$2.4 million to the proposed integrated exhibition and environmental (museum and art gallery) complex;
- \$1million to the dedicated district library retro fit in

the existing museum building; and

- \$1million to the proposed district archives and heritage collections storage and research facility.

The balance of \$5 million for stage one facilities, would need to be funded from other sources including partner agencies, corporate sponsorship, central government and commercial investment.

The creation of these three dedicated stand alone but interlinked facilities (district library, district archives and heritage collections facility and the Exhibition and Environmental Complex), will promote a number of broad social and economic benefits for the Council and the community.

The Council has a major Information Communications and Technology programme underway. This has been resourced in the last six months and will be used to provide a greater level of service. It is envisaged that improvements in technology will be able to drive improved service delivery and organisational efficiency and will result in further organisational savings in future years.

This Council has had a strong focus on the principle of user pay. To this end, a major review of the rating system was completed last year. A series of complex rating categories have been largely replaced with a number of well defined targeted rating categories designed to ensure a fair and transparent system of paying for the services that the Council provides.

The Council made a decision early on in the development of the Plan that it would rather "get things right" than rush to meet legislation imposed deadlines. Consequently this Plan will be approved after 1 July 2009. However, we believe that some important decisions need to be made to ensure that the Council is in the right direction.

Public feedback is vital to ensure that the Council has captured the hopes and aspirations of the community and taken account of them in making decisions in adopting the ten year plan. This is your chance to have your say. Take the time, put in a submission, tell us what you think will be great for the District and what you are not keen on – so together we can work towards 2019 and collectively build our place, our future.

Colin Homes  
Mayor



Diane Turner  
Chief Executive







# Key issues

As part of the development of the LTCCP 2009-19, the Council conducted a number of studies and activity reviews. This knowledge about our services and the state of infrastructure has been used to determine expenditure priorities and programmes.

The key issues for the Council are:

## Funding and affordability

The Council has a funding problem that must be balanced with affordability issues. In simple terms, over the next ten years, there is more work to be done than money to pay for it. This is a problem of the Council's inability to fund its programme of work (essentials not luxuries) while keeping rates increases in check and affordable for the community. This challenge is exacerbated by the current economic climate and has resulted in the Council proposing the following actions:

1. Reducing operational expenditure where possible. This will result in reduced levels of service in some areas and no improvement in levels of service in other areas where additional funding was required to achieve improvements.
2. Substantially reducing the capital works programme. The programme has been substantially reduced, in the first three years except for projects with health and safety or legislative compliance issues. A number of projects have either been deferred or will not proceed.
3. Selling assets (Land and Pensioner housing)

## Rating review

The Council has completed a review of the rating system. The system was considered to be complex and this resulted in a number of proposed changes to the rating system. These include:

- Clear definition of the rating principles
- Simplifying the rating system
- Changes to the definition of a rateable unit and the introduction of separately used or inhabited parts of a rating unit (SUIPs)
- Enhancing the use of uniform annual charges (UACs)

In reviewing the rating system, the Council has had to measure the impact of the proposed changes and issues such as affordability, accessibility to services and whether a transitional process is required. As a result of all of this, the Council adopted the following approach:

- Where users can be clearly identified they should directly contribute to the cost of providing the services. An example is water metering where people are charged according to the amount of water they use.
- Where services are provided to particular parts of the District, a targeted rate will be charged to that part of the District. An example would be those areas where rubbish and recycling is collected.
- Where users cannot be clearly defined then the cost of providing that service will be charged as part of a uniform annual charge across all rateable properties. An example of this is parks, gardens and reserves.

Changes to the rates system are proposed as follows:

- The differential charged on all properties over \$10

million for roading and general rating purposes will be removed.

- The general rate that was charged for land drainage, refuse disposal, parks, gardens and recreation, swimming pools, trade waste and libraries has been removed in favour of different rates for the different activities as follows:
  1. Stormwater will be based on which catchment the property is in and will be charged as a uniform annual charge (25%) and capital value.
  2. Parks and gardens will be charged through a uniform annual charge as it is difficult to define the users.
  3. Swimming pools and libraries will be covered by a uniform annual charge based on where in the District properties are situated and their proximity to a swimming or library complex.
  4. Water will be charged using a targeted rate and through metering of water use. The price of water could be double during summer to reflect peak demand costs (from 1 July 2010) and be relatively lower during low demand periods. The expected outcome should be an easing of pressure for major capital investment in upgrading the scheme. Water meters for Whakatane and Ohope urban areas will be read every three months from 1 July 2010.
  5. A uniform annual charge of \$21 will be charged to all rateable properties to cover refuse management. However, the properties that use refuse and recycling services will be charged an additional targeted rate to offset the costs of providing the service.
  6. The Council is proposing to hold the uniform annual general charge at \$325 and the roading uniform annual charge at \$50 – the same as last year.



## Definition of rateable units

The Council proposes changing the definition of a rateable unit so it can set rates on what is known as **separately used or inhabited parts of a rating units (SUIP)**. Currently a commercial building on a single title with three shop leases is paying a single uniform annual general charge of \$325. Under the proposed system the same property would pay three uniform annual general charges (\$325x3 = \$975).

This will affect:

- Commercial buildings with separately used or inhabited part of a rating unit
  - Apartment complexes - not unit title
  - Farms with more than one dwelling
- Under this proposal, there will be no increase in rating income for the Council – instead we are changing the way it is collected and who we collect it from.

## How the rates review affects your property

The results of the rating review changes how rates are set to reflect the Council's approach to rating. A summary of rates and examples of how these policy changes may affect your property are included in this summary under the table entitled "Average Rate Increase for 2009/10 on page 10" and in the Key Issues section of the draft LTCCP. Rating changes are also reflected in the Council's Proposed Revenue and Financing Policy included in Volume Two of the LTCCP. Under this proposal, there will be no increase in rating income for the Council – instead we are changing the way it is collected and who we collect it from.

## Development Contributions Policy

The Development Contributions Policy enables the Council to collect monetary contributions from those developing land by building a house, business or subdividing land, or connecting to a service.

The policy seeks a contribution based on identified capital works projects that are needed or partly needed as a consequence of a development placing added demand on existing infrastructure. Development Contributions will help fund infrastructural projects for roading, reserves, water, wastewater, stormwater and solid waste.

Where a development (or a combination of developments) will lead to the need for new assets or assets with greater capacity, a development contribution will be charged to help provide for those assets in a timely manner.

The Council has revised its Development Contributions Policy and it is included in Volume Two of the Draft LTCCP. During the review process, the Council considered two options for how it should assess when to collect a development contribution:

**Staged Approach** (this is the approach taken in the proposed policy). This option would enable contributions to be taken for a project only when the capacity of the existing asset that will be upgraded or added to has been reached. It means that no contributions are sought ahead of the time that a new or upgraded service or facility is needed. This approach could be considered fairer to developers in the early years of the LTCCP, for when it may be argued that existing capacity exists. However, it is likely to mean that less income is received from development contributions for scheduled works. That could lead to either increased costs because money has to be borrowed or the work is delayed until sufficient funds are accumulated through development contributions to pay for it. This would impact on ratepayers who would have to meet any shortfall. There may also be difficulty to accurately determine when the capacity of some assets have been reached, such as for reserves. This approach is likely to be administratively complex.





**Charge from Year One.** This option recognises that all development in every year of the LTCCP and beyond contribute to the cumulative effect of needing new assets or assets with additional capacity. The identification of capital works over a defined 10 year planning period indicates that these assets are in the approximate band where capacity has been reached. Therefore, all developments over the period would contribute towards them. This approach has been used by the Council since 2004. It is simpler to administer and results in more income being available for the works from development contributions at an earlier time in the ten year period. It will reduce the risk to ratepayers of having to make up a shortfall in income. However, it may be seen by those who are developing as unfair in earlier years if it is perceived that there is spare capacity in an asset for which a contribution is being sought.



## District Plan review

The Council proposes investing \$1.8million over the next three years to review and update the Whakatane District Plan, parts of which are now over ten years old. This will bring the District Plan in line with new legislation and to consider issues such as climate change, renewable energy and urban design.

The review will build on strategic studies that the Council has already completed over the last three years. These include a retail strategy, residential growth strategy, industrial land study, transportation study and Whakatane Airport Master Plan.

The review also provides an opportunity to address other resource management issues that have remained unresolved or that have arisen overtime.

## Representation review

The Council has also been looking at how the governance arrangements could be more effective as well as provide cost savings for ratepayers. A decision was made to signal a potential reduction in the number of Councillors from ten to eight and the abolition of the five Community Boards in the draft LTCCP.

In making the decision, Councillors considered the reduction of Councillors and the abolition of Community Boards would save ratepayers about \$500,000 each year and at the same time create a better level of decision making, attract a higher calibre of Councillors and ultimately provide better outcomes for the community.

The Council felt that signalling a fundamental change of the representation at this early stage would provoke a debate and discussion within the community about effective governance in the Whakatane District. It was felt that community input to the Council could be achieved by supporting ratepayer associations or similar organisations or by targeting consultation on major projects - this would be more cost effective for the community. The impacts of any changes will not occur until the next triennium, which comes into effect from the beginning of November 2010 but have been budgeted in the Draft LTCCP at a saving of \$500,000 per year thereafter.

The Council is required by the Local Electoral Act 2001 to review its governance arrangements and will complete its review by September 2009. Although the timing is similar, the process is a separate one to the consultation process required for the adoption of the LTCCP.

## Service delivery changes

The Council conducted a comprehensive review of the services it provides to the community. This review extended to all aspects of operations and governance as well as a detailed analysis of funding options. As a result of this review, the Council is proposing to close the Murupara Service Centre, not provide a pensioner housing service, or manage rural community halls, and reduce the level of funding in some areas, such as community development.

## Murupara Service Centre

The Council is considering closing the Murupara Service Centre (MSC) and relocating the library as well as securing an alternative meeting facility for Community Board meetings. A saving of about \$70,000 per year would be achieved by closing the service centre.

The MSC provides two main functions:

- A service centre for Council transactions and enquiries
- A library for the community

The Council considered the following service delivery options:

**Improved status quo.** The service centre would continue as it is currently and staff could be available to answer telephone calls when the Whakatane Service Centre is overloaded. The key advantage of this option would be that customer service staff would be more readily available during peak times. The key disadvantage would be there would be no savings under this option.

**Reduce the service delivery window to four hours a day.** Reduce the opening hours for the MSC to four hours a day (e.g. 10am-2pm or 9am-1pm). The service centre would still be available in Murupara, but for more limited hours. While the MSC could potentially be run by just one staff member, two staff members would need to be available to cover absences and for staff safety. This would reduce the level of savings available under this option. The Council anticipates small savings of approximately \$20,000 per year under this option.

**Permanently close the MSC** and provide a voluntary library service in Murupara (the Councils preferred option). The Council believes the volume of transactions and foot traffic does not warrant a permanent office. This would result in cost savings to the community of approximately \$70,000 per year. The Council believes that the current services could be accommodated by:

- Telephone calls to the Council could be made using the Council's 0800 number.
- Some transactions can currently be carried out by NZ Post (using the NZ Post agency in Murupara) provided that an invoice can be presented.
- Staff and contractors would have to implement alternative ways of conducting their interactions with the Murupara community. This is no different to the way that other communities within the District currently interact with the Council.
- An alternative meeting facility for the Community Board would have to be arranged. This is no different to the way that other Community Boards within the District hold their meetings.

Further cost savings - \$30,000 per annum - could be achieved through the sale of the building. In this situation, the library would need to be relocated and integrated with another service, such as a school.

## Community development

The Council is proposing to reduce expenditure in the area of community development as part of the Council's strategy to refocus expenditure on core services. The budget provision for the activity, which includes Safer Communities and Maori Liaison, has been reduced with the effect of reducing the existing two full-time staff to one. A new role would be created which would provide a greater focus on securing external funding for community related projects. The Council has also decided to retain the Iwi Liaison Committee and will be ensuring that the changes to this activity will provide added value to their role.



## Community facilities and property sales

The Council is looking at ways to reduce the financial burden faced by ratepayers by disposing of surplus property and reviewing the community assets, such as community halls, pensioner housing and other properties. About \$955,000 could be received from the sale of four properties that are no longer required. These are listed below:

- 2 Oregon Dr, Murupara (*Ray Hardie Centre*)
- 143 King St, Whakatane (*Land only - Disabilities Resources Centre*)
- 65 Keepa Rd, Whakatane (*Plant Nursery*)
- 40 Te Tahī St, Whakatane (*Pou Whakaro*)





Should the sale of these assets not raise the expected amounts, the Council may have to raise additional debt or reassess the proposed levels of service. This could mean an increase in general and/or targeted rates.

## Reserves

A number of reserves were listed in the 2006 LTCCP for potential sale. While some work has been done to investigate their potential of the reserve properties, the Council intends to decide this 2009/10 what will happen to them. Additional properties will also be investigated for possible sale during the first year of the 2009-19 LTCCP. As part of the investigations, properties will be reviewed as to the possibility of selling portions.

## Pensioner housing

The Council is considering selling its pensioner housing as it believes pensioner housing is one of the activities that other organisations could deliver more efficiently than the Council. The pensioner housing stock could provide over \$5 million at a time when considerable capital investment is required in the District's assets.

The funds could be used to fund critical capital works programmes such as roading and solid waste (refuse).

The Council recognises that this proposal may be controversial and that current tenants could be affected by a change in ownership or management (e.g. rental changes, units may not be targeted to the elderly). While caveats could be registered against titles to ensure the purpose of social (elderly) housing remains in perpetuity, this may impact on the sales value of the units.

A list of the Council's pensioner housing units and the proposed year of sale is included below. The timing of sales may depend on the amount of interest in the units.

Property name	Number of units	Proposed year of sale
Alice Stone Flats 65 Goulstone Rd, Whakatane	28	2009/10
Lovelock Court, 1 Spence Lane, Whakatane	22	2010/11
Murphy Flats 18 Kowhai Ave, Murupara	5	2010/11
Hardy Flats 9 Kowhai Ave, Murupara	2	2010/11
Allandale Flats 145 King St, Whakatane	11	2011/12
Veronica Flats 19 Apanui Ave, Whakatane	11	2011/12

Further options considered but not supported by the Council at this time include:

- **Retain pensioner housing as is.** This option recognises that it is a self funding activity that absorbs overheads, there is community acceptance of the current activity and that pensioner housing contributes towards community outcomes. The key disadvantage is that there will be no sales proceeds available to offset the cost of substantial infrastructure projects.
- **Use reserves from pensioner housing for other purposes.** The Council could retain the units and increase rents to match market rentals using surplus reserves to fund other activities. This decision however,

while partly meeting community outcomes and possibly being more palatable, may still be met with resistance and lower occupancy. Therefore the outcome of this option may result in less income than anticipated.

- **Raise finance against pensioner units.** An further alternative is for the Council to raise finance against the pensioner units to fund capital projects and increase rents to pay for the interest costs. The outcome is expected to be the same as in option two above.
- **Sell other Council assets to fund capital projects.** The Council has undertaken a complete review of all assets it owns as part of the process of determining how best to fund substantial expenditure on infrastructure. It has indicated that it will dispose of assets that are no longer required to support the services it delivers.

## Urban halls

The Council wants to explore alternative future options for its urban halls (Whakatane War Memorial Hall, Murupara War Memorial Hall, Edgcombe War Memorial Hall and the Ohope Hall). These are currently listed as strategic assets in the 2006 LTCCP.

The Council is proposing that only the Whakatane War Memorial Hall be identified as a strategic asset and has amended its draft Policy on Determining Significance to remove the other urban halls from the list of strategic assets.

The Council will be developing a Halls Strategy to guide Council's future decisions about its involvement as provider, funder, supporter or advocate.

## Rural halls

The Council has reviewed its role in owning and operating rural community halls. It believes the ownership costs associated with rural halls are more than the economic, social and cultural benefit provided to the community. The Council is considering the following options and would like to hear your views and comments:

- **Rural Hall Committees or major users' take over ownership responsibilities.** Offer rural hall committees or major users the opportunity to take over responsibilities for the maintenance and operation of rural community halls (without financial support from Council). This would mean community organisations take over the day to day operations, maintenance and hire of the particular hall, along with longer term renewal and capital planning. It may involve a ground lease of land (at minimal rate) to the community organisation for the site upon with the hall rests.
- **Main hall users purchase or take over long term lease.** Where there is no hall committee, the Council will consult with main hall users with a view that they purchase or lease the hall on a long term basis. In some cases the main hall user may be interested in taking over either full ownership or long term lease of a community hall. The Council will explore opportunities and options for this in conjunction with the main users.
- **Targeted rate on communities to retain hall.** If the options listed above are not feasible or practical, but the community wants to retain the facility, it will become the subject of a targeted rate where the full costs of that hall will fall on that community.
- **Sale of halls.** Alternatively the Council may consider outright sale of rural community halls.

The Council is aware a number of these halls are War Memorial Halls. Where such halls may change ownership or administration, this memorial status will be fully discussed with the local community and other interested parties. This may include the possibility of transferring the memorial status to another facility with appropriate features.

## Technology services

Information Communications Technology (ICT) systems are essential for the Council to meet increased demands for effective and efficient service delivery. In March 2009, the Council approved an Information Services Strategic Plan (ISSP). The Plan identifies the key issues for the next ten-year planning period. These include:

- Growing expectations and increasing demand from the community for online (internet-enabled) services despite low broadband availability.
- The increasing need to integrate information and functionality across multiple sources to support core Council processes, maintain and improve productivity and mitigate risk, e.g. asset management or customer services.
- Statutory requirements, e.g. compliance with the Public Records Act or Local Government Act 2002.
- Balancing substantial on-going investment in information services systems with the competing demands for limited funds and pressure to contain rates increases. This will constrain investment in ICT, which means gains in ICT will be less efficient and made over a longer time frame. There have been some reductions in the programme in the early years of the LTCCP.



## Refuse collection and disposal

The District is facing major cost increases in the area of waste (rubbish) disposal with the pending closure of the Burma Road landfill at the end of 2009. The Council has prioritised projects in this area and is investigating a number of options to minimise costs. These options include:

- Establishing a cost effective transfer station to enable refuse to be trucked out of the District. The estimated cost of building a transfer station is \$766,000.
- Introducing a uniform annual charge of \$21 across the District to reflect the cost of providing waste services.
- Building a composting plant. This would allow the Council to reduce the amount of waste being transferred from the District.
- The Council intends to investigate alternative site(s) that will not only service the District but other districts as well.





## Water metering

The Council proposes putting water meters in Edgcumbe and Matata in the 2009/10 and 2010/11 financial years. Experience and case history has shown that metered households are more likely to use less water than those in unmetered schemes.

The main reasons for metering are:

1. Statistics show that the water consumption per capita in unmetered schemes is much higher than in metered areas. This is due to wastage of water and leaks on private properties. Metering will help people to better understand leaks and will encourage them to repair the leaks quickly to avoid paying more.
2. If leaks in the pipes are not fixed they can be a potential health hazard due to the risk of cross contamination from the sewerage network.
3. Better management of water supplies. Metering will educate people about consumption patterns and to manage the water supply better.

Whilst the cost of metering Edgcumbe and Matata will be \$600,000 and \$300,000 respectively, the Council is expecting to secure 95% of the funds from Government subsidies (Drinking Water Assistance Programme of Ministry of Health). Therefore, the impact on rates due to the capital works is expected to be small.

## Harbour fund

The Council intends during the 2009-10 financial year, to review the status of the Harbour Endowment Fund, and to establish whether the endowment should be retained in its current form. There have been many changes since 1976 when the Harbour Assets were vested in the Council. It is timely to carry out a review of the purpose of the fund, including the legal framework. The Council wants to receive feedback on whether it should investigate changing the rules regarding how the Harbour Fund can be used.

It is envisaged that any proposal to change the endowment fund would be included in the draft Annual Plan for 2010-11 to enable community feedback. Any fundamental change such as converting endowment fund assets into District assets would require an Act of Parliament.

## Funding District-wide disaster mitigation costs

The disasters of 1987 (Edgcumbe earthquake), 2004 and 2005 (Whakatane and Matata floods) and their ongoing infrastructural impacts have placed a significant financial burden on the District. This situation is exacerbated by the other costs that the District will be facing over the next ten years.

The Council has requested that the draft budget include use of funds from the Harbour Endowment Fund to fund the District-wide portion of the Disaster Mitigation rate. This use is considered to be consistent with a previous decision following the Edgcumbe Earthquake when the Council was successful in gaining approval to release funds to support the capital recovery costs.

The Council can apply to the Minister of Local Government for approval to use funds for additional or different purposes. An application will be made to the Minister prior to the finalisation of this LTCCP.

## Funding economic development

The Council has included a contribution of \$100,000 from the Harbour Fund towards the general rate component to fund economic development activities. This allocation recognises the impact of the work done by Toi-EDA to support business growth and development in the Whakatane Central Business District where the Endowment properties are located. The overall impact of this is to reduce the requirement on the targeted rate for commercial/ industrial properties.



## Funding the Town Vision Strategy

The Council intends to establish a governance board to implement the Town Vision Strategy. Funding for the Board would come from the Harbour Endowment Fund. For 2009/10 much of the funding would be carried over from the current financial year. While ongoing funding is proposed at \$230,000 per year, in 2010/11 and 2011/12 funding is proposed at \$280,000 and \$240,000 respectively to take into account the work required for inclusion in the District Plan review project.



## Roading

Approximately \$3.2m worth of works and projects are proposed to be deferred to later years or excluded from the 10 year plan altogether. In many cases, projects have been deferred for one year including seal extensions, sealed road re-surfacing, Matahi Valley Road Realignment, Thornton Road pavement Rehabilitation, Taneatua Road Pavement Rehabilitation, Footpath renewals, Tarawera River Access Upgrade and Matata Lagoon Causeway Upgrade.

There are a number of projects that are proposed to have ongoing reduced budgets or be removed from the capital plan including general kerb and channel repairs, maintenance of Christmas lights and power undergrounding.

Where planned programmes are deferred, the roading assets will be monitored carefully to ensure there is no material impact on the network in the next three years.

## Water

Water is recognised as one of the key high risk areas. As a result there is an intensive programme to maintain the infrastructural integrity of the network in the current Plan. The following projects are proposed in the first three years of the Plan: installation of a standby UV treatment system (Whakatane), construction of alternative water intake points (Whakatane)-to address salinity problems, extension of the Ruatoki water supply and replacement of water connections in Matata.

More than \$8 million of funding for large projects has been deferred for up to three years. These deferrals have been influenced by high-risk projects in other activities such as wastewater. Deferred projects include: water treatment plant upgrades, reticulation upgrades in Coastlands, and upgrades in Awakeri/Whakatane West.



## Wastewater

The wastewater activity is one of the critical activities that has a number of high risk areas and requires immediate attention. The critical projects that have been programmed for implementation include:

- Matata wastewater scheme (\$8.96 million of which \$7.44 million is expected from Government subsidies),
- Te Teko wastewater scheme (\$7.39million - \$6.28million is expected from Government subsidies),
- Ohope wastewater treatment plant (\$5 million),
- Edgcumbe sewage reticulation system (\$2.76 million).

There are a few small projects that have been deferred.

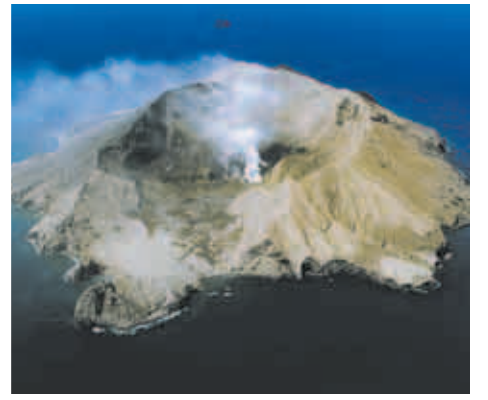
## Stormwater

Approximately \$10m worth of capital works (some 40+ projects) has been deferred for three years. Deferred works include reticulation upgrades in:

- Whakatane urban area
- Ohope stormwater improvements and
- A delay in channel upgrade for Wainui Te Whara stream.

These works do not pose immediate high-risk exposure to the community and as such the programme has been adjusted to meet affordability constraints.





# Summary of major projects

## Arts and Culture Centre project

Early in 2009, the Council approved one of its most significant capital investment projects for many years and is putting the Arts and Culture project forward in the 2009-19 LTCCP for further consultation and comment.

The proposal will cost \$10.47 million over three years and will involve development of:

- Archives, Heritage Collections and Research facility;
- Retrofitting the current Museum & Gallery for the library; and
- The development of an integrated exhibition and environmental centre (comprising a museum exhibition and art gallery space, function and café area, i-site, tour operators and retail facilities, public amenities and meetings facilities).

The Council indicated its commitment to this project by allocating \$4.4m in the 2006 LTCCP). The contribution (which is loan funded) has been applied as follows:

- \$1million to the proposed Archives, Heritage Collections and Research facility;
- \$1million to the district library retrofit in the existing Museum and Gallery building and;
- \$2.4 million to the proposed integrated exhibition (museum and gallery) and environmental centre
- The balance, of \$5 million for stage one facilities, will need to be funded from other sources including partner agencies, corporate sponsorship, central government and commercial investment.

The project is supported by a cost benefit analysis that shows the project can generate positive returns for the District in the years to come. A copy of the report is available on the Council's website at [www.whakatane.govt.nz](http://www.whakatane.govt.nz).

The creation of these three stand alone but interlinked dedicated facilities (District library, archives and heritage collections facility and the Cultural and Environmental Tourism Centre), will promote a number of broad social and economic benefits for the Council and the community.

## Matata wastewater scheme

At present Matata relies on septic tanks for domestic wastewater treatment and disposal. Stream monitoring carried out in 2003/04 indicated increased contamination in stream water.

Therefore, the Council carried out investigations and prepared preliminary designs and cost estimates for a reticulated system in Matata. The preliminary cost estimate for the system was \$4.48 million. Based on this information the Council made a provisional application to the Ministry of Health's Sanitary Works Subsidy Scheme and as a result the Council was advised in December 2004 that a sum of \$2.24 million (a 50% subsidy) had been approved. This was subsequently raised to \$3.72 million (83% subsidy).

Consultation with the community was undertaken by way of public meetings held in April 2004 and in February 2005.

Following the debris flow in May 2005 this project was

deferred due to the disaster recovery works being given higher priority. Since then the Council and the Matata community have been fully occupied by the disaster recovery works. The Council has decided to go ahead with the sewerage scheme but at a new estimated cost of \$8.97m.

This project has now been included in the proposed LTCCP for implementation in 2009/10 and 2010/11. Negotiations are underway to increase the subsidy amount for the scheme to reflect the increased cost. The timing and scope of the project will depend on the subsidy amount and the outcome of further public consultation.



## Te Teko wastewater scheme

At present Te Teko relies upon septic tanks for wastewater disposal. There was a proposal in 2003/2004 to install a reticulated wastewater system.

However, at the time Government subsidies for the project were only 50% of the total cost of the project. When community consultation was carried out, the community realised it could not afford the system and did not want to go ahead with the project.

Subsequently the Government increased the subsidy for Te Teko. As a result there was a request from the community to revisit the proposal. The Council investigated different options for a reticulated system and appropriate disposal options.

The cost estimate for a package treatment plant is \$7.39 million. At present the Council is preparing an application to central government to obtain a subsidy.

This project has been included in the proposed LTCCP in the years 2012/13 to 2017. The project will cover Te Teko township and the Te Mapou area. The timing of implementation and scope of the project will depend on the subsidy amount and further community consultation.

## Disaster mitigation

Following the natural disasters that occurred in the District in 2004 and 2005, the Council adopted a range of flood, landslip and debris flow mitigation projects.

The projects were as follows:  
Matata Regeneration projects

- Awatarariki
- Waitepuru debris and stream management
- Ohinekoao
- Waimea
- Awatapu
- Edgecumbe/Rangitaiki Plain Flood Mitigation
- Otawairere/Ohope Wastewater/Stormwater disposal Project

These projects were included in the 2006 LTCCP and were part of the consultation process at that time. Parts of the Matata Regeneration Projects are yet to be completed for the reasons stated below:

- Waitepuru stream catchment. The resource consent for the Waitepuru catchment has been appealed to the Environment Court. The hearing will not occur before the end of this financial year, meaning that the physical works, if consent is granted, will be most likely undertaken in the 2009/2010 construction season.

The Awatarariki catchment is divided into two components.

- The Awatarariki Stream (downstream of Moore's Bridge on Arawa Street) and Te Awa o Te Atua Lagoon restoration works and the debris disposal area at the Railway Lagoon. The Environment Court has recently granted permission for works to commence. Construction will start as soon as possible.
- The Debris Detention Structure (Awatarariki). This consent application has not been lodged. It is anticipated that it will be lodged in May or June this year. The construction date is unknown as it will depend on when the resource consent process is completed.

The resource consent application for the Edgecumbe/Rangitaiki Plain Flood Mitigation works has been lodged. Physical works will commence as soon as possible after a resource consent is granted.

## Whakatane Aquatic Centre

The \$3.94 million Aquatic Centre Repair Project is a response to design faults in the building structure. The major problem is the lack of an effective vapour barrier, which means surface water and condensation gets into the roof and ceiling. The durability of the roof structure has been significantly compromised. There is a mould hazard and energy costs are greatly increased.

This repair project requires installation of a continuous air and vapour barrier in the roof and walls. Both the Whakatane District Aquatic Centre and gymnasium will need to be closed for up to seven months to enable repair work to be safely carried out. After consultation with key stakeholders and the community, the Council agreed to carry out the repairs in the first quarter of 2010. The Aquatic Centre will close from March 2010. The Council is moving to recover the total costs required for the repairs through legal action.



# Money matters

## Rates increase for 2009/10

The Council is proposing an average rates increase of 6.36% in the 2009/10. The impact of solid waste cost increases accounts for 4.2% of the proposed rates rise. There is a forecast average rates rise of 8.3% over the ten year period of the Plan.

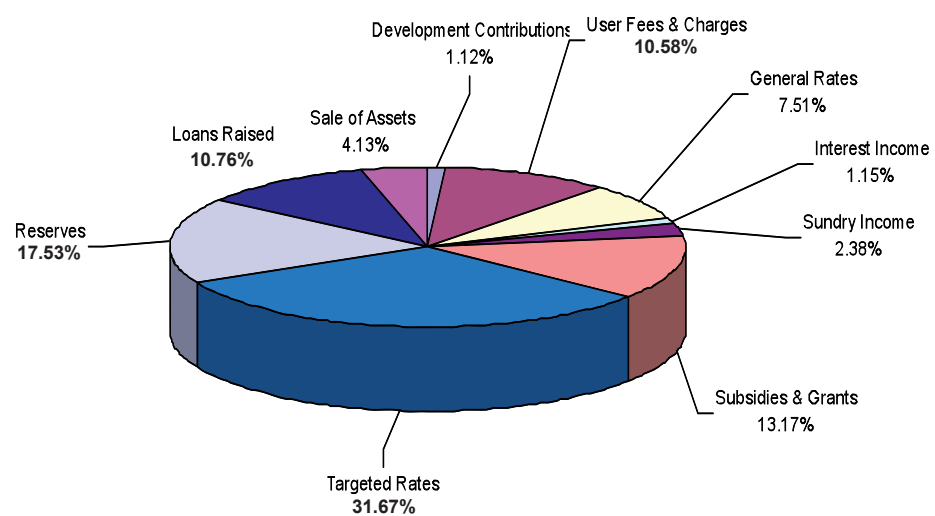
## Current economic climate and inflation

The Council is aware that the current economic conditions resulting from the global financial crisis will have an impact on the Whakatane District community. The Council is not in a position to predict the extent or length of this impact but has taken a conservative approach when preparing this draft ten year Plan. This Plan has been compiled using forecast inflation rates over the next ten years.

## Where does the money come from?

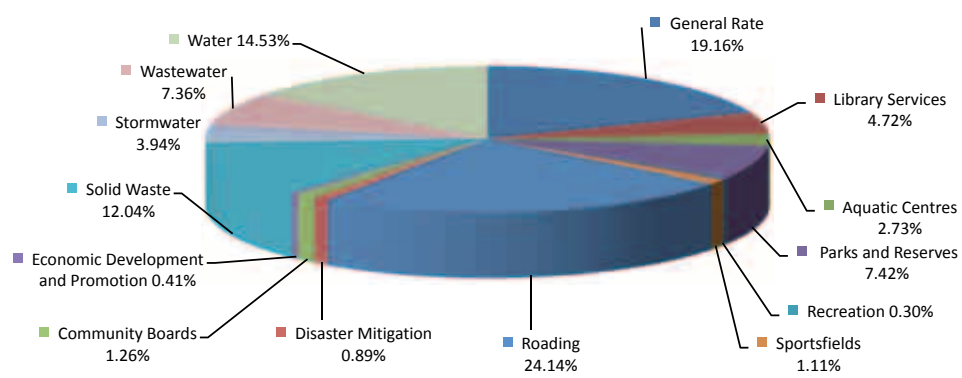
The graph below shows how the Council will pay for the services and projects it delivers to the community in 2009/10.

2010 Funding Sources

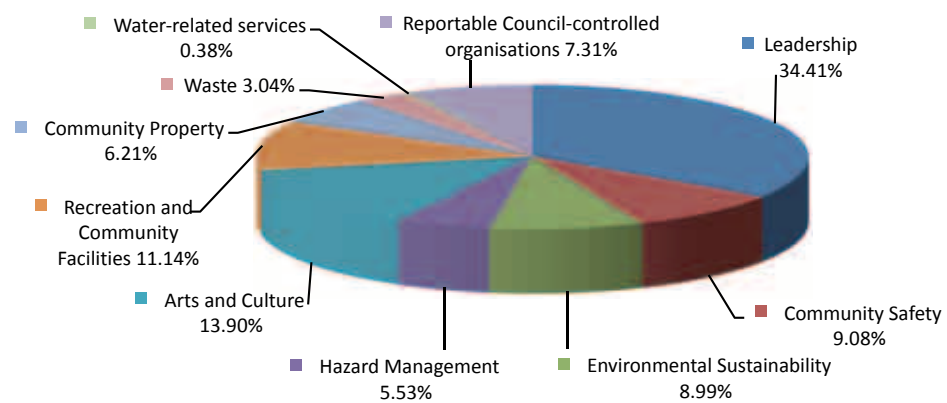


## Rates...what do they pay for?

2010 General and Targeted Rates \$29,385,000



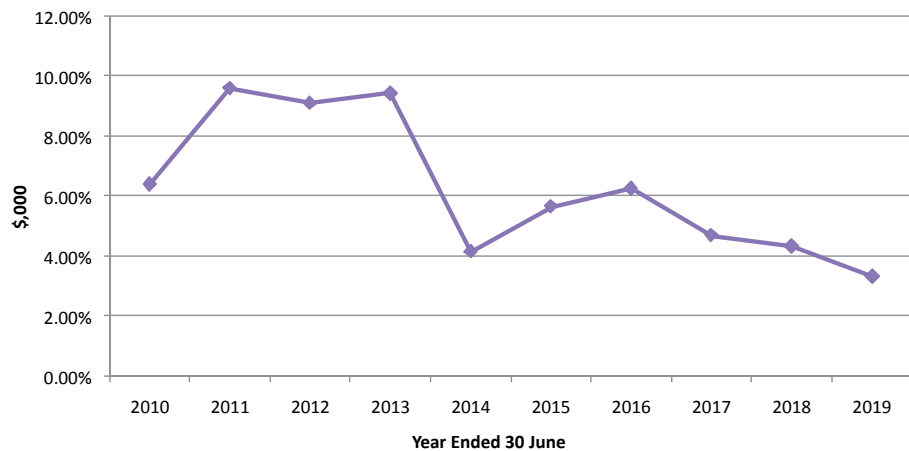
2010 General Rates by Group of Activities \$5,631,000



## Average percentage rates increase over the next ten years

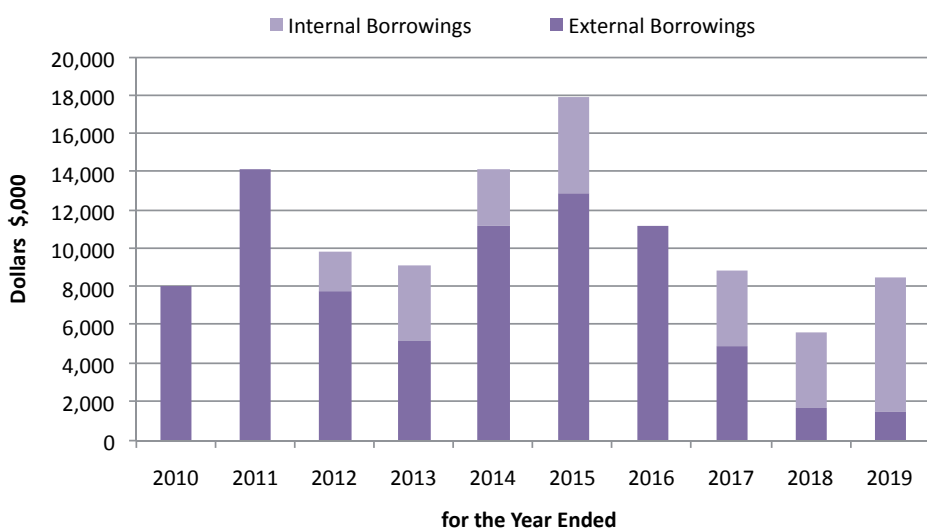
The Council has worked hard to provide an affordable draft LTCCP 2009-19. We are predicting an average rate increase of 6.38% for 2010 and between 9.1% and 9.6% for 2011 through to 2013, with rates increases averaging 4.7% over the last years of the Plan.

Forecast Annual Percentage Rate Increase

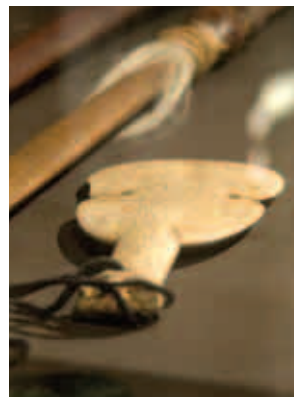


## Whakatane District Council projected borrowings

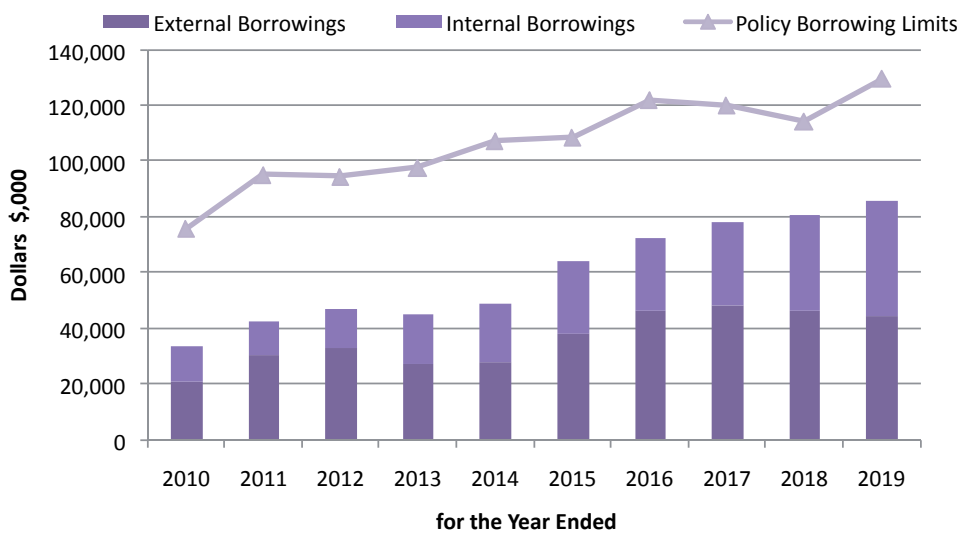
Projected Annual Borrowings (Internal and External Loans)







Projected Council Debt (Internal and External Loans)



## Funding and Financial Policies

The Council's Revenue and Financing Policy (included in Volume Two of the full LTCCP) sets out how the Council will recover costs for each activity. In summary the Council has adopted the following philosophy for the apportionment of funding:

- Where services and the users of those services can be clearly defined, the users should contribute towards the cost of providing those services in proportion to their level of use; and
- Where services are provided to particular parts of the District, the cost of those services should be met through rates charged to that part of the District the services are provided to; and
- Where the users or the level of use of services cannot easily be defined then everyone should pay the same.

## Intergenerational equity

The Council has tried where possible to follow the principle "That all costs, direct operational, depreciation and interest should be paid for by the people who consume them, at the time they consume them". Many of the activities and services provided by the Council are either network or community infrastructure activities which have long service lives. Benefits from these activities and services can be expected to accrue over the entire life of the asset. Current ratepayers should not be expected to subsidise the benefits that future ratepayers receive. The main tool for ensuring intergenerational equity is the use of term debt, and then rating future ratepayers to service the debt.

## Use of debt

The Council is using debt to spread the increased levels of service capital costs over the period that future ratepayers will benefit. As highlighted above the Council has increased its renewal expenditure (renewing what we have). The Council recognised that the previous generation borrowed for the original expenditure, and repaid that debt. There are no accumulated cash surpluses available to fund the renewal expenditure. Therefore some of the deferred renewal works have short term borrowing against them. Should the borrowing not proceed then the existing ratepayers would be expected to pay for that expenditure in one year. This clearly is not fair.

## Depreciation

Depreciation is the allocation of the depreciable amount (the cost<sup>1</sup> of an asset, less any residual value) of an asset over its useful life. The purpose of this is to match the cost of the asset against the revenues the asset is expected to generate, rather than providing for the replacement of the asset. In the local authority context, depreciation is especially important as it ensures that today's ratepayers pay their fair share of their use of the assets. Depreciation is therefore a vital component of the process of setting rates and charges. The Council, when setting its revenue, has considered the depreciation expense against the future renewal requirements and in some activities has chosen not to fully fund the depreciation expense.

[1] Or the revalued valuation – where the asset has been revalued. With the conversion to International Financial Reporting Standards most local authorities are now revaluing assets at least once every triennium.

# What's happening in your neighbourhood?

## Other keys projects at a glance

District-wide	Cost (\$) <sup>1</sup>
<b>2010-2012</b>	
• Arts and Culture Centre project	
• Archives, Heritage Collections & Research Facility	1.82m
• Retrofit of current Museum & Gallery for library	1.83m
• Cultural and Environmental Centre (Stage 3 Phase A)	6.78m
• Review of the Whakatane District Plan	1.87m
<b>2011-2013</b>	
• Widening of Wainui Road to 10m wide seal	3.12m
• Widening of Thornton Road to 10m wide seal	2.40m
• Thornton Road curves realignment	2.90m
<b>2014-2019</b>	
• Construction of proposed landfill (less resource consent costs)	7.80m
• Second bridge over Whakatane River (provisional only)	25.50m
• Arts and Culture Project Stage 3, Phase B	4.00m
• Arts and Culture Project Stage 3, Phase C	2.51m
<b>Edgecumbe</b>	
<b>2011-2016</b>	
• Wastewater reticulation upgrades	2.06m
<b>Matata</b>	
<b>2009-10</b>	
• Waitepuru stream hazard management	carried forward from 2008/09
• Awatarariki stream hazard management	carried forward from 2008/09
• Construction of wastewater treatment plant and reticulation	8.96m
<b>Ohope</b>	
<b>2011-2019</b>	
• Wastewater treatment plant upgrade	2.05m
<b>2015-2019</b>	
• Port Ohope Wharf improvement	1.68m
<b>Te Teko</b>	
<b>2013-2017</b>	
• Construction of wastewater reticulation	7.39m
<b>Whakatane</b>	
<b>2010-11</b>	
• Whakatane Aquatic Centre repair project	3.98m
• Gorge Road widening and cycleway designs	1.15m
• Water treatment plant alternative intake	1.50m
<b>2013-2015</b>	
• Multi sports events centre	6.50m
• Paul Road bore site and reticulation (Plains water)	4.22m
• Wainui Te Whara-urban channel upgrade	1.66m
• Coastlands stage 3 reticulation upgrade	1.88m
<b>2017-2019</b>	
• Whakatane treatment plant (Cynabacteria issues)	2.30m

[1] This is the total cost of the project. Some of these projects may receive external funding such as grants and subsidies. Refer to the full LTCCP for further funding information.



## Average rate increase for 2009-10

Proposed average rates increase for 2009 – 2010 is: 6.39% and the table below shows the average rates.

	Whakatane Urban Low	Whakatane Urban Average	Whakatane Urban high	Whakatane Commercial (less than \$10m) low	Whakatane Commercial (less than \$10m) average	Whakatane Commercial (less than \$10m) high	Edgecumbe Average	Matata	Murupara Urban
Proposed changes based on 2009/10									
Land Value									
Capital value	125,000	338,779	1,675,000	360,000	794,361	5,200,000	227,526	287,751	62,968
General Rate	21.7	58.82	290.84	62.51	137.93	902.9	39.51	49.96	10.93
Uniform Annual General Charge	325	325	325	325	325	325	325	325	325
Roading rate	118.75	321.84	1,591.23	341.99	754.63	4,939.93	216.15	273.36	59.82
Roading UAC	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
Community Boards	30.14	30.14	30.14	30.14	30.14	30.14	24.08	24.08	29.79
Stormwater UAC	40.16	40.16	40.16	40.16	40.16	40.16	34.52	14.78	9.33
Stormwater rate CV	40.96	111.01	548.85	117.96	260.29	1,703.88	71.47	46.47	26.69
Library	138.04	138.04	138.04	138.04	138.04	138.04	96.63	48.32	96.63
Swimming Pool Rates	73.46	73.46	73.46	73.46	73.46	73.46	36.73		75.88
District Wide Parks Rate	170.55	170.55	170.55	170.55	170.55	170.55	170.55	170.55	170.55
Promotion and Economic Development Rate				139.34	139.34	139.34			
Waste UAC	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21
Refuse Removal Rate	294.9	294.9	294.9	250.81	250.81	250.81	294.9	294.9	294.9
Disaster Mitigation Rates									
District Wide	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Community	6.77	6.77	6.77	6.77	6.77	6.77	109.75	354.48	
Water	391.84	391.84	391.84	391.84	391.84	391.84	285.35	476.92	171.52
Waste Water	167.81	167.81	167.81	167.81	503.44	1,006.88	232.61		153.78
<b>TOTAL RATES</b>	<b>\$1,891.09</b>	<b>\$2,201.35</b>	<b>\$4,140.59</b>	<b>\$2,327.41</b>	<b>\$3,293.41</b>	<b>\$10,190.71</b>	<b>\$2,008.25</b>	<b>\$2,186.55</b>	<b>\$1,495.81</b>

	Murupara Lifestyle	Te Teko	Otarawairere	Ohope average	Taneatua	Rural low	Rural average	Rural high	District Wide Commercial/ Industrial \$10m Plus
Proposed changes based on 2009/10									
Land Value									
Capital value	237,375	129,755	831,528	612,084	96,621	73,000	659,570	2,600,000	16,845,152
General Rate	41.22	22.53	144.38	106.28	16.78	12.68	114.52	451.45	2,924.89
Uniform Annual General Charge	325	325	325	325	325	325	325	325	325
Roading rate	225.5	123.27	789.94	581.47	91.79	69.35	626.58	2,469.96	16,002.66
Roading UAC	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50	50
Community Boards	29.79	24.08	24.42	24.42	21.49	24.08	24.08	24.08	30.14
Stormwater UAC		5.59	12.68	12.68	7.13				40.16
Stormwater rate CV		16.43	53.5	39.38	20.07				5,519.64
Library	48.32	48.32	138.04	138.04	48.32	48.32	48.32	48.32	138.04
Swimming Pool Rates	37.94	36.73	73.46	73.46	36.73	36.73	36.73	36.73	73.46
District Wide Parks Rate	170.55	170.55	170.55	170.55	170.55	170.55	170.55	170.55	170.55
Promotion and Economic Development Rate								139.34	
Waste UAC	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21	21
Refuse Removal Rate	250.81	294.9	294.9	294.9	294.9	250.81	250.81	250.81	250.81
Disaster Mitigation Rates									
District Wide	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Community			43.41	43.41					6.77
Otarawairere/Cliff / BrownWest End			557.45						
Water			391.84	391.84	425.51	130	130	130	391.84
Waste Water			264.59	264.59	335.1				2,013.75
<b>TOTAL RATES</b>	<b>\$1,200.13</b>	<b>\$1,138.39</b>	<b>\$3,355.18</b>	<b>\$2,537.04</b>	<b>\$1,864.36</b>	<b>\$1,138.52</b>	<b>\$1,797.60</b>	<b>\$3,977.90</b>	<b>\$28,098.07</b>





# Community feedback and submissions

## Your views matter

The draft LTCCP is available for public consultation from 5 May to 8 June 2009. During that period the Council is inviting you to make a written submission summarising your views on any aspect of the Plan. The process for making a submission and the specific options included in the consultation process are explained below.

This is a once-in-three-years opportunity to influence the future direction of your District and the Council's decision-making processes. Whether you are interested in roads, water and sewerage infrastructure, economic development, community facilities, District planning, getting best value for your rates, or something else, this is your chance to have a say.

## Making a submission

To make a submission on the draft LTCCP 2009-19 simply complete a submission form available at any Council office or library, or on the website [www.whakatane.govt.nz](http://www.whakatane.govt.nz), or by contacting the Council on 07 306 0500.

You can make a submission as an individual or on behalf of a group. You can also attach any other information to support your submission if you wish. Submissions close at 5pm on 8 June 2009.

## Hearings

The submission form offers you the option of presenting your views directly to Councillors. Submitters are usually allocated a time of five minutes as an individual, or ten minutes for organisations, to summarise the main points of their submission. Where submitters have indicated they wish to present their submission, the Council will contact you to advise of the date and time. Hearings dates are listed below.

## Submissions close

At 5pm Monday 8 June 2009

## Hearing dates

17-19, 22, June 2009

## Deliberation dates

25-26, 29 30 June 2009

2 -3 July 2009 Reserve days (if needed)

## Consultation meetings schedule

Date	Location/Venue	Time	Elected Members present
11/05/09	Ohope Fire Station, Ohope	5:30pm - 7:00pm	Mayor, Ward Councillors and Ohope Beach Community Board Members
13/05/09	Sports Pavilion Murupara	6:30pm - 7:30pm	Mayor, Ward Councillor and Community Board Members
20/05/09	Civic Centre, Whakatane	5:30pm - 7:00pm	Mayor, Ward Councillors and Whakatane Community Board Members
25/05/09	Taneatua Hall, Taneatua	5:30pm - 7:00pm	Mayor, Ward Councillor and Community Board Members
26/05/09	Edgecumbe Hall, Edgecumbe	5:30pm - 7:00pm	Mayor, Ward Councillors and Community Board Members
26/05/09	The Strand, Whakatane	1.00pm - 5.00pm	Mayor and all Councillors

## Adoption date

9 July 2009

## Written submissions

Please post to:

The Chief Executive  
Whakatane District Council  
Private Bag 1002  
Whakatane 3158

Or Fax to: 07 307 0718

Or hand deliver to:

in Whakatane - Civic Centre Commerce Street;  
in Murupara - Civic Square, Pine Street.

Email: [submissions@whakatane.govt.nz](mailto:submissions@whakatane.govt.nz)

## Will Council take any notice if I make a submission?

The Council does take careful account of the points made to it during the submissions process and previous years' final Plans include various changes and additions that have been made in the light of feedback received.

At the same time the Council is unable to accommodate every request or proposal made during submissions, often for reasons of affordability. The Council therefore urges potential submitters to adopt a realistic approach in framing their feedback and to consider priority needs in the District as a whole.

## What shouldn't you make a submission on?

Sometimes people make submissions about issues of Council business that are outside the scope of the ten-year planning process. Here are a few examples with some advice on how you can progress them:

- Maintenance issues - you might want something done about potholes, weeds on the footpath in the main road, rubbish and debris, stormwater problems, broken streetlights, graffiti or general town maintenance.
- District plan issues e.g. queries about zoning.
- Building and Resource Consents queries.

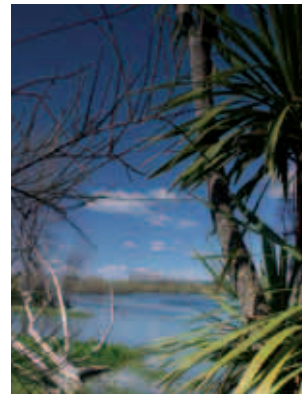
If you need help with any of these types of issues please call our Customer Services on 306 0500, drop into the Council Office or Service Centre, or email: [info@whakatane.govt.nz](mailto:info@whakatane.govt.nz)

We also sometimes receive submissions better directed to other agencies such as the Regional Council or to another Council submission process. In these instances, the Council will forward your submission to the right place.

On any of the above issues you may also wish to contact your elected Councillor or Community Board member. Information on your representatives is available on the Council website: [www.whakatane.govt.nz](http://www.whakatane.govt.nz).







*Help preserve Whakatane kiwi*

## Keep dogs out of NO DOG zones!

**NO DOG ZONES...** are to protect our native birds.

So if you see a dog in a 'No Dog Zone' ring the Whakatane District Council on 306-0500 (or 307-0729 after hours) with the following information:

- ♥ Description, location and direction of travel of the dog.
- ♥ Any details about the person/vehicle (registration) with the dog. Avoid direct confrontation if possible.
- ♥ Time and date of the sighting.

All information given to the WDC is confidential and will not be released to the dog owner. This includes your name, address, phone number which may be needed by the Whakatane Dog Control Officer to clarify details.

A minimum \$300 fine will be levied against dog owners in violation of the Council's Policy on Dogs. Immediate reports are most effective, but all sightings should be reported regardless of when they occurred.

*Adult kiwi killed by domestic dog*



**The Whakatane area has over 100 kiwi living in local reserves, bush land and forests.**

All these kiwi are vulnerable to dog attacks both day and night. Their smell is extremely attractive to dogs and as kiwi often roost under light vegetation, they are easily sniffed out and caught.

## *Keep kiwi safe from dogs...*

- ♥ Ensure your dog is under control at all times, but particularly at night.
- ♥ Respect "No Dog Zones" on public and private land.
- ♥ Have your dog "bird aversion" trained.
- ♥ Find out if kiwi live in your area and keep your dogs away.
- ♥ Contact DOC on 0800 366 1080 for more information.

These actions will also help reduce disturbance and death of other nesting birds such as New Zealand dotterel, variable oystercatchers, bittern and banded rail.



*Above: kiwi aversion training*

Visit the Council website for further information  
[www.whakatane.govt.nz](http://www.whakatane.govt.nz)