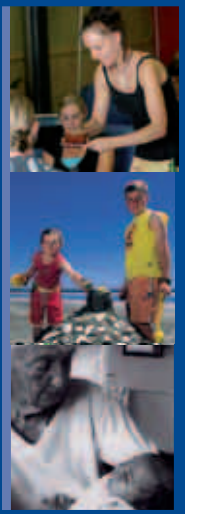




## Whakatane District Council

# BYWAYS

## Summary of the Draft Annual Plan 2010/11



# Looking towards the year ahead

We are pleased to present the Draft Annual Plan for 2010/11, being the second year of the 2009-19 Long-term Council Community Plan (LTCCP).

A review of some of the Council's policies over the past year has resulted in the inclusion of three policy changes in the Draft Annual Plan. Following submissions that were received on rating on the basis of Separately Used and inhabited Parts of a Rating Unit (SUIPs), we now propose to introduce SUIPs over a two-year period, with commercial properties being rated in this way for the uniform annual general charge (UAGC), uniform annual charge (UAC) for roading and the promotion and development rate from 1 July 2010 and residential and rural properties to be charged the UAGC and UAC for roading only from 1 July 2011.

Last year the Council commenced identifying commercial, industrial, and multi-storey residential buildings that are potentially at risk from earthquakes. This programme, which is a legislative requirement, identified a significant number of at-risk buildings. We have decided to speed up this work, so that owners are made fully aware as soon as possible. At the same time, the policy is to be amended to allow owners more time to consider their options and plan to bring their buildings up to standard. The initial focus is on the Central Business District of Whakatane, as this information will be critical to the successful implementation of the Town Vision Plan.

The Council has reviewed the public/private funding split for building inspection and resource consent activities. This will reduce the percentage of costs to be recovered from fees for consent applications.

**"These decisions have not been made lightly and the Council has considered cost reductions alongside the impact of delivering an acceptable level of service to the community."**

The Council also proposes changes to the Liability Management Policy to provide greater flexibility in debt management. Interest is an increasing expense. We need to have the flexibility to minimise this expense to provide real savings to ratepayers.

Changes in central government policies impact on our work programmes. Specifically affected in the transport area are road safety, and walking and cycling initiatives. Some of these projects include:

- walking/pedestrian improvements and footpath extensions in urban and rural areas including Matata, Thornton Road, Taneatua Road and Awaiti North;
- the addition of cycle-ways including Gorge Road; and
- road improvements across the district including widening, seal repairs and realignments.

In the water and wastewater area, government is still considering the extent and level of project subsidy. Such projects are still included in the Plan but some of them may be at risk. Without government funding, projects such as these are simply not affordable for our local communities.

**"The Council is conscious of the implications of increasing rates, particularly given the economic climate"**

Rates affordability will always be a key issue for our community. The Council signalled in the LTCCP that there would be rating increases over the first three years of the Plan despite significant reductions in our planned work programmes. These increases are necessary as we complete delayed expenditure on maintenance of our key infrastructure as well as to improve our capacity to deliver quality services, principally through investment in technology. The costs of resolving some very longstanding natural hazard issues through our disaster mitigation projects have also added significantly to our capital works expenditure. The Council is very conscious of the implications of increasing rates, particularly given the economic climate, and has further reviewed our programmes and expenditure for the next year. To this end, almost \$3m of capital expenditure has been deferred, mainly in the transportation area. Although these projects have been delayed, they cannot be avoided, and the community will have to face the costs in future years. Further savings of \$886,000 in the operational area have been made.

These decisions have not been made lightly and the Council has considered cost reductions alongside the impact of delivering an acceptable level of service to the community.

In other areas we have been able to reduce budgeted expenditure. For example, water mains pressure projects have meant that we have been able to reduce annual operating expenditure by almost \$100,000. The continued sale of surplus Council assets, outlined in the LTCCP, will help reduce the proposed rates increase.

In most years our roads suffer storm damage, and funding of repairs has often resulted in an end-of-year budget deficit. As this is a recurring expenditure the Council proposes to set up a fund of \$275,000 per year to build up to a \$1m contingency fund.

Last year we set up a fund for weathertightness claims. This is necessary as claims from 2009 are no longer covered by insurance, an issue for most councils in New Zealand. It is proposed to increase the annual rating contribution from \$100,000 to \$150,000 per year.

A number of projects planned in the LTCCP for 2010/11 are still going ahead as outlined in the Draft Plan. One of the most notable of these is the investigation into an

alternative landfill site within the District. Other projects which started in the current year are well under way, and a progress report has been provided in the Key Issues section of the Draft Plan.

The budget also includes funding for the operating cash deficit of \$1.95m from the 2008/09 financial year. This deficit occurred as a result of expenditure on roading (storm damage), impacts of the economic downturn particularly in the building and resource consent areas, the requirement to fund some of our budgeted capital expenditure as operational expenditure, and direct costs from the development of the LTCCP. Repaying the deficit in one year would add 6.02% to the rates. The Council considered this to be too great a burden and has proposed to fund the deficit over a three-year period.

**"Without a doubt the services that we deliver provide good value for money."**

With all these changes the indicative rates rise in the LTCCP has reduced from 11.9% to 8.49%. This year we have included information in our Draft Annual Plan about the daily cost of the services we provide and a comparison of the cost of rates with other basic household expenditure items.

We encourage you to read our Draft Annual Plan and take the opportunity to make submissions on the proposals. Use this valuable opportunity to tell us how you would address the issues outlined in the Plan.

Colin Holmes  
Mayor

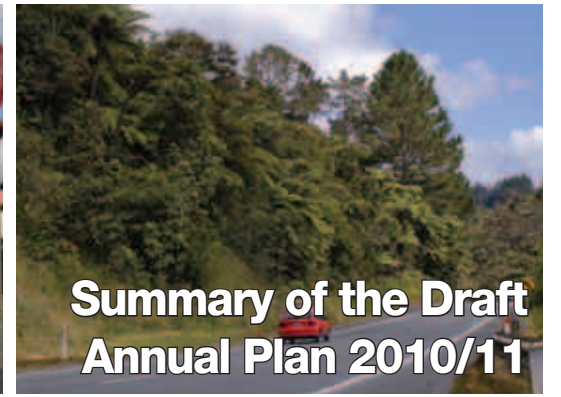
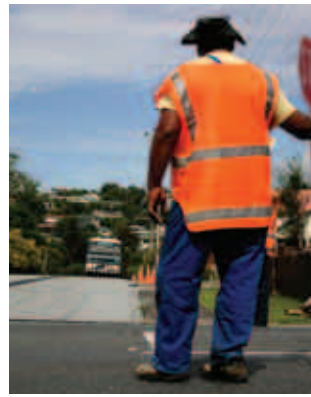


Diane Turner  
Chief Executive



## What's inside:

Key budget changes	pg 3
Policy changes	pg 4
Update on major projects	pg 5
Subsidised projects	pg 6



## Summary of the Draft Annual Plan 2010/11

# Rates – good value for money

When household budgets are tight it's important that you, the ratepayers, receive good value for money and when you compare the cost of all Council services on a daily basis, the average ratepayer will pay around \$5.75 a day—less than the cost of two cups of coffee, or four litres of milk.

For that amount, urban ratepayers can enjoy safe drinking water at the turn of a tap; flushing toilets, collection of rubbish, greenwaste and recycling from their gate; stormwater, well maintained footpaths, roads and car-parks. They also have the use of libraries, swimming pools, parks, sportsgrounds, refuse disposal and cemeteries, as well as regulatory services such as dog and noise control, food safety and other bylaw activities.

Rural ratepayers receive the benefit of District roading (which is one of the most expensive services we provide) and access to many of the other services enjoyed by their urban counterparts. In addition these Council services and facilities are available to all:

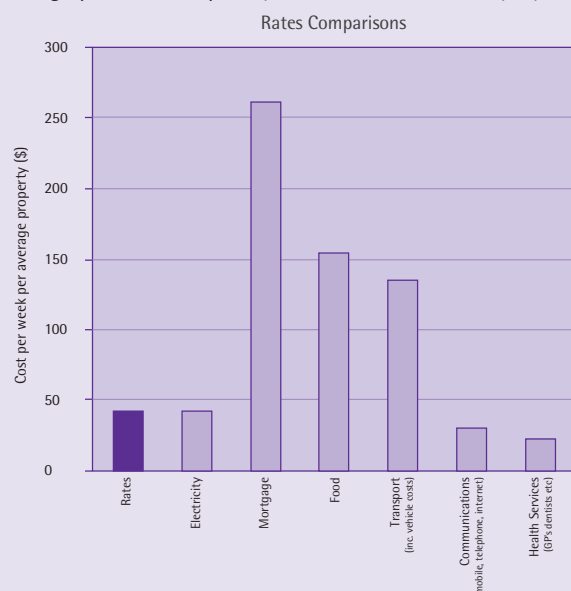
- Community grants
- Community facilities such as halls and walkways
- Public toilets
- Safe buildings and sound planning
- Boat ramp access
- Civil defence and emergency planning
- Advocacy to central government on local issues
- Support of visitor information centres and tourism marketing
- Museum & Gallery

Some Council projects and services within the Draft Annual Plan 2010/11 are required by law, others by community or customer demand, and all of these services must be funded. However, our communities have told us that having an affordable level of rates is important to them.

This means that we cannot realistically deliver everything that the community may want. We have to prioritise and make some choices. In consulting on this Draft Annual Plan, we want to know whether you agree with these choices.

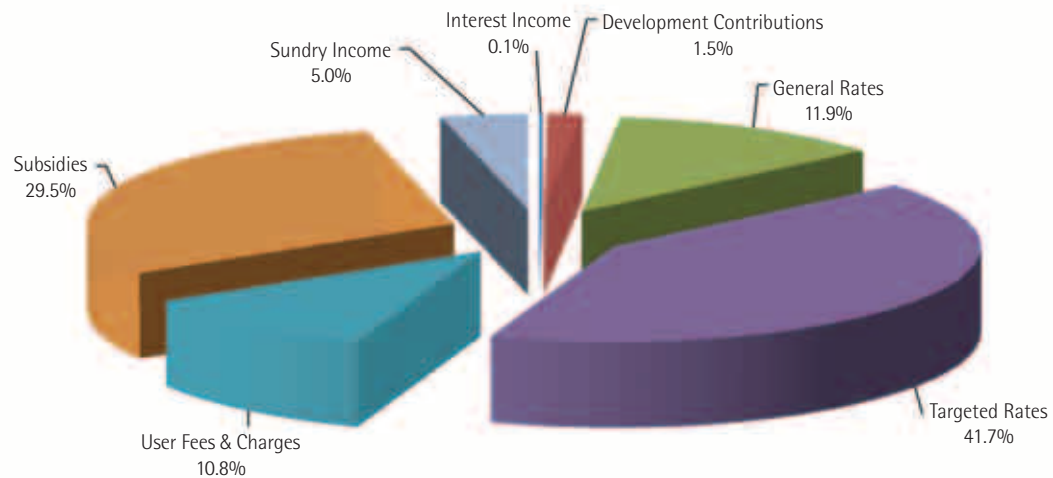
## What you get for your money

The graph below compares your rates with other everyday costs.

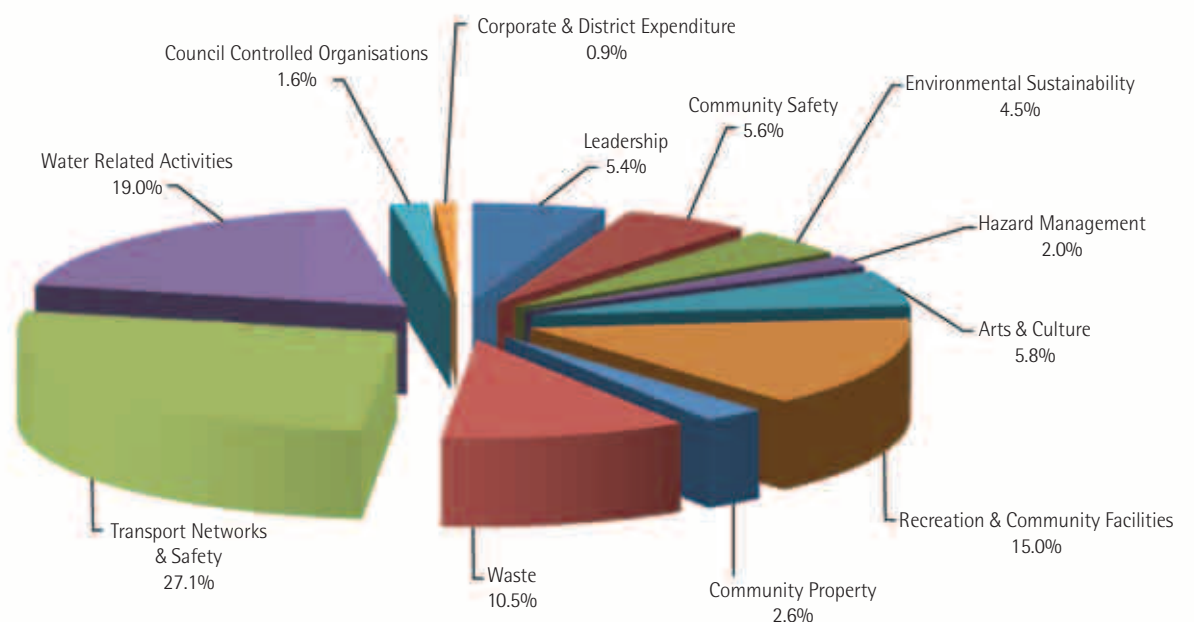


# Financials

## Where the money will come from

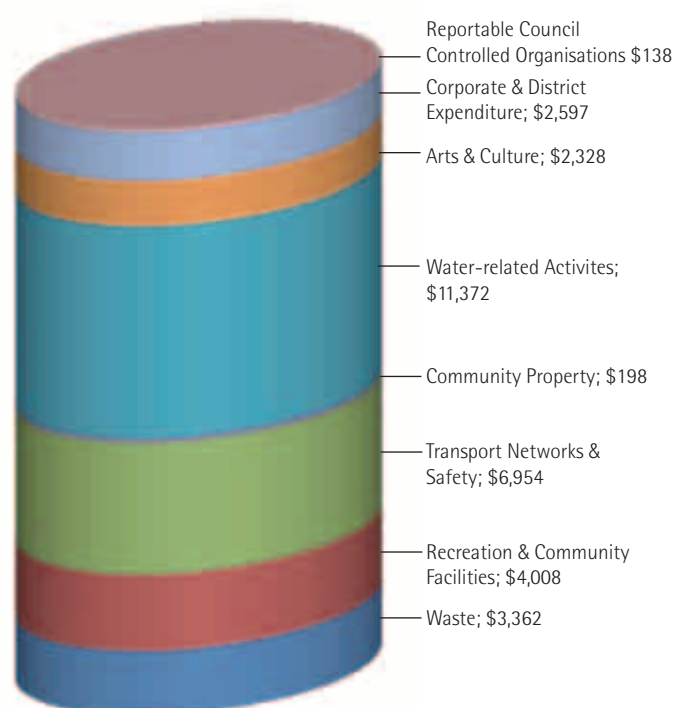


## Where the money will go



## Capital expenditure

### Where capital expenditure will be spent (\$000)



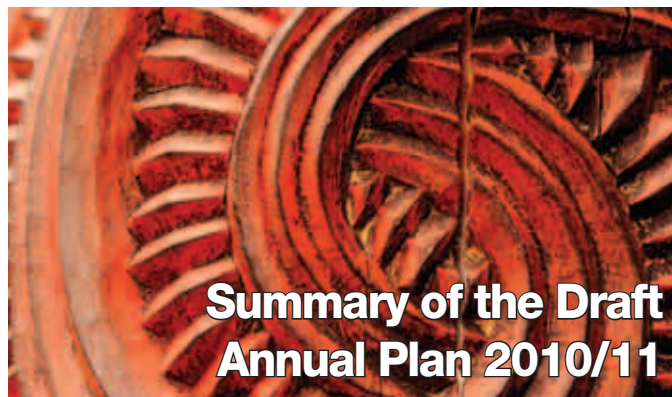
## The Big Capital Projects

Library and Museum	\$3.2m
Water-Alternative water intake	\$1.3m
Water pipe upgrades (Edgumbe & Te Teko)	\$0.6m
Aquatic Centre repairs	\$2.4m
Matata wastewater system	\$5.0m
Seal extension-Ruatahuna Rd	\$2.3m

## The Big Numbers for 2010/11

Total operational expenditure	\$52.66m
Total capital expenditure	\$30.95m
Total rates requirement	\$32.16m
Average district rate increase	8.49%





## Summary of the Draft Annual Plan 2010/11

# Key budget changes

## Rates Affordability

The Council needs to operate and maintain assets at a satisfactory level while also meeting legislative demands and community expectations of affordability. The LTCCP 2009-19 proposed an average rates increase of 11.9% for the 2010/11 year. The Council has reduced this to 8.49%.

### What is proposed?

The LTCCP 2009-19 indicated that the Council, as a small-to-medium-sized territorial authority, is grappling with the costs of delivering services and addressing poor maintenance of our infrastructure. At the same time the Council is conscious of the cost implications to the community in terms of rating, particularly given the current economic climate, and has been working towards reducing the level of rates increase.

To achieve this, the Council has reduced the proposed operating and capital costs included in the LTCCP. This has impacted across many activities. Some of the key changes include:

- \$2.95m of reductions to the capital works budget for transport projects as detailed below under "reduced transportation programme",
- \$260,000 reduction in operating costs from across the organisation,
- \$626,000 reductions in staff costs, principally by not proceeding with a number of new positions to support levels of service improvements,
- \$98,000 of reductions to maintenance and repairs in the Water Activity following completion of pressure management projects,
- \$120,000 of reductions from deferring the replacement of the rural fire truck.

These changes to the budgets reflect a cut-back in the intended work programme for the 2010/11 year. The Council has made these decisions bearing in mind the risks to the level of service delivery.

## Reduced Transportation Programme

As a result of the need to balance rates affordability against the costs of service delivery for 2010/11, the Council has reduced the work programme in the area of Transportation Networks and Safety. Changes in this area have been driven, in part, by recent reviews of the subsidy schemes provided by the NZTA which provide funding for local transportation network and road safety projects.

### What is proposed?

With the need to consider rates affordability, the Council proposes to substantially reduce the budget for Transportation Networks and Safety, compared with the LTCCP; in particular where capital improvements to the road network are concerned. The total cost of capital projects in the 2010/11 year is now proposed to be \$6.95m compared with the original budget of \$9.25m in the LTCCP (figures inclusive of NZTA subsidy). Specifically affected projects include:

- pedestrian facilities in Matata and other rural areas,
- cycle facilities in Gorge Road and other urban areas,
- seal extensions,
- road reconstructions including Landing Road, Wainui

Road and Thornton Road,

- road and pavement rehabilitations including Awaiti North Road, Thornton Road and Taneatua Road,
- Pyne Street car-park resurfacing,
- Tarawera River Western Access Project.

The Council sees the continued operation and maintenance of the road network as a key priority and has retained the budget for 2010/11. At a cost of \$11.2m (inclusive of NZTA subsidy), this work is required to preserve the existing network, and protect the key routes and networks from the impact of traffic demand.

## Funding for Storm-damaged Roothing

The Council does not currently have provision in its budget for a contingency sum each year to cover the cost to roading infrastructure of storm damage other emergency events. The cost of storm damage already incurred in 2009/10 is around \$1.27m with the Council's share at around \$679,000. To date, these costs have been treated as unbudgeted expenditure.

### What is proposed?

Based on costs incurred in past years, the Council intends to put aside \$275,000 per annum, which, together with a contribution from the NZTA, provides \$500,000 as an annual contingency fund. This money would be used only for reinstatement works following Council and NZTA approval. If the contingency fund, or a portion thereof, is not spent in any one year, the Council's portion will roll over into the next year to build up the fund to a maximum amount of \$1.0m. This would provide funding for those years when emergency works costs may be greater than the annual contingency sum.

## Weathertightness Claims

The Council has current outstanding claims lodged with the Weathertightness Homes Resolution Service. Claims lodged from 1 July 2009 are no longer covered by insurance.

### What is proposed?

Last year the Council established a fund to provide for future weathertightness claims. In the 2010/11 year the Council proposes to increase the current budgetary provision of \$100,000 per annum to \$150,000 per annum to meet ongoing costs associated with defending weathertightness claims. Any unused money will be held in a reserve account.

## Funding Last Year's Deficit

In the 2008/09 financial year the Council incurred a net operating deficit of \$10.89m compared with a budgeted surplus of \$8.87m. A number of factors contributed to the \$19.76m variation and these are detailed in the Annual Report 2008/09. Major contributing factors included:

- revaluation downwards of some of the Council's land assets,
- increase in depreciation related to revaluations and closure of the Burma Road Landfill,
- reduced income received from grants and subsidies,
- reduced income received from development contributions, and fees and charges for building and resource consent activities as a result of the downturn

in the building sector,

- operating expenditure over budget resulting from legal fees, aquatic centre consultancy, refuse collection contracts, roading maintenance, audit costs and ACC levies,
- the majority of the deficit being related to factors that do not affect cashflow, in particular depreciation and revaluations. The Council must now look to address the cashflow deficit of \$1.95m.

### What is proposed?

In order to fund the deficit, the Council proposes to apply accumulated funds from a number of reserves as well as meeting a portion of the cost through rates. The Council's proposal is to fund the cashflow deficit over a three-year period.

In taking this approach the Council recognised that repaying the deficit in one year would add 6.02% to the rates increase and this was considered to be too high a rating burden. Funding the deficit over three years has contributed 2.27% of the proposed rating increase for 2010/11.

## Sale of Properties and Reserves

As indicated in the LTCCP, one of the Council's key strategies to address its funding requirements has been to review its property portfolio to identify those properties that are no longer required.

Through the LTCCP process the Council considered and consulted on a number of properties for possible sale. The LTCCP also included a project to identify any further potential properties for sale, and consultation on these would be included alongside the Draft Annual Plan 2010/11.

Throughout this process the Council has been careful to ensure that appropriate reserves are held to meet the community's current and future needs.

### What is proposed?

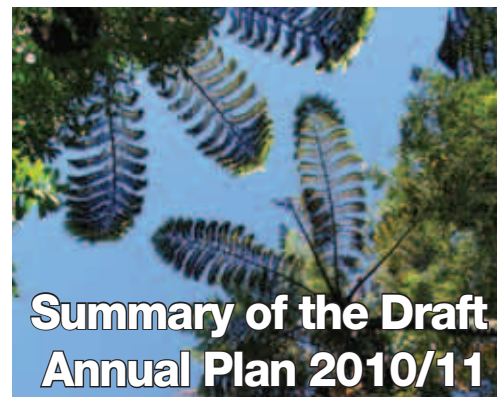
A number of reserves and properties (or portions of these) have been identified as possibly surplus to requirements and therefore suitable for divestment. These are additional to those identified in the LTCCP. A list of these properties is included below for consultation:

127 Tahuna Road, Te Teko	298A Tahuna Road, Te Teko
59 Huia Road, Te Teko	19A Matai Street, Edgecumbe
26 Otakiri Road, Edgecumbe	2 Thornton Beach Road, Thornton
155A Thornton Beach Road, Thornton	7 Amokura Road, Taneatua
31 Wilson Street, Matata	37 Reid Road, Taneatua
16 Koromiko Street, Murupara	39 Waiewe Street, Whakatane
93 Valley Road, Whakatane	71 Riverside Drive, Whakatane
126 Awatapu Drive, Whakatane	189 James Street, Whakatane
63 Riverside Drive, Whakatane	2814 SH 30, Onepu

Some of these properties are reserves and any proposal to divest reserve assets will be completed in accordance with the Local Government Act 2002 and Reserves Act 1977 as appropriate.

Recommendations on those properties listed in the LTCCP for possible sale will be made to the Council in April 2010.





# Amendments to the LTCCP 2009-19

## Separately Used and Inhabited Parts of a Rating Unit (SUIPs)

Many of the Council's costs are driven by individual users rather than by properties. Defining multiple users of services on one rateable property and rating them for the services they use allows for a fairer and more equitable apportionment of the costs. This change is consistent with the Council's funding philosophy.

### What is proposed?

The Council proposes to progressively implement a rating system on the basis of SUIPs over a two-year period from 2010/11 to 2011/12.

This means that multiple users of services on one rateable property would be identified—for example, a commercial building on a single title with three shop leases, or a residential property with two dwellings. Commercial/residential and rural properties would be charged the UAGC and roading UAC, and commercial properties would also attract the promotion and development rate in the SUIP calculation. Under this proposal there will be no increase in rating income for the Council—instead we are changing the way the income is collected and from whom we collect it. The proposal would have the effect of reducing the

proportion of rates required from those with a single SUIP. The proposal is to apply SUIPs to commercial properties in the 2010/11 rating year, and to residential and rural properties in 2011/12.

Alongside the proposal to implement a rating system based on SUIPs, the Council proposes to include a new rates remission policy in the LTCCP to ensure that the new rating system does not unfairly burden ratepayers. This policy will not be applied until the 2011/12 year following the implementation of an SUIPs-based rating system for residential and rural properties.

The implementation of this proposal will require amendments to the financial policies in the LTCCP. More information about this proposal can be found in the LTCCP amendments chapter of the Draft Annual Plan.

## Liability Management Policy

The Liability Management Policy outlines limits for the maturity period of all loans and committed facilities. Section 2(d) of the Policy indicates that between 20% to 60% of all loans and committed facilities should mature within three years. While the policy specifies that the Council's debt maturity schedule may operate outside

these limits, this can only be done with Council approval. Under these circumstances the Council has consistently breached the policy limits for almost two years in order to take advantage of favourable short-term borrowing facilities.

### What is proposed?

The Council proposes to make changes to maturity limits for loans and committed facilities within the Liability Management Policy. Changes to the Liability Management Policy would give the Council the flexibility to take greater advantage of short-term borrowing facilities. While this carries more risk, there are potential gains to be made in terms of savings on interest costs.

The proposal is to amend the loan and committed facilities maturity limits, increasing the limits for the debt maturity period of three years or less from 20%-60% to 20%-80%. This means that at any point in time 20%-80% of the Council's borrowings should mature within three years.

The implementation of this proposal will require amendments to the financial policies in the LTCCP. More information about this proposal can be found in the LTCCP amendments chapter of the Draft Annual Plan.

## Policy changes

### Earthquake-prone Buildings Policy

The Council has statutory responsibilities under the Building Act 2004 to identify and manage earthquake-prone buildings within the District. An initial evaluation procedure undertaken during 2009/10 identified a high number of earthquake-prone buildings.

### What is proposed?

The Council proposes to bring forward a review of the Council's Earthquake-prone, Dangerous and Insanitary Building Policy to the current financial year. The intention of reviewing the policy is to extend the timeframes for dealing with buildings that have been identified as earthquake-prone. The first stage of the programme of identifying earthquake-prone buildings was completed in 2009 and recognised a significant number of at-risk commercial and industrial buildings. The Council now proposes to escalate the programme, particularly in the Whakatane CBD as this will provide important information to support the implementation of the Town Vision Plan.

The proposal to bring forward the programme will require increased funding over five years. This includes \$73,150 during the 2010/11 year to be funded in part from the Harbour Endowment Fund (\$43,550) and \$115,000 general rate funded during each consecutive year.

### Revenue and Financing Policy

The Revenue and Financing Policy in the LTCCP 2009-19 specifies an 80% 'private good' from the Building Inspection activity and 90% from the Resource Consent activity. However these activities have not been meeting these targets and are contributing to year-end and budget

deficits. The Council has recognised the effect of these percentages and proposes not to recover costs at the same level through "private good" funding tools but to fund the balance through general rates.

### What is proposed?

The Council has recognised that there are a number of costs within the Building Inspection and Resource Management Consents activities that are of public rather than private benefit. These cost items include objections and appeals, customer services, complaints monitoring, project costs and government initiatives. The proposal is that the costs of these items will not be recovered to the same level through private good funding tools but will be funded by general rates. The Council has indicated that it does not wish to change the Revenue and Financing Policy to reflect the increase in public benefit of these activities at this time. The reason for this is that the defined timeframes of projects and the current decrease in the level of consent applications being received may be having a temporary rather than a permanent impact on the cost recovery potential of the activities. As such the Council would make a decision that is inconsistent with the Revenue and Financing Policy and would look to review the Policy through development of the 2012-22 LTCCP.

### Legislative Reform

Central government is in the process of reviewing several pieces of key legislation at the time of developing the Draft Annual Plan. This may lead to the review or reform of legislation that will impact on the operation and focus of local government. The legislation which is currently being reviewed is:

- the Local Government Act 2002,
- the Resource Management Act 1991,
- the Building Act 2004,
- the Forest and Rural Fires Act 1977,
- the Food Act 1981,
- the Sale of Liquor Act 1989 and
- ACC legislation.

### What is proposed?

A number of the review processes are at an early stage and there is too much uncertainty around the outcome to make changes to the Council's services or the budgets for those services. The Council will continue to monitor the progress of legislative reviews and respond as more information becomes available.

Where amendments to legislation have been finalised or a clear indication has been provided on the outcome of those reviews, the Council has adjusted its processes and budgets in accordance with those changes. The most significant impacts likely to affect the Council's operation during 2010/11 are as follows:

- Changes to the Local Government Act 2002 indicating a shift in the role of the Community Outcomes. As part of these changes it is expected that the Council will no longer be required to carry out processes for the identification and monitoring of Community Outcomes.
- Changes to the Resource Management Act 1991, allowing for the partial refund of resource consent fees, where the Council is responsible for not meeting statutory timeframes. There has been no change to the budget to accommodate this change.
- Changes to ACC levies have been made as part of its annual levy setting process. New levies, including changes to work levy rates that provide cover for work-related personal injuries, will apply from 1 April 2010. Central Government is also in the process of reforming ACC legislation which is likely to impact on budgets for 2010. These changes have added \$100,146 to the draft budget.
- Changes are being proposed by the National Rural Fire Authority to enlarge rural fire districts. The purpose is to achieve efficiencies through pooling of resources. Replacement of the Whakatane rural fire appliance, at a cost of \$120,000, has been deferred pending the outcome of this proposal.





**Summary of the Draft  
Annual Plan 2010/11**

# Update On Major Projects



## New Library and Exhibition Space

Through the development of the LTCCP early in 2009 the Council approved one of its most significant capital projects for many years. The project recognised that a long-term solution is required to remedy the critical situation in the library and museum in terms of the space shortages, environmental controls and appropriate facilities.

### What is proposed?

The Council has purchased a property in Whakatane in the Esplanade Mall (former Briscoes building) for the development of an improved library and exhibition space. The project will need to attract additional funds from grants, trusts and central government. Depending on funding, building is scheduled to commence in the 2010/11 financial year.

In conjunction with the development of a new library and exhibition space, the existing Museum and Gallery building in Boon Street will be refitted as a collections storage, archives and research facility. This will address some long-standing issues with this building, including creating a stable environment for collections and providing space and appropriate facilities to enable public access to the research archive.

The Council has appointed Irving Smith Jack Architects Ltd to develop their concept plans for the library and exhibition facility along with the refurbishment of the current museum into an archive, storage and research facility. The Council made the decision at its meeting on 24 February 2010 following an extensive independent review of the three concept plans obtained, plus community feedback on the proposals.

## Solid Waste Management

Since the closure of the Burma Road landfill in December 2009, residual waste has been transported to a landfill outside the District. In the short term the costs of transporting waste will be minimised by the proposal to build a composting plant, and the Council is progressing a longer term solution of building a new landfill.

### What is proposed?

The construction of an organic waste composting plant is planned at a cost of \$1.68m. This proposal will provide

environmental benefits, reduce the cost of transporting by diverting about 8000 tonnes of waste for compost and produce compost for sale. Along with the construction of a composting plant, the Council will undertake a public education programme about the benefits of diverting waste for composting.

During 2010/11 the Council will also undertake geo-technical and other investigations to support a resource consent process for a new landfill. A budget of \$1m has been set for the resource consent process. The LTCCP included the construction of a new landfill in the District in 2013/14 at a total cost of around \$11m (including resource consent costs). It is expected that contributions towards this project will come from other councils and key stakeholder agencies.

## District Plan Review

The Whakatane District does not yet have a fully operative District Plan. This results in assessing consent applications against a number of different plan provisions, increasing the complexity, uncertainty and cost of the application process.

### What is proposed?

In July 2009 the Council commenced a three-year project to review the Whakatane District Plan at a total expected cost of \$1.87m. The budget for 2010/11, the second year of the project, is \$680,000 including \$110,000 which is proposed to be brought forward from 2011/12. This acknowledges that much of the work will take place in the 2010/11 year to enable the District Plan to be completed for notification by August 2011. Some of the key issues that will be progressed during 2010/11 include:

- **The Integrated Growth Strategy:** This project looks at future urban growth needs for the Whakatane, Ohope and Coastlands areas and assesses provisions for residential, commercial and industrial expansion while maintaining route security.
- **Indigenous Biodiversity provisions:** This project seeks to identify risks to areas of significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna. The project will look at ways to manage those risks and to further promote maintenance of indigenous biodiversity.
- **Natural Hazard provisions:** This project will review the current information we have on hazards in the District and fill gaps in our knowledge of natural hazards. This may lead to changes or new provisions in the District Plan to manage these hazards where appropriate.
- **Rural Subdivision provisions:** This project will review the provisions in the current District Plan relating to the subdivision of land in rural areas. Recent rural subdivisions, in particular lifestyle blocks, are producing adverse environmental effects in some cases. The review will assess if there are better ways to provide for the subdivision of rural land.

As these issues are progressed the Council will consult with various stakeholders and interest groups. The formal submission process on the Draft District Plan is expected to be conducted early in the 2011/12 financial year.

## Whakatane water - alternative abstraction points

Over the previous two summers the Whakatane water supply has experienced high salinity levels. This has occurred where low river levels during prolonged dry periods coincided with high spring tides. A floating intake has been installed as a temporary solution and the Council is investigating longer term solutions.

### What is proposed

The Council proposes to investigate and develop a long-term solution for alternative water abstraction points in the 2010/11 year. This will include either an upstream or ground water source. At a cost of \$1.38m this project will help to ensure the continuity of water supply when river conditions are not appropriate.

## Disaster Mitigation Projects

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.

These projects were as follows:

- Matata Regeneration Projects including: Awatarariki Debris Detention Structure and Awatarariki Stream and Lagoon Works; Waitepuru Debris and Stream Management; Ohinekoao; Waimea
- Awatapu
- Edgumbe/ Rangitaiki Plain Flood Management
- Otarawairere/ Ohope Wastewater/ Stormwater Disposal Project

The Awatapu and Otarawairere/ Ohope projects have been completed as have some works in Matata (Ohinekoao and Waimea Stream).

### Progress to date

**Te Awa o Te Atua Lagoon restoration works:** The project involves stream protection works and construction of a flood bay to provide for flood control along with the rehabilitation of the lagoon. The major earth works are completed and the planting of the lagoon will continue. The Council is also working with community groups to raise money to fund the development of the formed area along Arawa Street.

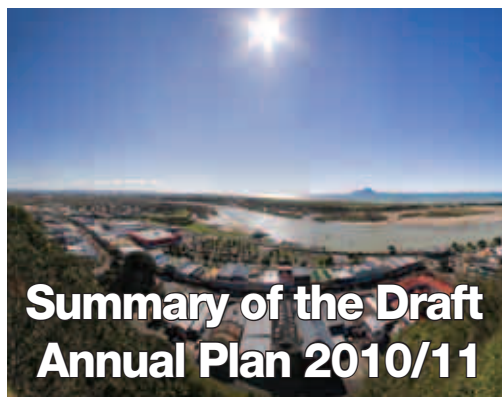
**Awatarariki Debris Detention Structure:** The project involves the construction of a flexible barrier net and associated overflow routes. The project also includes the clearing of Clem Elliot Drive and the establishment of the debris disposal area. A resource consent application has now been lodged. This structure will be built following the completion of the resource consent process.

**Waitepuru Debris and Stream Management:** Construction of the Waitepuru bunding and stream works is expected to be completed by the end of May 2010.

**Edgumbe/ Rangitaiki Plains flood mitigation works:** The last of four resource consent applications for the Edgumbe/ Rangitaiki Plains flood mitigation works has been lodged and is currently being processed. All construction works that the Council is responsible for are due to begin in 2009/10.

The Awatapu and Otarawairere/Ohope projects have been completed as have some works in Matata (Ohinekoao and Waimea Stream).





**Summary of the Draft Annual Plan 2010/11**

## Have your say

Knowing what you want is important to us

Knowing your views helps us to work towards the kind of district that you want. Making a submission is your chance to tell us what you think of the Draft Annual Plan for the 2010/11 year. Let us know what you like, what you don't like, or what you think is an important issue. This kind of feedback is valuable to Councillors as they work through decisions about work programmes, priorities and expenditure for the year ahead.

### Making a submission is easy

Before making a submission we recommend you read through the Draft Annual Plan to ensure you have all the information available.

When you have done this you can make a submission in a number of ways including:

#### In writing:

To do this you will need to get a hold of a submission form. If you do not already have one, these are available from the Council offices or on the Council's website:

[www.whakatane.govt.nz](http://www.whakatane.govt.nz)

#### Electronically:

To do this simply log on to the Council's website: [www.whakatane.govt.nz](http://www.whakatane.govt.nz) and go to the section entitled "have your say".

Here you will have access to the online submission form.

#### In person:

If you want to present your submission to Council in person, you still need to put in a submission in writing. On your submission form you need to tick the box indicating that you would like to be heard. In your written submission you need to outline the submission points that you will speak about.

Staff will then contact you to arrange a time for you to speak.

Submissions must be received by the Council by 5pm, Tuesday 27 April 2010.

### Key dates

Key dates for the consultation process are as follows:

26 March - 27 April	Submission Period
19, 20, 25 May	Public Hearings
28, 31 May and 2 June	Deliberations
30 June	Adoption of Final Annual Plan

### Need to know more?

If you have any questions about this process feel free to get in touch with the Council on (07) 306 0500.

# Change to Government subsidies

## Water-related projects and Ministry of Health (MoH) funding

*During the 2010/11 year the Council intends to undertake a number of projects that rely on substantial subsidies from the MoH Drinking Water Assistance Programme and the Sanitary Works Subsidy Scheme, both of which are currently being reviewed.*

#### What is proposed?

The Council intends to undertake a number of projects in the 2010/11 year within the Water and Wastewater activities that are reliant on substantial subsidies from the MoH. If these subsidies are reduced or withdrawn, the Council will not be able to carry out a number of these projects in 2010/11 and alternative solutions will need to be investigated.

#### At-risk water supply projects include:

- increasing the water storage capacity and extending the pipe network to reach more homes in Ruatoki;
- replacement of water connections and installation of meters in Edgumbe and Matata;
- replacement and upgrade of pipes to provide greater capacity in Edgumbe and Te Teko.

#### At-risk wastewater projects include:

- upgrading of the Edgumbe pump stations and repair, replacement or relining of pipes depending on their condition;
- developing a complete new wastewater system in Matata.



## Transportation projects and NZTA funding

As a result of a change in government and changing priorities for the New Zealand Land Transport Agency (NZTA), many local transportation projects that would have received subsidy funding from NZTA are no longer eligible. In particular, projects in the areas of walking, cycling and road safety have been affected.

#### What is proposed?

The Council's transportation projects in the areas of walking, cycling and road safety were planned in the LTCCP on the basis of receiving substantial subsidies from NZTA. With a reduced number of projects being eligible for subsidies, the Council has reassessed its programme for the 2010/11 year.

For walking and cycling facilities this means a number of projects that were intended to be undertaken during the 2010/11 year have been reassessed and will not progress during the year. This involves approximately \$1.05m worth of projects including pedestrian facilities

in Matata and other rural areas, as well as cycle facilities in Gorge Road and other Whakatane urban areas. The road safety programme is being adjusted to align with government priorities, having particular regard to the recently reviewed Road Safety Strategy to 2020. These adjustments will look to align with the goals of the Road Safety Strategy in order to access subsidy funding from NZTA.



*Projects such as seal extensions have been delayed to reduce the impact of the rates increase.*