

SUMMARY ANNUAL REPORT 2022/23

WHAKARĀPOPOTOTANGA PŪRONGO Ā-TAU 2022/23

For the period 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023



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Each year, local authorities are required to present an annual report that includes a set of audited financial statements. This summary is a condensed version of the full Whakatāne District Annual Report 2022/23, which was adopted by Council on 21 December 2023. Copies of the full Annual Report 2022/23 and this summary are available at [whakatane.govt.nz/documents/council-reports/annual-reports](https://www.whakatane.govt.nz/documents/council-reports/annual-reports).

The financial statements within the Annual Report were prepared in accordance with and comply with New Zealand Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) and comply with Public Sector Public Benefit Entity Accounting Standards (PBE accounting standards) for a Tier 1 entity.

The financial statements in this summary of the 2022/23 Annual Report do not include all of the disclosures provided in the full report.



Message from Mayor Dr Victor Luca

Kupu whakataki o te Koromatua

At the close of each financial year, Council is required to review the previous 12 months to assess what was delivered in terms of what was intended, for that year of the Long Term Plan. This report is prepared to capture that information and communicate with residents the progress in our work programme and how we performed against the measures we set. It's our 'report card' if you will.

This Annual Report tells residents about the services, community projects, and facilities Council provided from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023. It shows how these have contributed to achieving our vision, community outcomes and priorities that we determined, after consultation with our communities, for the 2021-31 Long Term Plan.

Everyone in business knows – and Council is essentially a big multi-delivery business – there have been operating challenges in the last few years, with the impacts of COVID-19 affecting global supply chains, unusually high rates of inflation driving up the cost of materials, and a tight job market. When I consider these factors, I think it's remarkable we were able to deliver what we did.

I strongly encourage people to take the time to read the report and learn more about what Council delivers for its communities. I'd like to think that with more understanding, people will be more encouraged to tell us what their aspirations are for their communities and get involved in engagement activities that help us, as Elected Members, to make the right decisions.

Victor Luca

Dr Victor Luca
MAYOR KOROMATUA
21 December 2023

Your Council

Ngā Kaikaunihera



Dr Victor Luca
Mayor



Lesley Immink
Deputy Mayor



Julie Jukes
Councillor, Whakatāne-
Ōhope General Ward



Nándor Tánczos
Councillor, Whakatāne-
Ōhope General Ward



Andrew Iles
Councillor, Te Urewera
General Ward



Gavin Dennis
Councillor, Rangitāiki
General Ward



Wilson James
Councillor, Rangitāiki
General Ward



John Pullar
Councillor, Whakatāne-
Ōhope General Ward



Tu O'Brien
Councillor, Rangitāiki
Māori Ward



Toni Boynton
Councillor, Kāpū-te-rangi
Māori Ward



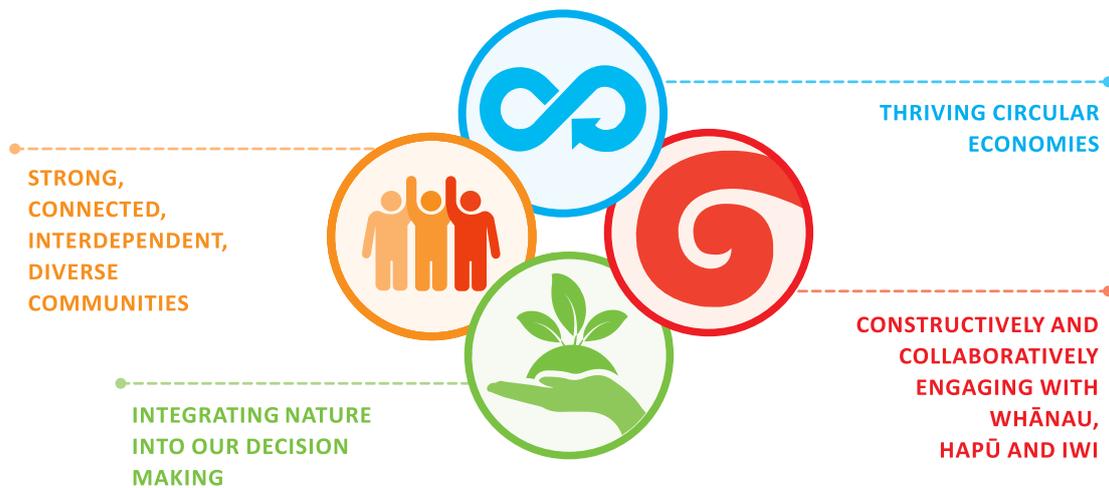
Ngapera Rangiaho
Councillor, Toi ki Uta
Māori Ward

Our Vision and Community Outcomes

Tō mātou matakiteinga

Our vision – *More life in life* – and community outcomes were established through the Long Term Plan 2021-31. Our vision and outcomes set out the high-level direction and goals Council will work towards to achieve its primary purpose to support and enhance the social, cultural, economic, and environmental wellbeing of our communities. Our vision embraces Council’s role in supporting our communities to flourish, fulfil their potential and live life to its fullest. A strong, resilient, and enabled Council organisation will help ensure we can achieve the things that are most important to us all.

More life in life *Working together to make living better for our communities, now and in the future*



Strong, resilient Council organisation focused on continuous improvement

Our Strategic Priorities Ngā ruataki matua

The strategic priorities are the eight priorities Council consulted the community on when developing the 2021–31 Long Term Plan. The eight priorities provide the Council with key areas of focus to achieve our vision of ‘More life in life’. Each priority is supported by strategies, programmes of work and key projects.

- 

Strengthening Iwi, hapū and whanau partnerships
- 

Improving the safety, security and resilience of infrastructure
- 

Facilitating economic regeneration and employment opportunities
- 

Preparing for population growth and housing demand
- 

Building climate change and natural hazard resilience
- 

Ensuring Council is enabled and fit for the future
- 

Enhancing the environmental outcomes of our activities
- 

Enhancing the vibrancy of our communities

Our work

Ā mātau mahi

The Local Government Act 2002 sets out the purpose of local government in New Zealand. It gives us a framework and empowers us to decide which activities we undertake, how we undertake them, and makes us accountable to our communities. It states that our overall role is to ensure democratic local decision-making and action by, and on behalf of, communities. We must meet the current and future needs of communities for good-quality local infrastructure, local public services, and performance of regulatory functions in a way that is most cost-effective for households and businesses.

Our mahi/work involves the delivery of a wide range of services and facilities that families, households, businesses, and visitors rely on and use every day. At the top of our list are services that ensure the health and safety of our communities, such as providing clean drinking water, appropriate treatment and disposal of wastewater, and local transport networks that allow people to move safely around the district. Many other Council activities play an essential role in making this a great district for us to live, work and play.

Our work is organised into eleven groups – including the corporate services group, which supports the delivery of our other activities. A Council-controlled organisation (CCO) operates the Whakatāne Airport in a Joint Venture agreement with the Ministry of Transport Te Manatu waka.

Our groups of activities, and everything we do at Council works towards our priorities, outcomes, and vision. To ensure our success in working towards our long-term vision, outcomes, and priorities; each of our groups of activities below have performance measures. Within the “Our activities and services” section of this report from page 36, which reports our results for these performance measures, we have included the outcomes that the activity works towards.

Our groups of activities





Celebrating our awards

Me whakanui ka tika

Excellence in Organisation and People Development Award

The Taituarā Local Government Excellence Awards are held annually to recognise outstanding projects, and approaches that exemplify professional excellence in local government management. A crucial aspect contributing to the success of these awards is the potential for other councils to easily replicate the winning project in their pursuit of similar improvements.

Council was announced as the recipient of the Excellence in Organisation and People Development Award in the 2023 Taituarā Local Government Excellence Awards.

This award acknowledges the outstanding efforts of over 140 Council staff members who contributed to the development of the organisational vision and values “Toitū to Kotahitanga – Better Together”. The judge’s commented that Toitū te Kotahitanga stood out not only for the improvements in staff engagement, but because of its strong linkage to the council’s strategic objectives.

The People First Programme *successfully* integrated a new vision and set of values that serve as guiding principles for staff members. This initiative has not only enhanced leadership capabilities and communication through leadership development but has also positively impacted performance in key areas such as leadership, culture, and communication.

In the spirit of Toitū to Kotahitanga – Better Together, the People First Programme invests in improving Council and enables us to deliver better for our communities.

Delivering on our District's vision and outcomes

E tutuki ana i te
matakiteinga me
ngā putanga hapori
o te rohe

This section provides a snapshot of the services, community projects, and facilities Council provided over the financial year 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023, which have contributed to achieving our vision, community outcomes and priorities.

This is the second Annual Report measuring our progress against the 2021-31 Long Term Plan.

Constructively and collaboratively engaging with Iwi, hapū and whānau

*Kia mahi tahi ki
ngā Iwi, ngā hapū
me ngā whānau*

Strengthening Iwi, hapū and whānau partnerships

*E whakawhanake ana i
ngā rangapū ā-whānau,
ā-hapū, ā-iwi anō hoki*

Local Elections with Māori wards

In the 2022 Local Elections, Māori wards were included for the first time in the Whakatāne District. Māori wards are intended to substantially represent the importance of the Māori community voice, to provide assurance that issues of priority to Māori can be more directly brought to Council, and to promote confidence in Local Government decision making processes.

The Council structure now includes three general wards (Rangitāiki, Whakatāne-Ōhope and Te Urewera), and three Māori wards (Rangitāiki, Kāpū-te-rangi, and Toi ki Uta). Each Māori ward has one Councillor, and the general wards have a total of seven Councillors. Supporting the Council are four Community Boards: Murupara, Rangitāiki, Tāneatua and Whakatāne-Ōhope.

Tu O'Brien was elected as the Councillor for the Rangitāiki Māori Ward, Ngapera Rangiaho for Toi Ki Uta Māori Ward, and Toni Boynton for Kāpū-te-rangi Māori Ward.



Our commitment to strong Māori relationships

Since the appointment of the Kaihautū Māori role and the establishment of Toi Kōtuia (Strategic Māori Partnerships Team), the focus has been on building a strong foundation of cultural capacity and capability with the support of Te Ohu Māori (Māori staff advisory group) within the organisation. Over the past year, the team has implemented the Te Toi Waka Whakareī – Māori Relationship Strategy. This strategy demonstrates our firm commitment to working with the seven Iwi, 80 hapū, and 69 marae and other Māori entities within our district's boundaries. Guiding practical solutions to ensure our engagement and relationships with Iwi, hapū and whānau are enduring, effective, and valued.

Our plan outlines, Whakatāne District Council's commitment to meeting our legal and relationship obligations, and how we can be more responsive to and proactive for Māori. Iwi, hapū and whānau have significant contributions to make for the betterment of the whole district through their cultural, social, environmental, and economic aspirations.

It is essential to keep in mind that as the current stewards of relationships between, Iwi, hapū and whānau, we have responsibilities as staff and Elected Members, to our partners to enable and support them to achieve their aspirations.

Te Toi Waka Whakareii (Māori Relationship Strategy)

Te Toi Waka Whakareii – Māori Relationship Strategy sets out a schedule of annual activities that are internally focussed, setting up Council to be fit for purpose. Through internal engagement, discussion with Iwi, hapū and whānau, we have determined that six focus areas will assist us in achieving our plan. These include:

- Strengthening leadership- Elected Members and the Executive Leadership Team understand the Māori worldview and embody Te Tiriti o Waitangi to support and improve the relationship outcomes for Māori.
- Achieving partnership excellence- Champion a relationship-first approach with Māori to support effective and equitable engagement.
- Becoming an empowered organisation- Council works to fulfil its commitment and legal obligations to Māori under Te Tiriti o Waitangi and aims to ensure its staff can deliver Māori outcomes.
- Promoting Māori identity- The Council aims to reflect and promote Māori culture and identity within the environment and to value mātauranga Māori.
- Improving decision making- Agile policies that guide Council and reflect Māori views, knowledge, and Te Tiriti o Waitangi, and explore Māori aspirations (partnering or self-governance).
- Improving performance and accountability - Council and Māori collaboratively create performance measures to inform and improve, ensuring we are achieving partnership excellence.

These six focus areas not only drive the projects that Toi Kōtuia manage, but also direct and guide other workstreams to implement these factors into their work programming.

Te Kahupapa - Culture Competency Framework

Te Kahupapa is Council's cultural competency framework created by Toi Kōtuia (Strategic Māori Partnership Team) and is designed to deliver cultural competency training throughout the Council. This contributes towards our Long Term Plan commitments and our responsibilities as a Te Tiriti Partner to continue to build and strengthen existing relationships through the activities of Council. It is an exciting time to be at Council as we focus on people and capability.

This framework is the foundation to ensure Council has a thorough understanding of Iwi, hapū and whānau within our District. Since the delivery of the trainings began, over 60% of staff (including Elected Members) have completed one or more cultural competency trainings.

Engagement with Iwi, hapū and whānau

Council has increased our Māori focussed roles to support engagement and the delivery of Te Toi Waka Whakareii. Additional initiatives include shared business planning with Iwi and hapū, and the Better Off Funding Iwi Policy Hub, to support Iwi to participate in agreed projects. These support our journey to healthier relationships and ensuring Iwi, hapū, and whānau are enabled to participate, whilst continuing to build the level of trust and confidence as a Te Tiriti Partner.

Internal process and policies to build the guidance and knowledge within the organisation is changing how we operate and how we are seen and heard. Guidelines and te reo Māori training for staff is increasing the confidence of staff and how we converse and communicate publicly. Developing our methodologies to work closer with Iwi, hapū and whānau is ongoing, and ensuring staff and Elected Members have a greater understanding.

Arts and culture has been particularly busy. Council has partnered with Iwi and hapū to host exhibitions at Te Kōputu a te whanga a Toi Whakatāne Library and Exhibition Centre, as well as Te Whare Taonga o Taketake Whakatāne Collections, Archive and Research Museum. Collections have travelled the district also, hosted by hapū and marae with great feedback and enthusiasm for more.

Council staff have been supporting Iwi and hapū events locally in the CBD and in our remote communities, via our responsibilities as Council, but the manner in which we have conducted ourselves is different and the feedback has been positive.

The main Council Building Redevelopment Project has been a memorable project for Council staff who worked with members of Iwi and hapū from the whole district as we brought to life the highly treasured, maunga (mountains), awa (rivers) and the taonga (treasured) species that tell of the place and people in the district. This project to weave a cultural narrative through the building ensures we are moving steadily toward a Council that reflects the many communities and recognises and promotes the rich history of tangata whenua.



Strong, connected, interdependent, diverse communities

Ngā hapori pūkeke

Preparing for population growth and housing demand

E whakarite ana ki te tipuranga o te taupori me ngā tonotono whare

Ensuring our infrastructure, facilities and services have capacity for growth.

One of Council's core priorities throughout this financial year has been progressing the development of the Our Places – Eastern Bay of Plenty Spatial Plan. The Plan will set out where and how we can grow across the Eastern Bay of Plenty to accommodate population and employment growth in a positive way while contributing to our social, economic, environmental, and cultural wellbeing.

Partners in this collaborative project include the Eastern Bay of Plenty councils, Iwi authorities and Central Government agencies. Building effective and enduring partnerships will ensure that the needs and development aspirations of all Eastern Bay of Plenty communities are understood, and the plan is focused

on the most important community interests within the sub-region.

The sub-region's challenging natural geography, increasing demand on housing (including affordability and suitability of housing stock), increasing demand on existing infrastructure, and further development of economically important industries, are all key challenges that require integrated management and partner led solutions. It is also important while managing growth, that we deliver appropriate wellbeing outcomes where communities can live and access the lifestyle, they desire including employment, recreation, and cultural and social opportunities.



Development of the Spatial Plan will help position the Eastern Bay of Plenty in the development of a Regional Spatial Strategy and Infrastructure Strategies, the Waters Services Reform and Central Government investment priorities.

During the 2022/23 financial year, several key activities have been undertaken including:

- Finalising the five foundation reports and review of relevant tangata whenua documentation.
- Establishing the Project Leadership and Project Governance Groups.
- Finalising the project outcomes and agreeing a project plan.
- Updating the forecasts for population and housing and business land demand.
- Identifying areas vulnerable to natural hazards and other potential development constraints.
- Understanding the range of development options across the sub-region and the associated infrastructure implications.
- Developing an engagement strategy, which includes finalising project branding and setting up a website.

Contributing to urban development and housing growth

One of the core functions of Council is the issuing of building and resource consents, which plays a vital role in shaping urban development and fostering economic growth. This aligns with our priorities in preparing for population growth and housing demand, and in facilitating economic regeneration and employment opportunities.

We have identified that we will need an additional 4,000 homes to accommodate an anticipated growth of 45,000 residents by the year 2050. This influx of residents wishing to find their home in the Whakatāne District creates demand for more robust infrastructure as well as an increase of places to live in our district.

This year, we have seen a decrease in the number of consent applications for both building and resource, which might be attributed to escalating interest rates, increase in material costs, and strain on material supply chains. Nonetheless, we have issued 124 consents for the construction of new homes with a value of \$46.8 million, and additional 11 consents for commercial structures with a value of \$6.8 million. The enabling of more housing within the district can contribute positively towards the availability and affordability of homes.

We have also issued a total of 187 resource consents relating to land use and subdivision. Of note, during the 2022-2023 financial year, Council granted consents for residential developments including a 17-lot subdivision in Piripai Rise, and a six-lot townhouse development in Landing Road, Whakatāne. The issuing of these consents aligns with our Whakatāne District Plan in ensuring additional housing for our growing population.

One of the major developers contributing to our built environment is Kāinga Ora who help meet the need for social and affordable homes for whānau in Whakatāne. There has also been an increased interest in Papakāinga housing developments in our rural zones.

Each year we monitor satisfaction of our building and resource consents process. Feedback indicates that 65% of individuals who lodged a resource consent application with Council were satisfied with the process, with 69% satisfied with the building consents process. Both reaching our target of 60%. Notably, this year's results mark an improvement on the previous year which shows our commitment to always improving.



Enhancing the vibrancy of our communities

E whakanui ana i te whitawhita o ngā hapori

Active Whakatāne

Our Active Whakatāne Strategy has seen the delivery of a range of projects throughout the 2022/23 financial year. These projects have made it safer and easier for transport users and have enhanced our streets by lowering traffic speeds and encouraging traffic away from our residential streets. Just as importantly, the Active Whakatāne Programme has provided evidence to support bids for external funding. Funding assistance from the National Land Transport Fund, means that for every \$1 million in rates invested in this Long-Term Plan period, we can deliver \$5.8 million worth of active transport improvements with the vast majority of work going to local suppliers and contractors. Without our Active Whakatāne Strategy, leveraging these opportunities wouldn't be possible.

The implementation of 'Locky Docks' across the community has been made possible by a generous \$80,000 grant from Trust Horizon. These innovative bike racks provide secure storage and free charging for e-bikes. These Locky Docks have been installed at the following locations:

- Robert Harris, The Strand Whakatāne
- Caroline Eve, The Strand Whakatāne
- Mahy Reserve, Ōhope Beach
- Whakatāne Aquatic and Fitness Centre, Short Street Whakatāne
- Viet Eatery, Kopeopeo

These Locky Docks will be the first across the country and are part of our ongoing efforts to promote an active lifestyle and sustainable transportation options. They offer a secure and convenient solution for cyclists, particularly e-bike users, encouraging more people to embrace eco-friendly modes of transportation.

In addition, an e-bike library has been funded by the Climate Emergency Response Fund. This allows residents to trial different types of e-bikes for a small fee. The library will include a range of town bikes, cargo bikes, and mountain bikes, and will allow people to try before purchasing one of their own.

As part of our Active Whakatāne Programme we have been working to make active travel like walking, cycling, and scootering, safer and easier for everyone. During the 2022/23 financial year we:

- Installed a raised crossing platform across the Salonika Street intersection for St Josephs and Allandale Primary schools and residents at the Disability Resource Centre.
- Installed a raised crossing platform across Goulstone Road to allow safer access to Rex Morpeth Park, the Whakatāne Aquatic Centre, Rugby Park and schools.
- Installed speedbumps, crossing platforms and narrowed the intersection on Pouwhare Street. This has made the route slower and has improved accessibility for mobility impaired users, cyclists, and walkers by providing them level access across roads.
- Created a slow speed area outside Edgumbe Primary and Edgumbe College to reduce the risk to students and whānau in this busy area. We also created a shared use path to encourage more active travel by school students. This project is being completed across 2022/23 and 2023/24.

These efforts under the Active Whakatāne Programme demonstrate our commitment to creating a safer and more accessible environment for active travel throughout our community.



Better Off Funding projects

The Whakatāne District has been granted \$5.66 million of 'Better Off' funding dedicated to community wellbeing projects. Funding can be used for projects budgeted for in the current Long Term Plan (from years one to three) where the Better Off Funding could cover the additional costs from accelerating a project or be used for the full costs of a project in years four to 10 of the Long Term Plan, if Better Off Funding would accelerate, scale-up and/or enhance the quality of the planned investment.

The funding also had to be for projects that:

- Supported communities to transition to a sustainable and low-emissions economy, including building resilience to climate change and natural hazards
- Deliver infrastructure and/or services which allowed housing development and growth, with a focus on brownfield (previously developed land which is not currently in use) and infill development opportunities where those are available and/or
- Deliver infrastructure and/or services that support local place-making and improvements in community well-being.

The seven projects that will receive Better Off Funding are:

1. Planning for Murupara and Minginui regeneration, and amenity projects (\$700K)

Both Murupara and Minginui require significant support for town regeneration and infrastructure to enable housing, commercial, and wellbeing projects that will be transformational in their communities. The project will be delivered in partnership with Ngāti Manawa and Ngāti Whare, with funding provided for:

1. Master planning and infrastructure planning for Murupara township in partnership with Ngāti Manawa.
2. Master planning and infrastructure planning for Minginui village in partnership with Ngāti Whare.
3. Implementation of early recreation and amenity opportunities in each town.

2. Developing shared use cycle trail from Edgumbe to Thornton (\$900K)

This project seeks to support the 'Small Towns Initiatives' focus within the Active Whakatāne strategy which aims to develop connections for active transport (often using stop banks as a route) in and between our district's smaller settlements. A specific opportunity for Better Off Funding is to develop the link between Edgumbe and Thornton which is a longstanding aspiration and priority of the Edgumbe community.

3. Enhancing Civil Defence preparedness and strengthening Waimana and Te Teko community halls (\$1.36 million)

This initiative is for a suite of projects to support civil defence response capability and community resilience to natural hazards. Including:

- 1) Accelerating seismic strengthening of rural halls at Waimana and Te Teko that are expected to function as civil defence centres.
- 2) Development of civil defence response infrastructure across the district.

4. Commencing a two-year trial for a collective Iwi policy hub (\$1 million)

All Iwi in the Whakatāne District are giving a strong and recurring message to the Council that capacity to engage in various complex programmes is a significant ongoing challenge and prevents engagement as desired. After formative conversations between Iwi Chief Executives and the Council Chief Executive, the proposal is for Council to directly fund a Policy Hub whereby Iwi can recruit (or provide existing people) skilled in policy, law, resource management, economic development and Mātauranga Māori to provide engagement and policy support.

5. Delivering Hono Hapori - mobile community outreach for Council services (\$500K)

The Hono Hapori Community Outreach initiative aims to support better community access to Council services. The initiative acknowledges that the makeup of our District in terms of its size, numerous remote communities, deprivation, and internet barriers means there are varying levels of access to Council services. The proposal provides for community outreach by fitting out two vehicles (one of which is an e-Vehicle), to take a range of Council services into rural and remote communities, and engage with communities especially Iwi, hapū and whānau.

6. Providing for a CCTV upgrade and expansion (\$1 million)

Much of the existing CCTV (closed-circuit television) network infrastructure is inefficient, ageing and/or requires more resources to enable active monitoring. This initiative proposes improvements to the current CCTV network to ensure greater deterrence of ram-raids and smash and grabs while responding to demand for greater security in our rural areas and smaller townships.

7. Accelerating the Our Places – Eastern Bay of Plenty Spatial Plan (\$200K)

The development of an Eastern Bay of Plenty Spatial Plan is underway to support housing development and growth demands acknowledging current pressure, while maintaining a long term view. Largely driven by the timing of Central Government reforms, there is a need to accelerate the spatial plan to co-inform other critical infrastructure planning and strategy development. Critical links include waters strategy and asset management planning ahead of water services reforms and in advance of Council's next Long Term Plan.



A year of creativity, community, and connection

The Whakatāne Libraries and Galleries team has had a busy year and presented a varied range of programmes, events, and services for communities.

The Murupara Library provided a community hub for the 2023 Census Team, Wahine Whakapakari Courses, Murupara Area School class library sessions, local home-schooling group sessions, and as a meeting space for Midland/EBOP Auahi Kore Coalition, Māori Women's Welfare League, and Youth Space. The team has also particularly enjoyed collaborating with other community groups including Te Ara Tika, Eastbay REAP and Youth Space to deliver a series of successful school holiday programmes.

In April 2023 the Whakatāne Library team had a great time hosting celebrated author and Te Awhi Rito, NZ Reading Ambassador, Ben Brown, author, illustrator, and cartoonist Toby Morris, and students from James St School in Te Kōputu. As part of the Storyline's Trust tour, this was a great chance for tamariki to learn about bringing stories to life from two masters of their craft. The library also had a jam-packed week full of activities and events for Matariki and again hosted the Molly Morpeth Canaday Award.

The school holiday programmes throughout the year have provided opportunities for families to be entertained, learn new arts and crafts, have fun, and meet other families. Events and activities included Doggie Storytime with Amy and canine companion Tippet from Harmony & Hope Animal Rescue, learning all about how to take care of our furry friends. A bird themed holiday programme featuring a very popular 'Make Your Own Bird Feeder' session using upcycled cat food tins, and a 'Tweets n Beats' composition session mixing native bird and tuatara calls into music. We also celebrated the return of Hā Kākanō; the weekly Preschool Storytime, that has been attracting good crowds.

Customers at Te Kōputu have been thrilled with the addition of a new digital scanner for the community to digitise their family documents and favourite whānau photos, free of charge. On-demand streaming service Hoopla was introduced, allowing members to access online books, comics, movies, music and more 24/7 with their library card details, and online magazines were added to the popular BorrowBox platform. A classic DVD collection celebrating the oldies but goodies of the film world, was created to allow many of those who don't have suitable Wi-Fi connections to still enjoy the movies they know and love.

Mā Koutou, Mā Tātau – Our People, Our Spaces Strategy

The Whakatāne District boasts an abundance of shared spaces and facilities including rivers, mountains, parks, reserves, playgrounds, and sports fields. We have been working to develop a new People and Places Strategy to keep up with changing demand on these spaces. The projects incorporate two streams of work – the development of the Whakatāne People and Places Strategy and the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub Master Plan.

The Whakatāne People and Places Strategy aims to address the open space requirements of our present and future communities. Its purpose is to enable effective decision making regarding the management, development, acquisition, and divestment of open spaces.

The Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub Master Plan will outline the future use and development of the 17 hectares of recreational space within Rex Morpeth Park and Rugby Park. This will include a development

option for the Whakatāne War Memorial Hall, to ensure the provision of a suitable multipurpose facility for use in the future.

The development of the Whakatāne People and Places Strategy and the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub Master Plan is a unique opportunity to help set the future direction and ensure current and future needs for open space within the Whakatāne District; while also contributing to the planning for a multipurpose facility and recreational space to address social, cultural, and sporting needs. Community engagement commenced in March 2023, with a final plan on track to be completed in December 2023.

Community good projects

We are proud to share the numerous projects and initiatives undertaken by the Council to improve the beauty and functionality of the Whakatāne District we know and love. This includes:

- Shade sails installed at Sullivan Lake and Thompson Crescent in Whakatāne, and Puriri Crescent in Edgecumbe, ensuring that families can enjoy the playgrounds without concerns of excessive sun exposure.
- At Mananui Reserve Whakatāne, we replaced the existing modular playground, offering an improved play space for children to explore, learn, and have fun.
- The Harbourside trail in Ōhope and the bike track at Warren Park in Whakatāne were both resurfaced, to improve safety to users.
- We constructed a path around the stormwater pond at Whitehorse Drive retention pond in Whakatāne, to enable equal access to people of all abilities to enjoy the natural bush environment. This 'Bird Walk' path now features a picnic table donated by Halo and a drinking fountain contributed by the Whakatāne Ōhope Community Board.
- At Thornton Domain, we have improved amenities for visitors' convenience and comfort. The upgrades include the installation of an electric BBQ, a drinking fountain, two beach showers, and two picnic tables.

Thanks to the generous funding of \$200,000 secured from the Lion Foundation, we have successfully completed several other projects that have contributed to the well-being of our community. These projects include:

- Murupara basketball court: We transformed an existing netball court in Murupara into a full-sized basketball court, providing more opportunities for our youth to engage in active and healthy recreation. The project involved resurfacing the court, installing basketball hoops, and adding a fence to separate the basketball and netball courts, ensuring safe and enjoyable play for all.
- Eivers Park, Te Teko Playground Shade Sails: We installed shade sails at Eivers Park playground in Te Teko, ensuring that children can play out of the heat of the sun.
- Thornton/Okorero toilet: We addressed the need for toilet facilities in the area by installing a prefabricated dry vault toilet on the eastern side of the Rangitāiki River, opposite Thornton Domain.

Holiday Park and Aquatic Centres

Over the past year, our holiday park and aquatic centres have been buzzing with exciting improvements. At the Whakatāne Holiday Park, we have added a brand-new jumping pillow for the young (and young at heart), improved drainage around the park, replaced the old electrical shed, and purchased four go-karts for public hire. The ongoing effects from COVID-19 are still present, but we are slowly starting to see an increase in the number of international visitors to our holiday park.

At the Whakatāne Aquatic Centre, we upgraded two of the spa pools with a full retiling and heating system improvement, replaced the learner pool water feature, installed blinds to reduce sun glare to swimmers, and purchased new exercise equipment in the fitness centre. The Murupara Aquatic Centre received a new pool cover to improve a consistent pool temperature and to reduce our energy use.



Community Wellbeing Project – Waitara Oranga Hapori

The Community Wellbeing Project (CWP) is a community and social sector-led initiative that sets out to achieve better social outcomes for Whakatāne District residents.

In 2022, more than 50 social sector providers (including representatives from Māori-led organisations) met to identify the key barriers to communities in the Whakatāne District thriving and to agree on opportunities to work collaboratively on solving issues. The focus areas identified for collaborative action are:

- Housing and homelessness
- Community connection (to services and each other) including transport and digital enablement
- Community safety
- Intergenerational and transferred trauma
- Rangatahi / Youth participation and achievement
- Social sector capacity and connection
- Attracting funding and better use of resources.

Several initiatives are underway as part of this project including a Social Sector Network group that meets quarterly to support collective action groups and track progress on focus areas. Two of the collective action groups underway are facilitating a collaborative response to homelessness in the district.

Homelessness response

Two groups have been formed to address homelessness in the district:

- Homelessness Prevention Alliance (HPA)
- Homelessness Response Group (HRG)

Both groups have multi-agency membership.

The HPA addresses the district's strategic approach to addressing homelessness and the HRG deals with day-to-day responses to issues of homelessness.

The HPA commissioned a District Homelessness Overview Report which is now endorsed by Council.

They have also applied to the Housing and Urban Development Innovation and Partnership fund for funding to implement a strategic plan. More planning, advocacy, and response initiatives will be rolled out during the 2023 year.

Youth Strategy

A Youth Strategy, facilitated by the Whakatāne District Youth Council, was completed in 2022. This followed a comprehensive survey in 2021 that asked a range of rangatahi what living in Whakatāne District was like now, and what would make it an even better place to live. The Youth Strategy 2022-2027 (Te Rautaki Rangatahi) has a vision that 'Every young person is inspired and supported to explore unlimited opportunities and thrive as tomorrow's leaders.' It contains actions that the Youth Council will help rangatahi to deliver.

The Youth Council is a diverse group of young people aged between 12-24 with varying backgrounds and interests. The group is selected each year to represent the young people of the district, to learn about how local government works and what councils do and to advance youth-related issues and interests. The completed strategy is available to view on Council's website.

Community Planning

Throughout the year, the Community Partnerships Team has been assisting with three community planning processes this year. These community plans are place-based plans, led by representatives of local communities and assisted by Council staff. They are 'community-owned,' but include actions directed at Council and other funding agencies for support. Community plans are tools for capturing and prioritising the aspirations of communities and providing a 'roadmap' for how to get there. It is important that any community planning exercise is inclusive and representative of all sectors of the community. The process seeks to gain general agreement on actions for community improvement that can be delivered by a range of providers including, but not limited to, Council. Two community plans – Edgumbe and Ōtamakaokao (Awatapu) are now complete and moving into the delivery phase, while the Murupara Community Plan is in progress.

Eastern Bay of Plenty Road Safety Programme

Our Eastern Bay of Plenty Road Safety Programme aims to raise community awareness about road safety and works towards a safe road system throughout the region that is free of death and serious injury accidents.

The programme is facilitated by Council in partnership with programme sponsor Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency, NZ Police, ACC and other road safety agencies.

Key programmes delivered in 2022/23 in partnership with our community include a holiday season driver safety campaign focusing on reducing drink driving and 1st of January Fatigue Stop. Various young driver safety education events have also been delivered around the Eastern Bay and a marae-based recidivist drink-drive programme. Additionally, we provided cycle skills education to 735 young people, facilitated a Go by Bike Day, for adults and Wheels Days promoting Safe and Active Transport Modes, to over 2000 tamariki. During the colder months we have focused on Winter Pit Stops, and educating drivers on what car checks are required to stay safe.



Facilitating economic regeneration and employment opportunities

E whakahaere ana i te tipuranga o te taiōhanga me ngā āheinga mahi

Developing the Whakatāne Boat Harbour

Whakatāne town wharf and the entire East Coast of the North Island have reached maximum capacity for berthage. The new Boat Harbour aims to address this issue by offering a long-term solution, providing safer and more resilient berthage for storing vessels in the town.

The development plans include the establishment of a marine servicing centre equipped with a mobile boat hoist capable of lifting vessels. The Boat Harbour will offer a new option for lifting boats out of the water, allowing them to undergo maintenance and servicing.

Additionally, an onsite marine training school will be established to train skilled workers for the site and support the existing marine industry in Whakatāne. This industry currently includes two of New Zealand's largest and more popular aluminium boat builders.

The Boat Harbour project, with a budget of \$29.4 million, aims to retain existing jobs while generating over 600 new employment opportunities.

It is expected to bring significant economic, environmental, and social benefits to the region. Furthermore, the project will contribute to restoring the connections and mauri (life force) of the river, ensuring its preservation for future generations. The Kanoa- Regional Economic Development & Investment Unit of the Ministry of Business and Innovation and Employment is providing \$19.6 million and Whakatāne District Council is funding \$9.8 million from a loan against its existing Harbour Endowment Fund.

The commercial Boat Harbour project reached a significant milestone in January 2022 when land lease and company documents were agreed and signed enabling the Te Rāhui Herenga Waka 2021 Whakatāne Limited Partnership, being a partnership between Whakatāne District Council, Te Rāhui Lands Trust Limited Partnership and The Crown, to form and the Board of Directors to commence work on establishing the development company, consenting and construction procurement processes.

The Resource Consent was prepared, submitted, and then approved through the fast-track consenting process in August 2022 through the Environment Protection Agency. Once consent was approved the development company has been able to start preliminary site works and stakeholder engagement to prepare management plans required under the Resource Consent. The Bay of Plenty Regional Council and Whakatāne District Council are the monitoring and compliance agencies for the Resource Consent. Council, as a shareholder, attends board meetings and receives regular reports from its board appointed representative.

Supporting tourism recovery across the district

Despite the challenges posed by inflation on consumer spending and the gradual recovery of international tourism post-COVID-19, we are pleased to report that the visitor market in the Whakatāne District has continued to flourish with an increase of 10.9% in visitor spending.

Alongside marketing activity to encourage more visitors, work continues to support new tourism products and infrastructure to help sustain growth in the future. New cycleway projects are underway and Wharfside Port Ōhope will see further investment prior to the 2023/24 summer period. Mitchell Park in Whakatāne CBD will also be upgraded over the next financial year to meet demand for an improved events and market space.

Events have bounced back post COVID-19 and continue to be a key driver for visitors. Council supported a number of events over the past year including, Toi's Challenge, Jazz in the Park, Farming Like Grandad, Local Wild Food Festival, West End Wiggle, Soaked in Adventure, Youth Development Rugby and Light Up Whakatāne.





Improving the safety, security and resilience of infrastructure

E whakapai ana i te haumaruru me te aumangea o te hangaroto

Matatā Wastewater Project

Our Matatā Wastewater Project aims to deliver a sustainable wastewater solution for Matatā that improves public health and community wellbeing, prevents, or minimises the adverse effects on the environment, reflects co-design principles, and is affordable to build and operate.

The project is supported by Te Niaotanga o Mataatua o Te Arawa Co-design Group, which includes representatives from Te Mana o Ngāti Rangitahi Trust, Tūwharetoa ki Kawerau, Ngāti Awa hapu (Ngāi Te Rangihouhiri, Ngāti Hikakino and Te Tawera) and our Council.

Throughout 2022/23 we have continued working collaboratively on co-design of the wastewater project, continued environmental monitoring of surface and ground water and ecological monitoring of invertebrates, and commenced testing of specific requirements and subsequent sites for possible land disposal and treatment.

Transport Capital Works

Over the past year the Council has made significant strides in enhancing our road network, ensuring the safety and well-being of our community and visitors. We re-implemented a seal extension programme for rural roads, recognising the considerable respiratory health benefits it brings to families residing in dust-prone areas. By extending the seal on roads like Hallett Road, Mangaone Road, Edgecumbe Soldiers Road, and Orini Road, we not only improve air quality and respiratory health but also protect our sensitive natural waterways, vegetation, and horticultural areas. Particularly, our kiwifruit production, known for its sensitivity to dust, benefits from this initiative.

With a growing region there are many more vehicles on the road with new residents and visitors travelling around our beautiful rohe for work and recreation as well as activity related to the growing economic prosperity. Making sure these activities on our roads can be undertaken safely and efficiently by car, foot, or bike has been a focus for transport investment.

This has seen seal extension work on Kohi Point Road completed, as well as design and pre-implementation work undertaken for significant safety improvements on Thornton Road and reconstruction of the Landing Road roundabout. We've also had our eye on improving the resilience of the network to the growing impacts of climate change with new drainage works delivered on Matahi Road and design work undertaken to reduce the impact of localised flooding on Peace Street, Whakatāne.

Ensuring resilient three waters infrastructure

In the past year, Council has made significant strides in enhancing infrastructure and water management capabilities. Our team has been busy, and the following projects have now been completed:

Barry Avenue Stormwater Pumpstation rebuild:

The Barry Avenue Stormwater Pumpstation in Whakatāne has been successfully reconstructed, replacing the aging facility that served the community for approximately 40 years. The new station, now situated 35 metres away from the original location, features two new flood pumps alongside a low-flow jockey pump that has replaced the older flood pumps. Importantly, the new location is well away from the stopbank which now doesn't undermine the structural integrity of the river defence system. This upgrade now ensures improved efficiency and resilience in managing stormwater.

Braemar Water Treatment Plant upgrade: We are committed to providing safe and high-quality drinking water and have installed new equipment at the Braemar Water Treatment Plant. The new equipment ensures water supply meets compliance by updating chlorination, arsenic removal, corrects pH, and includes UV treatment. This has enhanced the treatment plant, ensures safe water for our residents, and meets the drinking water standards that came into effect 1 January 2023. The upgrade works were substantially completed in June with progressive commissioning being carried out in July.

Water network renewals: A total of 2,342 metres of water mains were replaced across the district, with a particular focus on replacing old, galvanised iron water lines. These renewals have contributed to the reliability and efficiency of the water supply system.



Water pump upgrades at Whakatāne Water Treatment Plant and Bridger Glade:

With a strong focus on energy reduction, we have undertaken upgrades at the Whakatāne Water Treatment Plant and Bridger Glade. Five new pumps have been installed at Whakatāne Water Treatment Plant and two at Bridger Glade, along with new variable speed drives and associated pipe work. These upgrades are part of our ongoing energy reduction programme and were identified from our energy audit as an action to complete. The new pumps at the Whakatāne Water Treatment Plant are generating electricity saving of approximately 23%, which equates to monthly energy savings of almost \$5,600.

Wastewater pipe relining: 690 metres of pipe along Domain Road, Whakatāne, from King Street to McAlister Street intersection, has been successfully relined. The work was carried out during night hours, with minimal disruption to traffic due to effective traffic management services.

Oxidation pond fencing: Prioritising community safety, we have fenced all five oxidation ponds, implemented electronic gates, installed information kiosks, and added pond ladders. These measures ensure that our essential water treatment facilities remain secure and safeguarded.

**Pohutu Street Sewer Pump Station upgrade:**

The upgrade of the Pohutu Street, Whakatāne Sewer Pump Station has been pivotal in reducing wet weather wastewater overflows. The station now boasts two new pumps, variable speed drives, updated electrical controls, and enhanced valving, contributing to more efficient wastewater management.

Rūātoki new source investigations:

Extensive research and drilling have been carried out to investigate potential new drinking water sources. Two investigation bores have already been completed and plans for a production bore at one of the investigated bore sites will be underway for the 2023-24 year. This aims to secure a reliable water supply for the community's future needs.

Otumahi Reservoir site: In preparation for the construction of the Otumahi Reservoir, the site access, stormwater management systems, and bulk earthworks have been completed as part of stage one of the project. These essential preliminary works lay the foundation for a successful reservoir construction, scheduled for completion in the upcoming year. This reservoir allows for better optimisation of water flow to the Edgecumbe and Te Teko supply area and also improves the resilience and continuity of water supply for the community.

Bunyan Road East Sewer Pump Station:

To accommodate the needs of developing land and ensure proper wastewater management, a new sewer pump station was constructed at Bunyan Road East. The project not only caters to the current six land developments but also provides provisions for serving an additional 74 proposed lots. The developers have committed to covering the full cost based on their proportion of lots developed, demonstrating a collaborative approach to infrastructure expansion.

These achievements reflect our Council's dedication to providing essential services, enhancing infrastructure, and ensuring the overall well-being of our communities.

Ensuring Council is enabled and fit for the future

E whakapakari ana i te Kaunihera ki anamata

Preparing for Central Government Reforms

Central Government has been progressing a substantial programme of reforms that will reshape roles and functions of Local Government into the future. Throughout the 2022/23 financial year, Council has continued to understand and influence the reforms on behalf of our district and communities and to ensure smooth transition to new ways of working dependent on the reform outcomes. We have provided submissions on the Water Services Entities Bill 1, Water Services Legislation Bill 2, Water Services Economic Efficiency and Consumer Protection Bill 3. We have also provided feedback via workshops and made submissions to Future for Local Government Review to inform development of final recommendations. We also made submissions to Resource Management reform: Natural and Built Environment Bill, and Spatial Planning Bill. The key areas of reform include:

Waters Services Reform: Change is underway that will see Three Waters Services (drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater) currently run by 67 councils across New Zealand, being operated by 10 publicly owned, specialised water service entities. Over the past year, Council has taken up numerous opportunities to influence the development of new legislation while also working alongside central government to prepare for smooth transition of services, systems, data and information, and workforce. The new entities are required to be up and running no later than 30 June 2026.

Resource Management Reform: The current Resource Management Act will be replaced by the Spatial Planning Act and the Natural Built Environment Act which will transform the way we manage the environment and plan land use. In the past year Council has made submissions to central government on the draft Acts.



Future for Local Government Review:

The Future for Local Government Review aims to identify how local government needs to evolve over the next 30 years to improve the wellbeing of local communities, the environment, funding, and financing, and to embody Te Tiriti. In the past year, Council has participated in workshops and made submissions to the review.

Climate Change Reform: The Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Amendment Act 2019, provided the framework for New Zealand to develop and implement policies to stabilise the climate in line with our Nationally Determined Contributions through the Paris Agreement. The act sets new domestic greenhouse gas targets, enabled the establishment of emission budgets, required the government to develop and implement policies for climate change adaptation (National Adaptation Plan) and mitigation (Emissions Reduction Plan) as well as establishing the independent climate change commission. The Emissions Reduction Plan and National Adaptation Plan are reviewed and updated every year.

New Zealand Waste Strategy and Waste Legislation Reform: The Waste Legislation Reform is developing new waste legislation to replace the current Waste Minimisation Act 2008 and the Litter Act 1979. The new legislation will support the delivery of many significant initiatives including the waste strategy and waste actions of the Emissions Reduction Plan. It is expected that the new legislation will be enacted in 2025.



Civic Centre Council Building Redevelopment

The Council office building was constructed in 1989. Since, the functions of government and the expectations of what we deliver has continued to expand and evolve. Significant upgrade of the main Council office began at the end of 2021, with staff relocated to four office spaces within the Whakatāne town centre. By the end of the 2022/23 financial year, the building has been completed, on time and on budget, with staff moving back into the redeveloped office in July 2023.

The redevelopment has meant that important health and safety upgrades have been made, including earthquake strengthening. Additionally, the redevelopment facilitated a more adaptable and versatile use of space, featuring an increase in meeting rooms and collaborate workspaces. To improve accessibility for the public and increase the visibility of democracy, the Council Chambers and public meeting rooms were relocated from the upper floor to the ground floor. This move allows for easier access to Council meetings and offers modern meeting spaces for community use. Throughout the redevelopment process the Council prioritised supporting local business and employment by adopting a procurement approach which supported local business whenever feasible.

Adopting Annual Plan for 2023/24

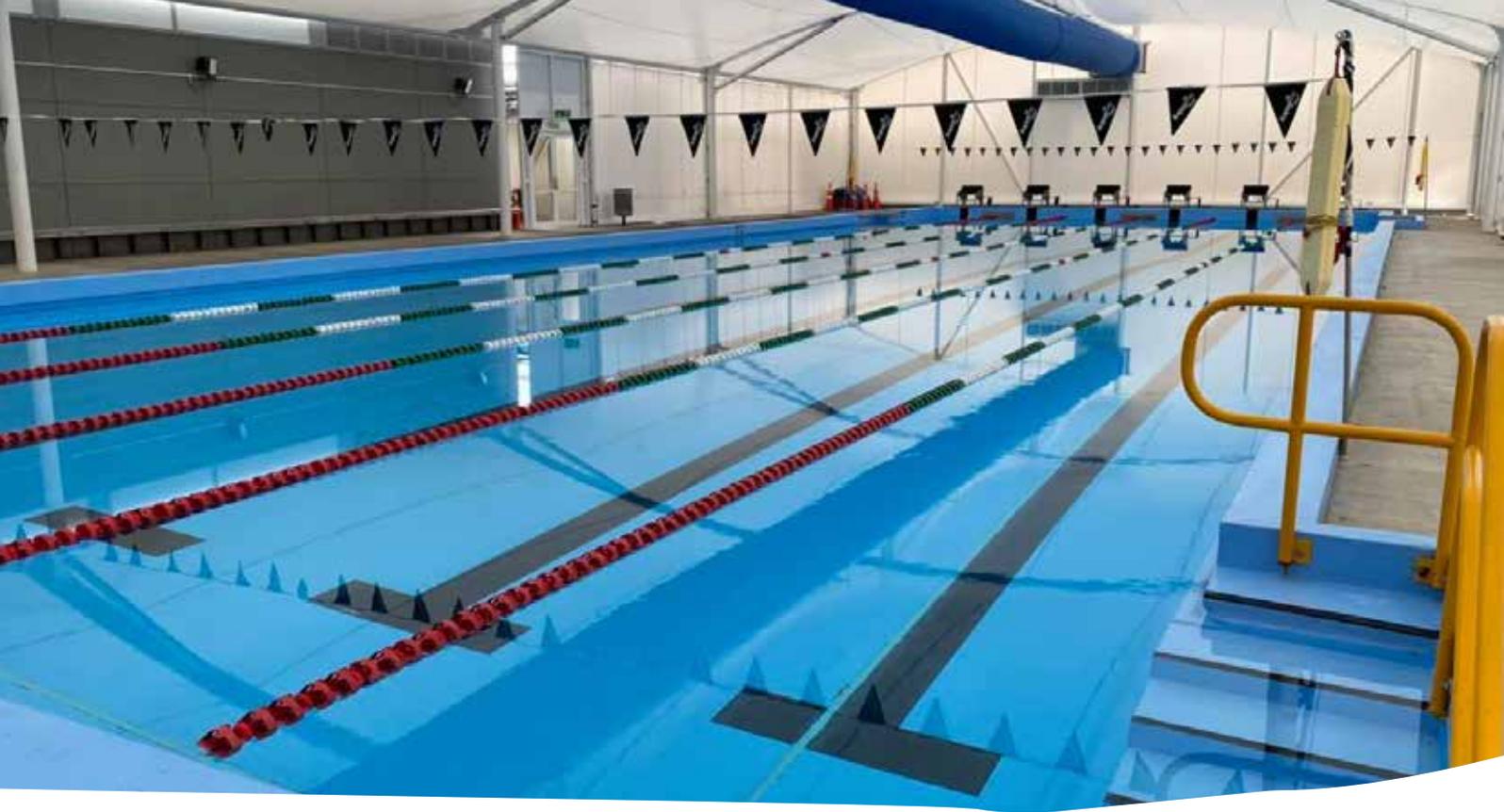
In June 2023 we adopted a new Annual Plan for the 2023/24 financial year which updates and implements year three of the 2021-31 Long Term Plan.

The new Annual Plan aims to address the financial pressures that most Councils across the country are facing. These pressures are driven in part by rising inflation and interest rates and fund some additional projects and activities necessary to be carried out over the 2023/24 year.

The Annual Plan adopted an average 9.5% rates increase for the Whakatāne District. This increase reflects the balance between making things affordable for communities and navigating extraordinary inflationary pressures, while delivering services and facilities which make the Whakatāne District a fantastic place to live, work and play.

Getting organised for the 24-34 Long Term Plan

Every three years, Council reviews the District's Long Term Plan. This plan will set Council's priorities, direction, and will carry the thoughts and aspirations of our communities' and turn them into actions. There's no denying we're living in a time of extraordinary inflationary and affordability pressures. Council will need to make some hard decisions, balancing investment with affordability, while ensuring we keep up our momentum and focus on what is most important to the people of the Whakatāne District. As we start drafting this next Long Term Plan, Council wants to work together with all communities to ensure the Whakatāne District continues to be the best it can be for the people living here now and for future generations. Throughout the last year, we have completed an environmental scan, reviewed what you have told us in the last five years, workshopped with focus groups, and received 364 pre-engagement submissions from you in May and June 2023.



Thriving Circular Economies

Ka whakapuāwai ngā taiōhanga kōpae

Enhancing the environmental outcomes of our activities

E whakanui ana i ngā putanga taiao i ā mātau mahi

Making Greener Decisions

This year, we launched 'Future Fit', alongside Bay of Plenty Regional Council and Tauranga City Council. Future Fit was developed by Auckland City Council and is a questionnaire covering consumption under the categories of eat, move, energy, buy and talk. The answers then create a carbon footprint for your household and compare you to the world and national average. Future Fit also helps you set everyday actions to reduce your footprint.

In early 2023, we engaged Energy Management Solutions (EMSOL) to undertake a preliminary feasibility study to determine which of our sites had the potential for solar power to be installed. This feasibility study was a first step, and we anticipate more work will be required to take a solar project forward. As part of the review of our Climate Change Strategy, our technical advisory group will provide us with direction on the next steps for this work.

Reducing our energy use

Our Energy Management Programme has delivered continuous reductions and cost savings since it started in 2019. This program aims to identify, implement, and monitor opportunities for energy savings and emission reductions and was established in collaboration with the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority (EECA) and the support of Energy Management Solutions (EMSOL).

In the 2022/23 financial year, our Energy Management Program has achieved significant cost savings and a substantial reduction in carbon emissions. We have successfully saved approximately \$106,223 and reduced carbon emissions by 70,375 tCo2e through the implementation of energy-efficient practices and retrofitting initiatives. Moreover, our program resulted in a total energy savings of 55,520 kWh during the same period.

We have continued to see energy savings through energy reduction actions such as turning off swimming pool boilers over summer months, switching to LED lighting, and optimising heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems. Our Three Waters team have also incorporated energy efficient measures into infrastructure including more energy efficient high lift pumps.

The installation of the pool cover at the Murupara pools is another example of energy efficiency as the cover traps heat and reduces the energy required to heat the pool. It is projected that the pool cover will save approximately 14,000 kWh, \$2,400, and 1,800 kg CO₂e.

Carbon Footprint

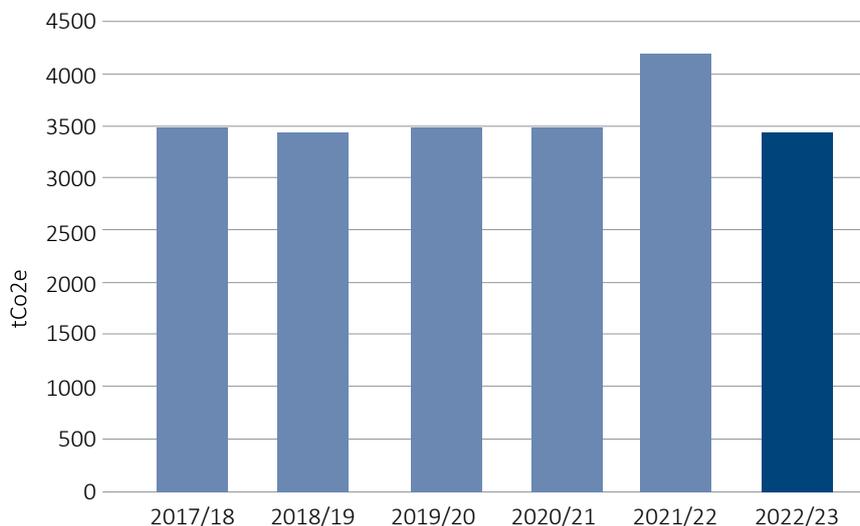
Our top five carbon emission sources:

- Wastewater Treatment Plant – 65%
- Electricity – 12%
- Diesel (cars) – 9%
- Natural gas – 3%
- Electricity transmission and distribution losses – 2%

Over the 2022/23 financial year, Council’s carbon footprint was 3,402 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO₂e). This is a 24% decrease in the activity measured over the 2021/22 financial year, at 4,330 tCO₂e. This year we focused on data quality and aligning with the latest emissions factors, which enables us to gain a clearer picture of our progress.

Our Wastewater Treatment Plant accounted for 2219 tCO₂e (65%). This was an increase on the 2017/18 base year and was attributed to changes in carbon accounting methodology (an increase in the emission factor for methane), and a greater volume of treated wastewater discharged resulting in higher emissions. Our electricity consumption decreased over the last year, contributing 421 tCO₂e (12%) of our carbon footprint. As we transition away from high emission energy sources such as LPG and natural gas, we anticipate increases in electricity usage. A significant portion of our electricity consumption supports our Three Waters infrastructure and we are proud to report a 61% reduction in natural gas usage since the 2017/18 base year. This success can be attributed to the transition to electric heat pumps at the Whakatāne Aquatic Centre.

Whakatāne District Council’s Council Footprint*



* This data is subject to significant uncertainty and therefore the conclusions that are drawn should be treated with caution at this stage.



Waste minimisation

Council is dedicated to making a positive impact on waste management in our communities. We remain actively working on the 27 actions we set in our Waste Management and Minimisation Plan and continue to provide kerbside services to over 14,000 properties and the running of our two refuse transfer stations. With recent changes in waste-related legislation by central government, we've been quick to adapt our plans and operations accordingly.

On top of this, during the 2022/23 financial year we have:

- Started a major project with Community Resources Whakatāne (CRew) to increase the amount of construction and demolition waste diverted from landfill for re-use.
- Diverted 39% off all waste passing through Council's refuse transfer stations from landfill, including:
 - » composting over 5,200 tonnes of green waste
 - » crushing and reusing 426 tonnes of concrete
 - » recycling 1,548 tonnes of glass
- Worked with the community group Waste Zero Whakatāne to provide collections of hard to recycle items at markets.

Provided free composting courses.

- Implemented improved waste minimisation systems at schools.
- Provided free compost for community gardens.
- Continued to provide free waste education to schools.
- Provided 500 discounted home composting units to the community.

We set a target to stay below 70% of the national average of waste sent to landfill per person for the year. This year we are proud to share that we achieved our target and were 52.8% of the national average.



Intergrating nature into our decision making

E whakaaro nui ana ki te taiao i ā mātau whakataunga

Building climate change and natural hazard resilience

E whakakaha ana i te aumangea ki te huringa āhuarangi me ngā tūraru matepā taiao

Emergency Management

Reduction: The Council actively participated in the development of the Bay of Plenty Regional Climate Risk Reduction Assessment, as well as other natural hazard investigations revising the current tsunami inundation maps, and coastal hazard inundation and erosion risks. Council continues to collaborate with the Bay of Plenty Regional Council flood team on assessing and responding to the risk of a breach of the Whakatāne stop banks.

The Council has revised its landslide risk assessment initially completed in 2013, factoring climate change into the calculations. That has led to revised low, medium, and high-risk zones, and will be incorporated into the District Plan through a Plan Change in the 2023/24 year. The Council is progressing the preparation of a plan change to the Whakatāne District Plan to establish minimum floor levels for buildings across the district. The underlying flood

modelling for Whakatāne is now available for use by planners, building inspectors and our asset managers. We continue to work with building owners in the Whakatāne town centre to coordinate earthquake risk assessments to encourage a collaborative, timelier and cost-effective response to strengthen earthquake prone buildings.

The Council has continued its regular monitoring of the state of the escarpments, in Whakatāne and Ōhope, for vegetative and geological instability above residential houses. The Council advises the landowner if it appears there may be an increased risk from tree or rock fall, or the mass movement of a slope. Over the course of the wet summer, the Council worked with several landowners and responded to several slips along these escarpments. The Council has also undertaken remedial work on its properties where a risk was identified.

Readiness: The Council is supporting the preparation of several Community Emergency Response Plans, with their progress being highly variable. These will cover the areas of Matatā, Thornton, Edgecumbe, Waiōhau, Murupara, Waimana, Wainui, Manawahe, Te Teko, Minginui, Te Whāiti, Ōhiwa and Ōhope. Some of these are marae-based teams and some are allocated space in their local community halls for emergency preparedness for initial response phases. In three cases, the outcome of completed plans, has led to the establishment of a supporting Community Emergency Response Team, which comprises local volunteers who undertake initial response and support services to their communities.

Response: We have assisted two property owners in Manawahe Road as a result of flooding to their properties over time. This was a direct result of the wet summer and sheer amount of rainfall that fell in the Manawahe Hills. The Council co-ordinated the pumping of flood waters from a slow soakage area where no natural fall was occurring. Despite pumping 500 million litres of water over the period of one month, the houses were eventually flooded, leading to insurance settlements for both.

The Council is working collaboratively with the Rotorua Lakes Council, Western Bay of Plenty District Council and Bay of Plenty Regional Council, as surface and groundwater levels continue to cause flooding of the road network. While our emergency management team, and Council's Transport and Three Waters teams were well prepared in advance of Cyclone Gabrielle anticipating extensive damage, we were extremely fortunate to have minor flooding and wind damage. This enabled Council staff to deploy and support the response and ongoing recovery efforts in Wairoa, Napier and in Tairāwhiti/Gisborne. Two staff members were also deployed to the Auckland storm event, providing valuable insights into how our largest city responded to this event.



Other things we do

He aha atu anō ā mātau mahi

Providing core activities and services for our communities every day

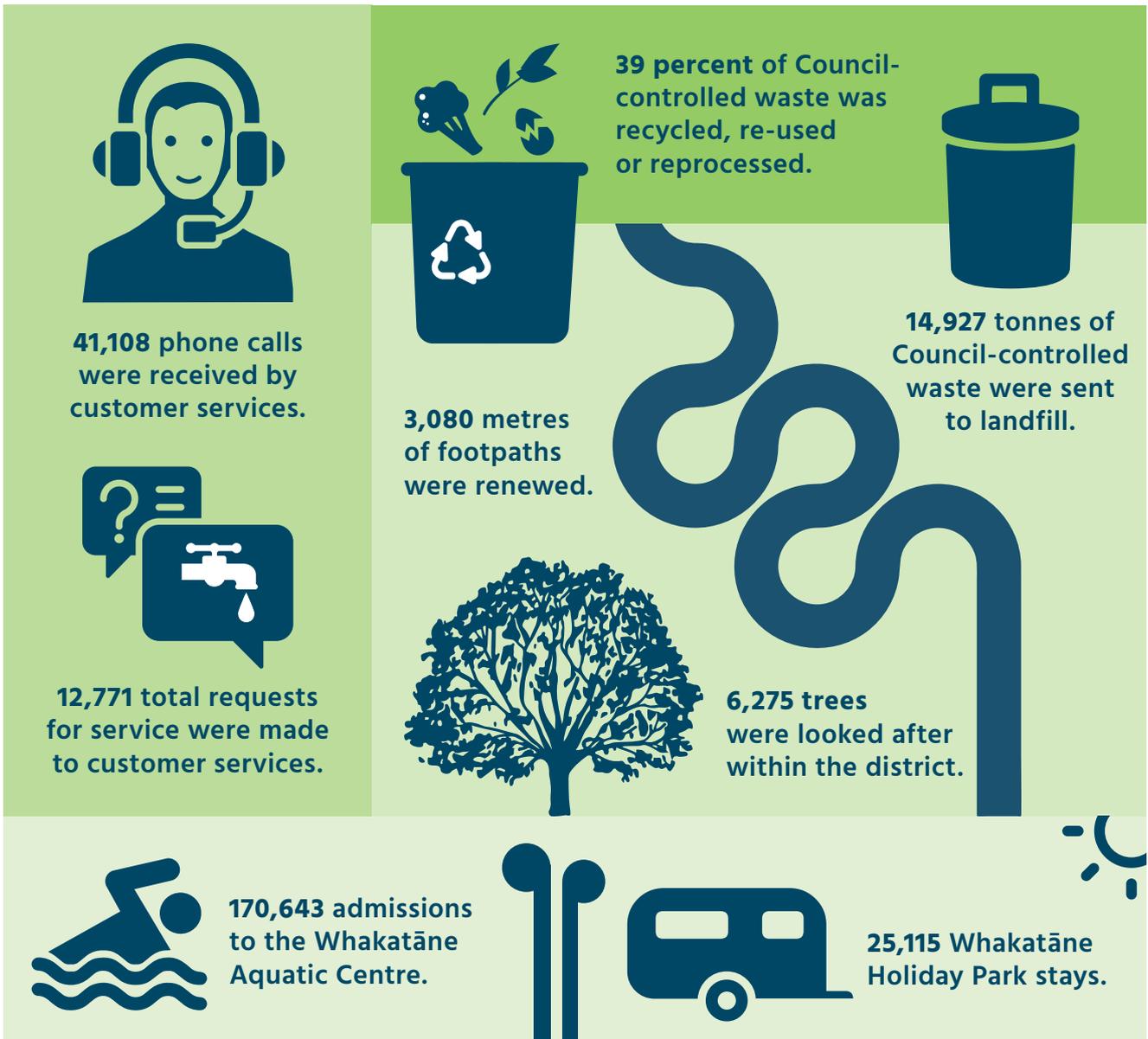
E tutuki ana mātau i ngā mahi me ngā ratonga matua i whakamahia e te hapori i ia rā

The Council plays an important role in promoting the social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of our communities. We do this in several ways, including through the delivery of core activities and services to our communities. We look after roads, cycleways, and footpaths, to ensure that everyone can journey safely around the district. We are also responsible for managing waste and ensuring that the water you drink is clean and safe. These essential services contribute to the health and economic prosperity of residents while also contributing to the protection of our environment.



Snapshot of some of the activities and services we provided in the past year.

Ētahi o ngā mahi me ngā ratonga kua tutuki pai i te tau kua pahure



Summary of our non-financial performance

Te tirohanga whānui a ngā mahi

How we performed against our targets for the year

I pehea ā mātau mahi i ngā whāinga tiritiringa o te tau

The Council has 69 non-financial performance measures set throughout the Long-Term Plan 2021-31. Within the 69 non-financial performance measures, 33 are mandatory as outlined in the Local Government Act 2002. These measures are indicated by an (M).

Monitoring our non-financial performance allows us to see how we are tracking against the levels of service we said the community can expect from us. This means we can identify areas for specific focus if required.

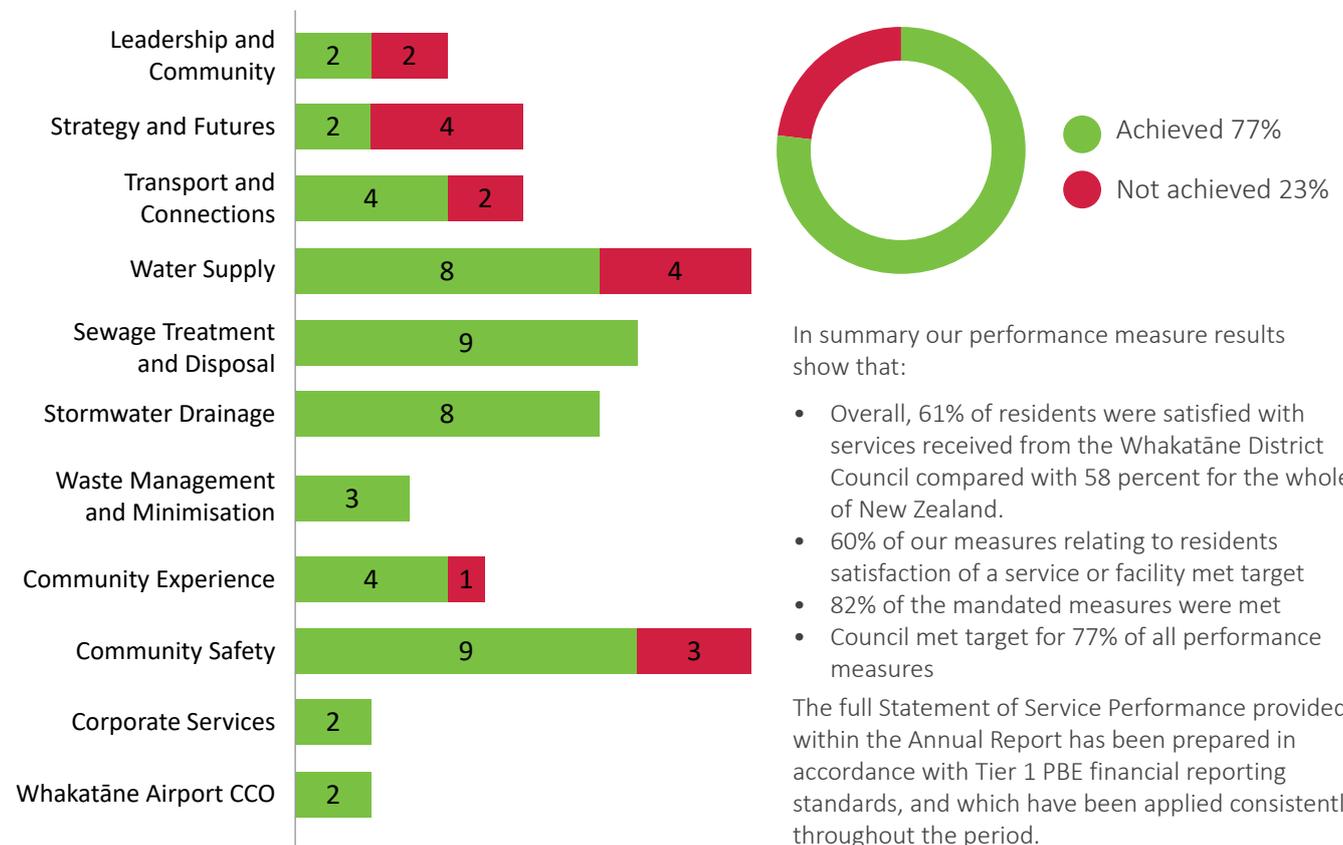
We review our measures and structure every three years when we develop each Long-Term Plan. This is the second time we are reporting on our performance against the 2021-31 Long Term Plan measures. These measures, the targets against each, and the results for the past year, are set out in the 'Our Activities and Services' section of this Annual Report.

We have selected a range of measures to help the public assess the level of service for major aspects and that are meaningful for the community. These include measuring how timely we are, our key project milestones, community perceptions and how happy users are.

We achieved 77% of our non-financial performance measures

The summary below shows our how we performed against our measures, grouped into 11 different activities.

2022/23 non-financial performance measure results





Summary Financial Statements and Notes

Whakarāpopototanga o ngā Whakapuakanga Ahumoni

Figures and disclosures in the 2022/23 Summary Annual Report have been extracted from the full 2022/23 Annual Report.

The full 2022/23 Annual Report were authorised for issue by Council on the 21 December 2023.

Audit New Zealand has audited the full financial statements and issued an unmodified opinion on the audited information, excluding the non-financial performance information. The Non-Financial performance information in the full Statement of Service Performance in the Annual Report was qualified with respect to being limited in ability to confirm the number of complaints relating to the water system, drinking water supply, and performance of the stormwater system.

The audit report on the full financial statement also raised an emphasis of matter, without modifying their opinion, drawing attention to developments in the water services reform programme, more detail of which is provided in the full financial statements in Note 31 on page 153.

This Summary has been examined by Audit New Zealand for consistency with the full Annual Report. The summary financial statements do not include all the disclosures provided in the full financial statements and cannot be expected to provide as complete understanding as provided by the full financial accounts.

A copy of the full financial statements can be obtained on the Whakatāne District Council website whakatane.govt.nz

Basis of Preparation

The full financial statements have been prepared on the going concern basis, and the accounting policies have been applied consistently throughout the period.

Statement of Compliance

The full financial statements of the Council have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the LGA, which includes the requirement to comply with generally accepted accounting practice in New Zealand (NZ GAAP).

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Tier 1 PBE accounting standards. The full financial statements comply with PBE standards.

The Summary Annual Report is in compliance with PBE FRS 43 summary financial statements.

The Council of Whakatāne District Council confirms that all statutory requirements in relation to the annual report, as outlined in the Local Government Act 2002, have been complied with, with the exception of section 98(3) which requires the adoption of the annual report by resolution within 4 months after the end of the financial year to which it relates, and with respect to 98(4) making the summary of information contained within the annual report made publicly available with 1 month due to timing impacts associated with public holidays.

Presentation currency and rounding

The financial statements are presented in New Zealand dollars and all values are rounded to the nearest thousand dollars (\$000). Some rounding variances may occur in the financial statements due to the use of decimal places in the underlying financial data.

Commitments, leases and contingencies

The council, at balance date, had capital commitments of \$8.129 million (2022: \$17.141 million), operating leases as lessor of \$15.242 million (2022:\$13.407 million), operating leases as lessee of \$132 thousand (2022: \$88 thousand) and nil contingencies (2022: nil).

Related Party Transactions

The council has a 1/9th share in BOPLASS Ltd established to foster collaboration between councils in the delivery of services. During the year, the council contracted BOPLASS Ltd for services costing \$140 thousand (2022: \$145 thousand).

The council has a 50:50 joint equity venture with the Ministry of Transport (Air Transport Division) in the Whakatāne Airport. Funds held by council on behalf of the Airport total \$2.398 million deficit (2022:\$2.031 million deficit).

Events after balance date

Water Services Reform

The previous New Zealand Government commenced implementation of a water services reform programme intended to ensure all New Zealanders have safe, clean and affordable water services. It intended to achieve this establishing new public entities to take on the delivery of drinking water, wastewater and stormwater services across New Zealand. The reform was enacted by three pieces of legislation:

The Water Services Entities Act 2022, which (as amended by the Water Services Entities Amendment Act 2023 on 23 August 2023) establishes ten publicly owned water services entities and sets out their ownership, governance and accountability arrangements. A water services entity is established (for transitional purposes) on the date on which the appointment of the entity's establishment board takes and its establishment date (operational date) will be a date between 1 July 2024 and 1 July 2026.

The Water Services Legislation Act 2023, which amended the Water Services Entities Act 2022 on 31 August 2023 to provide for the transfer of water services assets and liabilities to the water services entities.

The Water Services Economic Efficiency and Consumer Protection Act 2023, which provides the economic regulation and consumer protection framework for water services. The consumer protection framework will come into force on 1 July 2024 and the rest of the Act came into force on 31 August 2023.

There is uncertainty around the water services reform legislation. Recognising with the Coalition Agreement for the 54th Parliament being agreed for the current New Zealand Government, it may be repealed or substantially amended. (2022: Water Services Reform, Cyclone Gabrielle).

Summary Statement of Comprehensive revenue and expenses for the year ended 30 June 2023

	ACTUAL 2023 \$000	BUDGET 2023 \$000	ACTUAL 2022 \$000
Rates	55,217	55,036	51,601
Subsidies and Grants	17,722	23,280	18,745
Development and Financial Contributions	131	394	226
Fees and Charges	8,001	8,734	8,061
Interest Revenue	499	46	32
Other Revenue	4,857	3,559	4,061
Gains	1,483	191	7,224
Total Revenue	87,910	91,240	89,950
Personnel Costs	25,177	22,795	21,953
Depreciation and Amortisation Expense	23,086	17,948	21,690
Finance Costs	4,917	2,606	2,417
Other Expenses	37,526	34,738	37,720
Future loss on sale- investment property	1,804	-	185
Revaluation Losses	2,678	-	3
Total Expenses	95,188	78,087	83,967
Gains (Loss) on Share of Joint Venture/Associates equity	(382)	(300)	(392)
Surplus (Deficit) Before Tax	(7,660)	12,853	5,590
Income Tax Expense (Benefit)	865	-	-
Surplus (Deficit) After Tax	(8,525)	12,853	5,590
Other Comprehensive Revenue and Expense of Joint Ventures/Associates	(227)	-	-
Gains (Loss) on Property, Plant and Equipment Revaluations	58,979	10,455	357,821
Deferred Tax on Revaluations	865	-	-
Other Comprehensive Revenue and Expense	59,617	10,455	357,821
Total Comprehensive Revenue and Expense	51,092	23,308	363,411

Major variances explained

The deficit before tax of \$7.6 million is \$20.5 million lower than the budgeted surplus of \$12.9 million set in the 2023 Annual Plan. The variance is attributable to the following factors:

Revenue (\$3.3 million 3.6% lower than budget)

- Subsidies and Grants were under budget by \$5.6 million.
- Gains were over budget by \$1.5 million predominantly due to Derivative Financial Instruments performing well with the steady rise in floating interest rates.

Expenditure (\$18.7 million 24% higher than budget)

- Other Expenses exceeded budget by \$2.8 million. This was mainly in the contracts and consultants area.
- Depreciation was over budget by \$5.1 million. This is mainly due to the increasing value of these assets particularly three waters and roading assets.
- The landfill provision increased by \$1.2 million due to extra necessary work being identified.
- Personnel costs finished at \$2.4 million above budget due to pay rises.
- Finance costs finished at \$2.3 million above budget due to increasing interest rates and higher loans.
- Losses were a \$4.5 million unbudgeted expense. The main losses were due to Investment Properties values taking a downward trend.

Summary Statement of financial position as at 30 June 2023

	ACTUAL 2023 \$000	BUDGET 2023 \$000	ACTUAL 2022 \$000
TOTAL EQUITY	1,193,442	832,015	1,142,209
Total Current Assets	21,707	23,129	19,847
Total Non-Current Assets	1,318,075	946,427	1,237,234
TOTAL ASSETS	1,339,782	969,556	1,257,081
Total Current Liabilities	36,899	38,065	32,250
Total Non-Current Liabilities	109,441	99,476	82,622
TOTAL LIABILITIES	146,340	137,541	114,872
NET ASSETS (Assets minus Liabilities)	1,193,442	832,015	1,142,209

Major variances explained

The Net Assets variance to budget was 43% (\$361 million) more than budgeted. Nearly all of the variance was in non-current assets.

Total Assets (\$370 million 38% higher than budget)

- Non-current Assets exceeded budget by \$372 million.
- Much of this variance can be explained by having continuous and fair assessments rather than the historical 3 yearly cycles.
- During 2023 a further \$48 million was added to valuations and fair assessments of infrastructural assets.
- Infrastructural assets were over budget by \$348 million.
- Operational Assets were over budget by \$14 million, they were revalued up by \$4 million during 2023.
- Cash finished the year at \$5 million below budget.

Total Liabilities (\$8.8 million 6% more than budget)

- Loans were \$14.8 million more than budget due to capital expenditure being higher than usual and inflationary impacts on cost.
- Payables were \$4.4 million less than budget due to more creditors being paid before balance date.
- Provisions were \$1.6 million lower than originally anticipated as a result of landfill provisions increasing but being offset by future loss on sale of investment property decreasing.

Summary Statement of changes in net assets and equity for the period ended 30 June 2023

	ACTUAL 2023 \$000	BUDGET 2023 \$000	ACTUAL 2022 \$000
Balance at 1 July	1,142,209	808,707	779,226
Total Comprehensive Revenue and Expense for the Year	51,092	23,308	363,411
ECL adjustment due to adoption of PBE IPSAS 41	141	-	-
Other Adjustment	-	-	(429)
Balance as at 30 June 2023	1,193,442	832,015	1,142,209

Statement of changes in net assets and equity

The Council's equity has been adjusted by the current year total comprehensive revenue and expense, a surplus of \$51.1 million, which is the combination of the deficit after tax of \$8.5 million and a net gain on revaluation of \$59.6 million includes deferred tax on revaluations. The remaining movements are a result of movements in restricted reserves and council created reserves.

Summary Statement of Cashflows for the year ended 30 June 2023

	ACTUAL 2023 \$000	BUDGET 2023 \$000	ACTUAL 2022 \$000
Net Cash Flow from Operating Activities	14,354	30,752	21,673
Net Cash Flows from Investing Activities	(42,227)	(45,776)	(34,089)
Net Cash Flow from Financing Activities	29,800	20,000	9,000
Net increase/decrease in Cash	1,927	4,975	(3,416)
Cash at beginning of year	1,888	4,096	5,304
Cash, Cash Equivalents and Bank Overdrafts at the End of the Year	3,815	9,071	1,888
Represented by:			
Cash at Bank	3,815	9,071	1,888

	2022 \$000	CASHFLOWS	NON-CASH CHANGES		NOTES	2023 \$000
			Acquisition	New Leases		
Reconciliation of Liabilities Arising from Financing Activities						
Long Term Borrowings	86,000	27,500	-	-	Note 22	113,500
Other Term Liabilities- Deposit Held	1,000	-	-	-	Note 22	1,000
ANZ Short Term Loan	-	2,300	-	-	Note 22	2,300
Long Term debt	87,000	29,800	-	-		116,800

Statement of cashflows

Cash held at year end was \$5.3 million less than the budget of \$9 million.

The Net Increase / Decrease cashflows was \$3 million less than budget.

Net cashflows from operating activities was \$16 million less than budget, spending more (\$10.4 million) and receiving less income (\$6 million). This is mainly reflected in:

- Fees and charges and other revenue was over budget by \$2.7 million.
- Subsidies and Grants received were below budget by \$8 million due to some delays in grants that were moved to the 2023/24 year.

Net cashflows from investing activities contributed \$3.6 million lower cash utilisation compared with budget, while capital purchases were over budget by \$4 million, this was offset by positive impact of receipts from sale of capital of \$1 million and acquisition of investments being \$6.6 million lower than budget.

Financing activities were overspent by \$9.8 million due to extra loans being raised for capital expenditure and inflationary impacts on costs.

Independent Auditor's Report

To the readers of the Whakatāne District Council's summary of the annual report for the year ended 30 June 2023

The summary of the annual report was derived from the annual report of the Whakatāne District Council (the District Council) for the year ended 30 June 2023.

The summary of the annual report comprises the following information on pages 34 to 39:

- the summary statement of financial position as at 30 June 2023;
- the summaries of the statement of comprehensive revenue and expense, statement of changes in net assets and equity and statement of cashflows for the year ended 30 June 2023;
- the notes to the summary financial statements that include accounting policies and other explanatory information; and
- the summary non-financial performance information (referred to as "Summary of our non-financial performance" in the summary annual report).

Opinion

In our opinion:

- the summary of the annual report represents, fairly and consistently, the information regarding the major matters dealt with in the annual report; and
- the summary statements comply with PBE FRS-43: *Summary Financial Statements*.

However, the summary non-financial performance information includes a limitation in scope to the equivalent extent as the full audited non-financial performance information. This limitation is explained below in "The full annual report and our audit report thereon" section.

Summary of the annual report

The summary of the annual report does not contain all the disclosures required by generally accepted accounting practice in New Zealand. Reading the summary of the annual report and the auditor's report thereon, therefore, is not a substitute for reading the full annual report and the auditor's report thereon.

The summary of the annual report does not reflect the effects of events that occurred subsequent to the date of our auditor's report on the full annual report.

Independent Auditor's Report

Pūrongo o he Kaitātari Kaute motuhake

The full annual report and our audit report thereon

We expressed a qualified opinion on the non-financial performance information and an unmodified opinion on the other audited information in the full annual report for the year ended 30 June 2023 in our auditor's report dated 21 December 2023. The basis for our qualified opinion on the full non-financial performance information is explained below.

Non-financial performance information: Our work was limited in respect of the number of complaints received about water supply, wastewater and stormwater

The District Council is required to report against the performance measures set out in the Non-Financial Performance Measures Rules 2013 (the Rules) made by the Secretary for Local Government. These include mandatory performance measures relating to the number of complaints received.

The Department of Internal Affairs has issued guidance to assist local authorities in applying the Rules, including how to count complaints. The District Council and its afterhours call centre provider have not been recording and classifying complaints in accordance with this guidance and the method of recording was likely to have understated the actual number of complaints received.

As a result, our audit work was limited and there were no practicable audit procedures we could apply to obtain assurance over the reported results for these performance measures.

Our auditor's report on the full annual report also includes an emphasis of matter paragraph drawing attention to the uncertainty over the Government's water services reform programme, as described in note 31 to the full financial statements.

The Water Services Entities Act 2022, as amended by the Water Services Entities Amendment Act 2023 on 23 August 2023 and the Water Services Legislation Act 2023 on 31 August 2023, establishes ten publicly owned water services entities to carry out responsibilities for the delivery of Three Waters services and related assets and liabilities currently controlled by local authorities.

On 14 December 2023, the Government announced its intention to introduce and pass legislation early next year to repeal and replace the "Three Waters" legislation. The effect of this announcement on the Council is uncertain until such legislation is passed.

Information about this matter is also disclosed on page 36 of the summary financial statements.

Council's responsibility for the summary of the annual report

The Council is responsible for preparing the summary of the annual report which includes preparing summary statements, in accordance with PBE FRS-43: *Summary Financial Statements*.

Independent Auditor's Report

Pūrongo o he Kaitātari Kaute motuhake

Auditor's responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on whether the summary of the annual report represents, fairly and consistently, the information regarding the major matters dealt with in the full annual report and whether the summary statements comply with PBE FRS 43: *Summary Financial Statements*.

Our opinion on the summary of the annual report is based on our procedures, which were carried out in accordance with the Auditor-General's Auditing Standards, which incorporate *the Professional and Ethical Standards and the International Standards on Auditing (New Zealand)* issued by the New Zealand Auditing and Assurance Standards Board.

In addition to our audit and our report on the disclosure requirements, we have performed a limited assurance engagement related to the District Council's debenture trust deed. This limited assurance engagement is compatible with those independence requirements.

Other than these engagements, we have no relationship with, or interests in the District Council.



David Walker
Audit New Zealand
On behalf of the Auditor-General
Auckland, New Zealand
14 February 2024



WHAKATĀNE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Civic Centre, Commerce Street, Whakatāne
Private Bag 1002, Whakatāne 3158

Email: info@whakatane.govt.nz

Phone: 07 306 0500

Fax: 07 307 0718

Website: whakatane.govt.nz



Whakatāne District Council



@whakataneDC1

SERVICE CENTRE MURUPARA

Pine Drive, Murupara

Phone: 07 366 5896

Fax: 07 366 5897