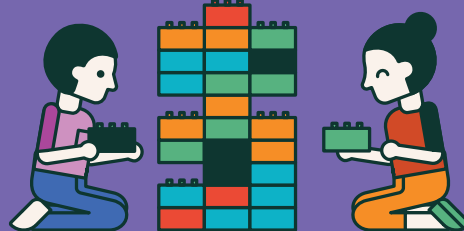




Whakaarohia tēnei

picture this



Mauhanga Tohutohu
Mahere Tautini 2024-34

**Long Term Plan 2024-2034
Consultation Document**



**Western
Bay of Plenty
District Council**

**“A perfect District is a District that has something for everyone...
a perfect District is a District that everyone feels good in.”**

“Ko te Rohe taurikura, ko te Rohe whaihua mō te katoa..
Ko te Rohe taurikura, ko te Rohe rongu pai mō te katoa.”

- Kaelyn, 12, Ōmokoroa

We might not live in a perfect world, but we can all have our say in creating a District that we are proud to live in.

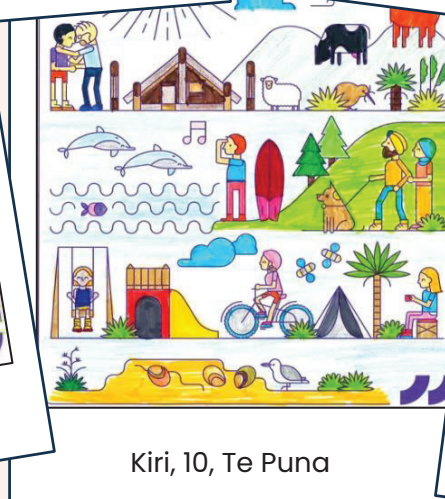
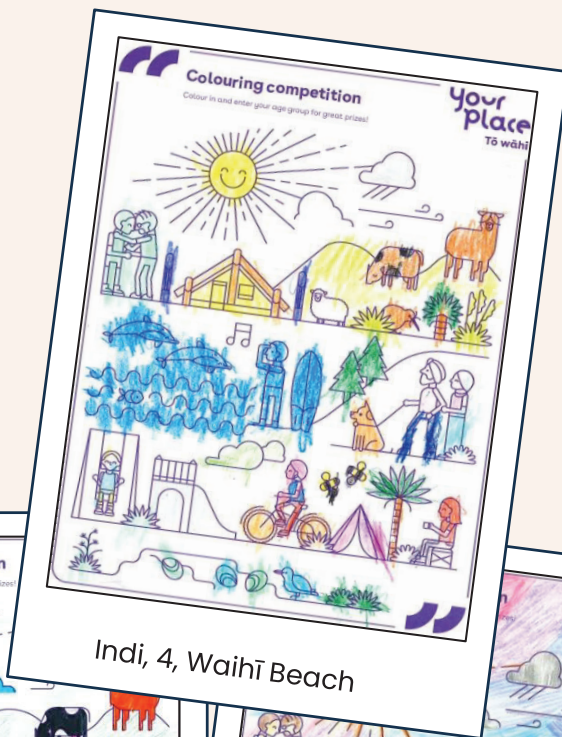
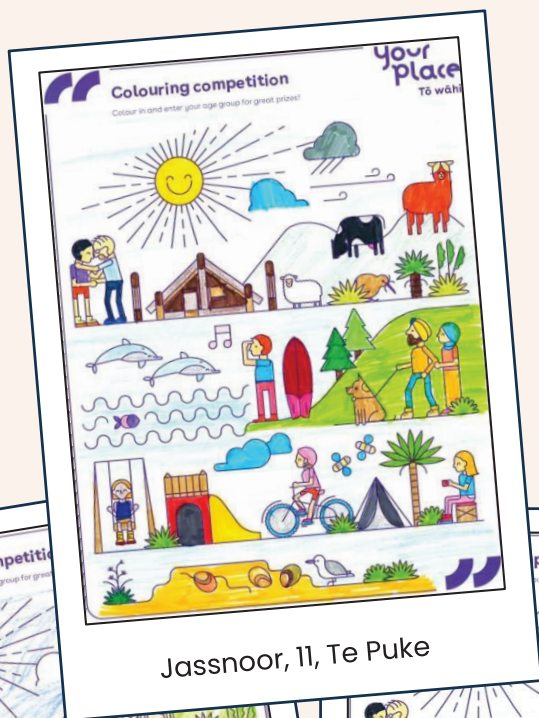
We asked our tamariki and rangatahi what they wanted their future District to look like and they painted a colourful picture.

From fresh air, clean rivers and more books, to waterparks, roller coasters and candyfloss trees, their responses were as varied as the individuals that imagined them.

Some of the ideas are easily achievable, some will take a bit more work, and others are unlikely.

It's the same for any community. We all have different wishlists and we must work together to make decisions that strike an achievable balance for everyone.

Keep an eye out for more snapshots from our young residents on the following pages, as they help us to build a picture of the future.



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"If I was a unicorn, my power would be music. Being friends with Pegasus, how fun would that be? Everything is candy too. So if there was somewhere like that, I'm sure I'll go there."
 - Saami, 7, Ōmokoroa

Our commitment to you

Tō mātou takohanga ki a koe

We love the Western Bay.

And we're proud of what we're achieving together to make your place just that. Your Place.

So, when we say, 'our job as a Council is to do our best for the community', we really mean it.

That's why the important things we're focusing on right now will keep us ahead of the curve. Not only for today but to also meet the future needs of our children and children's children need for the future.

Things like playing a greater role in providing affordable, accessible, and appropriate housing, growing authentic Te Tiriti based relationships, and building and maintaining infrastructure that responds to community needs.

But we're also conscious of the challenges that lie ahead, and understand the pressures everyone is under – affordability, cost of living, and inflation. Council is not immune to these challenges, and we're committed to striking a balance that benefits everyone.

So, when we looked at how much it was going to cost to deliver things next year, and in subsequent years, compared to when we last budgeted for them in 2021, we realised it was going to cost a lot more.

And we knew that it wasn't acceptable to be passing on all these costs to you.

Which is why we've worked incredibly hard to develop the best possible picture for our District, now and into the future.

This meant balancing the impact of things outside of our control, like increased inflation and interest rates, with the things that we can control, our rates and debt levels.

We've done the hard yards, working out how we can reduce and smooth the costs over the next 10 years – thinking about where we can sweat our assets, and timing our projects in a way that will reduce those costs.

We've also gone through our budgets with a fine-tooth comb, identifying areas where we can save without compromising essential services.

But we've got some big challenges in the infrastructure space – in particular the Katikati outfall pipe and Te Puke Wastewater Treatment Plant – and will continue to work through how we're going to deliver our roading contracts in the next 10 years.

We also want to make sure we don't lose sight of making the Western Bay a better place to live from what you've told us you want in the past. Things like the Te Puke Swimming Pool and Waihi Beach Library.

To strike this balance, we're proposing a 13.6% rate increase and a 1.8% increase on volumetric water rates for the coming year, but trust us, every dollar is going toward making our community even better.

While it may mean waiting longer for some projects, we want to reiterate that we've made these decisions to try and keep more money in your pocket. We're dedicated to delivering on our promises while ensuring financial prudence for the long term.

If needed in the future, we can accommodate the additional debt required as our balance sheet is in a good position which gives us the option to borrow. However, we'll do so with careful consideration to ensure it doesn't put us in a tough spot later.

So, before we develop this picture we want to see if it's one you can imagine and are happy with.

A picture that includes spending less on some roading upgrades and walkway/cycleway projects to reduce the impact on rates, improving the way we fund community facilities, and considering permanently closing Te Puna Station Road.

No matter your views, we hope you will put yourself in the picture and join the kōrero.

Because together we can make our community the best it can be.

That's our commitment to you.

We hope you can picture it.

James Denyer
Western Bay Mayor



What's in the picture for the next 10 years?

He aha kei te aroaro mō te 10 tau e heke nei?

1

We're committed to supporting our community. Our strategic priorities address the most important issues we face and where we're focusing investment and resources to deliver on these.

2

While infrastructure remains essential, we're equally focused on creating happy, healthy communities through projects like the Waihī Beach Library and Te Puke Swimming Pool.

3

We'll enhance partnerships with iwi, hapū, and whānau, to become more effective, enduring and trusted partners. Our tangata whenua partnerships remain a priority including ongoing work with Tangata Whenua Partnership Forums and regional groups like the Tauranga Moana Advisory Board and Te Maru o Kaituna River Authority.

4

Over the next 30 years, we anticipate needing about 9,000 new homes to help us grow from 60,000 to 73,000 people.

5

We need to keep moving, as new businesses and whānau make the Western Bay of Plenty home. That's why we have a planned capital projects programme, including things like the Te Puke Wastewater Treatment Plant and Katikati wastewater outfall upgrade.

6

We understand concerns about the cost of living. Costs have increased for us too. We've worked hard to balance these increases by looking at when we do projects. By timing projects strategically, without compromising key initiatives, we can keep our District moving forward.

7

The cost of building roads, water supply, and sewerage systems keeps going up. We try to be efficient by fixing things only when needed, but it's getting harder. Over the next 10 years the average rates increase for water supply is 12%, wastewater 16% and stormwater 18%.

8

We'll increase debt to lessen the immediate rates impact on you and share it across all those that benefit. We can do this because we've sharpened the pencil on our operating costs and have a good balance sheet, allowing us to borrow to make sure people in the future pay their fair share towards what we build now.

9

We're mindful of uncertainties from government reforms, particularly concerning three waters, resource management, and future for local government legislation. Change to the three waters space is still coming (in some form) and will require investment and resource as we work with other councils on new ways to deliver services and demonstrate our water quality and affordability.

10

Climate change poses significant risks to our District. We are planning for climate change in the work that we do and the things that we build. Over the next decade, we'll collaborate with communities to manage and adapt to these impacts effectively.

What we've already done and what we've protected

Kua aha kē mātou, ā, kua tiaki mātou i te aha

We've put in the hard yards to get to this point.

This is because it's our job to ensure we deliver value for money for you while taking our District forward.

We've had to make some tough calls to balance the impact of things outside of our control, like increased inflation and interest rates, with the things that we can control, our rates and debt levels.

This means taking a good hard look at how and when we deliver projects and services to our community over the next 10 years.

Despite all that, we haven't lost sight of what's important to you. We're still focused on making our community better.

So, as we move forward, know that we're working tirelessly to be smart with your money and to keep providing the services you rely on.

What we've done to reduce our costs

We've gone through every aspect of our finances with a fine-tooth comb, including overheads, operational and capital expenditure, and key projects.

We've sharpened the pencil on our operating costs.

We've explored different scenarios to balance affordability, growth, community expectations, sustainable asset management, and service levels.

We've refined our plans while still aiming to deliver for our community. For instance, with the Waihi Beach Library project, we've scaled back the design and reduced costs from an initial estimate of \$6.5 million to \$4.9 million. This shows our commitment to providing quality services at a reasonable cost.

What we will continue to take care of

We're committed to maintaining our current service levels and are checking in with the community on project timing to ensure these standards are met.

We will continue looking after our infrastructure assets – roads, playgrounds, and libraries.

We will keep delivering on our strategic direction, ensuring we continue to meet our promises to the community.

We will continue supporting community initiatives and events that enhance the quality of life for everyone.

We haven't forgotten that our people and communities are the reason Council does what it does.

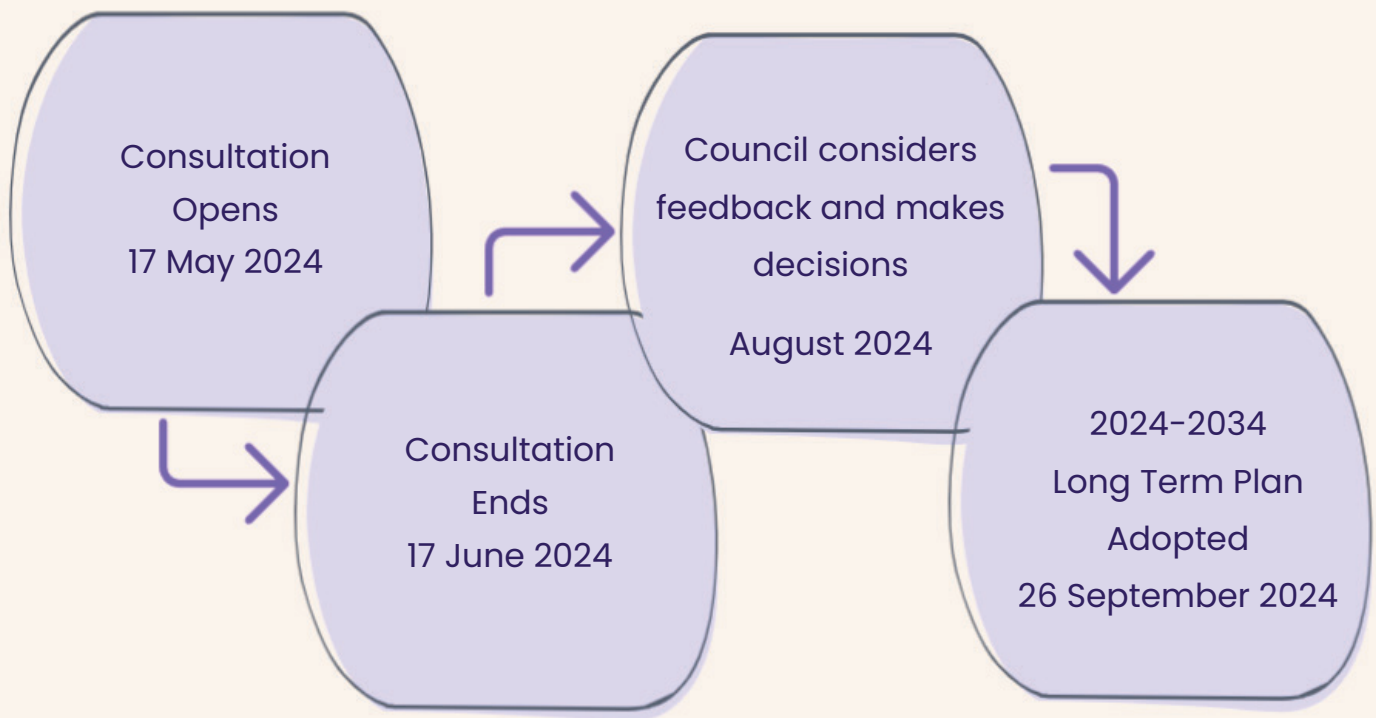
Picture the possibilities

Whakaarohia ngā āheinga

The Long Term Plan steers all Council activities and services, and how we will pay for these services over the next 10 years.

We are required to review our Long Term Plan every three years, and it is through this document that we can tell you what your rates may look like for the next 10 years and our areas of focus. This time round there are eight key questions to consider.

Your earlier feedback has shaped this plan. This is another chance to join us on our journey to bring our final picture into focus.



For those seeking more detail, visit our website. There, you'll find supporting documents to delve deeper into the topics covered in this kōrero.

You are our priority

Ko koe tō mātou hiranga

The 'nuts and bolts' of a Council are to provide key infrastructure, like clean drinking water, rubbish and recycling services, roads, playgrounds, libraries and swimming pools.

We pride ourselves on doing this well, however we know that communities are so much more than that.

We are focused on building and supporting happy, healthy communities where people can live good, fulfilling lives.

Our Community Outcomes and Strategic Priorities are our commitment to you, both now and into the future.

They will guide how we prioritise investment and resources, over the next 10 years.

Our Community Outcomes

- We can all enjoy a healthy and safe lifestyle
- Our communities are vibrant and welcoming to all
- Leaders are effective, informed, and inclusive
- Our environment is clean, green and valued
- Our economy is thriving
- We have authentic Te Tiriti based relationships with tangata whenua

Our Strategic Priorities

- Enabling Housing
- Empowering Communities
- Growing authentic Te Tiriti based relationships
- Providing well maintained, resilient and effective infrastructure
- Responding to climate change



Our Strategic Priorities

Ō mātou hiranga rautaki

Our organisation is set up to support delivery of our strategic priorities – the most important issues facing our community today. Our focus is on prioritising investment and resources towards delivering on these.



Enabling Housing

What do we want to achieve?

Housing that is affordable, accessible, habitable with security of tenure and appropriate to our life stages and differing needs.

What we have done and what we are doing (so far)

- Provision of elder housing to provide much needed affordable accommodation for older people in the District who have limited financial means.
- This includes committing external funding through the Better Off Fund and the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development's Affordable Housing Fund, to redevelop our Heron Crescent elder housing. Once completed in 2026, we'll offer 26 modern, accessible, and affordable units – replacing the 11 existing 40-year-old units.
- Development of Local Housing Action Plans with the community.



Empowering Communities

What do we want to achieve?

Empowering communities to grow stronger, embracing their differences and building on their strengths across the four wellbeings – economic, social, cultural, and environmental.

What we have done and what we are doing (so far)

- Place-based engagement to understand local community priorities.
- Mayors Taskforce for Jobs. We're part of a partnership of mayors from around the country, working together with Central Government and the Ministry of Social Development to help young people aged 16-25 find their feet with work and education opportunities. During a successful six-month pilot programme we helped 10 Te Puke and Maketu rangatahi secure sustainable (90 plus days) employment.
- Funding for implementation of local priorities – such as Mana Kai Mana Ora Western Bay of Plenty Food Sovereignty & Security Plan.
- Community relationships and connections.



Growing authentic Te Tiriti based relationships

What do we want to achieve?

We'll enhance partnerships with iwi, hapū, and whānau, to become more effective, enduring, and trusted partners. Our tangata whenua partnerships remain a priority and ongoing work with tangata whenua Partnership Forums and regional groups like the Tauranga Moana Advisory Board and Te Maru o Kaituna River Authority.

What we have done and what we are doing (so far)

- Funding support to assist with marae sustainability.
- Funding support for iwi and hapū management plan development and implementation.
- Growing relationships and ongoing engagement in the mahi we do.
- Building staff and political capacity and understanding of Māori e.g. 'He Rauru' our Kaupapa Māori Framework.



Providing well maintained, resilient and efficient infrastructure

What do we want to achieve?

Infrastructure that responds to community needs, is fit for purpose and future proofed.

What we have done and what we are doing (so far)

- Exposure and risk assessments for our assets.
- Review of our Transportation Activity. We're in the process of signing up new roading service providers, seeking to work closer with local suppliers and businesses to deliver high-quality roading services that meet the needs and expectations of the community.
- Wastewater Treatment Plant advisory and alternative wastewater disposal options groups.
- Continue to work alongside the community at 'grassroots level' to lift the level of road safety and active transport across all ages – through the 'Travel Safe' initiative.



Responding to climate change

What do we want to achieve?

We want to build community resilience across all our strategic priorities, so that the community is in a better position to adapt and manage the impacts of any changes.

What we have done and what we are doing (so far)

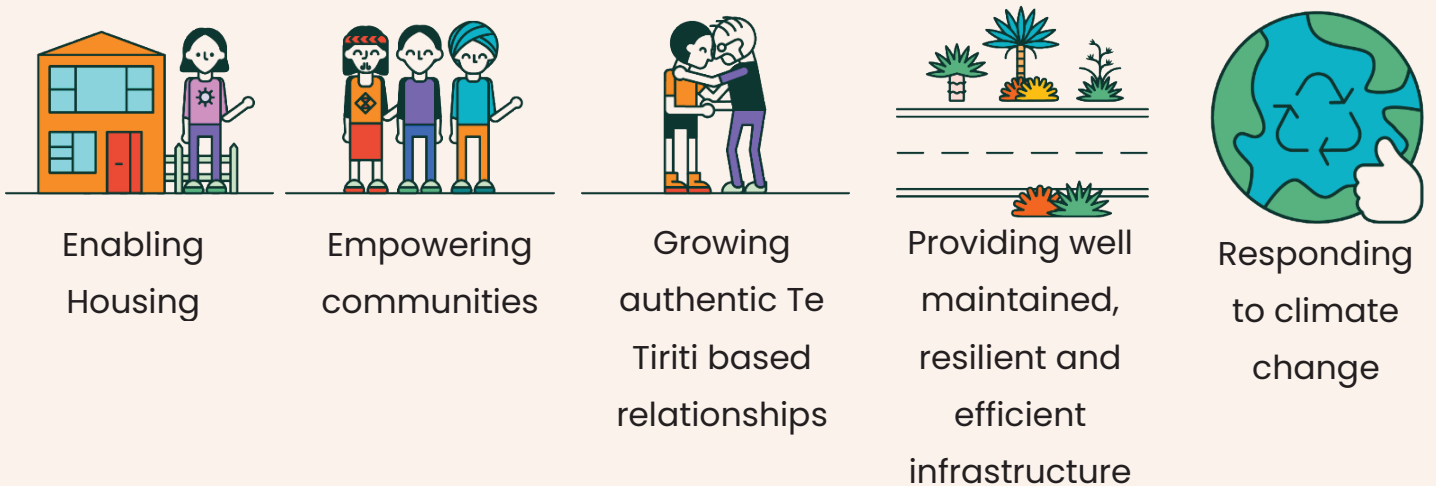
- Support development of local climate change action plans.
- Immediate and ongoing response to local extreme weather events such as the recent flooding in Waihi Beach, in collaboration with local response networks.
- Deliver services in a way that supports people and businesses to make choices that reduce emissions, e.g. accessible walking and cycling networks.
- We fund coastal erosion protection initiatives in accordance with our Coastal Erosion Responses Policy.

What's in focus – Our key questions

He aha kei te aroaro? Ā mātou pātai hirahira



All our strategies, plans, policies, activities and work programmes will be shaped to successfully deliver on our community outcomes and strategic priorities. Our strategic priority icons are illustrated where relevant alongside our key questions on the following pages.



We need to change the timing of some projects to reduce the impact on rates

– What do you think?

Me panoni tātou i te wā o ētahi kaupapa kia whakaiti iho i te pānga ki ngā reiti – he aha ō whakaaro?



The current picture

Nobody likes hearing about rates going up. Especially on top of all the other rising household costs. We hear you. Council has its own budget to balance, and we are facing increased costs too. Roads and water supply are 27% more expensive to build, and sewerage systems 30% more expensive than they were three years ago when we put together our last Long Term Plan – according to Local Government New Zealand.

The changing landscape

We're doing our best to keep costs down for you, but to achieve this we've had to make some tough choices. To strike a balance between affordability and ensuring our District keeps moving forward, we're asking you to join us in considering the options.

Framing the future

We are looking at changing the timing of some projects so we can spread out some of the costs over future years and reduce the immediate impact on you. Most importantly, we want to ensure that you're getting the best value for your money while still receiving the services you rely on every day. The projects in the table on the next page are ones we think are important to the community and deliver services the community have told us you want, so should be delivered, however they are not pressing, and the timing has been considered. Our debt profile increases up to \$427m in 2030 and average rates increases of 13.6% in year one (2024/25), 10.4% in year two (2025/26) and 8.4% in years 3-10 (2027-34).

See supporting information
for full project list.



What are the projects we're talking about?

The below outlines the key projects with significant budget impacts or timing changes.

Ward	Project description	Prior plan timing	Original cost	Rephased timing	Rephased cost
Waihi Beach-Katikati	Moore Park Toilets – upgrade of existing facilities	2024	\$63,101	2027	\$276,750
	New Northern Harbour Boat Ramp	2025	\$4.93m	Outside of 10-year plan	
Kaimai	Ōmokoroa Ferry Infrastructure – to enable a commuter ferry service from Ōmokoroa to Tauranga	2028	\$3m	2030	\$3.60m
	New Ōmokoroa Library and Service Centre	Not in prior plan	-	2033	\$754,200* <i>*This number reflects costs in years 2033-34 of this plan and does not consider future costs outside of the 10 years.</i>
Te Puke-Maketu	Te Puke Swimming Pool – new indoor facility to replace the existing pool	2025	\$15.69m	2028	\$17.33m
	Paengaroa Sports Field - upgrade	2027	\$320,915	2030	\$341,208
	New Maketu Community Hub	Not in prior plan	-	2029	\$3.55m
	Arawa Road Reserve Development	Not in prior plan	-	2028	\$62,205
	Pongakawa Heritage House Car Park Development	Not in prior plan	-	2028	\$138,130
Sub-regional	TECT Park Adventure Playground	2025	\$1.95m	2029	\$2.25m
	TECT Park Te Matai Sealed Driver Training Area	2025	\$411,200	2027	\$455,198
	Council Contribution to Sub-Regional Coastal Park	2027	\$514,000	2029	\$593,156

*Council's preferred option is reflected in the draft 2024-34 Long Term Plan's proposed 13.6% rates increase in 2024/25 (Year One).

Option 1 (PREFERRED)*

Change the timing of some projects to reduce the immediate impact on rates (2024/25) and then spread out some of the costs in future years.

Impact on rates

13.6% rate increase in 2024/25 (Year One).

This will move out rate increases to later years.

Impact on debt over 10 years

This will reduce debt in the short term, but will increase overall debt across the ten years, due cost inflation.

Impact on levels of service

Despite changes in project schedules, efforts are made to sustain the existing levels of service. However, due to these project timing adjustments, the delivery on some agreed increases in levels of service are delayed compared to previous plans.

Option 2

Stick to the original timing of some projects.

Impact on rates

24.4% rate increase in 2024/25 (Year One).

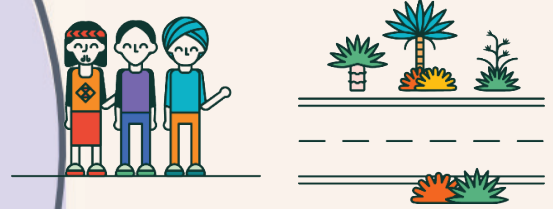
Impact on debt

This will increase debt in the short term, but will reduce overall debt across the ten years, due avoiding cost inflation.

Impact on levels of service

No impact on levels of service.

We need to spend less on some roading and walkway/cycleway projects to reduce the impact on rates – What do you think?



Me whakaiti iho te moni ki ētahi kaupapa rori me ngā kaupapa ara hīkoi / ara pahikara kia whakaiti iho i te pānga ki ngā reiti – he aha ō whakaaro?



The current picture

Maintaining our roads is one of the top issues in our District and is the biggest area of spend for us annually. In fact, you've told us that your key concerns are making sure our roads and footpaths remain well-maintained and safe. However, over the past three years, there have been significant cost increases. According to Local Government New Zealand, materials to build and maintain our roads are around 27% more expensive than three years ago. Over the past three years, we have undertaken significant investment in our walkways and cycleways network, however, the new government has signalled it will spend more on road maintenance and less on walkways and cycleways, so we also need to factor this in.

The changing landscape

We want to reduce the financial impact on you, but to achieve this something must give. We've taken a good, hard look at the figures and if we reduce spend, maximise central government funding where possible and prioritise getting as much value from our roading network as we can, we think this can work. However, this means we might have to wait longer for some planned walkways, cycleways, gravel road seal extensions, public transport infrastructure and minor road improvements.

Framing the future

We still want to carry out these projects for our communities but we're proposing we take a little longer to get everything done. We know investment needs to be made and we're using loans over the next three years to spread the cost. We have looked at where we are less likely to receive New Zealand Transport Agency Waka Kotahi subsidies and where we could pause from upgrades for a year, use existing reserves or reduce investment and slow the timing of delivery. We think our preferred option strikes a balance of moving forward and managing the cost to our communities without compromising on safety.

The new Government Policy Statement (GPS) for Land Transport was launched for consultation in early 2024, with the final GPS due in July 2024. This sets out the Government priorities for land transport investment over the next 10 years and details how funding from the National Land Transport Fund is to be spent. We have developed our transport programme for the Western Bay of Plenty District based on best practice and the guidance that we've received to date, particularly from New Zealand Transport Agency Waka Kotahi.

Given this high level of uncertainty, there is some risk to Council's projected revenue for transport projects. The amount of funding for the future is uncertain, and the final plan will not be confirmed until later this year. Council has assumed the 51% subsidy will remain and that funding is available however if this changes, we will consider options and where appropriate, consult the community.

What projects are we talking about?

Project description	Proposed change
Rural road (minor upgrades of roading)	Reduce Year One (2024/25) budget to \$0
Waihi Beach Community Roding Funding	Reduce Year One (2024/25) budget to \$0 and make use of existing reserve funds. Revert to current funding arrangements from Year Two (2025/26) onwards.
Katikati Community Roding Funding	
Omokoroa Community Roding funding	
Te Puke Community Roding Funding	
Maketu Community Roding Funding	
Walking and Cycling	Reduce the proposed budget from \$1.5m to \$500,000 for Years 2025 to 2034.
Public Transport Infrastructure such as bus shelters and bus bays	Reduce the proposed budget for Year One 2024/25 to \$0. Revert to current funding arrangements from Year Two (2025/26) onwards \$109,000.
Seal Extension – sealing of gravel roads	Reduce the proposed budget from \$2m to \$1.5m for Years 2025 to 2034.

Option 1 (PREFERRED)*

Spend less on specific roading and walkway/cycleways projects to reduce the impacts on rates.

Impact on rates:

13.6% rates increase in 2024/25 (Year One).

Impact on debt:

No impact on debt levels over 10 years.

Impact on levels of service

Despite changes in project schedules, efforts are made to sustain the existing levels of service. However, due to these project timing adjustments, the delivery on some agreed increases in levels of service are delayed compared to previous plans (e.g. A lower distance of gravel roads will be sealed each year).

*Council's preferred option is reflected in the draft 2024-34 Long Term Plan's proposed 13.6% rates increase in 2024/25 (Year One).

Option 2

Spend more on specific roading and walkway/cycleway project budgets (in line with 2021-31 Long Term Plan budgets).

Impact on rates:

An average increase per property of \$79.62 in Year One (2024/25).

This is in addition to the proposed 13.6% rates increase.

Impact on debt:

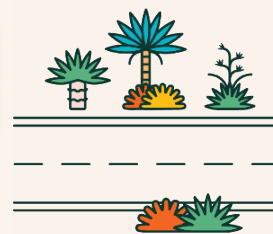
An increase of \$7.79m over 10 years.

Impact on levels of service

No impact on levels of service.

Heavy vehicles have a greater impact on our roads and users need to pay more towards their maintenance – Do you agree?

Ko te whakaaro nō mātou, he nui ake te pānga o ngā waka taumaha ki ngā rori, ā, me utu ngā taraiwa ki tōna pupurutanga pai – kei te whakaae koe?



The current picture

In our District, different types of properties contribute to road-related expenses at different rates, we call these differentials. This is because some users of our road are more likely to put a greater strain and wear on the network – for example, transporting kiwifruit or large machinery. To reflect this, the differential currently applied to residential and rural zoned properties is 1.0, and for commercial/industrial and post-harvest zoned properties it is 2.0.

The changing landscape

However, due to the growing costs of maintaining our roads and the increased wear caused by heavy vehicles, we are looking to raise the differential charged to commercial/industrial and post-harvest zoned properties to 4.0.

Framing the future

We have a total of 574 commercial/industrial and 24 post-harvest properties in our District. We will apply the increased differential on the assumption that properties in these zones are more likely to rely on heavy vehicle traffic use and therefore have greater impact on the roading network. We think our preferred option to increase the differential to 4.0 for these zones is more equitable and will mean that other zones will overall pay less toward the roading rate, reflecting the lesser impact they have on the network.

There is no impact on the overall rates or the debt over the 10 years, as we are simply proposing to change the amount different categories of ratepayers pay.

*Council's preferred option is reflected in the draft 2024-34 Long Term Plan's proposed 13.6% rates increase in 2024/25 (Year One).

Option 1 (PREFERRED)*

Increase the roading rate differential charged to commercial/ industrial and post-harvest zoned properties from 2.0 to 4.0. There is no impact on the overall rates, or the debt over the 10 years as we're simply proposing to change the amount different categories of ratepayers pay. This will reduce the proportion of rates paid for by properties not in these zones (e.g residential zone).

Impact on rating categories

Commercial zone – An average increase of \$2,191.15 per property across the zone.

Post-Harvest zone – An average increase of \$2,051.24 per property across the zone.

Rural zone – An average increase of \$110.04 per property across the zone.

Residential zone – An average increase of \$250.76 per property across the zone.

Impact on debt

No impact on debt over 10 years.

Impact on levels of service

No impact on levels of service.

Option 2

Increase the roading rate differential charged to commercial/industrial and post-harvest zoned properties from 2.0 to 3.0. There is no impact on the overall rates, or the debt over the 10 years as we're simply proposing to change the amount different categories of ratepayers pay. This will reduce the proportion of rates paid for by properties not in these zones (e.g. residential zone).

Impact on each rating category

Commercial zone – An average increase of \$1,368.10 per property across the zone.

Post-Harvest zone – An average increase of \$1,280.75 per property across the zone.

Rural zone – An average increase of \$122.83 per property across the zone.

Residential zone – An average increase of \$279.91 per property across the zone.

Impact on debt

No impact on debt over 10 years.

Impact on levels of service

No impact on levels of service.

Option 3

Status quo – Keep the roading rate differential charged to commercial/industrial and post-harvest zoned properties at 2.0.

Impact on rates

Commercial zone – An average increase of \$500.62 per property across the zone.

Post-Harvest zone – An average increase of \$468.65 per property across the zone.

Rural zone – An average increase of \$136.31 per property across the zone.

Residential zone – An average increase of \$310.64 per property across the zone.

Impact on debt

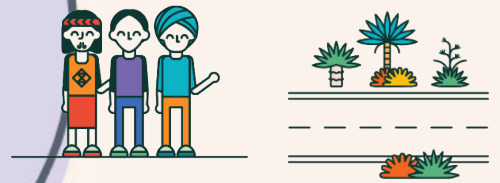
No impact on debt over 10 years.

Impact on levels of service

No impact on levels of service.

We want to permanently stop collecting the District Wide Town Centre Development Fund – Do you agree?

Kei te hiahia mātou ki te whakamutu i te Pūtea Whakawhanake i te Pokapū Tāone mō te rohe whānui – kei te whakaae koe?



The current picture

The Town Centre Development Fund is a pool of money shared between the four major towns in our District – Waihi Beach, Katikati, Ōmokoroa and Te Puke. It is built up by collecting \$10 annually from every property in the District.

All four towns take turns at receiving money from the fund for developing and upgrading their town centres. Each town receives this fund for four years at a time and community boards assist Council in deciding what it's spent on.

Katikati also has its own additional Town Centre Rate, and this will continue. This is a rate of \$23 (including GST) charged to each property within the Katikati Community Board area. The rate is collected for similar purposes to the Town Centre Development Fund but is separate and unique to the area.

The changing landscape

The District wide Town Centre Fund was set up in 2007 and has now rotated around all four towns. This makes it a good time to think about its future. While the fund has paid for some very worthwhile projects such as Te Puke's Heritage Walkway and Two Mile Creek Walkway in Waihi Beach, it's not a perfect model. It takes 16 years to come back round to each town, the funding amount is relatively small, and it doesn't cover all the District.

Framing the future

We are taking another look at the fund because we want to make sure we're using your money in the best and fairest way possible. Instead of having a fund just for town centre projects in these four locations, we think we should look at each project individually, so it will be clear what projects we're working on and when – right across the District.

We think our preferred option is a better way of funding these types of projects and is a more equitable District wide approach.

*Council's preferred option is reflected in the draft 2024-34 Long Term Plan's proposed 13.6% rates increase in 2024/25 (Year One).

Option 1 (PREFERRED)*

Permanently stop collection of the District wide Town Centre Development Fund with any future town centre projects being funded through existing council planning processes.

Impact on rates

There are no rates impacts planned over 10 years. However, future rates funded projects may be approved and change this.

Impact on debt

No impact on debt over 10 years.

Impact on levels of service

No impact on levels of service.

Option 2

Replace collection of the District wide Town Centre Development Fund with a contestable fund, funded by a targeted rate of \$10 per property across the District.

Impact on rates

\$10 (0.26%) per rateable property per year.

Impact on debt

No impact on debt over 10 years.

Impact on levels of service

No impact on levels of service.

We want to change the way we fund community facilities – What do you think?

Kei te hiahia mātou kia panonitia te āhuetanga kia utua ngā hanga hapori – he aha ō whakaaro?



The current picture

The cost of building and running indoor community facilities, such as sports centres, has increased, and the current funding approach needs a rethink. There are several projects waiting for potential Council funding but, while we have clear direction on some facilities, we don't on others.

There are clear rules around how we support community halls, libraries, swimming pools and club-based facilities on sportsgrounds. But in smaller communities where there are no facilities, and for some types of groups/clubs, Council's role is less clear.

The changing landscape

We are looking to provide more structure to enable us to leverage funding from external parties. Currently, we decide on funding on a case-by-case basis. But this way, we might miss out on opportunities and only help the groups who ask first. It can also make things unfair across our District.

In the past two years, we've put about \$350,000 towards community facilities. We also provide 11 facilities with lease agreements at less than the market rate.

Framing the future

To make sure community facilities have enough money to be built and taken care of, we need a good plan for funding. When community groups receive Council funding towards their facilities, it makes it easier for them to access additional funding from other sources.

We want to know what you think about a fixed fee per property to help fund these projects – which would start from Year Two (2025/26). We would use Year One (2024/25) to come back to you to help develop the fund criteria, including the types of projects supported, so we can make fair decisions about funding facilities for everyone to enjoy.

*Council's preferred option is reflected in the draft 2024-34 Long Term Plan's proposed 13.6% rates increase in 2024/25 (Year One).

Option 1 (PREFERRED)*

Introduce a \$50 fixed fee per property from Year Two (2025/2026) that goes towards a community facilities fund and for Council to use Year One (2024/2025) to consult with the community on developing the fund criteria.

Impact on rates

An increase of \$50 per rateable property per year from Year Two (2025-26).

Impact on debt

No impact on debt.

Impact on levels of service

No impact on levels of service.

Option 2

Continue to fund community facilities on a case-by-case basis but investigate other funding approaches that could be considered through the 2027-2037 Long Term Plan.

Impact on rates

No rate impact per rateable property per year. *

**Previously, community facilities have been funded on an ad-hoc basis throughout the District.*

Impact on debt

No impact on debt over 10 years.

Impact on levels of service

No impact on levels of service.

We want to permanently stop collecting the Pukehina Development Rate – Do you agree?

Kei te hiahia mātou kia whakamutua rawatia te kōhi i te Reiti Whakawhanake Pukehina – kei te whakaae koe?



The current picture

In 2000, Council introduced a targeted rate of \$20 a year for Pukehina property owners to go towards a potential future wastewater scheme (sewerage scheme) for the area. In 2022, the Pukehina Beach Ratepayers and Residents Association asked us to consider changing the purpose of the rate. We asked the community what they thought and based on their feedback we decided to pause the rate until there was more certainty on the future of water reforms being carried out by Central Government. Since the rules about water projects have changed, we now have the freedom to decide what to do with that money.

The changing landscape

There is a lot of uncertainty around when, or if, a wastewater scheme will be needed for Pukehina and exactly how much it would cost. A scheme may be needed at some point, and it could cost \$30–\$40 million, but we don't expect it will be needed in the next 10 years.

Framing the future

The current balance of the fund is \$528,053. If we are not going to build a wastewater scheme in Pukehina, then we shouldn't keep collecting this rate. We think our preferred option reflects what we've heard previously and provides for the community to benefit from the money they have contributed to the fund.

Please note that the following questions and options apply to ratepayers in Pukehina Beach only.

The future of the Pukehina Development Rate was a key proposal for the Annual Plan 2022/23.

We received 141 submissions through our consultation process and 30% of people told us they would like us to stop collecting the rate, while 20% supported keeping it. 31% said they would like to see it repurposed for recreation purposes, and 18% wanted us to pause it for two years.

Question 1: Should we permanently stop collecting the Pukehina Development Rate?

Option 1 (PREFERRED)*

Permanently stop collecting the Pukehina Development Rate (it has been paused and not collected for the last two years).

Impact on rates

No impact on rates over 10 years.

Impact on debt

No impact on debt over 10 years.

Impact on levels of service

No impact on levels of service.

*Council's preferred option is reflected in the draft 2024-34 Long Term Plan's proposed 13.6% rates increase in 2024/25 (Year One).

Option 2

Re-start collection of the Pukehina Development Rate at an annual charge of \$20 per property towards a future wastewater scheme.

Impact on rates

\$20 per rateable property per year for properties in Pukehina Beach.

\$12,640 added to the reserve account annually.

Impact on debt

No impact on debt over 10 years.

Impact on levels of service

No impact on levels of service.

Option 3

Continue to pause the Pukehina Development rate until there is more certainty around the future of wastewater, stormwater, and water supply.

Impact on rates

No impact on rates over 10 years for properties in Pukehina Beach.

Impact on debt

No impact on debt over 10 years.

Impact on levels of service

No impact on levels of service.

Question 2: On the basis that we permanently stop collecting the Pukehina Development Rate – What should we do with the money already collected?

Option 1 (PREFERRED)

Repurpose the money already collected for existing projects in the Pukehina community that need funding.

Impact on rates

No impact on rates over 10 years.

Impact on debt

No impact on debt over 10 years.

Impact on levels of service

No impact on levels of service.

Option 2*

Refund the money already collected (\$528,053) as a credit or cash refund to properties in Pukehina Beach. *This is approximately \$835.50 per property in Pukehina Beach.*

Impact on rates

No impact on rates over 10 years for properties in Pukehina Beach.

Impact on debt

No impact on debt over 10 years.

Impact on levels of service

No impact on levels of service.

**There are significant challenges associated with Options 2 and 3, including the potential time it will take to administer these options.*

Option 3*

Repurpose the money already collected (\$528,053) for septic tank cleaning for properties in Pukehina over the next three years.

Every property would be entitled to a contribution of approximately \$835.50 towards the cleaning of their septic tank within the three-year period.

Impact on rates

No impact on rates over 10 years for properties in Pukehina Beach.

Impact on debt

No impact on debt over 10 years.

Impact on levels of service

No impact on levels of service.

Option 4

Retain the money already collected (\$528,053) for a future wastewater scheme.

Impact on rates

No impact on rates over 10 years for properties in Pukehina Beach.

Impact on debt

No impact on debt over 10 years.

Impact on levels of service

No impact on levels of service.

We want to consider permanently closing Te Puna Station Road – Do you agree?

Kei te whaiwhakaaro mātou kia katia rawatia te Rori Teihana o Te Puna – Kei te whakaae koe?



The current picture

In October 2022, storms caused significant damage to Te Puna Station Road. More storms in January 2023 worsened the situation, leading to the closure of a 600-metre section of the road. In May 2023, repairs allowed the road to be opened to pedestrians and cyclists only.

The changing landscape

Council has engaged with a range of stakeholders on this issue, including the community, iwi/hapū, ecologists and engineering experts. The conclusion is that there is no easy fix.

Framing the future

There are ecological, ground stability and cultural considerations we need to be mindful of.

An ecological assessment carried out has identified that construction works to reinstate the road would have temporary and permanent effects on the river, including sedimentation, injury to or loss of wildlife, and loss of native tree species.

The land is adjacent to Pukewhanake, which is a historical Pā. The land at Pukewhanake has been heavily impacted by the construction of this part of Te Puna Station Road and the hapū see its closure as an opportunity to recognise the significance of Pukewhanake and to work with Council on this.

Ground stability issues are likely to continue with over slips and under slips on the road becoming more and more common.

In addition, repairing the road would be very costly and there is no guarantee that it would be a permanent fix. As the frequency of extreme weather events increases it is likely that this road will continue to be impacted, resulting in significant ongoing costs to Council, and the community.

We recognise that closing this road will predominantly impact the Te Puna community including the business park and Clarke Road residents. Council plans to address this through undertaking upgrades to the other roads in the area.

Option 1 (PREFERRED)*

Consider permanently closing Te Puna Station Road and relocate the shared path to the western side, away from the riverbank. This is the lowest cost option and would reduce the impact of future slips on road users. The shared path would still allow access for pedestrians and cyclists. A formal process to close the road under the Local Government Act 1974 is required if this option is progressed.

Cost

\$1m** in Year One (2024/25).

Impact on rates

No impact on rates, we will be using existing roading budget.

This accounts for 1% of the 13.6% increase in year one.

Impact on debt

No impact on debt over 10 years.

Impact on levels of service

No impact on the wider level of service, but this will impact those living in and around Te Puna and regular users of this road. ***This could potentially attract a subsidy from NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi. These subsidies are grants and not factored in as they may vary depending on the project.*

*Council's preferred option is reflected in the draft 2024-34 Long Term Plan's proposed 13.6% rates increase in 2024/25 (Year One).

Option 2

Reopen Te Puna Station Road to one way traffic (eastbound towards State Highway 2) and relocate the shared path to the western side, away from the riverbank. This option would allow traffic to travel east towards State Highway 2. There would be an ongoing maintenance cost of \$50,000 per year with this option.

Cost

\$2m* in 2024/25 (Year One). *Plus ongoing maintenance cost of \$50,000 per year.*

Impact on rates

1.39% increase over 10 years for all properties across the District.

Impact on debt

No impact on debt over 10 years.

Impact on levels of service

No impact on the wider level of service, but this will impact those living in and around Te Puna and regular users of this road. **This could potentially attract a subsidy from NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi. These subsidies are grants and not factored in as they may vary depending on the project.*

Option 3

Reopen Te Puna Station Road in both directions. This is the highest cost option and would require significant work to stabilise the riverbank. In addition, there would be an ongoing maintenance cost of \$100,000 per year for major slips and repairs. There is no guarantee that this work will permanently provide access to the road and there is a residual risk that future weather events may impact access on an ongoing basis.

Cost

\$5m* in 2024/25 (Year one). *Plus ongoing maintenance cost of \$100,000 per year.*

Impact on rates

4.85% increase over 10 years for all properties across the District.

Impact on debt

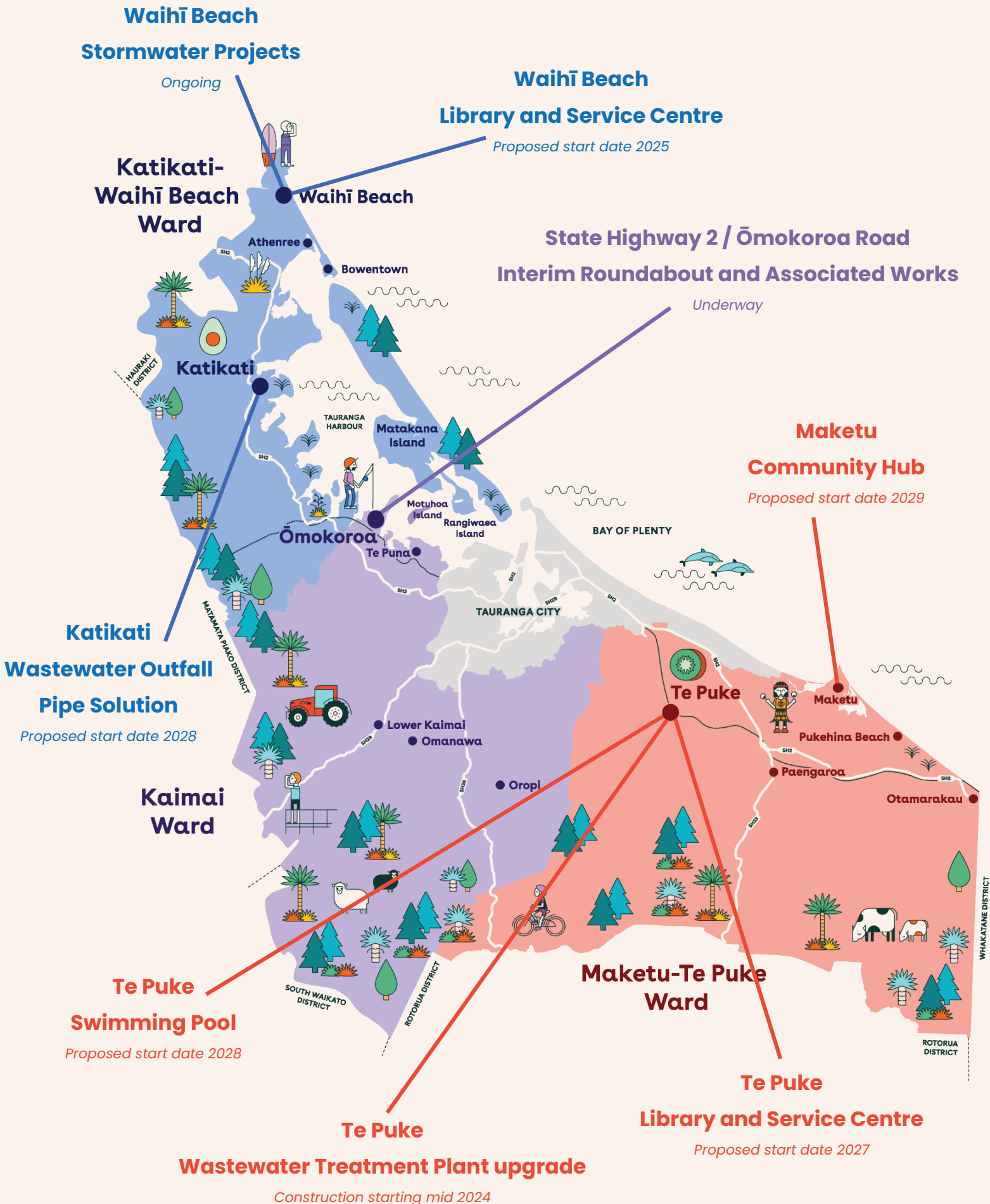
No impact on debt over 10 years.

Impact on levels of service

No impact on levels of service. **This could potentially attract a subsidy from NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi. These subsidies are grants and not factored in as they may vary depending on the project.*

What's developing in your neighbourhood?

He aha e whakawhanake ana i tō hapori?



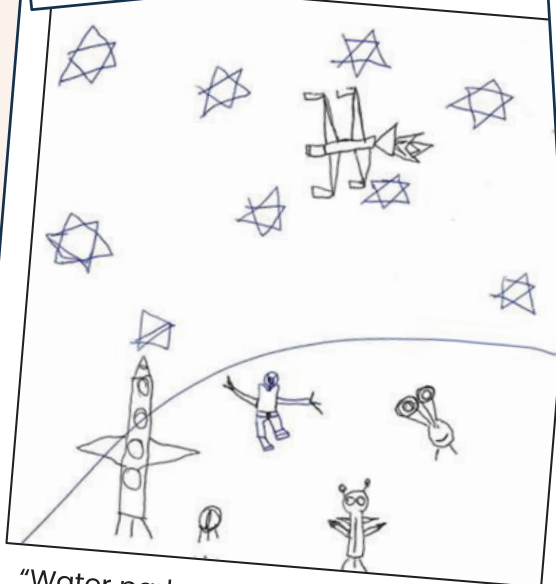
Framing things up for you



"...I love the books so much and I love to go to the Library so much."
Ashfia, 8, Te Puke



"On Sunday there will be movies at the library. It will be such a blast."
Eva, 11, Ōmokoroa



"Water parks and roller coasters."
Thomas, 8, Katikati



"There's no place on earth like this, I can't describe what it feels like, this just feels like my sweet home. It's so calm and so quiet.... Maybe it's only me but this is where I want to be."
Jasnoor, 11, Te Puke

Our Infrastructure Strategy

Tā mātou Rautaki Tūāhanga

30 years is a significant period of time. We expect to see changes during this period to both infrastructure expenditure and community expectations. Council is positioned to respond to these changes.

The 30-year Infrastructure Strategy is available online as part of the LTP supporting documentation at www.haveyoursay.westernbay.govt.nz/LTP

What's the picture looking like for the next 30 years?

Why it's important

Infrastructure means pipes, treatment plants, pump stations, roads, footpaths, recreation facilities, libraries and other assets that are essential for us to live, move around, do business and play.

Simply put, it impacts our lives daily. Whether you're making your morning cup of coffee, driving to work, or playing with your tamariki at the playground – it's your rates that make this happen.

What do we want to achieve?

The Infrastructure Strategy sets out four goals for the planning, provision, and management of infrastructure over the next 30 years.

1

Maintain the infrastructure and services we provide as efficiently and effectively as possible.

3

Identify and plan for potential changes to levels of service in the future.

2

Provide the infrastructure required to support a growing community.

4

Continually improve the information about our infrastructure particularly asset condition, performance, asset efficiency and the impact of technology.

What about Three Waters?

The new government has passed legislation to repeal the previous government's Three Waters planning. We'd been anticipating the requirement to hand over our Three Waters services (Stormwater, Wastewater, and Water Supply) to another entity. For now, responsibility for these services continues with Council. The new government has introduced 'Local Water Done Well' which puts future direction of these services back with local decision makers. Initial indications are that further information and streamlined requirements will be released by mid-2024. However, a lot of unknowns remain, and it is anticipated that Council will be expected to provide certainty to Central Government not only around whether we can deliver new water quality standards but whether we can afford to do so. This will require ongoing resource to manage.

Key challenges and opportunities

There are four key challenges and opportunities that will impact the way we plan for and manage our infrastructure into the future.

1. The cost of providing infrastructure

To respond to population growth in our District, we have a planned capital works programme and there are significant costs associated with this. Overall, our capital programme has increased by 42% since the last Long-Term Plan in 2021 and includes new significant projects.

2. Legislative changes

The ongoing uncertainty around reform and changes to legislation from Central Government – particularly concerning three waters, resource management, and future for local government legislation – makes it difficult to plan with clarity.

3. Population and economic growth

We know that more people are expected to move to the Western Bay – increasing from 60,000 to 73,000 people over the next 30 years. We need to make sure we are ready for this and plan the infrastructure required for growth, factoring in about 9000 new homes, and delivering projects like the Te Puke Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrade and the Katikati Wastewater Outfall solution.

4. Climate change

We need to ensure we respond to climate change now and are prepared for its future impacts. We'll do this by collaborating with communities to manage and adapt to these impacts effectively.

Capital Delivery

Council has committed to a significant capital programme to deliver the required Infrastructure at the appropriate times and places across the District. We plan to deliver \$962 million (inflated) of capital projects over the next 10 years. These are necessary to meet the needs of current residents and growth, to deliver on our agreed levels of service, meet legislative requirements and keep our assets renewed and in good order.

Refer to the Capital Expenditure by Activity graph on page 33 to see the Capital programme over the next 10 years. To ensure that Council is able to deliver the capital programme, Council has invested in programmes and training to improve the deliverability of the projects that we deliver. This has included:

- Undertaking a review of the organisation to ensure resources (including staff) are allocated appropriately and the establishment of a team with oversight of capital programme assurance and delivery.
- Adopting a project methodology and trained staff in the methodology.
- Investing time at the outset to understand the full scope of our projects to improve our efficiency of execution.
- Prioritising our project portfolio against our strategic objectives to ensure we're delivering the right projects at the right time.
- Reviewing the way that we procure and deliver projects, including supplier panels and improved project governance.

Adjustments have been made to the planned capital programme that reduce expenditure in the early years and move it into later years. This reflects possible delays that are common in the early stages of projects while they are designed, community feedback is sought, and consents are obtained. The main purpose of the adjustments is to ensure budgets for interest, debt and depreciation are realistic.

There is however a high level of uncertainty associated with this.

Significant Infrastructure decisions coming into focus

Ngā whakaaro tūāhanga hirahira kei te aroaro

We've identified 12 significant infrastructure decisions that will impact Council over the next 30 years. Significant decisions are those which are likely to cost a lot, have an impact across multiple areas and/or have the potential to trigger a change in approach.

1 Council's response to Local Water Done Well

A decision on Council's response to Government's Local Water Done Well will be made in 2025. We currently plan to invest over \$365 million in stormwater, water and wastewater capital and operational projects over a 10-year period based on these activities remaining within Council.

3 Significant growth in Ōmokoroa

Significant investment in growth infrastructure for Ōmokoroa. We plan to invest over \$221 million over a 10-year period. Some of this comes from financial contributions from developers.

5 Stormwater level of service review

We will be looking at our levels of service for stormwater to ensure it meets community expectations. The outcome of this review will be considered in the 2027-2037 LTP and need to be considered in the context of the Local Water Done Well decisions. We plan to invest over \$25 million in stormwater projects for Waihi Beach over a 10-year period.

8 Library level of service implementation

Existing library and service centres in Waihi Beach and Te Puke are no longer meeting community needs. Over \$20 million is included for facility replacements over a 10-year period.

11 The potential of new future growth areas (identified by SmartGrowth)

Council will continue to be part of the feasibility work to understand implications and opportunities for development of future growth areas in our District. No specific investment is included for implementation as this will be determined on completion of the feasibility work.

9 Solid waste – closed landfill and resource recovery and transfer station

Investigations into development of a resource recovery and transfer station are underway. Over \$1 million is included for this work and a decision will be made in future LTPs based on investigation outcomes. Work is also underway to assist with the resource consent renewal for our closed landfills.

12 Swimming Pool level of service implementation

The existing Te Puke Swimming Pool is no longer meeting community needs. Over \$17 million is included for facility replacement in 2028.

2 Addressing issues with pavement deterioration

We are reviewing how we achieve levels of service for pavement maintenance. We plan to invest over \$420 million in roading and transport related projects over a 10-year period.

4 Katikati Wastewater Outfall

Sections of the pipe are failing much earlier than the pipe design life. Replacement options will be considered in the 2027-2037 LTP. We have included \$68 million from 2027 onwards to respond to this issue.

6 Te Puke Spatial Plan

Development of this plan is underway and will provide the opportunity to understand community expectations for growth in Te Puke. Specific projects that address existing facility issues and provide for growth include a replacement library, swimming pool, and wastewater treatment plant.

7 Te Puke Wastewater Treatment Plant

A replacement facility is required to comply with resource consent conditions and provide capacity for growth. \$73 million is included in 2026 with \$40 million funded from Council.

10 Community and recreation facility development

Council is proposing to develop a community investment framework that will outline the process, criteria and funding priorities for council investment in community and recreation facilities, and inclusion of a targeted rate to fund this investment in 2025/2026.

See the full Infrastructure Strategy here



Our Financial Strategy to deliver

Tā mātou rautaki pūtea kia tukuna

Our biggest financial challenges

In the next 30 years we are expecting our population to increase from 60,000 to 73,000.

While a growing population creates incredible opportunities, including increased prosperity, economic investment, community vibrancy and diversity, it also presents challenges.

To accommodate this growth, we need to invest in new projects like the Te Puke Wastewater Treatment Plant (\$73m) and Ōmokoroa Roothing and Structure Plan investment (\$87m). Our overall capital

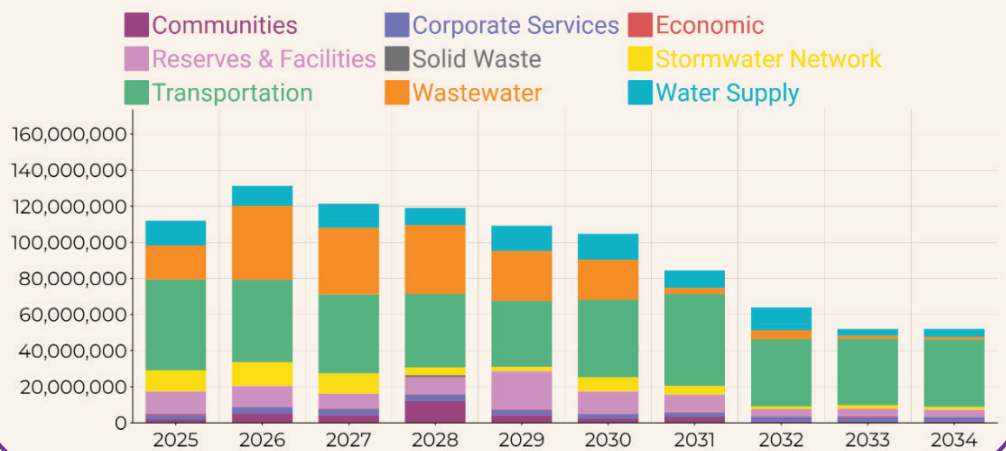
programme, of which 27% is growth related, impacts our overall debt levels in this Long Term Plan.

We have a strategy in place to manage this.

We also have one eye on the continued uncertainties of government reforms - Three Waters, resource management and the future for local government legislation.

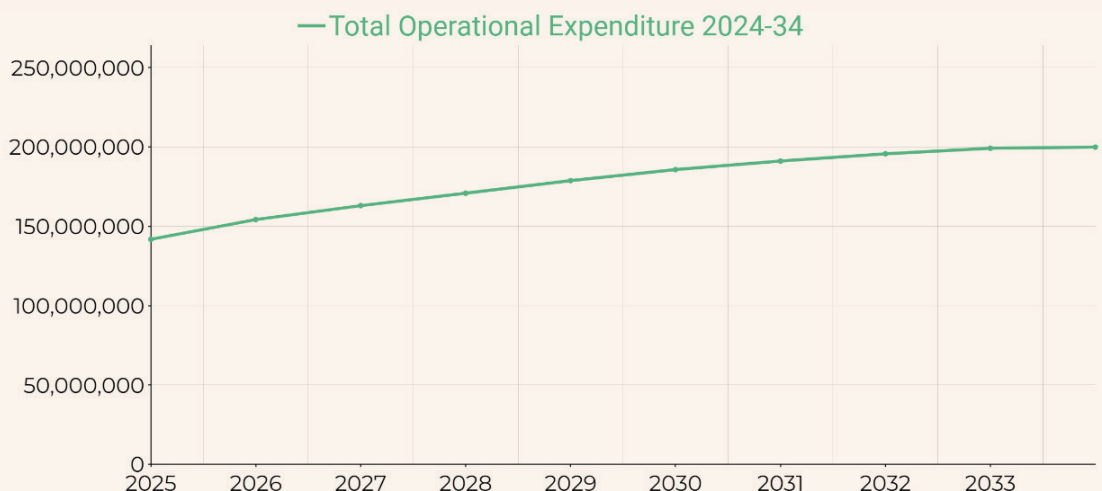
Capital Expenditure by Activity

2024-34



Total Operational Expenditure

Our operating expenditure covers the day-to-day costs of delivering our services over the Long Term Plan (and includes interest, depreciation, and overheads).



Financial contributions - We are undertaking a historical review of all projects to consider whether there is any residual unfunded growth debt. Any changes to our current approach will be subject to future consultation with the community.

Our debt

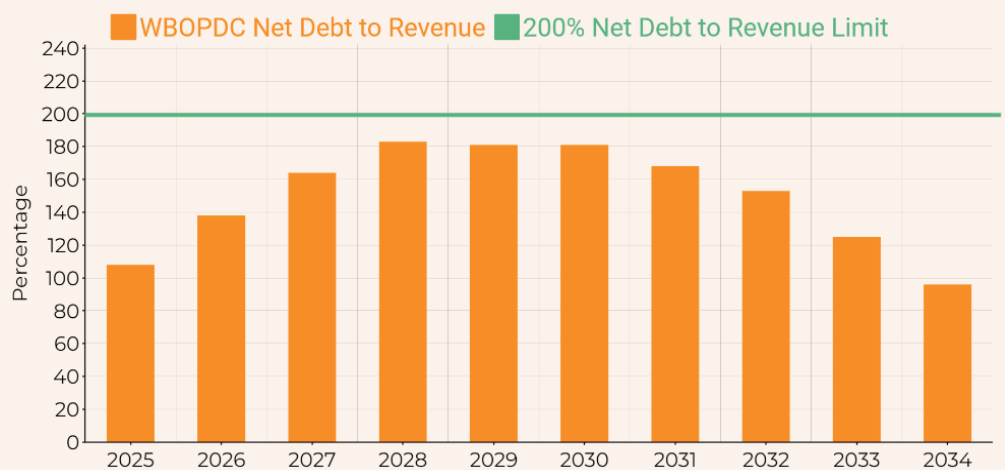
We are strategically using debt to be able to deliver key projects that smooths and reduces the financial burden on people. Debt spreads the costs of an asset across its lifetime, meaning that all those who benefit from it contribute - today's communities and tomorrow's communities both pay their share. This is key to intergenerational wellbeing.

We're lucky as we've got some financial headroom to borrow. Our debt levels have increased, and the key driver is our continued investment in infrastructure. In this Financial Strategy we have increased our debt limit from 180% to 200% (based on net debt to revenue ratio). This is prudent and remains significantly lower than the 300% current limit imposed by the Local Government Funding Agency (Council's lenders). We continuously monitor the economic situation and are prudent, only drawing down when we need to. You should have confidence in us managing things. It's extremely important to us that as many people as possible understand our proposed approach and the reasons for it.

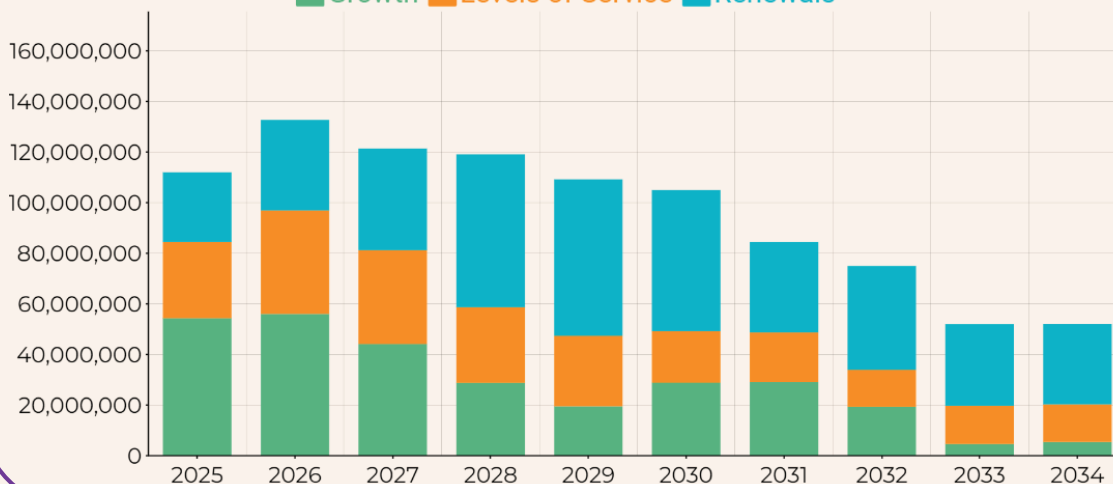
Forecast Limit on Debt

This graph outlines our forecast limit on debt. Council plans to ensure that net debt does not exceed 200 % of our total revenue as per the Financial Strategy.

Debt starts at \$179m in Year One, increases to \$390m in Year Six of the LTP then decreases to \$269m in Year 10 of the LTP.



■ Growth ■ Levels of Service ■ Renewals

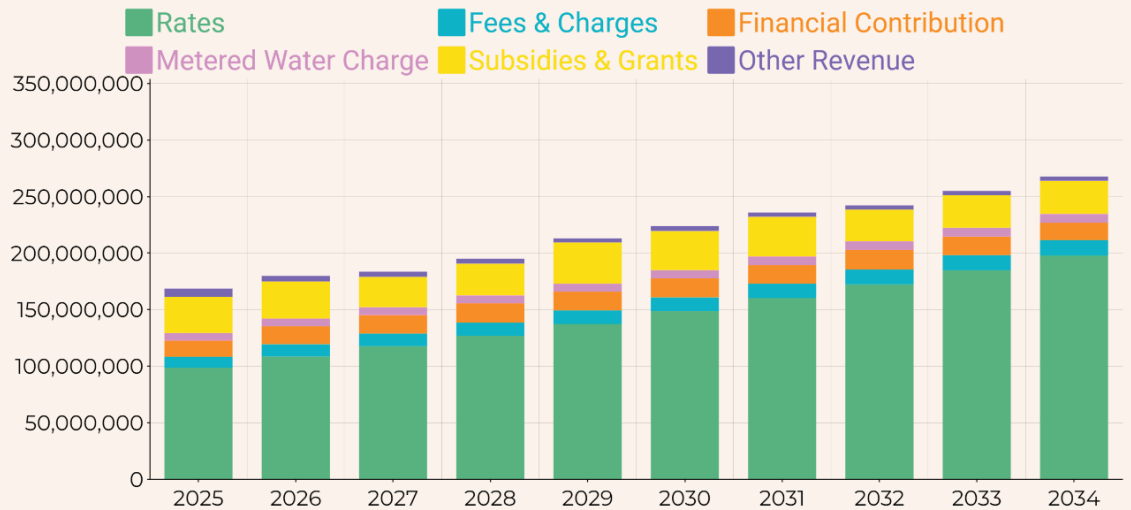


Total Capital Expenditure

Our capital budget is our investment over the Long Term Plan. It includes replacing or upgrading the assets we already have, paying for new infrastructure and ensuring we are ready to respond to change or demand for services.

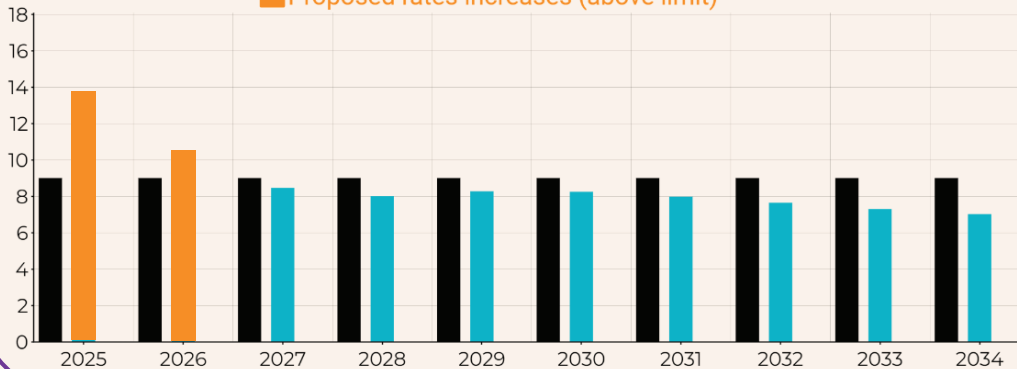
Sources of Revenue

This graph shows us where Council's money comes from.



Rates (Increases) Affordability Benchmark

- Quantified limit on rates increases
- Proposed rates increases (at or within limit)
- Proposed rates increases (above limit)



We've established a limit for the maximum increase in rates to ensure we can provide the services the community needs without burdening residents financially. This limit averages 6.5% over 10 years, with an additional 2.49% to cover rising costs. While the first two years may exceed this limit, our overall average over the full 10 years remains within the set boundary.

Balanced Budget

We need to make sure that the money we bring in matches what we plan to spend each year, which is called a 'balanced budget'. We achieve this balance over the entire 10 years of the Long Term Plan.



See the full Financial Strategy here

What does this mean for your rates bill?

He aha te tikanga o tēnei ki tō pire reiti?

Disclaimer:

The version of the consultation document published on 17 May 2024 stated that the sample figures below were "including GST" which was incorrect. This was updated on 22 May 2024 and the table now shows the figures as "excluding GST".

The below sets out what the proposed budget means for rates in the 2024/25 year across sample properties (including GST). Note: excludes volumetric water rates.

Commercial/Industrial Zone

Capital Value		Proposed Rates	Increase per week	% increase
High	\$1,560,000	\$8,005	\$53	▲ 53.0%
Medium	\$770,000	\$6,209	\$33	▲ 38.0%
Low	\$590,000	\$4,824	\$25	▲ 36.5%

Post Harvest Zone

Capital Value		Proposed Rates	Increase per week	% increase
High	\$17,430,000	\$18,545	\$75	▲ 26.7%
Medium	\$6,700,000	\$8,385	\$37	▲ 29.9%
Low	\$900,000	\$3,345	\$22	▲ 51.4%

Forestry

Capital Value		Proposed Rates	Increase per week	% increase
High	\$3,900,000	\$6,461	\$18	▲ 16.8%
Medium	\$1,720,000	\$2,831	\$7	▲ 14.1%
Low	\$1,022,000	\$2,276	\$6	▲ 15.8%

Rural

Capital Value		Proposed Rates	Increase per week	% increase
High	\$2,090,000	\$3,057	\$7	▲ 13.1%
Medium	\$1,420,000	\$2,496	\$6	▲ 14.1%
Low	\$1,040,000	\$2,137	\$5	▲ 14.5%

Rural Orchards

Capital Value		Proposed Rates	Increase per week	% increase
High	\$6,770,000	\$8,373	\$18	▲ 12.3%
Medium	\$4,290,000	\$5,613	\$13	▲ 13.2%
Low	\$2,950,000	\$4,100	\$9	▲ 13.6%

Residential

Capital Value		Proposed Rates	Increase per week	% increase
High	\$1,300,000	\$4,043	\$7	▲ 9.8%
Medium	\$1,070,000	\$3,848	\$7	▲ 9.8%
Low	\$850,000	\$3,561	\$6	▲ 9.3%

Lifestyle

Capital Value		Proposed Rates	Increase per week	% increase
High	\$1,990,000	\$3,830	\$9	▲ 13.3%
Medium	\$1,582,000	\$3,404	\$9	▲ 15.3%
Low	\$1,160,000	\$2,385	\$5	▲ 12.2%

Your Decision Makers

Ō koutou kaiwhakatau whakaaro

Get in touch with the Mayor or your local Councillor if you have any questions about what we're proposing for the next 10 years.



**Mayor
James Denyer**

021 858 007

James.Denyer@westernbay.govt.nz



**Deputy Mayor &
Maketu-Te Puke Ward Councillor**

John Scrimgeour

027 653 3368

John.Scrimgeour@westernbay.govt.nz



Katikati-Waihi Beach Ward Councillor

Allan Sole

027 497 7250

Allan.Sole@westernbay.govt.nz



Katikati-Waihi Beach Ward Councillor

Anne Henry

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Katikati-Waihi Beach Ward Councillor

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Kaimai Ward Councillor

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Kaimai Ward Councillor

Tracey Coxhead

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Kaimai Ward Councillor

Murray Grainger

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Kaimai Ward Councillor

Margaret Murray-Benge

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Maketu-Te Puke Ward Councillor

Grant Dally

022 123 6850

Grant.Dally@westernbay.govt.nz



Maketu-Te Puke Ward Councillor

Andy Wichers

020 440 2022

Andy.Wichers@westernbay.govt.nz

Put yourself in the picture

Whakaarohia koe i te pikitia

Community conversations, Kōrero ā-hāpori

Community events – Friday 17 May to Monday 17 June 2024

- Waihi Beach
- Katikati
- Matakana Island
- Ōmokoroa
- Whakamarama
- Te Puna
- Kaimai
- Oropi
- Te Puke
- Paengaroa
- Maketu
- Pukehina

Head to our website for Individual event details –

www.haveyoursay.westernbay.govt.nz/LTP



Online, wānanga ipurangi

Have Your Say –

www.haveyoursay.westernbay.govt.nz/LTP

We'll also be asking our key questions on the following Facebook pages.

Our Facebook page –

www.facebook.com/westernbaycouncil

Community Facebook pages

- Waihi / Waihi Beach Noticeboard
- Athenree Community
- Katikati Area
- Ōmokoroa Community
- Whakamarama Locals
- Pahoia Locals
- Te Puna Community Group
- Te Puke Community Noticeboard
- Oropi Community (for locals)
- Pride of Maketu
- Paengaroa Community Notices

Social media comments are considered Informal feedback. It is used to provide an indication of community sentiment and not counted as a formal submission.

Face to face, kanohi ki te kanohi

- Council Chambers
- Place based (at the individual community events)

To register to speak in Council Chambers, please email haveyoursay@westernbay.govt.nz by Monday 17 June 2024.

Hard copy, pepa mārō

Printed feedback forms are available for pick up and returning at all Library and Service Centres across the District.

Email, Īmēra

Email haveyoursay@westernbay.govt.nz

Also out for feedback

We're also wanting to hear from you on several other proposals at the same time:

- **Revenue and Financing Policy** – our policy on how Council activities are to be funded;
- **Water Rates Remission Policy** – our policy on providing water rates remissions for those with a leak; and
- **Remission of Rates Penalties Policy** – our policy on providing remissions on rates penalties.



Submissions are public information

We require your contact details as part of your submission. Your feedback, name and contact details are provided to decision makers. Your feedback, with your name only will be available on our website. However, if requested we will make submissions including contact details publicly available. If you feel there are reasons why your contact details and/or submission should be kept confidential, please contact us by phoning 0800 926 732 or email

haveyoursay@westernbay.govt.nz

To the reader

Independent auditor's report on Western Bay of Plenty District Council's consultation document for its proposed 2024-34 long-term plan

I am the Auditor-General's appointed auditor for Western Bay of Plenty District Council (the Council). The Local Government Act 2002 (the Act) requires the Council to prepare a consultation document when developing its long-term plan. Section 93C of the Act sets out the content requirements of the consultation document and the Council requested me to audit the consultation document. I have carried out this audit using the staff and resources of Audit New Zealand. We completed our report on 9 May 2024.

Opinion

In our opinion:

- the consultation document provides an effective basis for public participation in the Council's decisions about the proposed content of its 2024-2034 long-term plan, because it:
 - fairly represents the matters proposed for inclusion in the long-term plan; and
 - identifies and explains the main issues and choices facing the Council and district, and the consequences of those choices; and
- the information and assumptions underlying the information in the consultation document are reasonable.

Emphasis of matter - Uncertainty over capital programme delivery

Without modifying our opinion, we draw attention to page 31, which outlines that the Council is proposing a capital programme of \$962 million over the next 10 years. Although the Council has endeavoured to budget for a programme that is deliverable, there is uncertainty over whether the infrastructure construction industry will be able to meet local government demand in the coming years, particularly for three waters assets projects. If the Council is unable to deliver on the planned programme, projects will be delayed and reprioritised which could affect cost and intended levels of service.

Basis of opinion

We carried out our work in accordance with the International Standard on Assurance Engagements (New Zealand) 3000 (Revised) Assurance Engagements Other Than Audits or Reviews of Historical Financial Information. In meeting the requirements of this standard, we took into account particular elements of the Auditor-General's Auditing Standards and the International Standard on Assurance

Engagements 3400 The Examination of Prospective Financial Information that were consistent with those requirements.

We assessed the evidence the Council has to support the information and disclosures in the consultation document. To select appropriate procedures, we assessed the risk of material misstatement and the Council's systems and processes applying to the preparation of the consultation document.

We did not evaluate the security and controls over the publication of the consultation document.

Responsibilities of the Council and auditor

The Council is responsible for:

- meeting all legal requirements relating to its procedures, decisions, consultation, disclosures, and other actions associated with preparing and publishing the consultation document and long-term plan, whether in printed or electronic form;
- having systems and processes in place to provide the supporting information and analysis the Council needs to be able to prepare a consultation document and long-term plan that meet the purposes set out in the Act; and
- ensuring that any forecast financial information being presented has been prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting practice in New Zealand.

We are responsible for auditing the consultation document and reporting on the matters described in sub-sections 93C(4)(a) and 93C(4)(b) of the Act, as agreed in our Audit Engagement Letter. We do not express an opinion on the merits of any policy content of the consultation document.

Independence and quality management

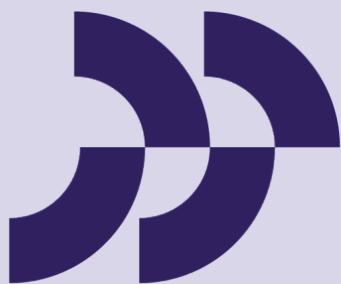
We have complied with the Auditor-General's:

- independence and other ethical requirements, which incorporate the requirements of Professional and Ethical Standard 1 *International Code of Ethics for Assurance Practitioners (including International Independence Standards) (New Zealand)* (PES 1) issued by the New Zealand Auditing and Assurance Standards Board. PES 1 is founded on the fundamental principles of integrity, objectivity, professional competence and due care, confidentiality, and professional behaviour; and
- quality management requirements, which incorporate the requirements of Professional and Ethical Standard 3 *Quality Management for Firms that Perform Audits or Reviews of Financial Statements, or Other Assurance or Related Services Engagements* (PES 3) issued by the New Zealand Auditing and Assurance Standards Board. PES 3 requires our firm to design, implement and operate a system of quality management including policies or procedures regarding compliance with ethical requirements, professional standards, and applicable legal and regulatory requirements.

In addition to this audit and our report on the Council's annual report, and a limited assurance engagement in respect of the Council's Debenture Trust Deed, which are compatible with those independence requirements. Other than these engagements we have no relationship with or interests in the Council.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'L. Pieterse', written in a cursive style.

Leon Pieterse
Audit New Zealand
On behalf of the Auditor-General, Tauranga, New Zealand



**Western
Bay of Plenty**
District Council

Te Kaunihera a rohe mai i
Ngā Kuri-a-Whārei ki

westernbay.govt.nz