



Te Kaunihera-ā-Rohe o Taratahi

CARTERTON
DISTRICT COUNCIL

AGENDA

Late Reports

Extraordinary Council meeting

Date: Wednesday, 29 May 2024
(reconvened from 15 May 2024)

Time: 1:00 pm

Location: Carterton Events Centre
50 Holloway St
Carterton

Mayor R Mark

Cr D Williams

Cr B Deller

Cr R Cherry-Campbell

Cr S Cretney

Cr L Newman

Cr S Gallon

Cr S Laurence

Cr G Ayling

M Fox - Hurunui-o-Rangi Marae

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6 REPORTS



6.1 CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE HEARINGS COMMITTEE 15, 16 AND 22 MAY 2024

1. PURPOSE

For the Council to confirm the minutes of the Hearings Committee held 15, 16 and 22 May 2024

2. BACKGROUND

The Hearings Committee was held on 15 May 2024 to hear the oral submissions for the Long-Term Plan 2024-34, and reconvened on 16 and 22 May 2024 to deliberate.

3. RECOMMENDATION

That the Council:

1. **Confirms** the minutes of the Hearings Committee held 15, 16 and 22 May 2024.

File Number: 401123

Author: Robyn Blue, Democratic Services Officer

Attachments: 1. Minutes of the Hearings Committee 15, 16 and 22 May 2024 [↓](#)

**MINUTES OF CARTERTON DISTRICT COUNCIL
HEARINGS COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD AT THE CARTERTON EVENTS CENTRE, 50 HOLLOWAY ST, CARTERTON
ON WEDNESDAY, 15, 16 AND 22 MAY 2024**

PRESENT: Cr Robyn Cherry-Campbell (Chair), Cr Brian Deller (Deputy Chair), Cr Steve Laurence, Mayor Ron Mark, Cr B Deller, C S Cretney, Cr S Gallon, Cr L Newman (via videoconference), Cr G Ayling

IN ATTENDANCE: Geoff Hamilton (Chief Executive), Karon Ashforth (Corporate Services Manager), Solitaire Robertson (Planning and Regulatory Services Manager), Glenda Seville (Community Services Manager), Johannes Ferreira (Infrastructure Services Manager) (via videoconference), Marcus Anselm (Communications and Engagement Manager), Robyn Blue (Democratic Services Officer)

1 KARAKIA TIMATANGA

The meeting was opened with a karakia by Deputy Mayor D Williams

2 APOLOGIES

There were no apologies received.

3 CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS DECLARATION

Elected members declared the following conflicts of interest related to the Hearing:

- Cr Brian Deller
 - #76 – Wairarapa Water Advocacy Group – he is a member of the Wairarapa Water Resilience Group which is mentioned in the submission
 - #71 – Carterton District Historical Society – He is related to Pene Will
 - #3, #21, #34, #36, #46, #90, #120, #122, #117 – Carterton Indoor Pool – He is a member of the Carterton Lions Club which has endorsed the project with a letter of support.
- Cr S Cretney
 - #122, #117, #134 - Carterton Indoor Pool
 - #71 - Carterton District Historical Society – he is a member of the Society
- Cr G Ayling
 - #1 – Jonathan Ayling – her husband
- Cr S Laurence
 - #47, #140 - Go Carterton – is member
 - #3, #21, #34, #36 #46, #90, #120, #122, #117– Carterton Indoor Pool – The Carterton Rotary Club has endorsed the projectis a
- Cr L Newman
 - #3, #21, #34, #36 #46, #90, #120, #122, #117– Carterton Indoor Pool – holds a key to the pool
 - #47, #140 - Go Carterton – she is a contractor to them

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- #39 – Business Wairarapa – they are an umbrella group that Go Carterton sits under
- #85 – Grant Sidaway – she has attended a meeting of the group to answer questions about the High St project
- Cr R Cherry-Campbell
 - #3, #21, #34, #36 #46, #90, #120, #122, #117– Carterton Indoor Pool – she is a member of Carterton Rotary which has endorsed the project.
- Mayor R Mark
 - #3, #21, #34, #36, #46, #90, #120, #122, #117 - Carterton Indoor Pool - has supported fundraising for the Carterton Indoor Pool project.

NOTED

- After the elected members declared their conflicts of interest there was a point of order to the Chair from Deputy Mayor Dale Williams who asked for Information that clarified the conflict of interest related to Cr Grace Ayling’s submission to the Long-Term Plan.
- Cr Cherry-Campbell identified that based on information provided by the Office of the Auditor General and other sources that there is a danger of bias on the part of Cr Ayling related to the fact she might unfairly regard with favour or disfavour the case of a party related to issues under consideration. Cr Ayling had pre-determined the outcome to be achieved on four statements related to what Council proposed to action. These statements may make people think she was not going to listen to, or consider all relevant information before she contributed to the decision(s). Cr Ayling had also not declared she had made a submission to the Long-Term Plan.
- For these reasons, as Chair Cr Cherry-Campbell said she was excluding Cr Ayling from the Long-Term Plan submissions and deliberations. She was, however, welcome to be present as a member of the public in the Hearings Committee meeting.

4 PUBLIC FORUM

There was no public forum.

5 REPORTS**5.1 HEARING AND DELIBERATIONS - LONG TERM PLAN AND RATES REMISSION AND POSTPONEMENT POLICIES****1. PURPOSE**

To provide Council with the feedback received on the Rates, Remission and Postponement Policies and the Consultation Document for the Long-Term Plan 2024-34 and advise on the process for finalising the Long-Term Plan (LTP).

RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee:

1. **Receives** the report.

Deputy Mayor D Williams / Cr B Deller

CARRIED

2. **Hears** the submitters.

Cr R Cherry-Campbell / Deputy Mayor D Williams

CARRIED

3. **Considers** each submission and other feedback received on the Long-Term Plan Consultation Document 2024-34.
4. **Considers** the submissions and other feedback received on the Rates Remissions and Postponement Policies.

Deputy Mayor D Williams / Cr B Deller

CARRIED

5. **Agrees** any changes to the draft Long-Term Plan, following consideration of the submissions and all other feedback received on the Consultation Document and supporting information.

Cr B Deller / Deputy Mayor D Williams

CARRIED

6. **Instructs** the Chief Executive to reflect the agreed changes in an updated draft Long Term Plan for consideration at the Extraordinary Council meeting to be held on 29 May 2024.

Cr D Williams / Cr S Laurence

CARRIED

7. **Notes** the redrafted Long-Term Plan will be considered by Audit New Zealand ahead of the Council's meeting on 26 June 2024.

Mayor R Mark / Cr B Deller

CARRIED**5.2 LONG-TERM PLAN 2024-34 CHANGES POST-CONSULTATION****1. PURPOSE**

For the Hearings Committee to be informed on changes to the Long-Term Plan since the plan was published in early March for public consultation and up to 14 May 2024 prior to the hearings.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee:

1. **Receives** the report.

Cr L Newman / Cr B Deller

CARRIED

5.3 ORAL SUBMISSIONS

The following people spoke to the submissions on the LTP:

- 1 Jonathan Ayling
- 2 Grant Sidaway – High St Improvement Group
- 3 Nicola Belsham – Business Wairarapa
- 4 Tracey Higgins – Go Carterton
- 5 Ron Shaw – Go Carterton
- 6 Anna Nielson – Destination Wairarapa
- 7 Greg Lang – Five Towns Trail Trust
- 8 Roger Boulter
- 9 Pene Will – Carterton Historical Society
- 10 Vicki Pollock – Carterton Indoor Pool
- 11 Chris Montgomerie – Enviro Schools
- 12 Jason Markham - Carterton Indoor Pool
- 13 Catherine Rossiter-Stead – Carterton Indoor Pool
- 14 Barbara Durbin
- 15 Rosie Rogers - Open letter from the Tourism Industry (VC)
- 16 Chris Peterson – Sustainable Wairarapa
- 17 Grace Ayling
- 18 Michael Hewison
- 19 Andrew Leslie – Nuku Ora (VC)
- 20 Hank Optland
- 21 Matt Wills
– Disability Action
- 22 Monique Leerschool and Pat McLean, Wairarapa Forest & Bird
- 23 Kevin Sullivan
- 24 Dominic Barrington – Wellington Free Ambulance
- 25 Jason Markham
- 26 Ron Shaw
- 27 Sky Halford
- 28 Tony McKone
- 29 Neil Wadham
- 30 Corinne Barnard, Victoria University
- 31 Simon Casey – Wairarapa Water Advocacy Group
- 32 Mike Johns
- 33 Lesley MacGibbon
- 34 John Booth

The minutes of the Oral Submissions are provided as a separate report.

5.4 MINUTES OF LTP DELIBERATIONS**THURSDAY 16 MAY 2024****PART ONE**

The Hearings Committee meeting reconvened, 9 am, Thursday 16 May 2024.

Consultation item 1 – Transportation**NOTED**

- The majority of those who provided a written submission favoured Option 2. – *Usable, safe roads that are fit-for-purpose, with pavement rehabilitation to 1% of the network, an increased Focus on road Maintenance, agrading and culver clearing, with some activities reduced.*

MOVED

Agree to proceeding with Option 2 in Consultation Item 1 – Transportation

Cr S Laurence / Cr S Gallon

Cr L Newman – abstain

CARRIED**Consultation item 2 – Wastewater Plant Equipment Upgrade****NOTED**

- Option 3 risks not meeting compliance and could compromise the GWRC nursery as it is only possible to irrigate to land if the the treated effluent is within tolerance.

MOVED

Agree to proceeding with Option 1 – *Undertake all three wastewater components to meet best practice requirements, ensure network reliability, and meet compliance.*

MOTION FAILED

Agree to proceeding with Option 2- *Minimum required upgrades to meet compliance and ensure network reliability. This means an upgrade of the existing primary sedimentation tank as opposed to a new one, and no funding for foul air treatment.*

Cr B Deller / Deputy Mayor D Williams

CARRIED**NOTED**

- Mayor R Mark and Cr S Cretney identified that Cr G Ayling should be included in deliberations on items she did not discuss in her personal submission.

The meeting adjourned at 9.55 am and reconvened at 10.33 am.

PART 2 - 16 May 2024**NOTED**

- Following discussion with Dr Mike Reid from LGNZ, Cr Ayling is able to be included in deliberations on items she did not make a submission on.

MOVED

Agreed Cr G Ayling is able to be included in the Hearing deliberations excluding discussion and decisions related to the Carterton District Trails Project, and the Carterton Events Centre.

Cr R Cherry Campbell / Mayor R Mark
Abstain – Deputy Mayor D Williams, Cr S Cretney

CARRIED**Cycle Trails Carterton****MOVED**

That \$2.4M is included in the LTP as per the Consultation Document.

MOTION FAILED

That sufficient funding is put in the LTP to scope and design the cycle trail from River Road at Matarawa to Clareville.

Cr S Laurence / Cr L Newman

AMENDED MOTION

That sufficient funding is put in the LTP up to \$295K to scope and design the cycle trail from River Road at Matarawa to Clareville.

Cr S Cretney / Cr S Gallon

FOR – 4 - Mayor R Mark, Cr S Cretney, Cr S Gallon, Cr B Deller

AGAINST – 4 - Cr S Laurence, Cr R Cherry-Campbell, Cr L Newman, Deputy Mayor D Williams

MOTION TIED**AMENDED MOTION**

That sufficient funding up to \$815k is put in the LTP to scope and design the cycle trail from River Road at Matarawa to Clareville, noting there is no impact on ratepayers.

Cr S Laurence / Cr L Newman

FOR – 5 - Cr R Cherry-Campbell, Cr L Newman, Deputy Mayor D Williams, Cr B Deller, Cr S Laurence

AGAINST – 3 - Cr S Gallon, Cr S Cretney, Mayor R Mark

CARRIED

Cr G Ayling joined the meeting at 11.30 am.

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Destination Wairarapa**NOTED**

- The LTP budget has \$56k to Destination Wairarapa, \$60k to the Wairarapa Economic Development Strategy and \$15k to Business Wairarapa, plus CPI adjustments.
- It is not yet known if SWDC is supporting Destination Wairarapa in their LTP. The Mayor identified that Masterton District Council plans to support Destination Wairarapa for 24/25.
- CDC needs to discuss CDC's LTP and not be affected by decisions by the two other Wairarapa Councils.
- Overall submissions were strongly in favour of the continued work of Destination Wairarapa.
- Destination Wairarapa looks after the region and there are indirect benefits to Carterton from tourism in the other two districts.
- The MOU expires 30 June 2024 and the KPIs can be clarified as part of the new MOU. A one year extension is planned to align with the SWDC and MDC MOUs (review in September 2025).

MOVED

That CDC continues with the existing Destination Wairarapa contract.

Deputy Mayor D Williams / Cr R Cherry-Campbell

Abstain – Cr L Newman

CARRIEDCarterton Indoor Pool**NOTED**

- At the start of the Hearing a number of elected members identified conflicts of interest related to the Carterton Indoor Pool. It was discussed that they are not on the pool Committee and have no financial interests in the pool, and this does not preclude them from discussion and voting on the matter.
- CDC currently provides a 'peppercorn' lease for the land the pool is situated on, and can provide "in kind" support such as with use of the Events Centre and the provision of resource consents at no cost.

Action –The CE will draft a paragraph for the LTP related to supporting community-led projects such as the Carterton Indoor Pool and linkage to the Wellbeings.

The Committee adjourned at 12.15 pm and reconvened at 12.45 pm.

Water Storage Project**NOTED**

- Simon Casey is seeking \$21k to reinvigorate the Water Storage Project (previously known as the Wairarapa Water Limited / Wakamoekau Dam) .
- Cr Deller explained that this Group plans to do one part of the work for the Water Resilience Strategy. DIA needs to release the intellectual property on previous work on the project and additional funding is not necessarily needed.
- Simon Casey did not provide detail on how the funding will be spent.
- CDC is also being asked for \$25k in the LTP for the Wairarapa Water Resilience Strategy. This Group has to consider all options related to water resilience, including water storage.
- There was a consensus not to fund the Water Storage Project in the LTP 2024-34

MOVED

Agree to fund the Wairarapa Water Resilience Strategy \$25k per annum for three years as part of the LTP.

Deputy Mayor D Williams / Mayor R Mark

CARRIEDMOUs**NOTED**

- The main MOUs with CDC are multi-council, multi-year MOUs eg with Destination Wairarapa and the Wairarapa Economic Development Strategy (WEDS), Business Wairarapa.
- A number of the requests for funding via the LTP can be made via other avenues e.g.
 - CDC Community Grants Committee (\$75k), and regional community grants (\$110K) – both of these are funded from rates.
 - Creative Communities (\$11,500) is funded by Creative Communities.
 - The WWII Memorial Trust is funded by a trust fund and rates.
 - Waste projects are funded by the Waste Minimisation Levy (\$60k).
- Go Carterton, Carterton District Historical Society, Nuku Ora, Wellington Free Ambulance, and Hurunui-o-Rangi Marae are currently funded under Community Grants. Funding to Business Wairarapa is from the Economic Development budget.
- In this LTP Go Carterton is requesting new funding of \$20k for Space Week.
- Business Wairarapa is asking for an additional \$15K.
- There is a need to have a robust policy on MOUs with local agencies.
- Additional funding could be given to the Community Grants Committee until such time as there is a policy in place.
- In their submissions several groups asked for an MOU with CDC. MOUs are a low-level contract that identifies expectations and how each party will work together. For CDC with respect to MOUs there are implications in terms of time and resources.

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Action – A policy on MOUs is developed for local agencies, to be approved at the Policy and Project Committee.

Business Wairarapa

- Business Wairarapa currently gets \$15K from the Economic Development budget. On top of this they are asking for an additional \$15k.
- This is a multi-council request - (\$120k for the whole of Wairarapa)

MOVED

That CDC continues with the existing funding to Business Wairarapa for a one-year term with the proviso to align with other councils after that.

NO VOTE AS THIS IS EXISTING FUNDING

Action – CDC officers to align the funding to Business Wairarapa with the other councils.

Go Carterton – Space Week

- Go Carterton has an MOU with CDC for \$2,500 per year. The MOU has expired and they will be seeking more funding for administration support in the next round of community grants.
- The group is requesting \$20K for Space Week, with a view to Carterton working to become a 'Space Town'.
- They could be provided with 'in kind' support from Space Week by use of the Carterton Events Centre at no cost.
- \$10k could be considered for this project from the Economic Development Fund.

MOVED

That Go Carterton receives \$10K from the Economic Development budget or Community Grants, noting there is no additional rating Impact.

Deputy Mayor D Williams / Cr R Cherry-Campbell

NO VOTE**AMENDED MOTION**

That Go Carterton receives \$10K for Space Week. This funding is from the Economic Development budget *and is allocated to the Community Grants budget*, and will therefore be subject to them satisfying the same criteria through the Grants Committee process.

AMENDED MOTION

That Go Carterton receives \$10K for Space Week. This funding is from the Economic Development budget, and is subject to satisfying the same criteria used in the Grants Committee process.

Mayor R Mark / Cr R Cherry-Campbell

FOR – 4 – Cr R Cherry-Campbell, Mayor R Mark, Deputy Mayor D Williams, Cr B Deller,

AGAINST 3 – Cr S Cretney, Cr G Ayling, Cr S Gallon

ABSTAIN – 2 – Cr L Newman, Cr S Laurence (Conflict of interest)

CARRIED

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Carterton District Historical Society**NOTED**

- The Society is seeking up to \$12k for rent.
- This application is not approved. They are to be encouraged to apply to the Community Grants Committee, noting community grants funding can't be approved for rent, but can go towards other operational costs.

Wellington Free Ambulance (WFA)**NOTED**

- CDC has a 5-year MOU with WFA which is about to expire. In the last 5 years they have received \$3,000 per year funded out of the Regional Community Grants budget.
- They are seeking funding of \$1 per person in Carterton i.e. \$10,500 which is adjusted every year.
- If funding is declined, they are encouraged to apply for funding through the Community Grants process.

MOVED

That WFA is funded \$1 per person in Carterton (\$10,500) subject to satisfying the same criteria used in the Grants Committee process.

Cr B Deller / Cr S Cretney

FOR – 3 – Cr B Deller, Cr S Cretney, Cr R Cherry-Campbell

AGAINST – 6 – Cr G Ayling, Cr S Laurence, Cr S Gallon, Mayor R Mark, Deputy Mayor D Williams, Cr L Newman

MOTION FAILED

MOVED

That CDC continues to fund WFA at \$3,000 per year.

Cr S Laurence / Mayor R Mark

FOR – 4- Cr S Laurence, Mayor R Mark, Cr G Ayling, Cr L Newman

AGAINST – 5 – Cr S Cretney, Cr B Deller, Cr S Gallon, Deputy Mayor D Williams , Cr R Cherry-Campbell

MOTION FAILED

Enviro Schools**NOTED**

- Enviro Schools are seeking an MOU and funding for \$10k per year plus CPI. In the past, CDC has funded this out of the Community Grants Committee.
- SWDC and MDC fund Enviro Schools through the Waste Levy. The levy is covered by legislation as to what it can be spent on.

MOVED

That Enviro Schools receives \$10k per year for three years out of the Community Grants pool using the Waste Levy.

Mayor R Mark / Cr R Cherry-Campbell

FOR – 7 – Mayor R Mark, Deputy Mayor D Williams, Cr R Cherry-Campbell, Cr B Deller, Cr S

Laurence, Cr S Gallon, Cr L Newman

AGAINST – Cr G Ayling

ABSTAIN – Cr S Cretney

CARRIED**Victoria University****NOTED**

- Victoria University is seeking funding of \$9,429k towards a National Music School.

NO MOTION – APPLICATION DECLINED**Aratoi**

- Aratoi has a multi-year MOU with CDC expiring in May 2027.
- Cobblestone Museum has a multi-year MOU expiring in 2026. CDC has a commitment to Cobblestones via their Trust Deed with a representative from CDC on their Board of Trustees.

Action - Review the MOU with both Aratoi and Cobblestones when they expire.

Wairarapa Forest and Bird**NOTED**

- Their submission was for information. Their work on predator/pest control, monitoring, and DNA testing is progressing.
- They are seeking an MOU with CDC.
- CDC officers will continue working with the Group. This will come back to council at a later date i.e. Partnership agreement and vision.

5 Towns Trail Trust**NOTED**

- The 5 Towns Trail Trust is requesting operational costs, \$20k per year until 2027.
- Deputy Mayor D Williams identified the need to support the project. This will assist them to receive government funding.
- In the previous Ten-Year Plan CDC set aside \$295K for Five Towns Trails, with the funding to be spent on Carterton trails that link to the Five Towns Trail. This is carry-forward funding.

MOVED

That the request for funding is not supported.

Cr S Cretney / Cr G Ayling

MOTION WITHDRAWN as the \$295k of funding not spent in the previous Ten-Year Plan has been rolled over.

MOTION

That CDC supports the Five Towns Trail Trust funding application of \$20K per year for 3 years – total \$60k

Deputy Mayor D Williams / Cr R Cherry-Campbell

FOR – 4 – Cr R Cherry-Campbell, Deputy Mayor D Williams, Cr L Newman, Cr B Deller

AGAINST – 4 – Cr G Ayling, Cr S Cretney, Mayor R Mark, Cr S Laurence

ABSTAIN – 1- Cr S Gallon

TIED VOTE - MOTION FAILED AS THE CHAIR DID NOT USE HER CASTING VOTE

Hurunui-o-Rangi Marae**NOTED**

- \$10k per annum is budgeted for Hurunui-o-Rangi Marae for cultural advice to the Council and the provision of cultural support on occasions of importance.
- The current MOU has not been signed.
- Relationships with Hurunui-o-Rangi have changed. The Mayor identified it would be unfair to make a change now, but the MOU needs to be reviewed.

Action – The CE to review / progress the MOU with Hurunui-o-Rangi Marae.

Main St – Grant Sidaway**NOTED**

- The group is seeking Council support with bylaws to improve the appearance of the High St town centre. There is strong support in the community for improvements.
- Noted that bylaws don't always work, and there is a risk of legal challenge.
- Several years ago the Placemaking Advisory Group was established. One purpose of the Group was to consider options for improvements to High St. As a result, there were previous efforts to clean up the street e.g. with painting.
- Greytown Heritage Trust has considerable input as to what can be done on the Main St in Greytown. It was explained that the difference between Greytown and Carterton is that the Main St of Greytown is a Heritage Precinct, and the Trust can't always influence change. The difference with Carterton is that High St is a character area controlled by the Heritage Plan, not a Heritage Precinct.

Action – Invite Grant Sidaway to be a member of the People & Places Advisory Group.

The meeting closed at 3.56 pm.

Actions from Day 1 of Deliberations

Chief Executive	The CE will draft a paragraph for the LTP related to supporting community-led projects such as the Carterton Indoor Pool and linkage to the Wellbeings.
Glenda Seville	A policy on MOUs is developed for local agencies, to be approved at the Policy and Project Committee.
Glenda Seville	Align Business Wairarapa funding with other councils.
Glenda Seville	Review the MOU with both Aratoi and Cobblestones when they expire.
Chief Executive	Review / progress the MOU with Hurunui-o-Rangi Marae.
Community Development OR Democratic Services	Invite Grant Sidaway to be a member of the People & Places Advisory Group.

WEDNESDAY 22 MAY 2024

The meeting reconvened at 10 am 22 May 2024.

CDC Hearings Deliberations – 22 May 2025**Part 1****Karakia**

The meeting opened with a karakia by all members.

Apologies

An apology was received from Mayor Ron for lateness.

Late paper - Long-Term Plan 2024-34 Changes Post Consultation**PURPOSE**

For the Hearings Committee to be informed on changes to Long-Term Plan since the plan was published in early March for public consultation and up to 14 May 2024.

NOTED

- Management has continued to review operational and capital budgets since the Consultation Document was published.
- If smoothing of the impact of high rates in year 1 of the LTP was considered, CDC should have consulted the public on this.

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- The net effect of all known movements to the LTP budgets since the draft Plan was adopted in March is to reduce the impact of rates on Year 1 of the LTP by 0.4%. The impact of these changes over the first three years of the LTP period is an increase of 1.3%.

MOVED

That the Committee

1. **Receives** the report.

Cr L Newman / Cr B Deller

CARRIED**MOVED**

That further deliberations on the LTP 2024-34 are paused until Council is comfortable with the legality and optics of the LTP on the Consultation Document.

Cr G Ayling / Cr S Cretney

DISCUSSION

- The Auditor-General has confirmed that Council can defer adoption of the LTP beyond June 2024.
- However, there are significant risks and complications with not agreeing on the rates by 30 June e.g.
 - the first instalment on rates will be based on 2023/4, with a wash up on the subsequent instalments.
 - GWRC rates would also need to be based on 2023/4 with a subsequent wash-up.
 - There would be significant delays in the subsequent audit by Audit NZ.

FOR – 3 - Cr G Ayling, Cr S Cretney, Mayor R Mark

AGAINST – 6 - Cr R Cherry-Campbell, Cr D Williams, Cr B Deller, Cr S Gallon, Cr S Laurence, Cr L Newman

MOTION FAILED**MOVED**

That the Chair of the LTP Hearings Committee is replaced by the Deputy Chair of the Hearings Committee.

Cr S Cretney / Cr G Ayling

FOR – 2- Cr S Cretney, Cr G Ayling

AGAINST – 5 - Cr B Deller, Cr S Laurence, Cr L Newman, Cr S Gallon, Cr D Williams

ABSTAIN – 2 -Cr R Cherry-Campbell (Conflict of Interest) Mayor R Mark

MOTION FAILED

The Committee adjourned at 11.38 and reconvened at 11.45 am.

Part 2**Business Cases****Operations Depot****MOVED**

Agree to \$150k for Year 1 and no funding for Year 2.

Cr S Cretney / Cr B Deller

CARRIED (noting Mayor R Mark was absent)

Library self-issue machines (RFID)**NOTED**

- CDC receives books loaned from other libraries for both CDC and SWDC.

Action - The CE / Community Services Manager to investigate if receipt of books for SWDC could be charged for.

MOVED

Agreed to fund RFID self-issue machines.

Cr D Williams / Cr L Newman

FOR - Cr L Newman, Cr S Laurence, Cr D Williams, Cr B Deller, Cr R Cherry-Campbell, Cr S Gallon, Mayor R Mark

AGAINST – Cr G Ayling, Cr S Cretney

CARRIED**Library Workroom****MOVED**

That \$60k is added to the existing budget in Year 1 of the LTP for renovations to the Library Workroom.

Cr D Williams / Cr S Laurence

FOR – 4 – Cr S Laurence, Cr D Williams, Cr B Deller, Cr R Cherry-Campbell

AGAINST - 4 – Cr S Cretney, Cr G Ayling, Mayor R Mark, Cr L Newman

ABSTAIN – Cr S Gallon

MOTION FAILED -The Chair did not use her casting vote

Carterton Events Centre**MOVED**

To fund carpet replacement beginning in Year 3 and progressing after that.

Cr B Deller / Cr D Williams

FOR – 6 - Cr S Laurence, Cr R Cherry-Campbell, Cr D Williams, Mayor R Mark, Cr B Deller, Cr S Gallon

AGAINST – 2 - Cr L Newman , Cr S Cretney

EXCLUDED – Cr G Ayling

CARRIED**MOVED**

To fund the auditorium floor sand and varnish – Year 2.

Cr S Laurence / Cr D Williams

FOR – 5 - Cr D Williams, Cr R Cherry-Campbell, Cr B Deller, Cr S Laurence, Cr S Gallon

AGAINST - 3 - Mayor R Mark, Cr L Newman, Cr S Cretney

EXCLUDED – Cr G Ayling

CARRIED**MOVED**

To fund the cyclorama projector – Year 4.

Cr R Cherry-Campbell / Cr D Williams

FOR – 4 - Cr D Williams, Cr R Cherry-Campbell, Cr B Deller, Cr S Laurence, Cr S Gallon

AGAINST – 3 - Mayor R Mark, Cr S Cretney, Cr L Newman

ABSTAIN – Cr S Gallon

EXCLUDED – Cr G Ayling

CARRIED**MOVED**

To fund the sound system renewal split over years 1 & 2 of the LTP.

Cr D Williams / Cr B Deller

FOR – 5 - Cr D Williams, Cr R Cherry-Campbell, Cr B Deller, Cr S Laurence, Cr S Gallon

AGAINST – 3 – Cr S Cretney, Cr L Newman, Mayor R Mark

EXCLUDED – Cr G Ayling

CARRIED

MOVED

To fund the fly winch system renewal split across years 3 & 4.

Cr B Deller / Dr D Williams

FOR – 5 - Cr B Deller, Cr D Williams, Cr R Cherry-Campbell, Cr S Laurence, Cr S Gallon

AGAINST – 3 - Cr S Cretney, Cr L Newman, Mayor R Mark

EXCLUDED – Cr G Ayling

CARRIED**MOVED**

To fund theatrical lighting improvements – split over years 1, 2, and 3.

Cr D Williams / Cr R Cherry-Campbell

FOR – 5 - Cr D Williams, Cr R Cherry-Campbell, Cr B Deller, Cr S Laurence, Cr S Gallon

AGAINST – 3 – Cr L Newman, Cr S Cretney, Mayor R Mark

EXCLUDED – Cr G Ayling

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 12.52pm and reconvened at 1.30pm.

Part 3**Staffing Levels****NOTED**

- Compared to other Wairarapa Councils CDC has an in-house Parks and Reserves and Waters Team.
- CDC Human Resources look at every position before progressing with recruitment.
- The CE is budgeting for a decrease in the head count in this LTP compared to 2023/4.

MOVED

There is a staff hiring freeze and/or a percentage decrease in staff for the life of the LTP.
Any vacancies go to full council for approval.

Cr G Ayling / no seconder

Discussion

- Noted that Chief Executive is responsible for employing staff, not the Council.

MOTION DID NOT PROGRESS**Actions**

- The CE to check Council authorities related to staffing.
- Undertake a section 17A review of one service area in the next 12 months (**in progress**).

MOVED

That budgeted staffing costs reduce by 5% in the LTP 2024-34.

Cr G Ayling / no seconder

MOTION DID NOT PROGRESS**MOVED**

That the budget for salaries for the first three years of the LTP is capped at \$7.2M.

Cr S Cretney / no seconder

Discussion

- Noted by the CE that this could create employment issues.

MOTION RESCINDED**De-sludging the WWTP Ponds****MOVED**

To defer the first pond cleaning of sludge from Year 1 to Year 3.

Cr S Cretney / Mayor R Mark

Discussion

- The Infrastructure Services Manager identified the following:
 - The reason for de-sludging in Year 1 is that if it is moved to Year 3 it would align with the most expensive item in the LTP for the ponds – the Headworks Upgrade.
 - It would be prudent to de-sludge the ponds as soon as possible due to deferred maintenance over a long period. If this is not done the ponds will continue to lose oxidation capacity, and the treatment of the waste water will be less effective.

MOTION RESCINDED**AMENDED MOTION****MOVED**

To defer the first pond cleaning to Year 4 of the LTP, de-sludging of the second pond is deferred to Year 6, and de-sludging of the third pond deferred to Year 8 of the LTP.

Cr S Cretney / no seconder

Discussion

- Due to central government re-organisation related to 3 Waters / Local Waters Done Well, the WWTP ponds will likely not be a CDC asset in the next LTP. However, this decision has not yet been fully decided and Council needs to make decisions on information to hand.
- The WWTP ponds should be in a good condition for handover. De-sludging has always been planned. It would cost more to defer this.
- De-sludging and the Headworks are inter-related projects. There will be more of a benefit for the Headworks by de-sludging as soon as possible.
- As part of our Waste Minimisation Management Plan Wairarapa needs to set up an organics waste facility by 2028, so in future there will be a place to put the sludge.

Hearings Committee meeting Minutes

15 May 2024

- It was noted by the CE that the significant areas of LTP expenditure are in Roding and 3 Waters, but most of the expenses are in Capital, not Operations. There will be power savings with the Solar Project.
- Waste water is 90% rate-targeted to those able to connect to the network in urban areas.

MOTION RESCINDED

The meeting adjourned at 3.15 pm and reconvened at 3.25 pm.

Part 4**NOTED**

- The Planning & Regulatory Services Manager identified that funding of \$250k will be able to be re-allocated from the project budget in the Wairarapa Combined District Plan as she doesn't see it being used.

MOVED

That \$250k from projects in the Wairarapa Combined District Plan is allocated to Opex.

Mayor R Mark / Cr R Cherry-Campbell

CARRIED**Karakia**

The meeting closed at 4 pm with a karakia by all members.

Actions from Day 2 of Deliberations

Chief Executive / Glenda Seville	CDC receives books loaned from other libraries for both CDC and SWDC. Investigate if this service could be charged for.
Chief Executive	Review the profile of the funding for the Events Centre endorsed by the Hearings Committee and bring this back to the Extraordinary Council meeting on 29 May.
Chief Executive	Reconcile the number of FTEs and the head count.
Chief Executive	Check Council authorities related to staffing. Undertake a section 17A review of one service area in the next 12 months(in progress)
Chief Executive	Review revenue and options for improved revenue eg fees and charges.

6 KARAKIA WHAKAMUTUNGA

The meeting closed with a karakia by Cr R Cherry-Campbell.

The Meeting closed at 4.03 pm

Minutes confirmed:

Date:

DRAFT



6.2 SUMMARY OF ORAL SUBMISSIONS AT THE HEARING FOR THE LONG-TERM PLAN 2024-34

1. PURPOSE

For Council to updated on the summary of oral submissions provided at the Hearing for the Long-Term Plan 2024-34.

2. SIGNIFICANCE

The matters for decision in this report are not considered to be of significance under the Significance and Engagement Policy.

3. DISCUSSION

A summary of the oral submissions at the Hearing for the Long-Term Plan 2024-34 is **attached**.

4. RECOMMENDATION

That the Council:

1. **Receives** the report.

File Number: 401087

Author: Robyn Blue, Democratic Services Officer

Attachments: 1. Summary of oral submissions at the LTP 2024-34 LTP Hearing [↓](#)

Oral Submissions – LTP Hearing1. Jonathan Ayling - #95

Jonathan identified he has lived in Carterton for 5 years. Over that time Carterton has featured as having the highest rates in the country. In his view the increase in rates in the next 10 years is an abuse of the trust by the Council. When standing for election almost all councillors were concerned about the burden of rates for ratepayers and campaigned to work to reduce this.

He says that Council is indifferent to the mounting rates burden places on ratepayers in Carterton.

Council has to operate with the reality of ever changing cost pressures.

The LTP proposes a 55% increase in Council revenue over the next 10 years, primarily funded by rates – while the population in the District is projected to increase only by 6%, and inflation is planned to be less than 30%. He asks what is the justification for the Council to be 25 percent larger in 10 years in comparison to what it is now?

Council's core work relates to water and waste management, transport (primarily roads), infrastructure, regulatory and planning. These core services should not be neglected.

Council should reject this LTP and in its place develop a plan that clearly articulates Council's limited capacity, which will be invested in providing core basic services that other parties are not well-placed to provide.

2. Grant Sidaway - #85

Grant outlined a need to improve the appeal of Carterton's High Street. A group has been established to work with CDC and other like-minded community groups on this.

Carterton has great community spirit, but the town centre / High St does not reflect that spirit. There are an overwhelming number of 'tatty' buildings in the town. The look of the town detracts on house prices.

Neighbouring towns Greytown and Martinborough have a common theme. It is not expected to emulate these two towns, but a common sense of direction is needed, supported by Council bylaws and a strong community spirit.

At risk buildings - Council needs to be more proactive in relation to at risk buildings. There is a risk of losing those business that have made the effort to earthquake-strengthen their buildings, at the expense of those that haven't.

A more cohesive and determined effort is needed from the community, businesses, residential areas and Council to establish a better way of moving forward.

Council needs to be setting the standards with the use of bylaws if possible.

There are no elements in the LTP related to this.

3. Nicola Belsham – Business Wairarapa - #49

Business Wairarapa is a not-for-profit organisation and one of 30 chambers that make up the New Zealand Chambers of Commerce and Industry body (NZCCI), whose network represents over 30,000 businesses throughout the country.

It's mission is to represent every Wairarapa business, providing leadership, creating opportunities, sharing ideas and leading business development.

Business Wairarapa has a formal partnership with the three Wairarapa councils. The group was formed in late 2020 as a result of the global pandemic and as part of a Wairarapa Recovery Plan that included identifying and promoting opportunities across the Region to stimulate business growth.

Business Wairarapa acts as a Chamber of Commerce. While members pay fees, Business Wairarapa is committed to serving all businesses and acts as a direct channel for councils to engage with businesses across Wairarapa.

Member's fees solely cover operational costs.

Their submission sets a specific request for annual support and includes:

- Development of an MOU to acknowledge partnership between both organisations.
- Supporting the delivery of key initiatives – a combined total of \$120,000 for 3 years 2024-2027
- Ongoing support – supporting Business Wairarapa's initiatives through the council's internal activities and their funding commitments.

4. Tracey Higgins – Go Carterton AND Ron Shaw – Go Carterton - #47

"Go Carterton is Carterton's Business association representing Carterton businesses. They partner with Destination Wairarapa, the Wairarapa Economic Development agency and Business Wairarapa.

Currently, Carterton is not seen as a tourist destination, but they believe that Carterton is in a strong position to claim an identity and be a destination of choice for local businesses,

They believe that Carterton should be asserting itself as Space Town. The linkages are:

- Charles Rooking Carter left a bequest towards the National Observatory in New Zealand, now the Carter Observatory.
- The Wairarapa Dark Sky Reserve
- Carterton is home to Milky Way Kiwi (Star Safari) which includes astronomical education, and Stonehenge Aotearoa.

Over the next year Go Carterton will be looking at a range of space related activities:

- **Earth Day** (22 April 2024)
- **Matariki** (28 June 2024)
- **World Space Week** (4 – 10 October 2024) all based in Carterton:
 - Space related quiz night to maintain the public's focus on Carterton's part of the Dark Sky Reserve.
 - A Science Fair for school aged students during World Space Week – Wairarapa through to Hawkes Bay.

- Talks and networking events during World Space Week including guests from The New Zealand Space Agency, the growing space industry and the education sector.
- A Dark Sky Tourism business networking event, a follow up to the one run in Martinborough this year.
- Specialist speakers on such things as Astrophotography, solar storms, using AI and satellite technology for climate resilience and disaster response. (Carterton is the home of one of NZ's foremost Astrophotographers – Paul Mallinson).
- We are exploring the potential for a children's space book, based on Carterton, with star maps aimed at 7–10-year-olds

Where possible, they will include a focus on education, ensuring that young people are excited by the possibilities of a career in the space industry.

In addition, they see themselves continuing to support A Very Carterton Christmas, the Wairarapa Walking Festival and continuing their business-as-usual work of socials, tourism pushes, supporting local businesses and connecting people through our social media pages.

Funding

Funding of \$20,000 is sought to enable these activities. In kind support is also needed, such as free use of the Events Centre, for example during Space Week, and support with promotion”.

5. Anna Nielson – Destination Wairarapa - #48

Destination Wairarapa is the Regional Tourism Organisation (RTO) for the region and one of 31 throughout New Zealand. They have a membership base of more than 220 tourism and hospitality businesses in Wairarapa.

Destination Wairarapa is the steward of the Wairarapa Destination Management Plan alongside the three Wairarapa Councils, local businesses, the iwi and community. They are a key facilitator of growth in the region.

Tourism has continued to grow post-COVID

Data released from the Ministry of Business and Innovation and Employment (MBIE) last year indicated an increase in visitor spend of more than 9.2 per cent in Carterton when comparing YE February 2020 (pre-covid, \$9.8m) and YE February 2023 (post-covid, \$10.7m).

- Just released accommodation data from MBIE reveals that guest nights were up in Wairarapa 9.9% in February 2024 versus February 2023.
- Tourism jobs in Wairarapa were 1379 – a growth of 19% in 2023 (Infometrics regional profile March 2023)

Destination Wairarapa's concerted and strategic approach to marketing and media was key to the success of the region over this period.

In the development of the Wairarapa Destination Management Plan (DMP), community, business, tourism stakeholders and iwi were extensively consulted about what tourism they liked in the region, and they would like to see further developed. Trail development (both walking and cycling) came up time and time again.

The 5 Towns Trail is acknowledged as a product development opportunity in the Wairarapa Destination Management Plan. It also features in the Wairarapa Economic Development Plan and the Wellington Regional Economic Development Plan.

They support the development of \$2.4M of trails in Carterton.

Funding

They ask that Carterton District Council continues to support the work of Destination Wairarapa at the same level of investment (adjusted for CPI) and under the same arrangements (a tripartite MOU).

6. Greg Lang - Five Towns Trail Trust AND Jacinda Johnson – Wairarapa Economic Development Strategy (WEDS) #75

Greg is the Chair of the Wairarapa Trails Action Group and the newly formed 5 Towns Trail Trust.

Wairarapa has 90 km of off road signature trails and over 100 km of experienced loops linking Wairarapa up with 5 towns.

A Regional Trails Coordinator needs to be retained for Wairarapa who can collaborate on funding opportunities via central Government.

WEDS is retaining 5 regional Wairarapa initiatives in their annual plan. These are the Five Towns Trail Trust, leveraging the Dark Skies opportunities, water resilience, promoting food and fire, and workforce and skills attraction. The plan is funded by the regional targeted rate from GWRC which is passed on to Wellington NZ to drive the plan.

They are currently connecting the Remutaka Rail Trail with Featherston and setting up a trust to deliver the Five Towns Trail Network.

\$20,000 (each) is sought from Carterton, Masterton, South Wairarapa, GWRC. This needs to be endorsed by the LTP.

What the 5TT will do:

1. Strong governance practices and regional collaboration as the lead agency for Wairarapa trail development.
2. Implement a fundraising strategy, targeting sustainable funding sources for Trail development.
3. Complete website & brand development with regular public communications.
4. Develop a membership base (fee-paying/ bequests).
5. Establish a workplan for Stage 1 of the Trail network development (land access, bridges, etc).
6. Induct & support council-appointed Trustees as the formal mechanism for Council relationships/reporting .
7. Leverage networks through WellingtonNZ, Councils and the Regional Trails Network.

7. Roger Boulter - #136

Roger is a retired urban and transport planning consultant with an Urban and Regional Planning degree.

“The 2016 Carterton Walking and Cycling Strategy was mainly about retrofitting footpaths, but was hijacked by ‘cycling enthusiasts’. The Advisory Group then focused on bike trails (notably the Five Towns Trail).

Successful trails always have a ‘head start’, which already defines the route. The Greytown Trail had this (a dis-used rail formation), but the Five Towns Trail lacks it (so route alignment and form are still not worked out).

The Five Towns Trail ‘Master Plan’ is vague, and leaves big questions unanswered. CDC is currently working on Waiohine Bridge and Clareville Link trails, disjointed from each other. Connecting through Carterton will be difficult and may not even be viable; yet the Long Term Plan Consultation Document says this is “for those travelling across the District”. The Master Plan argued benefits have no supporting justification, instead ‘just trust us’.

Trails bring economic benefit to remote and deprived areas (e.g. Central Otago) but we are not remote (people already visit), and our economy is ‘humming’. Benefits from other ‘Great Rides’ cannot be extrapolated to the Wairarapa.

Benefit and cost estimates are always prone to exaggeration and must be subject to scrutiny.

It is imprudent risk for Council to fund ‘trails’ from rates. Stick to the original assurance that ‘no ratepayer money’ would go into the trail.

Put the \$2.4M ‘trails money’ into footpath retrofitting. There is no time now to test out different investment scenarios (which should have happened in 2017).

We are no longer pursuing the town centre ‘laneways’, but there is nothing better you can do for a town centre’s well-being than good quality pedestrian spaces; this is a high footpaths retrofit priority. Decent footpaths near schools are also a high priority (compared to last year’s ‘Schools Link’ project).

\$650,000 already voted will, I understand, be linked to asset management (i.e. the roading renewal programme). What I am suggesting now is different and additional: pro-active, stand-alone prioritised retrofit (focusing on where it will do be of most benefit).

Conclusion: putting the ‘trails’ money into footpath retrofit will not only correct the suppression of this work in 2017, but will complete the wider re-focusing of this Long Term Plan on things which are less glamorous but more important – such as roading renewal and wastewater treatment – which I strongly support and commend Council for”.

8. Pene Will – Carterton District Historical Society - #71

“Our colonial start in Carterton forms a crucial part of our local history. Everywhere we look, reminds us of Charles Rooking Carter and his legacy, and it's essential that we celebrate and honour this heritage.

The reality for CDHS in recognising Carterton's colonial beginnings? It was the **only organisational focus** for many years with no acknowledgement of mana whenua or understanding the important local Māori presence in Taratahi Carterton - this was a major barrier to building key relationships, predominantly with CDC and local hapū, and that stance largely detracted from the fine work that CDHS had been doing to preserve our colonial history.

BUT that was then - CDHS has since moved on and we now sit in a more progressive space and we are optimistic for stronger key stakeholder relationships with CDC and Hurunui-o-Rangi Marae and Te Kahukuraawhitia as local hapū.

This strong shift under an active leadership team led by Pene Will and a strong volunteer team, sees CDHS taking a more inclusive organisational approach including a new Key Objective: To stabilise and strengthen our cultural integrity with our community by embracing and uplifting our diverse cultures and our unique Māori heritage through the sharing of *all* local histories and heritage stories.' That's a monumental step towards celebrating a more diverse community.

As society members we've undertaken professional development around gathering local oral histories. We are exploring other capability building, that is, Professional Development that will be extended to community - so the impact is more greatly felt.

We're developing new partnerships with community and government funders so our community events have targeted but broader appeal. Steps are being taken to work alongside Hurunui-o-Rangi, and respectfully seek their guidance with retelling of local Māori stories and we have an optimistic goal of co-hosting future events alongside them. We don't want to service our own needs by leveraging the Māori stories or culture. We are treading carefully / slowly so the relationship builds on trust and confidence - it's about respect and reciprocity.

To ensure organisational sustainability, we're diversifying our income streams, attracting sponsorship, and expanding our membership. We're not just a society for historians; this year, we're looking to engage young families and children through targeted community events and supporting local schools in developing their local history programmes as required under the new history curriculum.

We've listened to advice from former mayor Greg Lang to create an online presence - co-operating with Wairarapa Library Services we are cataloguing and will eventually digitise our collection. Our website is currently being built. We are also taking steps to strengthen our relationship with mana whenua, aligning with Ron's wero - we are rising to these challenges.

The community has enjoyed CDHS hospitality. From the heritage walks, plaque unveilings, exhibitions including Family Heritage Month, collaborating with Carterton Library to celebrate their 150th Anniversary and connecting with local schools. Also, leaning into Ka Pai's Te Tiriti o Waitangi training, Stan Walker's Community Kōrero and Matariki Haerenga, the local benefits are huge and we are wanting them to grow.

We acknowledge the support that CDC has already provided; from exhibition space for Family Heritage Month, free use of the Courthouse, access to library staff and training around cataloguing of our archive and we share the kōrero as part of People & Places Advisory - all valuable in building collaborations. Also, for funding of specific Carterton heritage projects. For this investment of time and energy we thank you and we are optimistic for ongoing financial support that allows CDC to be more vested in our continued success as a society while preserving our irreplaceable collection - for all to enjoy.

We extend our services to CDC to catalogue any archival records that CDC may hold.

Now we seek an MOU, a financial partnership. CDHS hopes to become a cornerstone of Carterton's local tourism. This work has already begun with the heritage plaques and self-directed heritage walks that bring visitors from all around the region.

But, we risk losing our taonga / our artefacts if more financial backing can't be sourced to protect our collection and keep it in our district.

CDHS is optimistic that with Aratoi and Cobblestones both receiving financial support from CDC we are well placed as the only comprehensive Carterton based heritage organisation that celebrates *our* district's past. We welcome a partnership with CDC and you all as CDHS members, a \$30 annual membership would demonstrate a personal commitment in strengthening our vision of being kaitiaki: 'Guardians of Carterton's diverse cultures, as we discover, understand, value, respect, and share our district's rich heritage.'

As a note, our most generous donor is of Chinese ethnicity, a former Carterton resident who now lives in Auckland.

We leave you with his gesture of trust... Last year CDHS was contacted by a chap in the UK. He had a silver tea service gifted to his forebear by the Carterton community in acknowledgement of his service as Station Master at Carterton Railway Station. The tea service was a treasured family heirloom that he wanted to permanently and safely preserve. Last year he personally delivered and entrusted it to our Carterton society rooms for our safe keeping as its permanent guardians. To help us preserve it, and many other treasures entrusted to CDHS".

9. Vicki Pollock – Carterton Indoor Pool - #122

Vicki Pollack is a qualified registered remedial massage therapist with her own full-time clinic in Carterton. She specialises in musculoskeletal body work helping people with injuries, pain and lignment issues.

In summary, the pool is a very important facility for health and wellbeing of Carterton and the wider community.

She swims in the Carterton Indoor Pool and inspired by others who attend. Many older people are making big beneficial changes to their lives. The health issues range from people who have had a stroke to those who have had a head injury, multiple sclerosis, or those post surgery eg knee or hip replacement.

The benefits are that the pool is non weight-bearing exercise. People can exercise without pain and can do a whole range of movement for strength and balance that they could never do on land or in a gym.

There is an aerobics class at the pool that can have up to 27 people in one session.

The pool is warmer than the Masterton Indoor Pool.

A ramp will be a very important addition to the pool for greater access.

10. Chris Montgomerie - Enviro Schools - #117

For the last 3 years Enviro Schools have had an MOU with the 3 Wairarapa Councils. The MOU is in the process of being renewed.

The programme provides guidance to teachers related to working with students to take action for the environment. They work in early childhood centres and schools.

As part of the Wellington Region Waste Minimisation Plan there is an aspect of zero waste education.

11. Jason Markham – Carterton Indoor Pool

The pool is 40 years old. It's been operating through many challenges over the years. This is the last swimming club in NZ to own and operate it's own pool.

It's a worthy investment. If the building is not replacement the facility will be gone.

It's a big project, but it's still worth the investment. They are making sure it will be an enduring facility. They are engaging regularly with the building team on this.

What next? A dug-in ramp would cost about \$100,000 with \$12k for concept design.

The group would like a partnership with CDC to reflect that it's a community asset. That's why they'd like it included in the LTP.

They are in the process of setting up a charitable trust.

Funding

Jason would have put a funding proposition in the submission, but was advised against it. Seeing others put in funding applications he wished that he had done this.

If they were to receive funding from CDC – the dug-in ramp could receive External grant funding due to providing accessibility to people with disabilities.

Funding for the concept design of the ramp (\$12k) would be helpful.

12. Catherine Rossiter-Stead – Carterton Indoor Pool - #34

Catherine outlined that to have the support stated in the LTP would demonstrate a commitment to supporting an important piece of infrastructure.

There are currently over 3,000 users with 400 of those regular users <12 years, plus the children who use it with the local primary schools.

The Carterton population is growing by 6%, it's older generation by 30% ... It's a 'no brainer' this important asset should feature in the Carterton LTP 2024-2034.

Carterton Swimming Club is one of the oldest swimming clubs in New Zealand and is the last swimming club in the country to own its own pool.

Providing opportunities for tamariki and rangatahi

With the cost of living placing limitations on what people spend their money on, the increasing cost of taking our youngsters all the way to Masterton for swimming lessons is real.

Without an all year-round, all-weather pool in the Southern Wairarapa, tamariki and rangatahi from across our region will miss out on:

- Learning to swim and building confidence in the water
- Creating aspirations
- Pushing themselves to discover their limits
- Helping them be part of a team
- Teaching them to compete graciously against their peers
- Growing resilience
- Developing a life-long love of being active

Over the years the Pool has produced swimmers who have won national titles and broken national records, including Ava Wilson who last year represented New Zealand and gained bronze in the New South Wales Junior Open Water Champs, and Olympian Jonathan Winter who swam in the Atlanta games.

Recently, the club's coach, pool manager and one of the original volunteers who built the pool, Russell Geange, was awarded a QSM for 50 years' service to the Wairarapa swimming community.

Providing opportunities for aspiring athletes

- Alex & Abbey – Kuranui students
- Scott – Professional Ironman
- Catherine – Age group triathlete

Kuranui students, Alex and Abbey, get up early twice a week to swim to help improve their overall fitness. They want to perform to their best of their ability in their chosen sports.

During the COVID lockdown Scott was determined to improve his fitness and challenged himself to complete an Ironman. He is now a professional triathlete and is coached as an adult member of the Carterton Swimming Club Swim Squad.

Catherine started swimming 12 years ago and now competes as an open water swimmer and triathlete. I hope to qualify for the ITU World Championships in Aquabike and represent New Zealand next summer.

Providing opportunities to stay resilient, mobile, capable & socially connected

The Carterton Indoor Pool offers so much more than just swimming. It also provides the community with an opportunity to have dignity in old age, to be resilient and capable, and connected to others e.g.

- Chrissy – walker
- Maureen – swimmer
- Kath – Learnt to swim
- Vicky – regular swimmer and runner

CDC Vision : A welcoming and vibrant community where we all enjoy living.

CDC strategy focuses on four important social outcomes, including:

‘A caring community that is safe, healthy, happy and connected’

‘Fit for purpose public facilities, spaces, parks and rural reserves’

Research has identified that swimming is one of the best types of physical activity for people of all ages. This was reinforced by Swimming NZ who recently launched its ‘Unlock Your Greatness’ campaign aimed at promoting and improving the health and wellbeing of New Zealanders.

The council's support doesn't necessarily mean it has to spend rate payer's dollars – there are other ways Council can support the Carterton Indoor Pool Project.

13. Barbara Durbin #141

“In a past life, my role was primarily one of governance – in both elected and appointed positions.

I served as an elected member on City, Regional and District Local Authorities, and in various appointed Government Roles - including as a Local Government Commissioner for 8 or so years.

I was likewise heavily involved in the Not-for-Profit Sector, serving for many years Finance Chair and latterly President of the Auckland Cancer Society and more latterly, as a Regional Board member of the Order of St John. In these capacities I was involved in a number of major community developments - both in Auckland and latterly more locally.

That phase has largely passed.

I now live contentedly under my stone in Carterton and when it rains am more often than not spotted encouraging the storm water drains to behave as designed.

I decided to retire to a small, caring, generous and supportive community within easy striking distance of a metropolitan area and an Airport, I chose Carterton.

I judge a community by how well the children, the elderly, and the infirm are provided for.

In Carterton, we look after our children. Our schools and preschools are well supported.

The outdoorsy youngsters have sports fields, parks and a swimming pool with free access in which to play. The more bookish amongst us have free access to an excellent library, and an artistic and culturally alive community in which to participate – and with quiet spaces to enjoy.

Those of us of the semi-ancient variety are likewise well catered for. Being relatively flat and compact Carterton is easy to get around.

Community activities and interest-groups abound. We have an excellent Library and vibrant and busy Events Centre, reasonable roads and footpaths, a safe water supply, and a waste water system which is hard to get excited about but is the envy of our neighbours.

We have an active fire brigade; ambulance service, and a nearby Hospital to care for us if life gets sticky and when the time comes we have Carter Court, a community owned elder care facility to withdraw to.

Should we wish to - we can always escape on the buses or by train. Thanks to the Council and to the community we are well served to meet our basic needs.

Sometimes we need remind ourselves that Carterton is a wealthy community in the truest sense of the word – albeit not a rich community in dollar terms with little spare change this year.

Many are worried about the current economic turmoil – we are somewhat cash-strapped and doing it tough right now.

[High interest rates](#) are continuing to bite, [inflation](#) remains stubbornly high, the [unemployment rate](#) is rising, Business confidence is low and [cost of living pressures](#) remain a significant challenge for many households.

This is certainly not the time for Council to fund major new projects – however exciting. This is a time to make sure the roof doesn't leak, pay our bills and feed the family.

Please demonstrate the leadership we expect of you in these times – constrain the expenses and reduce the proposed rates to a manageable level. I don't envy you the task.

I assume Councillors have read and hopefully digested my initial submission on how the allocation of **general rates** largely directed to roading/transport – which might be more fairly addressed by applying a variable “funding” regime across the Council's existing Roading classifications.

To rate “Urban/Residential” ratepayers 25% more in the \$ [plus gst and after tax] than those classified as Rural/Residential within the current Rural sector for the transport/roading general rate is inequitable, unsustainable, without merit and needs to be addressed.

My “networks” across the local government sector have wilted somewhat over the years.

By way of comparison, and as an example of another alternative solution, Wairoa District Council has determined the differential applied to each rateable unit shall reflect **“The use to which the land is put”** ref Local Government (Rating) Act 2002 Schedule 2 Clause 1 - rather than the “catch-all” zoning provided for in The Local Government (Rating) Act 2002 Schedule 2 Clause 2.

“The activities that are permitted, controlled, or discretionary for the area in which the land is situated, and the rules to which the land is subject under an operative district plan or regional plan under the [Resource Management Act 1991](#)” as applied within Carterton.

It would be a relatively simple computer-based exercise to identify as Wairoa District Council has **“the use to which the land is put”** for each rating unit across the district.

Much of the current Rural/Residential rating units would be more properly identified as Residential when setting the **general rate**. In other words, our current Urban Residential [or

residential with separately charged benefits] would for the purpose of setting the **general rate** portion of the rates be the same as that set for the general rate portion of the Rural residential rates [Residential without separately charged benefits].

Incidentally, Wairoa District Council has 3 differential categories of Residential land – from memory – RV under \$700k – differential 0.8, RV 700K- 1.2m – differential 1.0 and over \$1.2m differential 0.8.

I understand they took “affordability” into account at both ends of the scale and levelling the curve.

Like Carterton, in Wairoa District rating units which have an acknowledged Rural use have a differential for the general rate of 0.8. and differentials for commercial/industrial and Forestry.

A similar approach in Carterton would not only remove the anomaly of Urban residential ratepayers rated an extra 25% for transport/roading but the rating base could easily and automatically be updated as future development and change of land-use occurs across the district.

Having “heard” that Wairoa and Carterton were “different” as far as setting differential rating of Forestry Operations I agree that a challenge under the current Carterton regime may well fail if the underlying zoning is simply Rural - rather than specific to the “use to which the land is put - namely Forestry.

A relatively easy fix if Council is serious would be to address the current anomalies in the rating differentials using Schedule 2 clause 1.

If addressed I see no reason why a similar outcome should not be applied with respect to Forestry land by the Courts.

I respectfully request that when next reviewing Council’s Finance and Rating Policy Council consider “**The use to which the land is put**” ref Local Government (Rating) Act 2002 Schedule 2 Clause 1 when setting the differentials.

Thank you for the opportunity to address you and the manner in which I have been heard.”

14. Rosie Rogers – Open letter from the Tourism industry - #134

“I’m Rosie Rogers, I live just down the road in Gladstone, and I’m the owner of The White Swan Hotel in Greytown and Tui Brewery Experience in Mangatainoka.

I’m out of my comfort zone, but this is something I feel strongly about.

I’m here on behalf of some of the Wairarapa Tourism Businesses; Tranzit Group, Star Safari, Pukaha Mount Bruce, Palliser Ridge, Big Sky Winery, Martinborough Hotel, Greytown Honey and The White Swan Hotel to thank you for your support of Destination Wairarapa and to talk about why it is essential for that to continue.

I’ve just returned from TRENZ, the biggest event on NZ tourism calendar, a tourism buying conference in Wellington where DW we’re promoting our region to buyers from all over the world. DW then bought 20 of these buyers from TRENZ over to my hotel on Saturday morning, before they set off to Greytown Honey, Martinborough wineries, Star Safari here in

Carterton, Pūkaha, Tui Brewery and then on to Hawke's Bay. These are buys who could send tourists spending hundreds of thousands of dollars into our region in the coming years.

Over the past year, visitor spend in Carterton has increased by 9.2% to \$10.7m.

Some of that is due to Carterton-based events such as the Daffodil Festival, but the majority is indirect from tourists exploring the wider region, and spending their money in Carterton. Not just to the obvious tourism destinations Star Safari, Carterton Events Centre, hotels and motels. It goes to our supermarkets, dairies, gas stations, pharmacies, op shops, antiques stores, cafes and restaurants.

I like to think of this spend like Foreign Currency. It benefits everyone here as new money entering our economy.

Without that boost from visitors, many of those businesses would struggle to survive and it would be us locals who would miss out, we'd have fewer shops, gas stations, and dairies in our town.

Destination Wairarapa is the glue which holds the region's tourism together. It is no coincidence that just about every time you pick up a lifestyle magazine, in the supermarket or on an Air New Zealand flight, there is a glowing article about the Wairarapa.

Earlier this month, they organised for the popular Australian breakfast news and current affairs programme The Today Show to broadcast live from the Wairarapa to a massive television audience, with an Equivalent Advertising Value of nearly \$900,000.

The Dark Sky Reserve Status is a huge opportunity for Carterton. Destination Wairarapa would play a vital role in helping the region realise the economic benefits of this through promoting it through their domestics and international tourism networks. Hari from Star Safari is here to speak to this, and then I will conclude.

Hari speaks to the benefits she has received from Destination Wairarapa membership.

These are the opportunities which would be lost without Destination Wairarapa's work.

So once again, thank you for the support you have given to our industry through contributing to Destination Wairarapa.

Tourism is New Zealand's second-largest industry and regional tourism in New Zealand is reliant upon partnerships with local government. The three-year funding model provides the certainty and continuity which is essential to be able to plan effectively.

As a Carterton Resident, I'm asking you to continue your support which is so vital for this district and the region as a whole".

15. Chris Peterson – Sustainable Wairarapa - #87

The LTP has the heading of ‘Resilience – Manawaroa’ yet there is no mention of the two matters that communities need most to build resilience for – Climate Change and Biodiversity Loss. Leadership from the Council is needed on this. Most people assume that all is well, however there will be climate change issues in the future.

Hopefully, in the next 3 years CDC will be able to work with the other 3 councils on a biodiversity strategy.

Chris supports the Wairarapa Forest & Bird submission from Monique Leerschool and her vision. Her proposal aims to develop the Kapaitangata catchment as an ecological / recreational reserve for the enjoyment of the community and protection for endangered and iconic pekapeka and native bats.

He finished with a quote from Richard Flanagan and Australian author, *“The world is burning up and more or less everyone knows, but no one is doing anything about it”*.

16. Grace Ayling - #106

Grace is an elected councillor at CDC, but identified she was speaking as a concerned ratepayer.

Grace was elected to cut costs. This is not a ‘conflict of interest’ but a mandate as part of being elected and what she stood for.

She stood for council to be the voice of people without a voice (those who did not make a submission).

The economy has slowed with high interest rates and inflation. Nation-wide we are having tighten our belts and there is increasing unemployment. Yet council continues to employ more staff and raise their wages and spend on things that are ‘nice to have’.

Population growth has slowed in Carterton and there is a high ageing population.

Grace campaigned to be on council to cut costs and reduce rates and yet their continual growth is poor management, untenable and an embarrassment.

17. Andrew Leslie – Nuku Ora - #133

Nuku Ora is a charitable trust that provides leadership and support related to physical activity. Staff work with CDC officers in several areas of work such as Spaces and Places, play, and active recreation and sport for tamariki.

Nuku Ora receives funding from Sport NZ to activate the community. The On Board Skate programme was very successful and also the Kia Hakinakina (a collaborative sport, physical activity and play project within the Wairarapa).

Their submission focused on activation of the community. Nuku Ora has built a good relationship with the CDC Community Development team. They see opportunities to partner with CDC on the LTP, eg with Spaces and Places, parks, sportfields, and swimming pools. There are also linkages with the Wairarapa Positive Ageing Strategy. They support the Village project and also support the Rangatahi Strategy.

They are interested in working on a regional aquatic strategy (both indoor and outdoor pools) with the three other councils.

The question was asked – what if the other councils are not supportive? In terms of External funding from Sport NZ, they support proposals with collaboration.

18. Hank Optland - #70

Key issues

- Population growth – more older people
- Rates affordability – a rate increase of 15% is unaffordable for older people on a fixed income. Inflation rate is 4% - rates increases are much higher.
- Debt servicing
 - When he first moved to Carterton prior to the millenium debt was \$5M, it's now \$53M. Financial discipline is needed.
 - A greater reliance could be placed on developers of subdivisions to be paying more towards the growth of the wastewater system.
 - There should be targeted debt repayment of those that are putting in more streets.
 - Trade waste agreements with local businesses – potentially they could be contributing more.
- With urban intensification, there could be a surcharge on anyone who has >50% of their land in impervious surfaces – as water run-off puts more of a load on the system.

19. Matt Wills - CC Disability Action - #131

CDC is congratulated on the LTP Theme – Resilience. People with disabilities identify with this.

Access plays are huge part of how people with disability contribute in society. It relates to independence.

Footpaths and roading surfaces need to be in good condition. Disability Action is available to be involved with planning these types of projects.

Disability Action manages the Mobility Parking Scheme. Councils are encouraged to increase the availability of mobility parking.

Disability supports the provision of a ramp in the indoor pool.

20. Monique Leerschool and Pat McLean – Wairarapa Forest & Bird - #132

“The resilience of the Kaipatangata forest and the Carterton Community

Resilience - the theme of this consultation - means however that we also have a vision and are proactive about future opportunities.

The Kaipatangata forest block offers such an opportunity for the Carterton community.

The bat survey report

Last year, the Council discussed a report on a bat survey in their Kaipatangata water supply area. The report provided evidence of significant bat activity in this area and it suggested more bat surveys, predator control and bat-friendly forest management.

Predator control hasn't been business as usual for the Council and bat protection will need resourcing. The Council is asked to include this in its planning. Our pekapeka are a unique taonga and need our protection to survive. It's not only bats that would benefit from predator control but the whole ecosystem of the forest would benefit, especially all our native biodiversity.

Transforming the Kaipatangata forest for our native biodiversity and our Carterton community

The water catchment for the Kaipatangata water supply is primarily in neighbouring DOC land. The water supply area sits in a corner of a large piece of land which CDC owns. It's more than 300 ha and most of it is a commercial pine plantation with restricted public access. While money is tight, the economics of this land use need urgently reviewing and other options need to be considered. The current land use is costing the community.

After logging, it would be possible to gradually transform the pine plantation into a native forest over a period of time. With some active management, the natural regeneration would take care of most of it. Through some planning, cost-effective options for a gradual change could be identified. The GWRC has experience in changing the land use on their properties and could help with advice. Their regional parks are already accessible for multiple recreational users. New community recreation opportunities could be created in the regenerated Kaipatangata forest and at the same time, new economic opportunities could be explored. This vision has already received some initial community support".

They urge the Council to include the vision of transforming the Kaipatangata forest for our native biodiversity and for our Carterton community in their long-term plan so that preparation work could identify some pathways for a gradual change.

21. Kevin Sullivan - #81

"As an urban ratepayer I pay rates so the Council can provide 3 things:

- water services
- refuse collection and disposal
- roading

These are the foundations of a healthy, active society.

If I was a rural ratepayer I would not be getting water services and refuse services would be reduced so roading would be my principal expectation.

Transport

A reliable safe roading system is vital for the success and productivity of our rural sector and our community as a whole.

The risks associated with Option Two;

- continuing decline of our roading system – our most valuable asset
- communities becoming isolated are unacceptable.

Why would a resident in a rural area pay their rates if the council is going to neglect the roads that they absolutely need from the council.

The impact of Option 1 versus Option 2 on operational spend is 3% of the total operating budget.

Surely you can find that in savings elsewhere.

Wastewater

- If we don't have clean water we die.
- If we don't deal with wastewater effectively the environment dies. Look at NZ's waterways to see the effect of pollution.
- We must ensure that our wastewater treatment is absolutely sound.
- The consultation document states that the primary treatment stage is at the end of its life and needs replacement.
- In it the council states its intention to replace the primary sedimentation tank but the preferred option for immediate implementation is not to replace but to upgrade.
- The stated risks of this option include the need to replace the tank potentially within 2 to 5 years.
- This suggests to me that upgrading the tank is a short-sighted course of action and that replacement should be included leaving option 1 as the only sensible option.

In hard times the Council should concentrate on the fundamentals and prioritise our infrastructure over luxuries”.

22. Sheryl Watson – Wellington Free Ambulance (WFA) - #92

Current funding from CDC to WFA is \$3k per year for 3 years. The funding does not take into account population growth. WFA is requesting a new model of funding based on the population - \$1 per person in Carterton - \$10,445 is requested.

A new model of care has been introduced using extended care paramedics who have a post-graduate degree. They are qualified to undertake additional skills such as suturing wounds, administering antibiotics and commencing medical treatment. They can refer the patient to their GP or follow them up at home over a 24 hour period.

Another team is the Rescue Squad which has members trained in rescue operations. They have flight paramedics on their regional rescue helicopter.

With the declining number of doctors they are seeing more call-outs. Call-outs are trending up as WFA is seen as a way to get to Emergency Department through the back door.

The patient transfer service is contract funding by Te Whatu Ora.

In Wairarapa there is a \$9M shortfall in funding for the service.

23. Jason Markham – personal submission - #117

He is an engineer who works in strategic planning.

The indoor pool has great social benefits and he would like to see it included in the LTP as it builds physical, emotional and social resilience in the community. He has given up running, and initially didn't use the local pool, but now 'it does the job' and he doesn't notice the environment.

Option 3 (Transportation) is preferable to keep rates to a minimum.

Rates affordability – The sooner you lower the rates the less the long term effect because of the compounding effect of doing something more expensive. The proposed rates rise of 15%, 8%, 13% for the next three years is too high. In the long term we see rates going back to 3%, but really, is this going to happen?

He said in his written submission he believes that \$600K on new footpaths is unnecessary.

In the LTP he didn't see any mention of sewerage infiltration into the stormwater. At his end of Brooklyn Rd, when there is a heavy downpour there are overflows of the sewerage system in two places. This can be addressed by stopping stormwater getting into the sewerage system, however he is not clear if that is being considered by council.

Carterton is already one of the highest rated council. How can we do things more efficiently?

One of the consultation options didn't have a status quo option. It presumed that the business case was unquestionable.

He is used to having two options in the LTP for public feedback, but more options would be preferable.

24. Ron Shaw –personal submission - #140

Points raised included:

- Resilience is a good theme for Carterton.
- NIWA says we are going to be killed by climate change; even the IPCC doesn't say this.
- Alternate power sources – beware of photovoltaic (PV) power – it will never displace fossil fuels. Council officers need to make the appropriate decisions.
- The market for electric vehicles is collapsing around the world. There is a need to be careful when officers come to council to purchase another electric vehicle.
- The flooding at Flat Point is not caused by climate change. "Once again the IPCC tells us so".
- He supports Option 2 in both of the consultation items.
- The public were provided with two consultation items and were not asked for feedback on development of the land at Daleton Farm. This should be paused until the shape of the Local Waters Done Well is clear.
- Alternative transport trails – regrettably the two other councils are closing down their commitment to this, and CDC has no alternative but to do the same.
- De-sludging needs to be scheduled as a regular maintenance item.
- It is unfortunate that the Mayor was unable to spark the cooperation needed for a merger of the three Wairarapa councils. The Coalition Government has hinted at a preference that bigger is better.
- The Council did great work on the dog pound.
- Rates affordability - There is commitment for rates to be low in the out-years will be difficult.
- The statue of Georgina Beyer is a great idea. This will be rates neutral.

25. Sky Halford - #124

"My name is Sky Halford and I want to thank you for the opportunity to present my views towards the 2024 LTP this afternoon. I would like to acknowledge that I am a member of staff at Carterton District Council, but my submission here today will only

cover my views as a resident who resides in Kupe Drive and will not cover any aspects to do with my role or my direct team.

Currently, we pay approximately \$3,900 for the CDC portion of our rates. Assuming the Council's preferred options which result in a 15.6% rates increase goes ahead, this will increase to approx. \$4,500 – meaning that the total rates we would pay is

- \$86.54 per week
- \$12.35 per day or
- \$6.17 per person, per day for two of us.

\$6.17 per day each is cheaper than my large decaf cappuccino coffee order. It's cheaper than a block of Whittaker's chocolate. There's actually not a lot in New Zealand you can get for \$6.17 anymore.

Yet, for that price, I am able to access from the council:

- Clean drinking water at home, work, and any food or alcohol retailer
- Clean water to shower in, and do deal with the after effects of eating and drinking
- Footpaths so I can walk to and from work everyday
- Roads that I can drive to the supermarket to do our big shop or to Mount Holdsworth to go hiking
- Sparks Park so I can tire my mother's dog out whenever he comes to stay overnight because I've become the on-call dog-sitter
- The latest non-fiction book that I can borrow from any library in the Greater Wellington region delivered to the Carterton library – whether or not I actually read it or it just adorns my bedside table for a month is another question
- Recycling collection and bins – a service I realised after living in Upper Hutt for 6 months, wasn't actually a thing all councils provided
- It's all the services associated with owning a home – such as LIM reports and building consent information

All of these services are more than worth the \$6.17 per day for me. Likewise, I recognise the value in other services I may not use, but may be enjoyed by others.

In my submission, I selected Option 1 for both of the consultation items, which would see investment above what Council has selected as their preferred option. We often hear the phrase 'historical underinvestment' repeatedly brought up when discussing Council decisions around asset management and how we need to essentially catch up with this 'historical underinvestment'. However, the way I view the current preferred option will contribute more so this underinvestment, with risks to roading such as:

- Roothing assets will be compromised
- Certain communities may become isolated. We see how this is occurring with Hinakura residents in South Wairarapa – is this what we want for ourselves?

Likewise, the risks of the preferred options for WW plant upgrades:

- Potentially needing to replace the primary sedimentation tank regardless of whether or not it's in this LTP
- And more so, increasing foul odour smells. As someone who mostly walks around Carterton, this is a very real impact on my enjoyment of our town. Likewise, my partner who works from home 3 days a week is impacted.

When I convinced my partner to move to the Wairarapa, I sold it as his “BBQ dreams” – meaning the perfect place to sit in the sun on the deck, having friends and family visit, BBQ-ing and having a few beers on a Sunday afternoon. What wasn’t in my pitch to him was that BBQ dream would come with a side of WWTP odour. And those BBQ dreams are worth more to me than \$6.17 per day.”

26. Tony McKone - #28

“Preference and justification for Transportation Option 1

- Transportation is a significant annual spend and a key service deliverable of CDC.
- CDC Draft Long Term Plan indicates underinvestment in the roading network. A smaller maintenance budget as proposed in Transportation Option 2 may delay essential work and possibly necessitate emergency repairs, result in unplanned costs and cause disruption. It is never going to be cheaper than now to carry out deferred roading maintenance.
- Suggest/discuss improvements to the Roding Maintenance Management Plan including; administration and updating, how it would tie into job requests, traffic management activity, ongoing inspections, fault reporting, use of signage and speed restrictions. Option 1 could fund such improvements.
- How would the proposed Roding Database tie into the above and who would update it. A useful tool given the scale (450Km) and distribution of the roading network.
- Use of (IOT or other) technology to monitor remote sections and known trouble spots of the roading network. (general environmental monitoring, river flow rate data etc).
- Having sections of the roading network impassible for extended periods (a possibility under Option 2) is unlikely to be acceptable, CDC needs to be seen to provide a resolution with at least a temporary fix in the event of roading failure. Implications for loss of emergency services coverage and interruption of normal business activity. How would the decision be made to/not to repair a section of road in the event of major road network damage, what criteria would be applied?

CDC considers the formation of an Independent Ratepayer Interest Group

- Group of subject matter experts providing feedback to CDC on selected projects or activities, if this is allowed under Local Government legislation. This would not be a consultancy group.
- Above arrangement could be a benefit to ratepayers and CDC, rather than a 'watchdog' group which is likely to become involved after a decision is made.
- I would like to see a realistic spend on the roading network taking into consideration recent climate events, the real possibility of repeat events together with the desire for resilience. Usable roads (to be defined) could be a gravel surface in some instances in order to contain costs and could be single lane for a period, to restore access after a major adverse event.
- A fit-for-purpose and properly maintained roading database and maintenance management plan that is kept up to date is justified for such a large and distributed asset. Enhancements if required to be funded as part of Transportation Option 1.
- A timely spend on the roading network could benefit ratepayers in the long term, deferred maintenance may only be cheaper in the short term”.

27. Neil Wadham - #111

Transportation item – he supports Option 1 – maintaining roads is not a ‘nice to have’ – it is a ‘must have’. The roads must be maintained to the highest possible standard. A reduction in maintenance may lead to pot-holes.

Neil is on the Wairarapa Council of the NZ Automobile Association. His responsibility to report back to the Council and is proud that Carterton roads are maintained to a high level. The roads must be maintained for access to the rural community.

His calculations are that Transportation Option 1 will cost \$39 per year more in rates compared to Option 2. It is false economy to go with a cheaper option. A dollar not spent today is \$2 not spent tomorrow.

28. Kirsten Mason – Victoria University – National Music Centre - #45

Kirsten is the Acting CE of the NZ Symphony Orchestra. A National Music Centre is planned with a state of the art auditorium and recording facilities. It will embrace all genres of music, not just classical music.

This is a partnership between NZSO and Victoria University music school and will attract and retain students in paid employment.

They are requesting proportional funding from each council - \$9,430 as a one-off contribution from CDC as part of the LTP – this could be spread over several years. It is planned to open the centre in 2027.

29. Simon Casey - Wairarapa Water Advocacy Group - #76

The Group is looking for funding to research the options for Water Storage that were previously considered by Wairarapa Water Ltd in 2021. Both Wairarapa iwi are represented on the group.

The previous information is with Kanoa / MBIE.

The cost to undertake this study is \$150k. The terms of reference are to simply look at the available documentation. Unanimous council support is needed from the three Wairarapa Councils and GWRC.

\$21k is being sought from CDC.

30. Mike Johns - #69

Mike works with relevant groups supporting older people. Due to the high rates, a number of older people are now cancelling insurance policies. Insurance policies have gone up approximately 16%.

On behalf of older people, he asks that CDC considers their needs, and advocates for an increase in the rates subsidy.

31. Lesley MacGibbon AND Ian McDonald – Carterton District Trails Trust

The Group isn't asking for funding. They are providing an update on the development of a cycle bridge over the Waiohine River and a trail linking that to Carterton.

They are an informal group that cycle locally. Three years ago a group formed the Trust to promote a cycle bridge and a subsequent trail. They have an MOU with CDC to work on this project. It has been a productive working relationship. The Trust's focus has been on the cycle bridge (and CDC on the Trail).

A bridge design should be available later in the year.

Cycling is excellent for physical fitness. Older people can get exercise on bikes when they can't do other forms of exercise. Older people want to be safe when they are cycling.

In Carterton 35% of people are >65 years.

They are working with the Greytown Rail Trail group who opened their trail with a bridge over the Tauherenikau River last year. 30,000 people have used that in the last year (cyclists and walkers). Last year 60,000 used the Greytown Rail Trail.

CDC is to be congratulated for proposing to put just over \$2M into trails in the next 10 years.

The Five Towns Trails Trust has a plan for linking all the trails in Wairarapa. There needs to be a cohesive link of signature trails in the Wairarapa.

They are planning a bridge in Matarawa near Waterson's Line. The bridge wasn't maintained and was eventually pulled down.

32. John Booth - #115

The consultation was a well-written, positive document.

Transportation/Roading – There should be a potential to rate forestry as logging trucks from harvesting cause significant damage on our roads.

Waste water – This is a great project. Council recently purchased an 85h property. Council needs to get advice on drainage for the future use of the property. It's a very wet property. That's why water and river silt grow higher yielding maize crops. He would be interested to see pre-purchase reports on this property.

There is a place for cycleways, but it is not appropriate to spend \$2.4M (and up to \$3M) on a cycle way to Clareville.

Times are very tough verging on desperation for many ratepayers. People in rural areas are under stress financially with low commodity prices and weather-related issue - there are mental health issues as a result. He asked Council to look seriously at what is spent over the next 3 years.

Before there is a total financial meltdown, in conjunction with the National Council representatives of local government Council needs to urgently formulate a new rating model with Government. GWRC rates are looking at a 20% increase.

33. - Michael Hewison #119

My submission is based around the assets and the community & its ability to pay.

15% is a big increase and I know there are many other Councils with similar No's.

This does not make any of these palatable.

Last Gov't added costs everywhere without many in the community appreciating what the short, medium and longer term cumulative cost implications would be.

Some bribe money was handed around but even that was to be debt funded at the Central Gov't level.

Clearly no real sensitivity or risk analysis was completed for any of this.

On top of this CDC have had;

Ponds cost increase \$6m to \$15m +

Water tanks \$0.6m to \$1.2m

Prior clock tower.

While I know these will be debt funded, the interest and principle still needs to be found and in a high interest rate environment. There is also an opportunity/cost associated with this.

I understand that Council has a better project management model now than previously.

We are now where we are.

I think do one less project and what you do must be done well with a better project front end so that things happen on time, on budget and to the agreed spec.

Rate increase gives net increase of 10% - depends on what inflation rate you use.

Rate take something like \$20m to \$25m

Incomes not increasing by this amount

Many on fixed incomes

Hence, many will be going backwards. Unfortunately, now it the time for some very hard decisions as part of easing Council's way out of a dark hole.

Options

Transport – I agree with the preferred option but would hope that the actual outcome might be preferred plus. E.g. Intersections – need to stop being soft – fines, loss of licence. Parkvale Hall intersection. I use this almost everyday and I see many cruise through the stop sign.

Waste water. Need to meet compliance whether the RC conditions are fair and reasonable or not.

Need to be pragmatic.

Doing nothing will only mean you go backwards faster and it is likely that costs will not be cheaper than they are today – I do temper this as I would think that at this point with the economy as it is there could be some downside pressure on costs as we are probably not quiet at the bottom yet.

As mentioned I support the submissions by the Carterton Indoor Swim Club and Destination Wairarapa. My wife is President of the Fell Locomotive Museum in Featherston and we have noted a large increase in the number of visitors, both from within NZ and from without.

Driving back to my office after the presentation, I thought I should also say that I support the messages presented by Grace Ayling. I do not know her but have clearly read the Times Age including an article this morning. I have been in situations where the messenger's method of doing things might be deemed not quite right in some way, but I think the "top table" needs to look through any s—t that is flying around and make decisions based on the message. People will be hurting very badly and may be ill-equipped to convey their message to that top table but none the less the message is very important.



6.3 CHANGES TO THE LONG-TERM PLAN POST CONSULTATION

1. PURPOSE

For Council to be updated on legal advice received regarding changes to the Long-Term Plan (LTP) post-consultation.

2. SIGNIFICANCE

The matters for decision in this report are not considered to be of significance under the Significance and Engagement Policy.

3. BACKGROUND

Subsequent to adopting the Long-term Plan (LTP) Consultation document and supporting information the Council updated the draft LTP and associated LTP budgets as new information came to light. This had led to several changes:

- The addition of the Waingawa Water Project, which was approved by Council immediately following adoption of the draft LTP and Consultation Document.
- Changes identified by the Council's Auditors, which include insurance costs, loan interest rates assumptions, and associated loan interest expense, and
- Refreshed Opening Balances for certain Capital projects and Loans.
- Updating of the corporate overhead allocation model.

(Together these are the "Changes")

The updating of corporate overhead allocation was subsequently clarified to have been included in the Draft LTP and Consultation Documents.

The effect of the review of the draft LTP budgets and incorporation of the changes was to increase the Council's average rates increase for the 2024/2025 year from 15.09% (being the number consulted on and set out in the CD) to 17.5%.

Further adjustments identified moderate the Changes (the "Moderating Options") mitigating the impact on Council's average rates for the 2024/25 year to approximately 14.7%, or a 0.4% reduction from 15.09%.

4. DISCUSSION

Council sought legal advice on four questions with respect to the impact of the Changes and Moderating Options on the LTP, and the consultation undertaken on the Draft LTP. Simpson Grierson was selected to provide this advice.

The questions are shown below. The summary level legal advice received is shown indented and in italics:

Q1: Are the Changes, if adopted and incorporated into the LTP, significant enough to invalidate consultation on the draft LTP?

No. In our view, the Changes – separately or collectively - are not of a nature or degree that would warrant consultation as part of an LTP process. If the Changes are adopted by the Council and incorporated into the final LTP, we do not consider that this would invalidate consultation.

Q2: Are the Changes significant enough to require further consultation?

No. In our view the Changes (and their related context) do not warrant any further consultation, as they are not matters that would be expected to be included in a CD (as significant, or important) in terms of section 93C(2)(a) of the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA).

When considered alongside the proposed Moderating options, which will reduce average rates so that there is no actual increase from the level initially consulted on, our view is that there is a low risk of challenge if there is no further consultation.

Q3: Does the LTP CD, without the Changes, satisfy section 93B of the LGA?

Yes. We consider that the LTP CD adopted by the Council has complied with section 93B of the LGA. In our view, including the Changes (and/or Moderating options) when adopting the final LTP will not impact on this assessment.

For completeness, we note that because of the transitional provisions now included in the LGA, the CD for the 2024-2034 LTP process can be unaudited. Given those provisions, there is no specific requirement to assess compliance with section 93B, with the audit focus instead being on whether the final LTP satisfies the requirements of section 93(6) of the LGA.

Q4: Are any other process options available to the Council, for example the Enhanced Annual Plan or late adoption?

As part of the repeal of the “Affordable Waters” legislation, transitional provisions were introduced into the LGA that provide two alternative options for the 2024 LTP. These options involve either a 3-month extension for the LTP, or a 12-month deferral of the LTP with an Enhanced Annual Plan required instead. Both involve legal, practical and timing complexities.

The complete advice from Simpson Grierson is attached in **Attachment 1**.

In summary, the advice confirms there does not appear to be any legal impediment to progressing the adoption of Councils Long-Term Plan as scheduled.

5. RECOMMENDATION

That the Council:

1. **Receives** the report.

File Number: 401085

Author: Geoff Hamilton, Chief Executive

Attachments: 1. Legal advice from Simpson Grierson re changes to the LTP [↓](#)



Our advice

Prepared for	Geoff Hamilton, Carterton District Council
Prepared by	Mike Wakefield and Judith Cheyne
Date	23 May 2024

PRIVILEGED AND CONFIDENTIAL

LTP advice on potential changes post consultation

Background

The Carterton District Council (**Council**) has completed the initial phase of its draft Long-Term Plan 2024-2034 (**LTP**) process, with the consultation period closing and all submissions having been received. It has completed hearings, and is now in the deliberations phase, with an intended adoption date for its final LTP of 26 June 2024.

Subsequent to adopting its LTP consultation document (**CD**) and supporting information, the Council has updated the draft LTP and associated LTP budgets. This has led to several changes, being:

- The addition of the Waingawa Water Project, which was decided by the Council at the same time, but separately, to adopting the draft LTP and CD.
- Changes identified by the Council's Auditors, which include insurance costs, loan interest rates assumptions, and associated loan interest expense.
- Refreshed Opening Balances for certain Capital projects and Loans.
- Updating the Overhead Allocation model.

(together, the **Changes**)

The end effect of the review to the draft LTP budgets, and incorporation of the Changes, is to increase the Council's average rates increase for the 2024/2025 year from 15.09% (being the number consulted on and set out in the CD) to 17.5%.

We have reviewed a report prepared by Council staff that was tabled at a Hearings Committee on 22 May 2024 (**Staff Report**), which proposes several changes to the draft LTP. These changes will result in an overall reduction to the average rates for Year 1 by 0.4% (ie. from the 15.09% increase consulted on), with an increase of 1.2% over the first three years of the LTP. We understand that these proposals (which we have called the **Moderating options**) are, at this stage, staff proposals that have been shared with elected members but not adopted.



Summary of advice Q1: Are the Changes, if adopted and incorporated into the LTP, significant enough to invalidate consultation on the draft LTP?

No. In our view, the Changes – separately or collectively - are not of a nature or degree that would warrant consultation as part of an LTP process. If the Changes are adopted by the Council and incorporated into the final LTP, we do not consider that this would invalidate consultation.

Q2: Are the Changes significant enough to require further consultation?

No. In our view the Changes (and their related context) do not warrant any further consultation, as they are not matters that would be expected to be included in a CD (as significant, or important) in terms of section 93C(2)(a) of the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA).

When considered alongside the proposed Moderating options, which will reduce average rates so that there is no actual increase from the level initially consulted on, our view is that there is a low risk of challenge if there is no further consultation.

Q3: Does the LTP CD, without the Changes, satisfy section 93B of the LGA?

Yes. We consider that the LTP CD adopted by the Council has complied with section 93B of the LGA. In our view, including the Changes (and/or Moderating options) when adopting the final LTP will not impact on this assessment.

For completeness, we note that because of the transitional provisions now included in the LGA, the CD for the 2024-2034 LTP process can be unaudited. Given those provisions, there is no specific requirement to assess compliance with section 93B, with the audit focus instead being on whether the final LTP satisfies the requirements of section 93(6) of the LGA.

Q4: Are any other process options available to the Council, for example the Enhanced Annual Plan or late adoption?

As part of the repeal of the “Affordable Waters” legislation, transitional provisions were introduced into the LGA that provide two alternative options for the 2024 LTP. These options involve either a 3-month extension for the LTP, or a 12-month deferral of the LTP with an Enhanced Annual Plan required instead. Both involve legal, practical and timing complexities.

Please call or email to discuss any aspect of this advice

Mike Wakefield
Partner

+64 4 924 3598
+64 22 355 1231
mike.wakefield@simpsongrierson.com

Judith Cheyne
Senior Associate

+64 3 968 4049
+64 21 262 3631
judith.cheyne@simpsongrierson.com

Reasoning explained

Overview of LTP process and scope for changes following consultation

LTP process and requirements

1. The LTP provides a statement of the Council's intentions over a 10-year period, for the full range of Council's activities. The LTP (and supporting documentation) needs to address capital and operational expenditure, the timing of expenditure, as well as set out the impacts on rates, other sources of income, debt, and levels of services.
2. The Council must satisfy various statutory requirements when consulting on and adopting its LTP, which include meeting its financial management responsibilities in section 101 of the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA). These require the Council to:
 - (a) manage its revenues, expenses, assets, liabilities and general financial dealings "prudently and in a manner that promotes the current and future interests of the community";
 - (b) make adequate and effective provision in its LTP (and annual plan) to meet the expenditure needs identified in the LTP; and
 - (c) meet its funding needs after consideration of the matters set out in section 101(3).
3. The CD is an important aspect of the LTP process, as it provides the key basis for informing discussions between the Council and its communities on the LTP. Normally, the CD is audited.
4. Section 93B of the LGA outlines the purpose of the CD, and the factors that contribute to it providing an effective basis for public participation in decision-making on the LTP. These factors include the CD: providing a fair representation of the matters proposed for inclusion in the LTP and presenting them in a way that explains the objectives and likely consequences of key proposals, including on rates (section 93C); and identifying and explaining significant and other important issues and choices facing the Council, and the consequences of those choices.
5. Of relevance to this advice, section 93C sets out content requirements for a CD. Section 93C(2)(a) requires that the Council describe each issue that it determines should be included in the CD (based on either significance or importance). The discussion of such issue must set out the information required by section 93C(2)(b), which includes the options for addressing the issue and their implications, the Council's proposal and the consequences of proceeding on rates, debt and levels of service. Section 93C does not require that all proposals or issues are included in the CD, instead the Council is required to determine what needs to be included having had regard to its significance and

engagement policy (**SEP**), and the importance of other matters to the district and its communities.

Scope of changes following consultation

6. The Councils' decision-making following a special consultative procedure is constrained by two general principles:
 - (a) the proposal as decided on must be within the reasonable scope of the CD (or, in the language of the *Nelson Gambling Taskforce Inc v Nelson City Council*¹ decision, within "the area of intended change"); and
 - (b) any change must fairly arise out of submissions received, or any relevant change of circumstances that arises after the commencement of the consultation process.
7. It is implicit that with any consultative exercise the final decisions may differ from what was initially consulted on. This is because there is always potential for proposals to be changed based on submissions made, and other information provided to the Council. Section 83(3) of the LGA provides the Council with the ability to request additional advice from Council officers and / or others about a consultative process, in advance of making final decisions.
8. While there is legitimate scope for change through a consultative process, in order to ensure procedural fairness, there are limits to the extent to which changes can be made without having to undertake further consultation. The significance of the potential changes is relevant for this consideration.

Are the Changes significant enough to invalidate consultation on the draft LTP?

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9. As noted above, section 93C requires the Council to include in its CD certain issues / proposals (being those that the Council determines should be included, based on their relative significance or importance). Section 93C does not require that all proposals (of any scale / significance) are included, as that would inevitably result in a CD that would not satisfy the purpose as set out in section 93B of the LGA.
 10. If a proposal should have been included in a CD, but was not, then this could amount to a procedural flaw, based on the CDs failure to satisfy the purpose in section 93B.
 11. In light of this statutory context, we have considered whether the Changes are of a nature that they should have been included in the CD. In forming a view on this issue, we have considered the Council's SEP. Our assessment is as follows:

1 [2010] NZHC 2283

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- (a) First, the Changes do not involve decisions about strategic assets.
 - (b) The relevant SEP criteria relate to the 'Likely level of community interest' and 'Financial impact'. When considered against those criteria, the Changes and their overall increase on average rates are of low significance.
 - (c) The descriptions of 'low significance' for both of these criteria are, respectively, 'Decision or consequence has little impact or is easily reversible' and 'No material effect on the Council's budget, debt, or residents' rates'. The SEP indicates that in general there will be no consultation on matters of low significance, but the community may be provided with information instead.
 - (d) For the Waingawa Process Water Project (**WPW Project**), the staff assessment (and Council decision) was that the decision was of low significance. We agree, and do not see any reason why that assessment would have differed had it been included in the draft LTP prior to adoption of the CD. We also note that the overall financial impact of the Project over the 10-year life of the LTP is modest (particularly for Years 1 to 3).
 - (e) The amount and impact of any rates changes should be considered when assessing significance (including in terms of materiality for ratepayers – as discussed in the Staff Report), and whether further consultation is required. The SEP does not expressly state that any changes to rates (that have already been consulted on) will be a matter that requires further consultation, or address the amount of any rates increases in terms of significance or engagement. In this instance, the amount of change – compared to the level consulted on initially – is modest overall, and minor when considered relative to the Changes separately.
12. There are other contextual matters which count against the Changes needing to have been included in the CD:
- (a) Each of the drivers for the total average rates increases have not been separately consulted on. The addition of the Changes (if adopted) result in a not drastically different amount from the 15.09% increase consulted on, and in large part the Changes are technical in nature.
 - (b) The wording used in the CD describes the 15.09% average rates increase as a *proposed, projected, or forecasted* change. The collective effect of this wording, in our view, is that the rates increases have not been expressed in the CD in definitive terms, with the 15.09% number not intended to be regarded as a 'cap' on the final rates amount. It is reasonable to expect that number to change through consultation and deliberations, as a result of
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submissions, technical changes or other externalities that may be out of the Councils control.

- (c) To the extent that any of the Changes arise from miscalculations or omissions on the Council's behalf, the net effect is relatively minor overall.
- (d) The Staff Report provides an overview of the proposed changes to the draft LTP budgets since consultation, and notes, for example, that the impact of interest expenses being under budgeted would not normally be an item under consideration during consultation. We agree with this assessment.
- (e) Further support for the proposals set out in the Staff Report is found in section 100 of the LGA, which requires the Council to operate a balanced budget (except where it is considered financially prudent not to do so). Section 100 must be complied with irrespective of when the Council becomes aware of matters which could materially affect its expenses or revenues (e.g. this may be after LTP consultation but before adoption).

- 13. Overall, our assessment is that the Changes are not the sort of issues or matters that would have been included in a CD, and that their inclusion in the final LTP will not invalidate the consultation undertaken to date.

Are the Changes significant enough to require further consultation?

- 14. This question is a slight modification on the above, and generally relies on the same assessment.
- 15. The question needs to be asked to ensure that procedural fairness is observed, if the Changes could impact on whether a person may have made a submission on the CD.² The Council's decisions on the significance of the Changes will largely determine whether further consultation is required (we note that the materiality of the Changes will be relevant, but that the LGA is focused on significance, relative to the Council's SEP).
- 16. In addition to the above points, our view is that:
 - (a) The higher rates resulting from the Changes are a consequence of updated budgets or changed circumstances that, if known ahead of the CD being adopted, would have likely led to higher proposed rates at that time. That the updates have occurred in parallel to consultation is not uncommon for LTP processes.

² See *Karaka Point Environs v Marlborough DC* [2013] NZHC 2577 where the Council's LTP decisions included a change for several ratepayers from one rating area to another resulting in their rates doubling. The Council's decision was overturned following a judicial review challenge because of a failure to provide the affected ratepayers with sufficient information (and giving them sufficient time to provide feedback) relating to the rates changes that affected them.

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- (b) As noted in the Staff Report, we agree that the impact of interest expenses on proposed rates would not normally be a proposal or issue described in the CD. Technical inputs or matters are not typically consulted on, and instead included in supporting information in a way that provides for the making of submissions.
- (c) To the extent that any of the Changes relate to incorrect assumptions or information, or updated information, we do not consider the Changes to materially impact on the underlying financial projections that the draft LTP relies on. This is particularly because of the minor impact they have on the overall level of rates.
- (d) The scenario if the Moderating options are adopted is a net reduction in the forecast level of rates for Year 1 (by 0.4%). Based on our assessment above, it is highly unlikely that a decrease to proposed rates would be consulted on, or assessed as significant (unless it was attached to a significant proposal or reduction in service levels for a significant activity).
17. In these circumstances, and given the relatively technical nature of the Changes and Moderating options and potential net decrease from what was consulted on, we consider there would be little benefit in further consultation. The views already received on the initial proposals are likely to be sufficient to inform the Council's decision-making on the issue of rates (as per section 82(4)(b) of the LGA), in conjunction with the new information provided in the Staff Report and final advice to the Council.³
18. We note that the costs / benefits and process implications of any further consultation will be a relevant factor for the Council, in terms of deciding whether to undertake further consultation (as per section 82(4)(e) of the LGA).

Waingawa Process Water Project

19. The Council made a decision to confirm the WPW Project and its funding on 27 March 2024, shortly after the Council had adopted its LTP CD. The relevant report to Council noted:
- In the financial impact section: *"Based on the estimates, in the first 10 years CDC's investment and operational expenses will not be recovered through water charges, but would rather result in \$76,967 per annum deficit. At a high level this will result in 0.48% rate increase which is not included in the current draft LTP. ..."*;
 - That the matters for decision were not considered to be of significance under the SEP; and

³ We note that further consultation may not add any additional views to the discussion beyond what is already known, as the basis for the Changes is overall technical, and the amount of change modest overall.

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- In both the 2023 and 2024 reports, that community engagement was not required for the decisions in the report.⁴
20. The Staff Report further states: *“This project was not considered as an LTP Consultation item. The impact of interest expense being under budgeted in the LTP Consultation Document is not an item that would have been consulted on, as it is not linked to a specific project or level of service change.”* As noted above, we agree that the WPW Project would not likely amount to a section 93C(2)(a) proposal that should have been included in the CD.
21. The CD includes, on page 15, a heading that reads “What else is in the LTP?”, and states that although the Council is not consulting on the projects listed on that page, they still welcome feedback on them. Six projects are mentioned on this page, including “\$2.4m of trails across the Carterton district”, “upgrading high-risk urban water mains based on the priorities set in our Asset Management Plan. Cost of \$22m”, and “\$1.5m across 10 years to de-sludge the Dalefield Road wastewater ponds”. In our view, the scale of these projects is more significant than the WPW Project, which further supports the staff assessment and earlier Council decision.
22. Based on the assessment above, if the Council’s decision on the WPW Project had been made before the CD had been considered for adoption, it would not likely have been included in the CD in any case.
-
- Risks of adopting the draft LTP, without further consultation**
23. In terms of risk, if the Changes and Moderating options are adopted, and the Council decides that no further consultation is required, two risks could arise.
- (a) The first relates to the **audit report** required by section 94 of the LGA, with the potential for adverse audit comment on the final LTP.⁵ Overall we consider this risk to be low as the final audit report will focussed on: whether the LTP gives effect to the purpose set out in section 93(6), and the quality of the information and assumptions underlying the forecast information provided in the plan. Whether or not certain issues were consulted on is not the immediate focus for the section 94 report.
 - (b) The second risk is of **judicial review**. The Courts have previously overturned local authority decisions that have gone outside the scope of a consultation process (even where the changes are consistent with submissions received, as per the *Nelson Gambling* case). However, as discussed above, we do not consider this to be
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4 We note that in the 2024 report the Council was aware of some community views, provided by the Water Race Committee, and also that the funding support from the Wairarapa Economic Development (WEDS) stakeholders send a strong message that the project is considered critical.

5 We note that an adverse report will not prevent the Council from adopting its LTP and setting rates, but good practice is to work to avoid such a report.

high risk given the framing of the CD in relation to rates increases.

24. In terms of mitigating any risk, the Council could take the following steps:
- (a) Ensure that advice is provided to elected members on the reasoning for and impact of the proposed Changes, and whether further consultation is warranted.
 - (b) Working with the Auditors in advance of adoption of the final LTP to resolve any concerns with the content, information and assumptions that have informed the LTP, so that an adverse report is avoided.
 - (c) Specifically documenting the reasons for its decisions, and proactively releasing any updates to the overall rates figures in advance of final deliberations and/or adoption. This should also establish that the Changes (if made in isolation from the Moderating options) are reasonably necessary.
 - (d) Through the decision-making process (including deliberations), considering all relevant matters and the content of submissions (including those opposed to rates increases), so that there is clear observance of the Part 6 decision-making requirements.
25. There would also be risks if the Council decides not to adopt the LTP by 30 June, or 30 September, including a risk of judicial review (for breach of the LGA), risk to the Council's ongoing financial management, and the potential of ministerial intervention. We have not outlined these other risks but can do so if required.

Does the LTP meet the purpose statement for s 93B of the Local Government Act 2002

26. We have considered this question as the email from Council's Auditors on 16 May 2024 suggests that "The legal advice you obtain will assist us in forming our views about whether the LTP meets the purpose statement in Section 93B of the LGA 2002".
27. While Council's Auditors have made this observation, we note that the 2024-34 LTP CD is unaudited.⁶ In addition, section 93B is concerned with the purpose of the CD, not the LTP. The unaudited nature of the CD was recognised in the letter from Audit New Zealand dated 11 April 2024, which stated:
- (a) At section 1: **"Given Council has elected not to have its consultation document audited, we will not be providing any assurance to the Council as to whether the consultation document achieves its purpose in accordance with Section 93B of the Local Government Act 2002.** The Council has the

⁶ Clause 45 of Schedule 1AA of the LGA.



responsibility to satisfy itself that the consultation document achieves its purpose in accordance with Section 93B of the Local Government Act 2002.”

- (b) At 3.1: **“While we will not be issuing an audit opinion on the consultation document, we will still need to form a view about the major matters that the Council consulted on in their consultation document,** as this will inform our audit opinion on whether the LTP meets its purpose in accordance with Section 93(6) of the Local Government Act 2002.”

28. We have provided our view above on whether the Council’s CD has complied with section 93B and 93C, and whether the Changes are, in of themselves, issues that should be consulted on. Our overall assessment is that the Council’s approach to its CD has complied with section 93B. The different rates scenarios now being considered, which will either increase or slightly decrease the rates (for Year 1), does not alter our view.
-

Other options are available to the Council, but both come with some practical and legal complexities

29. The Repeal Act, which repealed the former Government's "Affordable Water" legislation, introduced transitional provisions for territorial authorities in relation to their LTP processes. These provisions provided for two different procedural options for the 2024 LTP process, including:
- (a) The ability to adopt the 2024-34 LTP by no later than 30 September 2024 (a three-month extension to the statutory deadline); or
 - (b) The ability to defer the LTP by 12 months, with an "enhanced" annual plan (**Enhanced AP**) to be adopted for the 2024-25 financial year instead.

Extending the timeframe for adoption of the LTP – up to 30 September

30. Clause 46 of Schedule 1AA of the LGA provides for an extended adoption period. If the LTP is adopted after 30 June, the transitional provisions cause the existing LTP to continue in force up until the date on which the new LTP is adopted.
31. In effect, this addresses the risks that would otherwise arise for late adoption – where the Council would be in breach of section 93 of the LGA (by not having a LTP in force). However, late adoption of the LTP may lead to a practical issue for the Council, as follows:
- (a) The issue concerns the setting of rates for the 2024-25 year, which is not possible until after the LTP has been adopted.
 - (b) Section 50 of the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002 may provide some relief from this issue, by providing for a modified set of instalments where there has been late adoption of the LTP. This provision is available where a council is unable to deliver its rates assessments by the date that is 14 days before the date 1 year after the 2023/24 rates were payable.
 - (c) If this situation arises, the Council could resolve to issue invoices under section 50 on or after the relevant date, provided the rates systems will support a section 50 arrangement. This would provide for a continuation of the previous years rates, until the 2024-25 rates can be set, to ensure continuation of rates revenue.
32. We can discuss the application of section 50 with you further if needed.

Deferral of the LTP for 1 year, and mandatory adoption of an Enhanced AP

33. The second option provides for a 12-month deferral of the LTP, with an Enhanced AP to be prepared and adopted in its place (by 30 June 2024).
34. In order to have access to this option, the Council was required to make a resolution by 30 April 2024 (which has not occurred). Alternatively,



an Order in Council can be sought to authorise the deferral.

35. We are not aware of any Orders having been sought to authorise deferral outside of the 30 April deadline, but observe that the Minister or Governor-General may seek some assurance that the need for the deferral relates to 'water services' related issues before they agree.
36. Even if a deferral was authorised for the Council, there would be a requirement to prepare the necessary information for the Enhanced AP, and consult (in accordance with section 82), before adopting by 30 June 2024. This would be challenging, due to the limited time available to complete the necessary due process steps (with approximately 5 weeks available in total).



6.4 DELIBERATION DECISIONS FOR THE 2024-2034 LONG-TERM PLAN

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is for Council to receive from the Long-Term Plan (LTP) Hearings Committee the decisions from Deliberations.

2. SIGNIFICANCE

The matters for decision in this report are not considered to be of significance under the Significance and Engagement Policy.

3. BACKGROUND

The Hearings Committee convened on 15,16 and 22 May 2024 to receive the public LTP submissions, hear the oral submissions and deliberate.

4. DISCUSSION

The discussions on the LTP considerations and submissions are fully outlined in the minutes accompanying this agenda.

5. DELIBERATIONS

Consultation Item 1 - Transportation	Agreed	Option 2	
Consultation Item 2 – Waste Water Treatment Plant	Agreed	Option 2	
Cycle Trails	Agreed	That sufficient funding up to \$815k is put in the LTP to scope and design the cycle trail from River Road at Matarawa to Clareville, noting there is no impact on ratepayers. This is comprised of \$520k Better Off Funding and \$295k c/fwd.	\$815,000
Destination Wairarapa	Agreed	That CDC continues with the existing Destination Wairarapa contract and will review in September 2025 aligning with other local councils.	
Carterton Indoor Pool		CDC can provide “in kind” support such as with use of the Events Centre and the provision of resource consents at no cost.	No funding

Water Storage Project			No funding
Wairarapa Water Resilience Strategy	Agreed	Fund the Wairarapa Water Resilience Strategy \$25k per annum for three years as part of the LTP.	\$25,000 3 years
Business Wairarapa		CDC continues with the existing funding to Business Wairarapa for a one-year term with the proviso to align with other councils after that. NO VOTE AS THIS IS EXISTING FUNDING	
Go Carterton	Agreed	That Go Carterton receives \$10K for Space Week. This funding is from the Economic Development budget, and is subject to satisfying the same criteria used in the Grants Committee process.	\$10,000 From the Economic Devpt budget
Carterton District Historical Society		Up to \$12k for rent not approved. They are encouraged to apply to the Community Grants Committee, noting community grants funding can't be approved for rent, but can go towards other operational costs.	No funding
Wellington Free Ambulance		Both the motion to fund WFA at \$1 per person in Carterton (\$10,500), and \$3,000 per annum (as per currently via the Community Grants fund) were declined.	No funding
Enviro Schools	Agreed	That Enviro Schools receives \$10k per year for three years out of the Community Grants pool using the Waste Levy.	\$10,000 Waste Levy
Victoria University		Funding of \$9,429k toward a National Music School was declined.	No funding
Wairarapa Forest and Bird		Funding not sought. CDC will continue to work with the Group and will come back to Council at a later date with a partnership agreement.	
Five Towns Trail Trust		The Five Towns Trail Trust is requesting operational costs, \$20k per year until 2027. MOTION FAILED	No additional funding
Operations Depot	Agreed	\$150k for Year 1 and no funding for Year 2.	\$150k Year 1
Library self-issue machines (RFID)- Capex	Agreed	To fund RFID self-issue machines.	No change

Library Workroom		Additional Budget request MOTION FAILED	No additional funding
Events Centre Carpet replacement-Capex	Agreed	To fund carpet replacement beginning in Yr 3 for three years.	\$106k
Auditorium floor sand and varnish-Capex	Agreed	To fund the auditorium floor sand and varnish – Year 2.	No change to capex
Cyclorama auditorium projector-Capex	Agreed	To fund the cyclorama auditorium projector from Yr3 to Yr 4	\$71.4k
Sound system renewal-Capex	Agreed	To fund the sound system renewal split over years 1 & 2 .	\$145.4k
Fly winch system renewal-Capex	Agreed	To fund the fly winch system renewal split across years 3 & 4.	\$78.1k Yr1 \$92.7k Yr2
Theatrical lighting improvements-Capex	Agreed	To fund theatrical lighting improvements – split over years 1, 2, and 3. \$69k Yr1, \$72.2k Yr2, \$66.6k Yr3	No change
De-sludging of the WWTP Ponds	Status Quo	The pond cleaning is scheduled for Year 1.	No change
New external funding to be allocated-Opex	Agreed	That \$250k from projects in the Wairarapa Combined District Plan is re-allocated to Opex.	

6. NEXT STEPS

Further to the Hearings Committee on Wednesday 22 May, the options agreed in deliberations and further financial adjustments also agreed to the LTP, these changes have now been reflected in a revised forecasted rates increase as below:

	The Plan Year 1 2024/2025	The Plan Year 2 2025/2026	The Plan Year 3 2026/2027	Three-year average	Years 4-10 average
Consultation Doc	15.6%	8.5%	13.0%	12.4%	3.3%
Revised 27.05.24	13.5%	11.9%	12.5%	12.6%	3.2%

The numbers above do not allow for growth in the rating database. The consultation document outlined a proposed average rates increase of 15.6%, adjusted for growth was 15.09%.

The growth factor and impact on the rates increase will form part of the final LTP calculations including recent updates from QV for the setting the rates on 1 July 2024, after the Adoption of the LTP on the 26 June 2024.

7. CONSIDERATIONS

7.1 Climate change

There are no direct climate change considerations related to the decisions in this report.

7.2 Tāngata whenua

Tāngata whenua will be interested in the decisions made by the Hearings Committee, however there are no direct implications for tāngata related to the decisions in this report.

7.3 Financial impact

This is discussed in the body of this report.

7.4 Community Engagement requirements

Community consultation was undertaken as part of the consultation process in March 2024.

7.5 Risks

The risks were identified in the paper entitled '2024-34 Long-Term Changes Post-Consultation' which was tabled on the agenda of the Hearings Committee Deliberations meeting on 22 May 2024.

8. RECOMMENDATION

That the Council:

1. **Receives** the report.
2. **Accepts** the decisions from the Hearings Committee deliberations on the Long-Term Plan and the Rates Remission and Postponement Policies.
3. **Instructs** the Chief Executive to reflect the decisions in an updated draft Long Term Plan and Rates Remission and Postponement Policy for consideration at the 26 June 2024 Council meeting.
4. **Notes** the redrafted Long-Term Plan will be audited by Audit New Zealand ahead of the Council's meeting on 26 June 2024.

File Number: 401090

Author: Karon Ashforth, Corporate Services Manager

Attachments: Nil



6.5 APPOINTMENT OF THE DEPUTY MAYOR

1. PURPOSE

For the Mayor to discuss the appointment of the Deputy Mayor with elected members.

File Number: 400984

Author: Robyn Blue, Democratic Services Officer

Attachments: Nil

6.6 KARAKIA