

OUR VISION: LIVEABLE, THRIVING, CONNECTED COMMUNITIES

He noohanga aahuru, he iwi whai ora, he hapori tuuhono tahi

Our Vision and Community Outcomes set the goals we want to achieve in everything we do. We have refreshed our vision to embrace the growth and changes we face. Our vision is that we work together as a district to build liveable, thriving, connected communities as our townships grow.

Liveable communities are well-planned and people-friendly, providing for a range of quality residential options, social

infrastructure, walkways and open spaces. They reflect what's important to people, and support a shared sense of belonging both to the local community and the wider district.

Thriving communities participate in Council decision-making and community-led projects, provide input into the management of their local assets, and sustain the local business sector that provides local employment.

Connected communities have fit-for-purpose infrastructure to create liveable, thriving communities. Connectivity through roads, cycleways, walkways and digital capabilities enable rapid information sharing and engaging in activities together. By these means, people in connected communities access services and amenities that meet their social, health, education and employment needs.

OUR COMMUNITY OUTCOMES AND GOALS

Together with your Community Boards and Committees, we have developed the following community outcomes to guide our decision-making:

Supporting our communities:

Kia tautoko ki a taatou Haapori

We consider the well-being of all of our people in all our planning and activities. We support and plan for the development of complete and connected communities.

Building our economy:

Ka hanga a taatou Oohanga

We attract diverse enterprise/business; creating jobs and opportunities for our community. We continue to support our existing industry. We support others who leverage our location to ensure tourism brings benefits to a range of people in our communities.

Sustaining our environment:

Kia toituu to taatou Taiiao

We are a community that believes in environmental sustainability; we pursue and promote related ideas and manage regulatory processes to safeguard and improve our district.

Working together with you:

Kia mahi tahi taatou

Our communities work with us so we are collectively focused on the right things at the right time.

Providing value for money:

Ka whai painga mo te puutea

Residents and ratepayers get value for money because we find innovative

ways to deliver strategic, timely and fit for purpose infrastructure and services at the most effective cost.

Our approach

When considering the financial picture, the Council's overall approach continues to be:

- Support growth in targeted areas
- Maintain existing assets
- Modernise infrastructure where it is prudent to do so
- Do more within existing budgets
- Move the cost of providing a service to those who use them i.e. user pays

KEY DECISIONS

A key focus of our Long Term Plan (LTP) is to build the Council's capacity and capability to fulfil our vision of creating liveable, thriving and connected communities.

The Waikato district is experiencing high levels of growth. Our population of 81,473 (2020) is expected to swell by more than 14,000 in the next decade and rise to between 128,500 and 149,500 by 2060.

We face challenges in balancing the level of new investment needed to meet this growth, while still maintaining the standards of the assets and services we currently provide.

To meet these challenges we have shaped our approach for managing infrastructure for the next 30 years by developing our Waikato District Blueprint and 'Waikato 2070' Growth and Economic Development Strategy in consultation with the community.

The Blueprint is a community planning document that sets out the priorities of our towns and rural communities. 'Waikato 2070' provides a plan for how, where and when growth should occur over the next 50 years. Accordingly, our LTP capital programme is designed to support growth areas, deliver Blueprint projects and meet expected levels of service while maintaining affordability for our ratepayers.

LTP consultation options focussed on a General Rates Increase, and the future of our pensioner housing and inorganic kerbside rubbish collection service. The Council received 605 submissions during the consultation period (7 April - 7 May) and heard

presentations from 77 submitters at hearings held on 25-27 May. Most submissions focussed on the three consultation items and the tables below summarise the support for the options offered.

Following consultation, the Council agreed to set the general rates increases to 6.5% in year 1 and 3.5% in years 2 and 3, and to sell pensioner housing to a responsible provider. After much debate the Council decided to halt the annual inorganic kerbside rubbish collection in line with its Waste Minimisation and Management Plan, but agreed to explore alternative solutions such as fast-tracking resource recovery services.

General Rates Increase	Option 1	Option 2	Neither option	Total
	Increase at 9% in year 1, 3.5% in year 2 and 3.5% in year 3	Increase at 7% in year 1, 6% in year 2 and 4% in year 3		
No. of submissions	176	221	131	528

Pensioner housing	Option 1	Option 2	Neither option	Total
	Retain	Sell to a Responsible Service Provider		
No. of submissions	199	274	23	496

Inorganic kerbside rubbish collection	Option 1	Option 2	Neither option	Total
	Continue collection	Discontinue collection		
No. of submissions	328	171	21	520