

Long Term Plan 2021-31

Additional decisions and considerations



Long Term Plan 2021-31 – additional decisions and considerations

All submissions on the Long Term Plan were provided to the mayor and councillors in June 2021 to help guide their deliberations. The mayor and councillors made decisions on key questions mentioned in the consultation document, as well as other main themes which emerged from community feedback. A summary of these decisions can be found in the document ‘Summary of Key Decisions following consultation’. A range of other points (which were not key consultation questions or main feedback themes) were also identified for consideration and discussion. These are outlined in the table below.

Note that we also received some submissions that could be addressed as part of our ‘business-as-usual’ activities (for example, requests to fix things), or which related to other Council processes. These were directed to the appropriate department for their consideration, and are not included below.

Ref	Council activity area	Submission topic/request	Outcome	Further information
1	Animal Control/ Finance	Request for funding to address animal control issues in Te Urewera sub-division.	Submission received – no further action	Animal control will continue to be undertaken in the Te Urewera subdivision. As an example of a recent initiative, in partnership with the Ruatāhuna hapū, the Council sold 75 horses at auction in Ruatāhuna. Council provided human resources, advertising, the auctioneer and stock clerk as well as attended hui in preparation for the event.
2	Aquatics and Recreation	Suggests economic opportunity to establish a gym in Murupara.	Submission received – specific Council agreement to investigate the option of using the Murupara Area School hall as a community gym (alongside the other options currently being assessed)	<p>The Council is already investigating several options for establishing a gym in Murupara, and can look into the viability of a gymnasium in the Murupara Area School Hall.</p> <p>An investigation into the financial viability of operating a gym at the Murupara pool would involve identifying a possible space which could hold the gym, and purchasing equipment for it.</p> <p>Early estimates are that 400 to 500 members would be needed to support the cost of the gym. The Council is investigating the cost of an indoor gym and exploring the option of creating an outdoor gym on the old netball courts. This has been quoted at \$60,000, but excluded any upgrade to the existing concrete and fencing surrounding the courts. The option of a gym at the Murupara Area School can also be investigated by staff.</p>

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3	Aquatics and Recreation	Water Safety NZ requested support for their strategy and a strengthening of the relationship between our entities.	Submission received - support	The submission and objectives of Water Safety NZ are supported. It is proposed that the Manager Aquatics and Recreation contact Water Safety NZ staff to progress our relationship.
4	Building	Suggests we generate electricity for solar power. Solar panels and batteries could be retrofitted to existing houses or made a condition of new builds. Suggests a loan partnership model for homeowners. Also suggests 'think tanks' - vertical rainwater tanks be fitted to new or existing houses.	Submission received – support, refer to Energy Action Group	Council welcomes suggestions and options. The Council's Energy Action Group would be a good starting point for consideration of such suggestions.
5	Community Development	Suggests support and help for the homeless.	Submission received - refer to the Community Wellbeing Strategy process being led by the Community Development Team.	The issue of housing and homelessness can be discussed with our communities as part of a proposed Community Wellbeing Strategy which will take place in 2021-22. Funding is already in place.
6	Community Development	Requests support for events in the Rangitāiki Ward (local farmers' market, Awakaponga Seasonal market).	Submission received - requests should initially be directed to the Rangitāiki Community Board.	The Rangitāiki Community Board is the appropriate forum for these types of requests. The Board can discuss these matters with Council's events and community development teams when required.
7	Community Development	Youth support: Provide more leadership opportunities locally.	Submission received – support, refer to Whakatāne Youth Council	Refer to Whakatāne Youth Council for consideration. The Youth Council works with rangatahi in Whakatāne District to provide opportunities to engage, get involved and lead in their community. Can also be considered through the development of a youth strategy for the District.

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8	Community Development	Support existing or proposed budget expenditure and work programmes to address social and safety issues at Thornton River Mouth. Specifically support intention to trial CCTV cameras at Thornton - would like this to include support of a co-ordinator for all agencies involved.	Submission received – support	<p>The Council is unable to provide funding, but will support communities to obtain external funding for CCTV. The Mayor also intends to appeal to the Minister of Police on broader CCTV policy and service provision responsibility.</p> <p>The Council facilitates the Community Safety Group, consisting of representatives from the New Zealand Police, Community Patrol, and the Council. The Group has received an application from the community to investigate cameras at Thornton due to anti-social behaviour in that area. The application is under consideration.</p>
9	Community Development	Requests continued support for the Edgecumbe Community Newsletter.	Submission received - support	The Edgecumbe Collective Community Newsletter is a key tool for engaging and communicating with our communities. The Council continues to support the publication of the Edgecumbe Community Newsletter.
10	Community Development	Requests a pause in the Kahui Awatarariki project to support community timeframes.	Submission received - support	The Council continues to support the community on the Kahui Awatarariki project. The requested adjustment to the timeframes of the project can be accommodated with minimal impact on project costs or on rates.

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11	Community Development, Property Strategy, Transport Connections, Policy Planning, Corporate Property	<p>Request to keep manufacturing such as the saw mill open, incentivise local manufacturing that supplies and is grown/made locally.</p> <p>Request to continue investing in rangatahi and providing opportunities for youth to thrive and stay in the district.</p> <p>Suggests caution around permanent changes to streets and parking, and to instead invest in things easily removed, consider initiatives above existing buildings rather than using land vital for carparks.</p> <p>Requests Council build affordable 1-2 bedroom apartments in the old Wally Sutherlands carpark.</p> <p>Suggests that no new infrastructure is created in low-lying coastal areas threatened by climate change.</p> <p>Suggests all Council-owned buildings should have solar power.</p>	Submission received – generally support	<p>The Council has provided funding in the Long Term Plan for development of a youth strategy and ongoing funding youth initiatives/implementation of the strategy.</p> <p>The Council has increased funding to the Whakatāne District Youth Council for initiatives to improve youth wellbeing.</p> <p>The Council has started a Climate Change Adaptation Project that will identify climate change risk and the action required, including appropriate restrictions on future infrastructure and development.</p>
12	Corporate Services	Suggests refraining from investing in Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) replacement pending certainty of Whakatāne District Council structure. Provides further detail and calculates financial outcomes.	Submission received – no further action (ERP remains in LTP)	The Council is using an ageing ERP. The ERP's vendor has indicated they are replacing the current product with a modern equivalent. This provides an opportunity to explore the market but, even if Council stays with the incumbent, a significant project still needs to be completed. Council cannot operate with an unsupported ERP system, regardless of our structure.

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13	Economic Development	Requests business growth support for the area.	Submission received - support	Business growth is supported through Toi EDA, the Economic Development Agency for the Eastern Bay of Plenty. The Council is a partner in Toi-EDA.
14	Economic Development/ Rates	EPIC request that they expand into Kopeopeo.	Submission received – further discussion required between Council and EPIC	Clarification is required as to whether EPIC is willing to expand with their existing funding. If EPIC is requesting to receive targeted rates from Kopeopeo in a similar manner to those received from Whakatāne town, this would become a separate process, and would require community consultation before any decisions are made.
15	Emergency Management	Requests the Council set up evacuation zones, evacuation routes.	Submission received - support	Tsunami evacuation information already identifies evacuation zones and routes for the Eastern Bay of Plenty. The information is publicly available and is being updated. Next steps will be to share the information more widely, and then to work with communities to develop and strengthen their response plans.
16	Emergency Management	<p>Climate change/natural hazards: requests that a Community Response Plan is co-designed with the Rūnanga, and clearly outlines the roles and responsibilities of relevant agencies, organisations, and local authorities.</p> <p>Requests support and assistance for marae trusts to develop a Marae Emergency Preparedness plan, emergency training for selected hapū members.</p>	Submission received – support, for further discussion between Council and submitter	A community response approach is a critical part of the overall emergency management preparedness. Further conversations will be held with the submitter to gain a better understanding of a preferred approach.

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17	Finance	Recommends no increase in rates, encourages the Council to restructure once central government has undertaken three waters reforms and Local Government Review, so Council can cut costs, salaries, and staff requirements.	Submission received – no further action	The Department of Internal Affairs and Ministry for Business Innovation and Employment have directed councils to plan assuming that there will be no sector-wide changes. Consequently, Council has taken this approach for the Long Term Plan.
18	Finance	Requests Council rein in spending.	Submission received – no further action	Opportunities to improve the efficiency of Council operations remain a focus at all times. However, overall Long Term Plan public feedback supports the proposed levels of service.
19	Finance	Requests Council to be mindful of all ratepayers, notes difference in level of service for rural ratepayers, specifically road sealing and noise.	Submission received – no further action	Opportunities to improve the efficiency of Council operations remain a focus at all times. However, overall Long Term Plan public feedback supports the proposed levels of service.
20	Finance	Suggestion to reduce financial reserves held from the past. This includes Community Boards reserve, Separate Operating Reserve Rooding, Separate Operating Reserve Equalised Water Rate, Separate Operating Reserve Whakatāne Stormwater Rate, Separate Operating Reserve Ōhope Stormwater Rate, reduce the Annual Contribution to the Rooding Storm Damage Reserve, reduce the Annual Contribution to the Disaster/LAPP Insurance Reserve, stop payments to the leaky homes reserve. Provides further detail and calculates financial outcomes.	Submission received - support in part	Council has reviewed reserves to consider options to reduce rates. This review considered the need to maintain reserves for unplanned events like storm damage.

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21	Finance/Town Centre and Riverfront Revitalisation (Te Ara Hou) Programme	Regarding funding of the Town Centre and Riverfront Revitalisation (Te Ara Hou) programme, do not allocate from general rates. Provides further detail and calculates financial outcomes.	Submission received – no further action for Long Term Plan, but forwarded to revitalisation programme.	The programme is currently funded by the Harbour fund. Previous long-term allocations for related reserve areas and various government grants mean there is no additional rating impact on the community from undertaking the programme.
22	Finance	Regarding the sale of Piripai land, notes that funds from the sale have been accounted for in the forecasts in years 2022, 2023 and 2024 and the total sale price is significant (around \$6 million). The money received is also spent in the forecast. Submission notes that the Council did not highlight to the community the use of these funds as part of the Town Centre and Riverfront Revitalisation (Te Ara Hou) programme consultation. Queries whether the community should have had a say in how these funds are invested.	Submission received – no further action	Asset divestment funds over the financial years 2022, 2023 and 2024 are generated partly from the sale of the land. These funds could be used for a variety of purposes including CBD regeneration projects.

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23	Funding	Requests that all riverside/seaside communities have opportunities for water safety education supported by Whakatāne District Council and Bay of Plenty Regional Council.	Submission received - support	<p>The Whakatāne Aquatic Centre and Murupara Aquatic Centre are committed to ensuring that all members of the community are able to develop water skills in a safe and friendly environment. Last year the team improved their Learn to Swim program with one week of each term dedicated to water safety. The team is also visiting schools to help with lessons in school pools. The Council has helped schools provide clean water for their pools. All the Learn to Swim instructors have gone through a lot of training over the past 12 months and are qualified to teach the Water Skills for Life program from Swimming NZ.</p> <p>Council will continue to develop programs for water safety education aligned with Water Safety NZ strategy. We are also looking at building our relationship with other governing bodies who support and run water activities in our region.</p>
24	Funding request/ Community Development	<p>Seek continued support for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Coordination and support of Edgumbe Collective Community Newsletter - Administration support for coordination of next Community Plan revisit with the community. 	Submission received - support	<p>Council will continue to provide coordination assistance to the Edgumbe Collective as they revisit their Community Plan through the .4FTE Strategic Coordinator - Community role that is part of the current Community Development Team resourcing. Council will also continue to provide assistance to produce the community newsletter, including design and printing. The Edgumbe Community Plan is a successful example of a community-led, Council-supported initiative to build, strengthen and develop the local community. The Edgumbe Collective Community Newsletter is a key tool for engaging and communicating in the community. The design and print costs are currently met by the Whakatāne District Council and the Bay of Plenty Regional Council.</p>
25	Whānau, hapū and iwi partnerships	Requests that the Iwi Chairs Forum be conducted in a more open and transparent manner. Can agendas and minutes be circulated more widely than they currently are?	Submission received – consider through Iwi Chairs Forum Terms of Reference review	<p>The Iwi Chairs Forum is independent of Council and changes must be agreed by the membership. The terms of reference for the committee are being reviewed, and this item will be considered through that review.</p>

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26	Whānau, hapū and iwi partnerships	Recommends that the Kaihautu Strategic Māori Partnerships role is provided with FTE support to enable its success.	Submission received - support	Resourcing has been allocated for a role to support the Kaihautu Strategic Māori Partnerships role. Recruitment will be underway shortly.
27	Whānau, hapū and iwi partnerships , Communications and Engagement, Policy Planning	Requests implementation of proactive strategies to build relationships and engagement models with tangata whenua, including methods to strengthen Māori representation in Council decisions. Requests that the Council ensures that the Long Term Plan incorporates the relevant aspects of the “Proposed national policy statement for indigenous biodiversity” and “Aotearoa NZ Biodiversity Strategy 2020, Te mana o te Taiao”.	Submission received - support	Council supports this request. Both the recent appointment of the Kaihautu – Strategic Māori Partnerships role, and Council’s decision to establish Māori wards for the 2022 and 2025 triennia are examples of Council’s acknowledgement of, and commitment to, strengthening relationships with whānau/hapū/iwi and decision-making processes across Council. Should the Proposed National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity be gazetted, Council will review the Whakatāne District Plan and make any necessary changes to give effect to it.
28	Libraries	Requests that the Edgecumbe Library extends opening hours.	Submission received - support	Council acknowledges the dedication and commitment of our volunteers in helping us provide library services in Edgecumbe. A recruitment drive for additional volunteers started in July 2021. If successful, this will help support our volunteers and potentially enable the Edgecumbe library to extend its hours.
29	Monitoring	With reference to inappropriate dumping of fish waste, suggests programme to establish compliance officers across the district to enforce bylaws and other council instruments E.g. monitoring of bylaw breaches.	Submission received – Council to investigate further	While Council does warrant officers to enforce bylaws, this issue requires public assistance to identify those breaching the bylaws. Currently the only enforcement action possible is a prosecution in the District Court which is time consuming and costly. An educational approach is probably more valuable for most members of the public. This will be investigated further.

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30	Places and Open Spaces	Requests more rubbish bins at Rex Morpeth Park.	Submission received – no further action	Rex Morpeth Park is already supplied with four rubbish bins and two recycling bins.
31	Places and Open Spaces	Requests a bike track for tamariki in Ruatāhuna.	Submission received – Council to discuss further with submitter	Council does not have any land available for a bike track in Ruatāhuna, but will discuss this further with the submitter.
32	People and Capability	Suggests prioritising upgrading internal software and systems to increase efficiency and productivity. Suggests creating specific roles within Council that are there to get things done and focus on implementing changes.	Submission received – no further action	Council is constantly updating its software platforms to ensure systems are fit for purpose. Council's Corporate and Information Services teams are focussed on supporting the organisation to ensure changes are implemented effectively and efficiently, and deliver the desired results.
33	Places and Open Spaces	Suggests facilities where people can go and meet other people from different sports i.e., a sports hub.	Submission received – consider through recreational precinct plan	Council holds a six-monthly sports forum for sports codes to attend, chaired by Sports Bay of Plenty. The Long Term Plan includes the development of a recreational precinct plan, which may also provide an opportunity for such a sports hub to be considered.
34	Places and Open Spaces	Requests AstroTurf in Ōhope.	Submission received – support for external funding, consider through upcoming sporting facility needs assessments	Council welcomes an approach of partnering with community groups to help secure external funding towards projects. Council will be carrying out a needs assessment of all sporting facilities in the near future.
35	Places and Open Spaces	Requests investment into Kopeopeo, footpaths, gardens, and provision of a green space. Would like to see shade sails in all playgrounds.	Submission received – no further action	Kopeopeo currently meets Council's requirements for provision of green space and gardens and as such the Long Term Plan does not include funding to increase these services to Kopeopeo. Council supports provision of shade sails on playgrounds, recognises the importance of shade sails over playgrounds and is progressing installation of these as funding allows. Gardens throughout the district are renewed on a programmed basis.

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36	Places and Open Spaces	Requests a major change in use of chemical weed killing sprays.	Submission received - agreement to contact submitter to investigate concerns related to the use of chemical weed spray	Council follows Environmental Protection Authority guidelines for chemicals and is open to the use of environmentally friendly alternatives when appropriate cost-effective solutions are available. We are monitoring the use of environmentally friendly alternatives to chemical control by other councils but many have so far proven to be ineffective and expensive.
37	Places and Open Spaces	Requests water fountains at the Tāneatua Skate Park.	Submission received - supported as budget allows	Council can progress this within the current budget for provision of water fountains. This could be completed within the next 18 months.
38	Places and Open Spaces	Requests access to river in Edgecumbe - Te Teko for recreation and education.	Submission received – refer submitter to Bay of Plenty Regional Council	Suggest the submitter contact the Bay of Plenty Regional Council, which administers rivers. Access to the Rangitāiki River is available through Whakatāne District Council land from the EDIT walkway on the western side of the Rangitāiki River in Edgecumbe. The Whakatāne District Council does not own any land adjoining the river in Te Teko.
39	Places and Open Spaces	Requests heating and ventilation in library.	Submission received - support	Te Kōputu a te whanga a Toi - Whakatāne Library and Exhibition Centre is planned to receive fan coil units to provide summer cooling in the library. This work is to occur in the 2021/22 financial year. Other District libraries already have various split air conditioning units installed.
40	Places and Open Spaces	Endorse efforts to establish toilet facilities on the right bank of the river mouth - will require a multi-agency co-ordinated approach.	Submission received - agreement to work with partners to investigate options for public toilet facilities on the eastern side of the Rangitāiki River	Council provides facilities on the western side of the Rangitāiki River which have higher level of use by the community. Council acknowledges this request and notes that the eastern side does not have any such facilities. The Council welcomes an approach of working with the community and other partners (such as the Department of Conservation) to find a solution and collaborate on funding.

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41	Places and Open Spaces	Supports shade sails in the playgrounds, notes seating in the Edgcumbe park are all in full sun. Would like to see Papa Taonga project finished.	Submission received – refer Papa Taonga submission point to Bay of Plenty Regional Council	Support for shade sails is noted. Council is already installing shade sails over playgrounds as funding allows. We completed the establishment of the Papataonga Reserve, but the reserve is managed by Bay of Plenty Regional Council.
42	Places and Open Spaces	Requests more tables and facilities at The Heads.	Submission received – no further action	Council considers that the current provision is sufficient for now.
43	Places and Open Spaces	With reference to Active Whakatāne, requests stronger linkages of our smaller communities to one another - and to their whenua (land), awa (rivers), moana (sea) and ngahere (forest). Notes the community and environmental benefits of greater cohesion and connection.	Submission received – resolution to promote and support the establishment of an independent Whakatāne Trails Trust, with the purpose of establishing a network of trail opportunities across the whole district	Council supports the concept of communities that are more intimately connected to each other and their landscapes. Council will promote and support the establishment of an independent Whakatāne Trails Trust, mandated to establish a network of trail opportunities across the whole district. The Trust would assess and fund projects like this across the district on their merits.
44	Places and Open Spaces	Suggests investment into Whakatāne District Council-owned facilities in each community upgraded to meet health and safety requirements and be accessible for community events and needs – i.e. Edgcumbe War Memorial Hall to include shower facilities.	Submission received – no further action	Shower installation is not currently planned for the Edgcumbe War Memorial Hall. If usage of the hall increased and the demand was evident, then it would be considered. All Council-managed halls meet accessibility standards.

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45	Places and Open Spaces	Requests rebuild or upgrade of Whakatāne War Memorial Hall and a second theatre built in the short term.	Submission received- to be considered through recreation precinct planning	<p>The redevelopment of the Whakatāne District War Memorial Hall continues to feature in the Long Term Plan, subject to partnership funding.</p> <p>The redevelopment will be considered through the review of the recreation precinct in which it sits. Work is due to commence on the review in 2021/22. The development of a precinct plan is a first step to collecting the community's views on its recreational needs, which will help direct future investment.</p>
46	Places and Open Spaces	Requests events centre.	Submission received – to be considered through recreation precinct planning	<p>The future development of an events centre will be considered through the proposed review of the recreation precinct of the Rex Morpeth Reserve Area. Work is due to commence on the review in 2021/22. The development of a precinct plan is a first step to collecting the community's views on its recreational needs, which will help direct future investment.</p>
47	Places and Open Spaces	Requests park and playground in Ruatāhuna.	Submission received – Council to discuss further with submitter	<p>Council does not have any land available for a playground in Ruatāhuna, but will discuss this further with the submitter.</p>
48	Places and Open Spaces	Requests ablutions for the eastern side of the Rangitaiki River outlet at Thornton.	Submission received - agreement to work with partners to investigate options for public toilet facilities on the eastern side of the Rangitāiki River	<p>Council provides facilities on the western side of the Rangitaiki River which have higher level of use by the community. Council acknowledges this request and notes that the eastern side does not have any such facilities. The Council welcomes an approach of working with the community and other partners (such as the Department of Conservation) to find a solution and collaborate on funding.</p>
49	Places and Open Spaces	Concerned about the proposed increase to fees and charges for hiring space for the Ōhope Craft Market.	Submission received – no further action	<p>The fees have been set in accordance with Council's Funding Policy.</p>

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50	Places and Open Spaces	Requests that an upgrade of the parks and reserves be prioritised, encourages the planting of fruit trees and native plants. Maintenance and services for such areas can be arranged through agreements with the Rūnanga.	Submission received - support	Council supports the upgrading of reserves through existing operational and renewals budgets. Planting of fruit and native trees are included in the development of our Tree Strategy which is presently underway. Council staff are keen to work with whānau/hapū/iwi to provide trees for communities and to assist with works where budget allows.
51	Places and Open Spaces	Requests kids' bike park and a pump track for adults in Matatā.	Submission received – Council to discuss further with submitter	Council will have further discussions with the submitter, as Council has limited land available for the development of a bike park in Matatā. The majority of open space land in the area is owned by the Department of Conservation or Ngāti Rangitihi.
52	Places and Open Spaces	Supports investment tagged for 'recreational precinct.' Through Sport Bay of Plenty submitter is happy to assist with time and advice or as required. Acknowledges and urges Council to continue its positive partnership with Sport Bay of Plenty, support as a key partner and investor in the Bay of Plenty Spaces and Places Strategy, and the partnership Council maintains around key sport and recreation outcomes.	Submission received – support acknowledged and involvement in the recreational precinct plan welcomed	Council supports an ongoing positive partnership. Sport Bay of Plenty's knowledge and advice will be welcome in the development of a recreational precinct plan which is included in the Long Term Plan.
53	Places and Open Spaces	Several submissions requesting a mountain bike park/funding for mountain bike trails/linked cycle trails. Some submissions suggest level of funding.	Submissions received - agreement for Council to continue to work in partnership with the mountain biking community to further potential opportunities.	Council is working with the Mountain Bike Working Party on options for mountain bike parks and cycle trails.

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54	Places and Open Spaces, Three Waters	Supports that some of that Te Teko rates increase is applied to cleaning and maintenance of Te Teko roadside verges, and other community amenities, and projects - including, professional research of feasibility of Te Teko households having their own, or shared with neighbours, water supply bores.	Submission received – no further action at this time	Council staff carry out reserve maintenance including mowing and vegetation control. A contract is in place with a local resident to clean facilities and collect litter on reserves. Reticulated waters supplies are known to provide the safest water across communities, in particular when the option of bores are in areas that have septic tanks with ground soakage for septic waste. In future, shared bores will likely need to be registered with the new water regulator and required to produce water safety plans (and make necessary upgrades).
55	Places and Open Spaces, Transport Connections, Community Development	Requests further funding for eliminating barriers to accessibility. Requests The Inclusive and Accessible Eastern Bay Group to be consulted on priorities and inception of plans, as well as during implementation.	Submission received - support	Council will ensure proactive engagement with this group. This group represents a significant and important sector of the community who are adversely affected by poor accessibility and easily benefitted by improvements.
56	Places and Open Spaces/ Transport Connections	Seek support from Council for an extension of the Edgecumbe River Walkway to include a cycle track that extends to both Thornton and Te Teko communities.	Submission received- resolution to promote and support the establishment of an independent Whakatāne Trails Trust, with the purpose of establishing a network of trail opportunities across the whole district	Council will promote and support the establishment of an independent Whakatāne Trails Trust, mandated to establish a network of trail opportunities across the whole district. The trust would then assess and fund projects like this across the district on their merits.

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57	Places and Open Spaces/ Transport Connections	Requests more off-road cycle trails. Proposes that the 'Moutohora Coastal Trail' is built over the next few years, eventually reaching Matatā.	Submission received - resolution to promote and support the establishment of an independent Whakatāne Trails Trust, with the purpose of establishing a network of trail opportunities across the district	Council will promote and support the establishment of an independent Whakatāne Trails Trust, mandated to establish a network of trail opportunities across the whole district. The Trust would assess and fund projects on their merits.
58	Places and Open Spaces	Request for funding to improve Aniwhenua Reserve/ Holly's Memorial Playground.	Submission received – support for external funding	Council will work with the Aniwhenua Reserve/Holly's Playground Committee to try to secure external funding for improvements at Aniwhenua Reserve. Maintenance is currently carried out through operational budgets. Council staff and a contractor mow and control vegetation at the reserve. Contracts are also in place to clean facilities and empty rubbish bins weekly. Bins are emptied more regularly during busy periods.
59	Places and Open Spaces	Requests to set in motion a dark sky reserve in the Eastern Bay of Plenty.	Submission received – Council to discuss further with submitter	Council will discuss this with the submitter.
60	Policy Planning	Requests that Council always put the environment first in decision-making. Suggests that, with this principle in mind, local councils would not have given consent to Otakiri expansion. Queries whether councils can reverse this decision, noting that financial costs of reversal would be far outweighed by environmental costs of going ahead with consent.	Submission received – no further action	<p>The Bay of Plenty Regional Council is responsible for the allocation of water and granting of resource consents to take water, not the Whakatāne District Council. The consent noted in the submission is currently before the Court of Appeal.</p> <p>The Whakatāne District Council undertakes decision-making with four wellbeing principles in mind including environmental, alongside social, cultural and economic dimensions. These intend to support a long-term sustainable approach to Council decision-making.</p>

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61	Policy Planning, Strategy	<p>Requests that archaeological advice be required and sought prior to development of key projects.</p> <p>Would welcome the opportunity to be involved.</p> <p>Requests funding be allocated through climate change risk assessment in the context of impacts of climate change on historic heritage.</p>	Submission received - support	<p>Council is committed to ensuring significant archaeological sites are avoided and welcomes HNZPT's offer to work with us from the very early stages of developing those projects.</p> <p>Council has just commenced a Climate Change Adaptation project that will lead to a risk assessment framework and subsequent identification of location-specific risks, leading to an assessment of adaptation needs. That work will inform the Long Term Plan 2024-34, including Council budgets.</p>
62	Ports and Harbour	Requests extra boat ramp in Whakatāne, paid by District users/Harbour Fund.	Submission received – no further action	Under the current planning for the new Boat Harbour development, a new boat ramp is proposed. The current boat ramp at Muriwai Drive is being upgraded to provide a safer facility for public use. This will have minimal budget implications as external funding will be used.
63	Ports and Harbour/ Waste Management and Minimisation	Requests establishment of appropriate stations for receiving fish waste so that fish carcasses are not dumped out at sea or in the harbour, and clearer direction on fish wastage rules for bins.	Submission received – support. Council to action through signage and further discussion with submitter.	<p>The current rubbish collection contract allows for the disposal of fish waste at all wharf facilities. It is proposed to provide new visible signage over current rubbish bins to indicate fish waste station at the harbour. This will require minimal work to implement.</p> <p>In addition, Council will follow up with the Ōhope Top Ten Holiday Park to discuss options for providing a fish bin service alongside those provided at the nearby Ōhope Wharf.</p>

Ref	Council activity area	Submission topic/request	Outcome	Further information
64	Ports and Harbour/ Waste Management and Minimisation	<p>Requests a review of fish waste dumping penalties.</p> <p>Requests the provision of Handicans or similar for fish frame/waste disposal (as is provided at Whakatāne River boat ramp).</p> <p>Requests that, given the increasing visitor numbers, the provisions of the Ōhiwa Harbour Recreation Strategy are supported.</p> <p>Supports the continued effective management of vehicles' access to beaches and dunes.</p>	Submission received - support	<p>The current rubbish collection contract allows for the disposal of fish waste at all wharf facilities, including at the Ōhope Wharf and Ōhope Boat Ramp. It is proposed to provide new visible signage over current rubbish bins to indicate fish waste stations at each site.</p> <p>The Council will continue to support the Ōhiwa Harbour Recreation Strategy as a member of this group.</p>
65	Finance - rates	Requests that a remission or postponement of rates, dog registrations fees, penalties and annual increases do not occur until the revitalisation of the township is actioned (Murupara).	Submission received – no further action	While the need to revitalise the Murupara township is acknowledged, the request to provide remissions and postponements beyond the scope of the existing policies is not recommended. While recognising Murupara's economic context, rates are currently lower than most other parts of the District. Supporting the request would see revenue requirements passed on to other ratepayers.
66	Finance – rates/ Three Waters	<p>Submissions do not agree with the payment of rates for papakainga - development of papakainga in its entirety has been funded by whānau, including all infrastructure.</p> <p>Do not wish to be dependent on the Council for drinking water.</p>	Submission received – to be responded to on a case-by-case basis	Some complexity exists in relation to how the papakainga are rated. These queries will be responded to on a case-by-case basis.

Ref	Council activity area	Submission topic/request	Outcome	Further information
67	Places and Open Spaces	Sport Bay of Plenty requests service contract and relationship to continue to meet the long-term Community Outcomes set out in the 2021-2031 Long Term Plan.	Submission received - support	The Council recognises that Sport Bay of Plenty is an important partner to deliver recreational activities and outcomes for Long Term Plan. Funding for the continued partnership with Sport Bay of Plenty has been included in the Long Term Plan budget.
68	Regulation	Requests Council engage more enforcement staff to uphold regulatory (resource consent) functions, and implement and enforce infringement fines.	Submission received – review in progress	Council’s enforcement mechanisms are being reviewed to implement more efficient methods of dealing with non-compliant signs on private property. Infringement fines and/or relevant bylaw provisions would allow this.
69	Resource Consents	Queries whether there is a provision in the Long Term Plan for ensuring that Council can meet statutory obligations in the processing of resource consent applications.	Submission received – no further action	Council endeavours to meet statutory obligations. Where timeframes are not met, Resource Management Act regulations require that fees be discounted at the rate determined by the regulations.
70	Resource Consents	Requests that further support be provided to ensure Council is able to achieve statutory requirements in relation to implementation of the National Planning Standards and achieving the timeframes involved.	Submission received – no further action	The Long Term Plan includes provision for the implementation of the National Planning Standards within the required timeframes. The difficulty in meeting timeframes is not related to budget – the constraint is the lack of experienced planners available for consent planning. Council is training four junior planners.
71	Solid Waste	Requests industrial compost facility.	Submission received - support	The Council already has its own large-scale composting facility in operation.
72	Solid Waste	Requests that Council ensure health waste is considered as part of managing waste sustainably.	Submission received – support	Extending communication and education programmes to focus on target audiences including medical facilities is included as an action in the Council’s recently-adopted Waste Management and Minimisation Plan 2021.

Ref	Council activity area	Submission topic/request	Outcome	Further information
73	Solid Waste	<p>Requests that an assessment of Murupara's current waste levels is conducted, as well as a community survey completed in partnership with the Rūnanga.</p> <p>Requests that any proposed waste minimisation bylaw policies and provisions be further discussed with the Rūnanga before implementation. Likewise with any changes to the collection and services associated with waste management and/or minimisation.</p>	Submission received – support for further action and discussion with submitter	<p>Actions have been include in Council's recently-adopted Waste Management and Minimisation Plan 2021.</p> <p>During the term of the plan, Council will review operations at the Murupara Refuse Transfer Station and look at opportunities for community involvement and new waste minimisation initiatives. Council will consult with Ngāti Manawa on this project.</p>
74	Strategy	Requests that Council streamline budget, suggests time to downsize staff and councillor numbers.	Submission received – no further action	It is an ongoing challenge for Council to determine the balance between levels of service provided and the resulting impacts on rates, and this is the reason Council consults with communities. Overall, Council has received clear feedback that ratepayers support the levels of service proposed in the Long Term Plan, with over 80% of submitters saying that this balance is about right, or proposing that Council delivers more services at a higher cost.
75	Strategy	Requests more emphasis on climate change and environment.	Submission received - support	Council has adopted a Climate Change Strategy, which includes ambitious targets at the council and district level. Council is implementing six climate change action plans (Leadership and Collaboration, Transport, Energy, Waters Services, Waste and Circular Economies, Land Use and the Built Environment) to ensure climate change is embedded in every decision we make. We are also regularly monitoring our progress to focus on improvement.

Ref	Council activity area	Submission topic/request	Outcome	Further information
76	Town Centre and Riverfront Revitalisation (Te Ara Hou) programme, Strategy Policy Planning	Suggests comprehensive hazard and risk assessments of the Town Centre and Riverfront Revitalisation (Te Ara Hou) programme, boat harbour development, and any future development strategy or plan.	Submission received - support	<p>Council is working on a Future Development Strategy, including an assessment of natural hazards, to ensure growth is not planned in unsuitable areas.</p> <p>Council is also starting a Climate Change Adaptation Project, which will identify climate change related-risks and required initiatives.</p>

Ref	Council activity area	Submission topic/request	Outcome	Further information
77	Town Centre and Riverfront Revitalisation (Te Ara Hou) programme, Strategic Property	<p>Requests that LTP:</p> <p>Recognise the value of engaging with key stakeholders on economic regeneration as a priority</p> <p>Elevate the benefit of consulting the community on the Town Centre and Riverfront Revitalisation (Te Ara Hou) programme to better ensure the success and longevity of the project</p> <p>Make provision for EPIC and other key stakeholders to be included as members of committees established to inform the redesign and delivery of the Town Centre and Riverfront Revitalisation (Te Ara Hou) programme</p> <p>Identify that consultation with key stakeholders is necessary when proposing to deal with property in the Whakatāne CBD and make any significant decisions</p> <p>Provide for consultation with key stakeholders prior to any decision to lift the moratorium on the freeholding of leasehold properties in the Whakatāne CBD.</p>	Submission received – awaiting outcome of programme reset request to central government	<p>Council recognises the importance of engaging with key stakeholders in relation to economic regeneration projects in the town centre.</p> <p>Council is awaiting the outcomes of a request to central government to 'reset' the Town Centre and Riverfront Revitalisation (Te Ara Hou) programme.</p> <p>These outcomes will be communicated with key stakeholders and the wider community.</p> <p>When the way forward has been formalised, the projects under the programme will form part of Council's wider Transformation Programme. This will require a new governance structure to be created.</p> <p>Membership of any governance or advisory board has not yet been agreed but will be worked through when the programme scope is finalised.</p> <p>The Transformation Programme aims to ensure change in the CBD is communicated in a more centralised and cohesive manner to people who are affected or interested.</p>

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78	Three Waters	Requests water saving systems to be subsidised for home owners (i.e. garden water tanks to collect rain water).	Submission received – no further action	Council encourages practical water reuse measures that support resource efficiency. Rain water tanks are one measure, but there are a range of options that Council would support – e.g., dual flush toilets, efficient shower heads and efficient water use supported by water metering. There are no plans to promote (and subsidise) one measure over the other at the moment, and Council encourages homeowners to take appropriate steps which are suitable for their own situation. Rain water harvesting and reuse is one option. Providing homeowner advice (e.g. through education campaigns) is the preferred option as this targets the range of measures that can be taken by consumers.

Ref	Council activity area	Submission topic/request	Outcome	Further information
79	Three Waters	<p>Requests Matatā and Edgecumbe stormwater and wastewater upgrades to be prioritised above Whakatāne/Ōhope.</p> <p>Suggests that we start recycling water within the district, especially grey water - start with Matatā and then upscale to the Whakatāne urban area.</p> <p>Suggests that new water source and treatment project is moved forward to 2025/26 in the Long Term Plan.</p> <p>Suggests that new wastewater treatment solutions are moved forward to 2023/24 to at least start investing in new technology and considering/trialling new treatment options.</p> <p>Suggests that 'treated' wastewater being discharged into the Whakatāne River and Ōhiwa Harbour should be reconsidered and new solutions sought.</p>	<p>Submission received – related to draft stormwater investment strategy – no further action at this time</p>	<p>Council has a draft stormwater investment strategy that it uses to evaluate work priorities and the level of investment required.</p> <p>Stormwater investment is primarily driven by cost and benefit analysis, often supported by stormwater modelling. Council invites communities to highlight areas where they consider upgrades are required. Council will assess the need and priority of any such work.</p> <p>Greywater reuse is a good option if it is properly designed, installed and maintained. It should be applied to subsurface soils, rather than to the surface, so in some parts of the district (inc. Matatā) it can be problematic due to high groundwater. A reticulated wastewater scheme for Matatā will provide the best means to properly manage grey and blackwater.</p> <p>Options to upgrade the four wastewater treatment plants that have consents expiring in 2026 are about to start. The upgrades are likely to be phased over the next 10 years. The level of treatment will reflect regulatory and community needs, and these will be evaluated through robust consent processes.</p> <p>Tāneatua wastewater treatment is the only Council-managed treatment plant that discharges to the Whakatāne River. Long-term options will be considered through a consenting process. The Ōhope wastewater treatment plant discharges to sea, rather than to Ōhiwa Harbour.</p>

Ref	Council activity area	Submission topic/request	Outcome	Further information
80	Three Waters	Request from the Te Teko community to come onto the Council's sewage system.	Submission received – for further discussion between Council and submitter	A Council study to consider a reticulated wastewater scheme for Te Teko was completed in 2007. At that time, central government funds were available to support such work if there was a compelling case to do so (Matatā was successful in its application). The report concluded that Te Teko soils were generally suitable for septic tanks with moderate to good drainage. A proposal was presented to the community in 2003. However, at that stage central government funding was only 50%, the costs of a potential scheme was excessive for the community and there was no community-wide support for it to progress further. There was no compelling case to process further at that time and there was little community interest. If this has changed, then it could be revisited in future long term plans.
81	Three Waters	Suggests possible solutions for salt water intrusion and inundation (weir, siphonic gravitational outlet to sea).	Submission received – no further action	<p>In theory a weir or barrier could prevent the salt-water wedge from extending upstream. However, it would need to be high enough to remain above the salt water layer, and climate change would require it to be even higher.</p> <p>The idea is similar to the Thames Barrier, which has control gates to prevent storm surges from the north sea reaching London via the Thames River.</p> <p>This wouldn't resolve Whakatāne's salt water issues (assuming this was the only problem). It would be almost impossible to consent and would create a massive barrier to fish passage. It would be unsustainable without maintenance, because the silt would raise the riverbed upstream and encourage flooding.</p>
82	Three Waters	Recommends no increase in spending until central government direction known.	Submission received – no further action	Council has chosen to take part in the central government's Three Waters Reform Programme. Central government has provided around \$761 million in stimulatory funding for Three Waters investment across Aotearoa New Zealand. Of this, Council has secured almost \$7 million to accelerate infrastructure investment (primarily in water supply).

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83	Three Waters	If Braemar Water Supply is to continue to be part of Council's network, supports the requirement for this drinking water supply to meet current Drinking Water Standards.	Submission received - supported/ under investigation	Following a successful trial phase of new technology that removes arsenic from the water supply, a project has been included in the Long Term Plan to provide a permanent solution.
84	Three Waters	Requests stormwater issues in Henderson Street be addressed, supports Hinemoa Street catchment stormwater works included in Long Term Plan for 2021-22.	Submission received - support	This work is included in the Long Term Plan.
85	Transport Connections	Requests undergrounding of power lines in Ōhope, and for stretches of footpath along Pohutukawa Avenue to be repaired as a priority.	Submission received – no further action	<p>The power lines and power poles belong to Horizon and they have a programme of undergrounding their assets as they reach the end of their useful life.</p> <p>All footpaths have been inspected and their condition rated. These will be repaired in order of priority within the available budget.</p>
86	Transport Connections	Requests more shared pathways, red crossings, bicycle racks in Wharaurangi.	Submission received - support	These requests are already included in the Active Whakatāne programme.

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87	Transport Connections	Suggests building a toll bridge from Coastlands.	Submission received – no further action	<p>Council is working with Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency on planning and infrastructure requirements for Whakatāne. This includes the feasibility of a second bridge for improved traffic flows in and through the town, safe and expedient town evacuation, and general community resilience (the safety of having more than one local access across the river).</p> <p>Waka Kotahi has expressed interest in partnering on Council’s Spatial Plan work, and continues to work with staff on options to improve access through the Landing Road roundabout. Funding traffic congestion improvements into Whakatāne may not be a high enough priority nationally to attract Waka Kotahi co-funding, and Council only progresses projects that attract this co-funding. In terms of location, the new boat harbour and Ngāti Awa’s concerns over proximity to urupa negate options for a second bridge north of the existing crossing.</p>
88	Transport Connections/ Marketing and Events	Requests that speed reduction, and extension as well as basic safety infrastructure for Matatā streets remain a top priority. Requests a new sign at the entrance to Matatā.	Submission received – underway/further consideration required	<p>Council is working with the Matatā Residents Association to prioritise footpath improvements. Speed reductions and extending speed limit signs, including on SH2 Pakeha Street, will be reconsidered as part of the upcoming Speed Limit Review programme between Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency and all road controlling authorities.</p> <p>The signage into Matatā will be considered by the Events and Marketing team.</p>
89	Transport Connections	Requests for footpaths to be upgraded in Tāneatua.	Submission received – no further action	All footpaths have been inspected and condition rated. They will be repaired in order of priority over the next three years, within annual budgets. The old asphalt footpath past the Tāneatua shops is due for renewal and will likely be replaced over the upcoming Long Term Plan period.
90	Transport Connections	Requests public transport from Tāneatua to Whakatāne.	Submission received – continue to partner with Bay of Plenty Regional Council	Council will continue to support and partner with Bay of Plenty Regional Council, which plans to review public transportation provision across the Eastern Bay of Plenty and work with local councils in seeking ways to provide a more frequent, agile and responsive public transport service to our communities.

Ref	Council activity area	Submission topic/request	Outcome	Further information
91	Transport Connections	Several submissions requesting a second bridge into Whakatāne.	Submissions received – dependent on securing co-funding	Council continues to work with Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency around planning and infrastructure requirements for access into and through Whakatāne. This includes the feasibility of a second bridge for improved traffic flows in and through the town, safe and expedient town evacuation, and general community resilience (the safety of having more than one local access across the river). Waka Kotahi has expressed interest in partnering on the Council’s Spatial Plan work, and continues to work with staff on options to improve current access through the Landing Road roundabout. However, funding traffic congestion improvements into Whakatane may not be a high enough priority nationally to attract Waka Kotahi co-funding, and Council only progresses projects that attract this co-funding. The community demand is noted, but solutions tend to be prohibitively expensive. If Waka Kotahi co-funding was not secured, any solution would likely need to be funded by ratepayers.
92	Transport Connections	Requests increase in traffic access over Whakatāne River.	Submission received – dependent on securing co-funding	Local councils rely on Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency to co-fund roading projects. Waka Kotahi has a robust set of criteria that must be met for projects to attract their funding. Council can have confidence that when that criteria is met, a project is definitely worth progressing. Conversely, if a project fails to meet Waka Kotahi criteria, we have to ask ourselves if we should abandon or defer the project based on their criteria, or progress it regardless, fully funding it from local contributions. Generally, Council takes the former position, and does not progress projects that do not meet Waka Kotahi funding criteria.
93	Transport Connections	Supports projects that support a commuter cycle network - the Trust is able to support charging facilities and community amenities through granting or co-investment.	Submission received – support, and acknowledge further partnership opportunities	Council acknowledges and appreciates Horizon Trust’s interest in supporting the Active Whakatāne programme and will work with the Trust over the period of the Long Term Plan on ways in which we can maximise their offer of supporting investment.
94	Transport Connections	Requests speed regulation, traffic calming, especially at Main Street intersection outside the Bakehouse (Edgecumbe).	Submission received – to lobby Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency	Council will be working with Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency on the national Speed Management Review, and will be lobbying for better speed management on state highways where they run through rural towns in our district.

Ref	Council activity area	Submission topic/request	Outcome	Further information
95	Transport Connections	Requests more disability parking in King Street.	Submission received - support	Council will review disability parking in Kopeopeo, consulting with the disability sector as part of the review process.
96	Transport Connections	Supports the enhancement of Tāneatua Bridge as second option to cross the river.	Submission received – no further action	Council continues to work with Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency on planning and infrastructure requirements. The Tāneatua bridge is a Waka Kotahi-owned and managed asset. Waka Kotahi has indicated the bridge would be replaced when the current one reaches the end of its useful life in maybe 10-15 years.
97	Transport Connections	Requests better-condition footpaths for the mobility-impaired.	Submission received - support	Council will work with the disability sector to identify opportunities for improving the condition of the footpath network.
98	Transport Connections	Footpaths need constant upgrade, notes as a vision-impaired community member they are constantly tripping on curbs or potholes.	Submission received – support	All footpaths have been inspected and condition rated, and will be repaired in order of priority over the next three years within annual budgets. Additionally, trip hazards are generally prioritised and brought forward for repair as they come to our attention. Council will work with the disability sector to identify opportunities for improving the footpath network.
99	Transport Connections/ Marketing and Events	Requests footpaths, speed reduction, pedestrian crossings, and a welcome sign in Matatā.	Submission received - underway/for further discussion between Council and community	<p>Council has met with the Matatā Residents Association and has included their footpath and crossing aspirations into the 'Low Cost Low Risk' road improvements programme. Council will also be working with the Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency State Highway team on the Speed Management Review and advocating on behalf of the Matatā community for speed limit changes on SH2 Pākehā Street through Matatā.</p> <p>Council would welcome a partnership approach with the Matatā community towards the development of bespoke welcome signage for the town.</p>
100	Transport Connections	Suggests an extra walkway from Murupara that leads all the way to the Mangawiri Bridge, a walkway like Waiohau.	Submission received – partially underway	The Council is working on a proposed new 1.35km path on Main Road, Murupara which will run from Ngatimanawa Road to London's Garage at the Golf Road Intersection. There is insufficient justification to fund a path any further along the remainder of the Special Purpose Road.

Ref	Council activity area	Submission topic/request	Outcome	Further information
101	Transport Connections	Requests a roundabout at the Jacks Machinery corner onto the main road into town.	Submission received - support	This is a safety improvement that Council has identified as providing good safety outcomes. It addresses the safety concerns for traffic exiting out of Mill Road. Also, if an additional road leg was constructed to the north over the Kope Canal, it could connect onto Shaw Road and also provide a safe exit onto SH2 for the existing Shaw Rd subdivision, and its future expansion.
102	Transport Connections	Requests that cycle lanes be made available and speed bumps installed to manage speed limits. Would like to discuss installing a road barrier on Kopuriki Road where the Hinengawari Wetlands are located.	Submission received – for further discussion between Council and submitter	Council’s Transportation team will meet the submitter to discuss this.
103	Transport Connections	Requests to seal Herepuru Road and improve safety conditions.	Submission received – dependent on seal extension prioritisation framework	The seal extension prioritisation framework will determine the priority in which roads will be sealed. The narrowness of Herepuru Bluff is acknowledged, but there are no plans to widen it at this stage because of the high cost. The slip and dropout locations are regularly monitored. The road will continue to be managed under the normal operational levels of service that apply to unsealed roads.
104	Transport Connections, Aquatics and Recreation	Requests more parking, specifically for those with mobility challenges, at Whakatāne Aquatic Centre.	Submission received - needs further investigation	Investigation is required, as this is the first time the issue has been raised.

Ref	Council activity area	Submission topic/request	Outcome	Further information
105	Transport Connections, Community Development	Requests the Council investigate a cycle and walkway through the Waimana Gorge. Would like to explore the possibility of introducing local transport from Nukuhou North, Matahi, Waimana, Ruātoki Wainui and Tāneatua to Whakatāne on a regular basis.	Submission received <ul style="list-style-type: none"> resolution to promote and support the establishment of an independent Whakatāne Trails Trust, with the purpose of establishing a network of trail opportunities across the whole district continue to partner with Bay of Plenty Regional Council 	Council will promote and support the establishment of an independent Whakatāne Trails Trust, mandated to establish a network of trail opportunities across the whole district. The Trust would assess and fund projects like this across the district on their merits. Council will continue to support and partner with Bay of Plenty Regional Council, which plans to review public transportation provision across the Eastern Bay of Plenty and to work with local councils in seeking ways to provide a more frequent, agile and responsive public transport service to our communities.
106	Transport Connections, People & Capability	Suggests that Council be a leader in terms of workplace flexibility, i.e. have more people working from home, stagger working hours. Supports upgrades to Pekatahi Bridge to make it two lanes.	Submission received – no further action	Council is constantly updating its systems to ensure they are fit for purpose. To promote the ability to be more flexible in our work environment, Council has recently introduced a remote working policy and encouraged all staff to consider this as an option to encourage better health and wellbeing. Peketahi Bridge is a central government asset as part of the state highway network. Council continues to work with Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency on planning and infrastructure requirements.
107	Water Supply	Requests urgent attention to quality of Whakatāne water.	Submission received – under investigation	Alternative water source options are being sought. The preference is to secure a reliable groundwater source that meets the needs of consumers across the plains and Whakatāne/Ōhope communities. There are well-documented issues with the surface water take from the Whakatāne River (e.g. salinity, Cyanobacteria, taste/odour).

Ref	Council activity area	Submission topic/request	Outcome	Further information
108	Transport Connections/ Places and Open Spaces	Provides suggestions for Matatā: improvement to trail systems and connecting them safely around the village, a community notice board which shows evacuation maps/trail maps.	Submission received – resolution to promote and support the establishment of an independent Whakatāne Trails Trust, with the purpose of establishing a network of trail opportunities across the whole district	The concept of improved trails and associated signage is supported. The challenge is finding ways to resource this. Council will promote and support the establishment of an independent Whakatāne Trails Trust, mandated to establish a network of trail opportunities across the whole district. The Trust would assess and fund projects on their merits.
109	Transport Connections	Requests Council consider a car parking strategy / business case for a car parking building.	Submission received - underway	The Long Term Plan includes intentions to develop a car parking strategy. This will analyse demand trends for car parking and explore solutions including - but not limited to - a car parking building.
110	Aquatics and Recreation	Requests a heated pool all year in Murupara.	Submission received – no further action	This season 8,833 people used the Murupara Pool facility during summer. The pool was at a regular temperature of 28C. A key focus of the Aquatics and Recreation team is to increase usage in summer before investigating additional usage in the winter. Council would like to see usage increase to about 25,000 people each year, which would bring the facility in line with other outdoor pools around the country. There would be additional heating and staffing costs during the winter months. The ultimate goal for the Murupara pool would be to operate year-round with so-called ‘wet-side’ and ‘dry-side’ fitness options.
111	Places and Open Spaces	Requests the Council convert heating in the Whakatāne Library to heat pumps. Suggests the Council just put heat pumps in Civic Centre and do nothing else.	Submission received – partially support	In 2021/22 Council will be improving the performance of the Library HVAC system. The investment in heat pumps to replace existing gas boilers will also be considered.

Ref	Council activity area	Submission topic/request	Outcome	Further information
112	Places and Open Spaces	Requests Council replace lights in the Exhibition Centre with LEDs only as each light fails.	Submission received – underway	A review of the existing lighting at Te Kōputu a te whanga a Toi Whakatāne Library and Exhibition Centre will be undertaken in 2021/22. The recommendations regarding display lighting and LED replacement will be implemented in 2022/23.
113	Places and Open Spaces	Requests more tables at the Whakatāne Heads.	Submission received – no further action at this time	Council will consider additional tables based on demand and as budget allows. The present provision is considered to be sufficient for the usage of the area.
114	Places and Open Spaces	Requests improved toilets and breastfeeding facilities for mums.	Submission received - support	To be considered within the annual renewal cost for public conveniences.
115	Places and Open Spaces	Requests new iconic or ‘Superloo’ public toilets by Riverslea Playground in Edgecumbe.	Submission received – no further action at this time	Initial investigation has revealed a lack of Council land in the immediate area to create such a facility. There is no easy way to position this around the Riverslea area. It would require a budget of around \$450,000.
116	Transport Connections	A number of submissions received relating to public transport, including specifically for rural communities.	Submission received – include feedback in discussions with Bay of Plenty Regional Council	Bay of Plenty Regional Council (BOPRC) manages the provision of public transport across the Bay of Plenty, and in 2021/22 is proposing to review services provided to the Eastern Bay of Plenty. BOPRC has offered to include Whakatāne District Council in that process. BOPRC is interested in ways to provide a more responsive and targeted series of services that the communities’ aspirations and deliver on climate change aspirations.

Ref	Council activity area	Submission topic/request	Outcome	Further information
117	Finance - rates costs	<p>Suggests ways to reduce rates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Don't replace ICT system until future of Three Waters determined. • Don't progress LED lighting at exhibition centre. • Don't spend proceeds of sale of Ōpihi on Town Centre and Riverfront Revitalisation (Te Ara Hou) programme. • Don't spend ratepayer money on Town Centre and Riverfront Revitalisation (Te Ara Hou) programme until clarity that the project is progressing. • Reserves: Use Community Board reserves to off-set rates; reduce annual contribution to roading storm damage reserve and disaster reserve; stop making payments to leaky homes reserve; use reserve balances in roading, water, and stormwater over next 2-3 years to off-set rates rise. <p>Requests transparency and consultation on use of funding from sale of assets and from central government stimulus packages.</p>	Submission received – opportunities reviewed by staff in finalising the Long Term Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council is using an ageing Enterprise Resource Planning programme (ERP). The ERP's vendor has indicated that it is replacing the current product with a more modern equivalent. This gives Council an opportunity to explore the market but, even should we stay with the incumbent, a significant project still needs to be completed. Council cannot operate with an unsupported ERP system. • Replacement of lighting with more efficient LEDs is part of "greening our facilities". They also pay for themselves in nine years. • How Council funds work programmes is complex. Generally, Council works strongly with central government agencies to fund work where possible. This includes funding for roads, town regeneration, and boat harbour development. The Town Centre and Riverfront Revitalisation (Te Ara Hou) programme is currently funded by the Harbour Fund, previous long-term allocations for related reserve areas, and various government grants, meaning there is no additional rating impact on the community from undertaking the programme. • There is an ongoing challenge in balancing rates with Council's level of service. Long Term Plan 2021-31 consultation provided clear feedback that ratepayers supported the proposed levels of service, with over 80% of feedback saying that the balance was about right, or proposing that Council deliver more services at a higher cost. • A review of reserve balances was completed before finalising the rates in the Long Term Plan 2021-31. This considered reasonableness of balances and opportunities to reduce forecast reserve balances and resulting rates. Some selected reserves were able to be applied to this purpose.

Ref	Council activity area	Submission topic/request	Outcome	Further information
118	Finance - rates	Across submissions, demand for level of service increases but also for minimising pressure on ratepayers.	Submissions received	<p>Numerous projects in the Long Term Plan are contingent on partnership funding. Council receives around a third of its revenue from sources other than rates. Council tries to secure external funding, and will continue to lobby central government for revenue opportunities. Council will also continue to keep a 'watching brief' on central government policy change and the funding opportunities this provides.</p> <p>In the medium term, local government reform could significantly affect areas which are currently required to be funded through rates. A significant reset of Council's revenue strategies and policies will need to accompany these changes.</p>
119	Finance - rates	<p>Strong concern expressed regarding the rates increase impact on the Te Teko community. Concerns include the increase for Te Teko being higher than other community sectors (in percentage terms), with consideration needed for the socio-economic context. Concerns that the main driver for rates increases are costs associated with Plains Water Supply scheme. Feedback suggests that Te Teko is paying for a water scheme it is not using /receiving water from.</p>	Submission received – to consider through next rates review	<p>In dollar terms, Te Teko rates are lower than most areas of the district, although their year-on-year forecast increases are higher on a percentage basis.</p> <p>Council's rates staff can help ratepayers to receive support when they have financial hardship. This can include rates rebates and, on a case-by-case basis, rates remissions.</p> <p>Council will consider this feedback and the socio-economic considerations across the district in the next rates review, which will take place before the Long Term Plan 2024-34.</p> <p>The increase in water rates charges brings Te Teko in line with the cost of water in other parts of the district. Rates are only charged to ratepayers where the water scheme is available for use.</p>
120	Transport Connections	Regarding seal extensions, Withy Road corrugations and narrow road corners need urgency due to safety concerns and increased traffic to Marae which includes buses.	Submission received – dependent on seal extension policy	When the seal extension ranking system is reviewed and updated it will very strongly guide the order in which unsealed roads across the district should be sealed, including Withy Road.
121	Community Development/ Policy Planning	Submissions received regarding housing concerns.	Submissions received – to be considered through Housing Strategy	A Housing Strategy is being developed for the district. This will explore housing needs and how to address them.

Ref	Council activity area	Submission topic/request	Outcome	Further information
122	Places and Open Spaces	Several submissions mentioned opportunities presented by solar energy. There are partnership opportunities to do more with solar, potentially with entities like Trust Horizon.	Submission received – support, refer to Energy Action Group	Council welcomes suggestions and continues to explore them. Council's Energy Action Group would be a good starting point for consideration of such suggestions.
123	Transport Connections	Suggestion for a cycleway along Te Rahu Road stopbank to Awakeri.	Submission received - resolution to promote and support the establishment of an independent Whakatāne Trails Trust, with the purpose of establishing a network of trail opportunities across the whole district	Council will promote and support the establishment of an independent Whakatāne Trails Trust, mandated to establish a network of trail opportunities across the district. The Trust would assess and fund projects like this on their merits.
124	Transport Connections	Requests footpath and curbing in Nesbitt Street, Matatā.	Submission received – discuss with Matatā Residents Association	Council staff are working with the Matatā Residents Association to identify and prioritise desired footpath and other improvements.
125	Transport Connections	Requests that Council work with Bay of Plenty Regional Council to develop a cycleway along access way to settlement ponds from Keepa Road to Shaw Road.	Submission received - underway	Plans are being considered to upgrade this roadway to make it more cycle-friendly for access to Shaw Road.

Ref	Council activity area	Submission topic/request	Outcome	Further information
126	Transport Connections	Several submissions received requesting a footbridge from Coastlands to Whakatāne.	Submissions received – consider through Active Whakatāne	Walking and cycling infrastructure is being explored as part of the Active Whakatāne strategy implementation, and a wider focus on trails. Any consideration of a bridge could be explored through this work and would need to be considerate of cultural aspirations. A major consideration for Council not supporting this proposal when it was first mooted was Ngāti Awa's concern over the impacts of a footbridge across the river from town to Coastlands on the sanctity of their urupa. When the new boat harbour location was confirmed as being upstream by the Landing Road Bridge, this essentially meant that no river crossing could be constructed downstream, (or not without high cost as the bridge would need to be high enough for boats and yachts to sail beneath at peak tides).
127	Transport Connections	Request for the footpath to be extended up to Kokohinau Marae in Te Teko.	Submission received - support	Funding included \$400,000 for a pathway from Te Teko to Kōkōhinau Marae.
128	Town Centre and Riverfront Revitalisation (Te Ara Hou) programme	Suggestions and concept plans were put forward for the Whakatāne CBD.	Submission received – forwarded to Town Centre and Riverfront Revitalisation (Te Ara Hou) programme	To be considered through the Town Centre and Riverfront Revitalisation (Te Ara Hou) programme.

Long Term Plan 2021-31 submission outcomes – submissions to policies and proposals

All submissions received on the Long Term Plan 2021-31 policies and proposals were provided to Council and considered through the deliberations process in June 2021. Council made decisions on the submissions outlined in the table below.

Ref:	Theme/area	Submission topic/request	Outcome	Further information
A	Fees and Charges - Solid Waste	Suggests increasing charge for dumping at Whakatāne transfer station	Submission received - support	Through the Fees and Charges review alongside the Long Term Plan 2021-31, fees have been increased at the Whakatāne Refuse Transfer Station for dumping general refuse, greenwaste, and tyres.
B	Fees and Charges - Parking	Suggests that Council charge for long-term (day-long) parking	Submission received - no change to proposed fees	<p>While charging for long-term parking is possible, the submitter's reason for suggesting a charge for long-term parking in parts of the Whakatāne town centre has not been articulated.</p> <p>The current strategy is to encourage free long-term parking on the periphery of the town centre to support free short-term (turnover) parking within the centre of Whakatāne. Any consideration of a change will be included in the next review of the car parking strategy.</p>
C	Fees and Charges - Procurement and Administration	Notes a fee increase to hire reserve would hinder efforts to help support local community.	Submission received – no change to proposed fees	The Fees and Charges have been set in accordance with Council's funding policy.

Ref:	Theme/area	Submission topic/request	Outcome	Further information
D	Fees and Charges - Resource Consents	Suggests that the significant jump in some of the charges in the resource consents section is unjustifiable, i.e. 10.2.1(c): change or cancellation of conditions (s127), 10.2.1(e): Review of consent conditions (s128), 10.2.2(c): Boundary Adjustment, 10.2.2(d): Minor Amendments to Cross-lease plans (additions and alterations), 10.2.2(j): Change or cancellation of consent notice (s221).	Submission received - partially support <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10.2.2(d) deletion of proposed new fee, fee remains at \$500 (unchanged from 2019-2021) Proposed increases for remaining fees noted in submission confirmed 	All the fees noted by the submitter except the cross lease variation (10.2.2(d)) require at least the same level of analysis as a simple land use or subdivision application, and are often equivalent to a more complex application. The deposit is the minimum cost that would apply and is the same for each of these as it is for non-notified consent applications. s127, 128 and 221 applications all have full discretionary status under the RMA. A boundary adjustment is a subdivision application. However, a cross-lease variation is similar in work demand to a right-of-way approval and as such the proposed increase to the fee has been removed.
E	Fees and Charges - Corporate Services	The fees involved for colour A4 and A3 printing (item 36) seem to be unreasonably high, especially if these are charged in relation to access to official information.	Received - no change to proposed fees	The fees and charges for colour printing on A4 and A3 are in line with other organisations. Where possible, Council tries to provide information digitally.
F	Fees and Charges - Building and Monitoring	The costs relating to sale and supply of alcohol licenses (item 17) should generally be increased to discourage alcohol abuse.	Received – no change to proposed fees	Fees payable for applications regarding the sale and supply of alcohol are prescribed in the Sale and Supply of Alcohol (Fees) Regulations 2013. For on, off, club and special license applications, the fees are based on a cost/risk rating that is prescribed in the regulations.

Ref:	Theme/area	Submission topic/request	Outcome	Further information
G	Fees and Charges - Resource Consents/ Policy Planning	<p>Under item 10.2.2-c - the deposit should be reduced to \$1,200, as a boundary adjustment should be a trivial matter.</p> <p>Under item 10.2.2-d - the deposit should be reduced to \$1,000, as this is essentially a legal process with no new development to be reviewed.</p> <p>Under item 10.3.1 - It should also list "notice of requirement".</p> <p>Under item 10.4.1 - a notified alteration of designation should be in line with the deposit for a notified resource consent (\$4,000).</p> <p>Under item 10.4.1 - a non-notified alteration of designation should be in line with the deposit for a non-notified resource consent (\$1,500).</p> <p>Under item 10.4.1 - an outline plan of work should be in line with the deposit for a non-notified resource consent (\$1,500).</p>	<p>Submission received</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10.2.2c – no change from proposed increase to fee • 10.2.2d – support, proposed fee increase removed • 10.3.1 – support • 10.4.1 – support, fee increased to \$4,000 • 10.4.1 – support, fee increased to \$1,500 (note: refers to 10.4.2 - non-notified alteration of designation) • 10.4.1 – support, fee increased to \$1,500 (note: refers to 10.4.4 - outline plan of work) 	<p>10.2.2c - a boundary adjustment requires the same level of assessment as a simple subdivision application and has the same minimum charge.</p> <p>10.2.2d - the complexity of an amendment to a cross lease is similar to a right-of-way approval and the fee can therefore remain at the current level of \$500.</p> <p>10.3.1 - <i>notice of requirement</i> is the proper term and should replace <i>designation</i>.</p> <p>10.4.1 - align with the deposit amount for a notified resource consent (\$4000) due to similar staff costs.</p> <p>10.4.1 (correct reference 10.4.2) - align with the deposit amount for a non-notified resource consent (\$1500) due to similar staff costs.</p> <p>10.4.1 (correct reference 10.4.4) - the assessment of an outline plan is similar in demand to a resource consent and the deposit should reflect this. Align with deposit amount for a non-notified resource consent (\$1500) due to similar staff costs.</p>
H	Fees and Charges - Policy Planning	<p>The cost to purchase a digital copy of the Whakatāne District Plan on a data stick (item 10.6.4-b) should be close to the actual cost of a data stick and not \$50 (refer to item 19.1.1 for a similar service).</p>	<p>Submission received – support, fee decreased to \$35</p>	<p>Costs for similar services should align.</p>

Ref:	Theme/area	Submission topic/request	Outcome	Further information
I	Fees and Charges - Procurement and Administration	Submits that the doubling of the fees for Bluett Park is excessive, would have appreciated more notice and consultation with Council and other uses of the reserves.	Received – no change to proposed fees	Fees and charges have been set in accordance with Council's funding policy.
J	Revenue and Financing Policy	Suggests that Council considers direct funding from the Reserve Bank for infrastructure projects, 300 signatures to support.	Received – no further action at this time	For the purposes of the Long Term Plan 2021-31, no changes have been made. Council is open to alternative funding options if resulting costs are favourable and risk and other factors are appropriate.
K	Revenue and Financing Policy	Suggests that a roading rate based only on a fixed charge and not on CV would provide a better correlation to user pays.	Received – no further action	Council recognises that roads support economic development, social wellbeing and other public good functions. Council periodically reviews how it charges rates and is open to considering different approaches when we do those reviews.
L	Development Contributions Policy	Suggests that it is questionable to charge development contributions for community infrastructure on developments in rural areas, or in communities where the proposed community infrastructure is not going to be located or utilised by those subject to the development contribution. Suggests that the application and costs of development contributions for community infrastructure should be reconsidered for those in the "all other areas".	Received - No further action	The projects that sit behind this development contribution are not solely of benefit to an urban area (or part of). They are projects that are considered to have district-wide benefits, and include cemetery berms, the Multi-Sports Centre and the Waterfront Promenade project. A clear distinction is made between these projects and other community infrastructure required for local neighbourhoods, such as reserves and reserve development. The amount of the contribution is relatively small, recognising that the bulk of the cost of these projects is funded from other sources.

Long Term Plan 2021-31 submission outcomes - community funding requests

Some Long Term Plan submissions requested funding. Some of those requests aligned with key consultation themes, which are outlined in the document 'Summary of Key Decisions Following Consultation'. The table below shows the remainder of the funding requests, and their outcomes. During its deliberations, Council resolved that annual grant funding remain at the existing level. This includes \$50,000 per year towards general community funding applications (funded from general rates), \$75,000 per year for water safety-related annual grants (funded from the Harbour Fund), and \$70,000 for lease rental rebates (forgoing revenue that could be realised through full rental value).

Ref:	Submission topic/request	Outcome
i	Would support more support/funding towards the Manawahe Kokako Trust (amount requested not specified).	Submission received - refer to Annual Grants funding and/or Rangitāiki Community Board.
ii	In addition to broader submission, requests that Council compliment Water Safety NZ investment into water safety sector partner organisations (like Surf Life Saving NZ), or funding Water Safety NZ gives to other providers through their contestable funding process (amount requested not specified).	Submission received - refer to Annual Grants funding. Note that the Bay of Plenty Regional Council now has a \$400,000 contestable fund.
iii	Requests that Council supports the project to build a museum and visitor centre in Le Quesnoy with a donation equivalent to \$1 per resident of the district (e.g. approximately \$38,000).	Submission received - resolution that Council decline the application from the NZ Memorial Museum Trust for a donation of approximately \$38,000 to build a museum and visitor centre in Le Quesnoy.
iv	Requests more funding to CREW and other waste minimisation NGOs to increase their capacity and ability to take more from the public (amount requested not specified).	Submission received - Council currently works closely with CREW and has recently submitted a joint Waste Minimisation Fund application to expand their operations. Refer to Annual Grants funding and/or Community Boards.
v	Waiariki Park Region - Requests to be considered for funding in the Long Term Plan, \$30,000 (excluding GST) per annum for three years.	Submission received – refer to Annual Grants funding.
vi	Film BOP request for continued \$15,000 support from Council (in line with the three-year support from other councils).	Submission received – no decision required as funding is already budgeted in the Long Term Plan, to be confirmed once report on previous three years and Strategic Plan for next three years is presented.