

AGENDA

Council
Wednesday 16 May 2018 at 9.30am

Northland Regional Council Agenda

Meeting to be held in the Council Chamber
36 Water Street, Whangārei
on Wednesday 16 May 2018, commencing at 9.30am

Recommendations contained in the council agenda are NOT council decisions. Please refer to council minutes for resolutions.

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<p>ACC - Accident Compensation Corporation</p> <p>AHB - Animal Health Board</p> <p>ALGIM - Association of Local Government Information Management</p> <p>AMA - Aquaculture Management Area</p> <p>AMP – Asset Management Plan/Activity Management Plan</p> <p>BOI - Bay of Islands</p> <p>BOPRC - Bay of Plenty Regional Council</p> <p>CAPEX - Capital Expenditure (budget to purchase assets)</p> <p>CBEC - Community, Business and Environment Centre</p> <p>CDEM - Civil Defence Emergency Management</p> <p>CEG - Co-ordinating Executive Group – Northland Civil Defence management team</p> <p>CEO - Chief Executive Officer</p> <p>CIMS - Co-ordinated Incident Management System (emergency management structure)</p> <p>CMA - Coastal Marine Area</p> <p>CPCA - Community Pest Control Areas</p> <p>CRI - Crown Research Institute</p> <p>DHB - District Health Board</p> <p>DOC - Department of Conservation</p> <p>DOL - Department of Labour</p> <p>DPMC - Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet</p> <p>ECA - Environmental Curriculum Award</p> <p>ECAN - Environment Canterbury</p> <p>EE - Environmental Education</p> <p>EECA - Energy Efficiency Conservation Authority</p> <p>EEZ - Exclusive Economic Zone</p> <p>EF - Environment Fund</p> <p>EMA - Employers and Manufacturers Association</p> <p>EMC - Environmental Management Committee</p> <p>EOC - Emergency Operations Centre</p> <p>EPA - Environmental Protection Authority</p> <p>FDE - Farm Dairy Effluent</p> <p>FNDC - Far North District Council</p> <p>FNHL - Far North Holdings Limited</p> <p>FPP - First Past the Post – voting system for NRC elections</p> <p>GE - Genetic Engineering</p> <p>GIS - Geographic Information System</p> <p>GMO - Genetically Modified Organism</p> <p>HSNO - Hazardous Substances & New Organisms Act</p> <p>HBRC - Hawke's Bay Regional Council</p> <p>HEMP - Hapū Environmental Management Plan</p> <p>Horizons - Brand name of Manawatu-Wanganui Regional Council</p> <p>HR - Human Resources</p> <p>HSWA - Health and Safety at Work Act 2015</p> <p>IEMP - Iwi Environmental Management Plan</p> <p>IPPC - Invited Private Plan Change: a process to allow Aquaculture Management Areas to be established</p> <p>IRIS - Integrated Regional Information System</p> <p>KDC - Kaipara District Council</p> <p>KPI - Key Performance Indicator</p> <p>LATE - Local Authority Trading Enterprise</p> <p>LGA - Local Government Act 2002</p> <p>LGNZ - Local Government New Zealand</p> <p>LGOIMA - Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987</p> <p>LGOL - Local Government Online</p> <p>LTP - Long Term Plan</p> <p>LTFS - Long Term Financial Strategy</p> <p>MCDEM - Ministry of Civil Defence & Emergency Mgmt</p> <p>MFE - Ministry for the Environment</p> <p>MHWS - Mean High Water Springs</p> <p>MMH - Marsden Maritime Holdings Limited</p> <p>MNZ - Maritime New Zealand</p> <p>MOH - Ministry of Health</p>	<p>MOT - Ministry of Transport</p> <p>MPI – Ministry for Primary Industries</p> <p>MSD - Ministry of Social Development</p> <p>NCMC - National Crisis Management Centre</p> <p>NES – National Environmental Standards</p> <p>NDHB - Northland District Health Board</p> <p>NZRC - New Zealand Refining Company (Marsden Point)</p> <p>NGO - Non-Governmental Organisation</p> <p>NIF - Northland Intersectoral Forum</p> <p>NIWA - National Institute of Water and Atmosphere</p> <p>NORTEG - Northland Technical Advisory Group</p> <p>NZCPS - New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement</p> <p>NZTA - New Zealand Transport Agency</p> <p>NZQA - New Zealand Qualifications Authority</p> <p>NZWWA - New Zealand Water and Wastes Association</p> <p>OFI - Opportunity for Improvement</p> <p>ORC - Otago Regional Council</p> <p>OSH - Occupational Safety & Health (now Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment)</p> <p>PCBU – Person Conducting Business or Undertaking</p> <p>PDF - Portable Document Format</p> <p>PPE - Personal Protective Equipment</p> <p>RAP - Response Action Plan</p> <p>RAQP - Regional Air Quality Plan</p> <p>RCP - Regional Coastal Plan</p> <p>RFI - Request for Information</p> <p>RFP - Request for Proposal</p> <p>RTC - Regional Transport Committee</p> <p>RLTS - Regional Land Transport Strategy</p> <p>RMA - Resource Management Act 1991</p> <p>RMG - Resource Managers Group (Regional Councils)</p> <p>RMZ - Riparian Management Zone</p> <p>ROI - Return on Investment</p> <p>RPMS - Regional Pest Management Strategy</p> <p>RPS - Regional Policy Statement</p> <p>RSG - Regional Sector Group</p> <p>RTO - Regional Tourism Organisation</p> <p>RWASP - Regional Water and Soil Plan</p> <p>SIPO – Statement of Investment Policy and Objectives</p> <p>SITREP - Situation Report</p> <p>SMF - Sustainable Management Fund</p> <p>SOE - State of Environment (or) State Owned Enterprise</p> <p>SOLGM -Society of Local Government Managers</p> <p>SPARC - Sport & Recreation New Zealand</p> <p>SRC - Southland Regional Council (Environment Southland)</p> <p>STV - Single Transferable Vote</p> <p>SWAG - Surface Water Allocation Group</p> <p>SWPA - Sustainable Water Programme of Action</p> <p>TA - Territorial Authority: City & District Councils</p> <p>TAG -Technical Advisory Group</p> <p>Tier 1 - Site level plan or response for an oil spill</p> <p>Tier 2 - Regional level plan or response to an oil spill</p> <p>Tier 3 - National level plan or response to an oil spill</p> <p>TLA - Territorial Local Authority – City & District Councils</p> <p>TMP - Treasury Management Plan</p> <p>TOR - Terms of Reference</p> <p>TPK - Te Puni Kōkiri (Ministry of Maori Development)</p> <p>TRAION - Te Rūnanga a Iwi o Ngāpuhi</p> <p>TRC - Taranaki Regional Council</p> <p>TROTR -Te Rūnanga o Te Rarawa</p> <p>TUANZ - Telecommunications Users Association of NZ</p> <p>WCRC - West Coast Regional Council</p> <p>WDC - Whangarei District Council</p> <p>WHHIF - Whangarei Harbour Health Improvement Fund</p> <p>WRC - Waikato Regional Council</p> <p>WSMP – Workplace Safety Management Practices</p> <p>WWTP - Wastewater Treatment Plant</p>
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**TITLE: Council Deliberations on the Long Term Plan 2018-2028
Consultation Document and Supporting Information**

ID: A1052445

From: Malcolm Nicolson, CEO

Executive summary

The purpose of this report is to provide background information and convey to council staff advice and recommendations to support council's deliberations on the submissions received on the proposals within the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 Consultation Document and supporting information. Council consulted on their Long Term Plan 2018-2028 from 14 March until 17 April 2018. Council put forward a number of proposals for consultation, with the focus being on the areas of water, pest management, and flood infrastructure.

Over 2,200 submissions were received during the consultation period, which have been collated and analysed in relation to the original proposals. This report includes recommendations made in relation to each of the topics. This report contains 118 recommendations that relate to the matters contained in the consultation document and supporting information, and other feedback received during the process.

Following deliberations, the final Long Term Plan 2018-2028 will be updated to reflect decisions made, with final adoption of the plan scheduled for 21 June 2018.

Recommendations

1. That the report 'Council Deliberations on the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 Consultation Document and Supporting Information' by Malcolm Nicolson, CEO and dated 7 May 2018, be received.
2. That the Chief Executive Officer be given delegated authority to approve any consequential amendments as a result of council decisions on submissions and any minor accuracy and grammatical amendments.
3. That the Chief Executive Officer be given delegated authority to approve changes required to revise the financial statements and rating information within the final Long Term Plan 2018-2028.
4. That the 17 inadmissible submissions that were received not be accepted or considered by council during deliberations.

Background

Long Term Plan process

Consultation on council's Long Term Plan (LTP) 2018-2028 proposals, as set out in the Long Term Plan Consultation Document and supporting information, is now complete. During consultation a large number of submissions were received, which have been collated and summarised to assist council in their deliberations, and have been provided to council in full. Council officers have reviewed the feedback and provided their advice on each of the topics to be considered by council during the deliberations meeting.

One day has been set aside (16 May 2018) for council's deliberation on the proposals set out in the Consultation Document, submitters feedback, and any other matters that have been raised during the consultation period.

Following council's deliberations, council officers will prepare the final Long Term Plan 2018-2028 which will be fully audited to ensure that the decisions made by council during deliberations are accurately reflected, and the revised financial statement reflect the assumptions stated in the plan.

Preparing the final plan will involve revising financial information, including rating data provided by the district councils, and new projections for investment income. Should there be any material differences to budgets or rates as a result of these revisions, council officers will highlight these to councillors in advance of the adoption meeting.

Audit is scheduled for 28 May to 8 June. A council meeting to adopt the final plan is scheduled for Thursday 21 June 2018.

Pre-consultation overview

Prior to and during development of the proposals set out in the Long Term Plan consultation document, council officers and councillors carried out a period of pre consultation. A total of 116 people gave survey feedback across the six 'pop-up' sessions were held at local markets around the region, plus an online survey that ran throughout the period. A report on this feedback was provided to council in September 2017.

Council officers also worked with the Māori Technical Advisory Group through a series of workshops during the development of the Long Term Plan proposals, with all input provided to council.

Consultation overview

A period of consultation was carried out on the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 Consultation Document from 14 March to 17 April 2018. A wide range of communication tools were used during this time to promote the proposals and the process.

During the consultation period council officers and councillors ran seven 'Have Your Say' events around the region, which presented an opportunity for members of the community to present their views to councillors in person, as well as to better understand the proposals. Events were held in Whangārei (two events), Kerikeri, Kaikohe, Kaitiāia, Dargaville, and Mangawhai. Attendance at these events varied, with over 60 attending at Kaitiāia, and only one person attending at Mangawhai.

The 'Have Your Say' events were held in place of public hearings, and feedback received at the events was fully recorded, and is provided as **attachment 1**, separate to this agenda. Staff have considered this feedback in providing their recommendations to council as part of this report.

The Consultation Document was also presented to the Te Tai Tokerau Māori and Council Working Party on 8 March, with an invitation for submissions to be made.

Council received 2,239 written submissions on its Long Term Plan 2018-2028 Consultation Document. Of these submissions, the majority were about the proposals within the Consultation Document and a range of other issues which have been summarised in this report (the full summary of submissions is provided as **attachments 2, 3, and 4** separate to this agenda). This included 1514 submissions that were gathered by a community group in Kaitiāia, that were completed on full submission forms, and supported council's preferred option to establish a new region-wide rate to help develop regional sports facilities with little other feedback provided.

Social media was also used to inform the community of the proposals, and direct people to council's website to provide formal feedback. Comments were received via social media in response to long term plan posts, which were considered and responded to by staff as appropriate. These comments, and staff responses where provided, have been collated in to a social media feedback report, included as **attachment 5** separate to this agenda.

Feedback from the Have Your Say events and social media has been considered by staff in their analysis of the proposals, however these comments do not contribute to the statistical analysis of feedback on proposals. The statistical analysis referenced in the summaries of feedback received rely on written feedback received by way of hardcopy submission form, email, letter, and online feedback via our consultation portal, that were received during the consultation period.

Late submissions

Council maintains a policy of accepting submissions up to four days after the official closing date. The council received several submissions after the consultation deadline of 4pm Tuesday 17 April, and incorporated these into the process as they arrived.

One submission arrived well after the close date and after the submission reports had been run, and while this hasn't been included in the full submission book or contributed to analytics, the comments were included in full in the summary of submissions document (referenced as 2018LTP-late). The comments aligned with other submissions that were incorporated into the staff discussion.

Inadmissible submissions

Council received 17 submissions that were deemed inadmissible due to being illegible or not providing sufficient name and address details. These have not been included in the consultation process. These submissions were all of a pro-forma nature, and their content was covered by other submitters.

Structure of this report

The Consultation Document set out specific proposals that feedback was invited on, with a focus on three big areas of spend on water, pest management, and flood infrastructure. The impact of these and other spends proposed in the Consultation Document was an average increase of 29.2% to the region-wide rate.

Each of the main consultation topics are outlined below for discussion. Recommendations for each topic are set out together, and are followed by a staff discussion or analysis of the proposals including any alternative options and any impacts on rates if proposals have changed since consultation. This is then followed by a summary of the submissions received in relation to that consultation topic.

Generally there was strong support for what council proposed, and in most cases staff recommend that council support the proposals that were consulted on. However, there are some areas where, as a result of feedback, staff recommend a different approach from what was consulted on. This may result in a recommendation that differs from the approach consulted on, or may introduce a new area of spend. These recommendations are clearly highlighted in this report, and in summary included:

- New spending for Kauri dieback, to be offset by a slight reduction in spending in other areas of pest management.
- A change in the split for flood infrastructure funding, from the 50:50 split consulted on as council's preferred approach, to a 70:30 split with regional ratepayers contributing the greater portion and directly affected communities contributing 30% of the cost. The impact of this proposed change on ratepayers is clearly outlined in a table included in the discussion.
- Council is also provided options to 'go even further' should it decide there is sufficient public support and environmental need. Staff have recommended additional spends for

Information Technology, a poplar and willow nursery in the far north, State of the Environment monitoring, Enviroschools and the Environment Fund. These are set out in recommendations 84 - 91 covered in the 'Proposed additional areas of spend' section of this report.

Staff will be available during deliberations to provide clarification on or further explain any recommendations that may not be clear in this report.

1. Changing the structure of rates

Recommendations:

5. That council supports the division of the land management rate and council services rate into six core targeted region-wide rates (the council services rate, freshwater management rate, pest management rate, land management rate, civil defence and hazard management rate, and flood infrastructure rate), to provide a more transparent and fair rating system.
6. That council supports the establishment of a new freshwater management rate, to be set based on the equalised land value of each rateable unit in the region.
7. That council supports the establishment of a new pest management rate, to be set based on equalised capital value and number of rating units or separately used or inhabited parts of a rating unit (SUIPs).
8. That council supports the establishment of a new civil defence and hazard management rate, to be set based on equalised capital value and number of rating units or separately used or inhabited parts of a rating unit (SUIPs).
9. That council supports the establishment of a new flood infrastructure rate, to be set on a fixed amount on each rateable SUIP/rating unit.

These recommendations do not change what was proposed in the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 Consultation Document.

Discussion

The proposal to divide the land management rate and council services rate into six core targeted region-wide rates (the council services rate, freshwater management rate, pest management rate, land management rate, civil defence and hazard management rate, and flood infrastructure rate) will provide a fairer rating system, with greater transparency, and a greater proportion of rates collected based on equalised capital value. The proposed rating structure better applies the responsibility for rates to different parts of the community across the region, as identified in the rating examples in the consultation document.

Feedback received through the consultation process demonstrates support for a more transparent rating structure. Comments made specific reference to using fees and charges more widely, and that a Uniform Annual General charge (UAG) be adopted for services that benefit all. Council reviews the use of fees and chargers via its annual review of the charging policy, and staff consider that these are currently sufficient. Additionally, council sets a number of geographically specific targeted rates. In terms of a UAG, staff consider that the targeted region-wide Council Services Rate achieves the purpose of providing for services that benefit all.

The above recommendations provide for the retention of two existing rates (the council services rate and land management rate), and the creation of four new rates (the freshwater management rate, pest management rate, civil defence and hazard management rate, and flood infrastructure rate).

Summary of feedback received | Changing the structure of rates

The majority of people who responded to the proposal to change the rates system were supportive, with 65.5% indicating that they agreed. Comments made by submitters who **agreed** mentioned general agreement with increased accountability, transparency and equity, and that the change is an improvement.

There was an acknowledgement of the administrative challenges for district councils collecting rates, and a separate comment that council should lobby central government to address inequities in funding mechanisms. Comments also requested that fees and charges be more widely used, that water and land management rates be applied on equalised capital value, and that a funding system be employed where the use made by each sector of the community for each of council's services is established and sheeted home to that sector.

Approximately 8% of submitters **disagreed** with the proposal, with comments that it is impossible to make it equitable and raising concern at the cost of the proposed change, that it will result in an increase in rates, that rates are too high generally, and that the system will create silos across council.

Of submitters who indicated that they were **neutral** (26.5%), concern was raised about complexity, cost and administration, that the new system could disadvantage tangata whenua, and that more input is needed.

Of those that **didn't select an option** but still made comment, support was noted for the continuation of the Whangārei Heads pest management rate (more analysis on submissions in relation to this rate is in the pest management section), support for a region-wide pest management rate, and several comments of support were made for more user charges or a more user-pays system. Other comments included disagreement with equalised capital value for pest management but agreement with this system for CDEM, request that a UAG be adopted for services that benefit all, that council find where savings can be made, and raising concern about the use of the SUIP definition.

2. Fresh and coastal water

Looking after lakes and wetlands

Recommendations:

10. That council supports the provision of an additional \$280,000 per year from 2018/19 to 2021/22 for four additional staff members (including associated overhead costs), to progress freshwater improvement in the Northern Wairoa and Northland dune lakes, as proposed in the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 Consultation Document and supporting information.
11. That council supports the provision of an additional \$127,858 in 2018/19, and \$35,681, \$91,535, \$119,000, and \$12,000 over the following four years for Council's contribution toward the operational costs of the Northern Wairoa and dune lakes freshwater improvement projects, as proposed in the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 Consultation Document and supporting information.
12. That council supports the provision of an additional \$364,000 per year from 2021/22 to continue freshwater improvement projects, as proposed in the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 Consultation Document and supporting information.
13. That council supports the provision of an additional \$7,800 in 2019/20 and 2020/21, and then every second and third year after that, for expansion of council's wetland monitoring programme, as proposed in the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 Consultation Document and supporting information.

14. That council supports the provision of an additional \$48,490 in 2018/19, \$5,104 in 2019/20, and \$6058 in 2020/21 for the expansion of council's annual lakes ecological monitoring programme, as proposed in the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 Consultation Document and supporting information.

These recommendations do not change what was proposed in the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 Consultation Document.

Discussion

Submitters have demonstrated support for more spending on water management, echoing the clear message from the government that more work needs to be done to protect and improve water quality. This is being responded to by securing grant funding from the Freshwater Improvement Fund to undertake the Northern Wairoa and dune lakes freshwater improvement fund projects. This funding reduces the local burden of the cost of the projects, but still requires council to contribute to the cost of the projects. The above recommendations provide for the work to enable water quality improvement to be delivered to these two areas.

The above initiatives will also see an expansion of the lakes ecological monitoring programme and wetland monitoring programme to cover a wider network of lakes and wetlands, which will improve our understanding of these lakes and our ability to manage these.

Keeping the soil where it belongs

Recommendations:

15. That council supports the provision of an additional \$229,556 in 2019/20, increasing to \$307,043 each year following, for three additional hill country erosion staff (including associated overhead costs), increasing to four additional staff in 2020/21, to progress council's soil conservation programmes and priority catchment management plans as proposed in the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 Consultation Document and supporting information.
16. That council supports the provision of an additional \$85,500 in 2020/21, increasing to \$303,000 by 2027/28 to increase funding to create a council afforestation grant scheme, as proposed in the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 Consultation Document and supporting information.
17. That council supports the provision of an additional \$507,942 in 2018/19, and \$369,412 and \$387,883 in the two years following, to be made available in council's Environment Fund, which supports land management and biodiversity projects, as proposed in the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 Consultation Document and supporting information.
18. That council supports the provision of an additional \$36,000 in 2018/19, \$47,000 and \$58,000 the following two years for an expansion of council's Flyger road nursery, as proposed in the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 Consultation Document and supporting information.
19. That council supports the provision of an additional \$66,285 per year for a full time equivalent Flyger road nursery manager (including associated overhead costs), as proposed in the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 Consultation Document and supporting information.
20. That council supports the provision of an additional \$3,500 in 2018/19, and \$6,500 each year following, for additional equipment to support the increase in level of service for land and water, as proposed in the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 Consultation Document and supporting information.

These recommendations do not change what was proposed in the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 Consultation Document.

Discussion:

Sediment is one of the major contaminants of Northland's waterbodies. There are many benefits of keeping soil where it belongs including improved water quality, ecological status and productivity of the primary sector. Northland has a large area of highly erodible soils and council is the leading agency for working with landowners and stakeholders to implement soil conservation.

Feedback received demonstrated very strong interest in the community for sediment and soil erosion management and improving water quality, with over 75% of submitters either agreeing with council's preferred option to spend \$2.2 million to step up a gear (45%) or go even further (30%).

The aforementioned initiatives will enable more work to be done in this space. These initiatives include a subsidy for the establishment of new forests in areas of high erosion risk, and the ongoing expansion and management of our poplar and willow nursery which provides planting resources to support landowners.

Monitoring our water resources

Recommendations:

21. That council supports the provision of an additional \$146,883 in the 2019/20 year and \$222,918 every year following, for two additional full-time equivalent positions for hydrology (including associated overhead costs), rising to three positions in 2020/21, as proposed in the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 Consultation Document and supporting information.
22. That council supports the provision of an additional \$81,221 per year from 2019/20 for an additional groundwater scientist (including associated overhead costs) as proposed in the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 Consultation Document and supporting information.
23. That council supports the provision of an additional \$55,809 per year for a junior hydrology officer (including associated overhead costs) from 2019/20, as proposed in the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 Consultation Document and supporting information.
24. That council supports the provision of an additional \$40,000 in 2019/20, \$40,000 for 2020/21, and up to \$45,000 every year following to support the increase in hydrometric operations as proposed in the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 Consultation Document and supporting information.
25. That council supports the provision of an additional \$69,500 per year for council's coastal state of the environment monitoring programme, as proposed in the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 Consultation Document and supporting information.
26. That council supports the provision of an additional \$152,069 per year for two additional staff members (including associated overhead costs), for environmental science reporting and freshwater ecology as proposed in the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 Consultation Document and supporting information.
27. That council supports the provision of an additional \$81,000 per year from 2019/20 for an additional staff member (including associated overhead costs), for freshwater monitoring as proposed in the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 Consultation Document and supporting information.
28. That council supports the provision of an additional \$55,809 for 2018/19, and \$105,924 from 2019/20 and every year following to cover the cost of field and digital equipment and lab testing associated with state of the environment monitoring, as proposed in the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 Consultation Document and supporting information.

29. That council supports the provision of an additional \$15,000 per year from 2019/20 for a regional sediment monitoring programme, as proposed in the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 Consultation Document and supporting information.
30. That council supports the provision of an additional \$70,848 per year for an additional compliance monitoring officer (including associated overhead costs), as proposed in the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 Consultation Document and supporting information.

These recommendations do not change what was proposed in the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 Consultation Document.

Discussion

Providing further knowledge and understanding for managing Northland's water resources (both quantity and quality) is a big job, hence the wide range of new initiatives that were proposed. Key focus areas were prioritised and targeted, these included climate change, flood and drought events, water allocation, freshwater quality monitoring and forecasting, and measuring sediment in Northland rivers, which were the areas of concern raised by a number of submitters. Additional staff are proposed to increase the council's science output and predictive capability.

We want to provide strong science to local and central government policy-makers but also offer simple tools and easily accessible environmental information to help communities manage water resources and build resilience through significant weather events. Good science relies on solid trustworthy data, which the hydrometric and water quality networks provide, but requires the upkeep of sensors, data loggers, satellite units, databases and telemetry systems. Hence a range of capital items and an increase in the operational budget are proposed.

Some of the submissions in support of increased funding for water management specifically support either an increase in both state of the environment and compliance monitoring and/or seek that the council be more vigilant in compliance monitoring or take more enforcement action in relation to non-compliant activities. Therefore, these submissions effectively support the additional resources proposed for both state of the environment and compliance monitoring. No submissions were concerned that we were doing too much state of the environment and compliance monitoring, except one submission (in support of Option3) wants the council to "*Spend less money on testing and more on active protection*".

Summary of feedback received | Fresh and coastal water

Of the people who responded to the question about looking after our water resources, over 45% agreed with our preferred option to spend an **extra \$2.2 million a year** by 2020 (Option 2). Of those who selected this option and also made comment, most agreed that support for water was important and stated that they were willing to support this financially, however many wanted to be sure that the money was spent efficiently. Comments acknowledged that clean water was important to the Northland way of life and to tourism, and saw the issue as urgent or critical. Some comments questioned why farmers alone get support, while others asked that funding be made more widely available and advertised. Other comments stated that landowners should plant at their own cost.

Other issues that were raised from submitters that supported option 2 included concern about water being taken without consent, in excess, or not being paid for (horticulture). Several comments requested more funding and support for catchment groups, and supported work on wetlands, reducing sedimentation, and riparian planting. Other issues raised included questioning the use of exotic trees for erosion control instead of native trees, clearance of drains, rubbish, plastic pollution and the use of technology and modelling for water management. Several comments related to drinking/potable water.

Comments made from those who supported **the current pace** (15%) were focussed on concern about rates increases and that the current programme is okay, with commenters also stating that a steady approach is better.

A large number of submitters (30%) thought that council should **go even further** to look after water, with comments noting water management as a high priority, and noting the connection between water and environmental health, public health, kai moana, collective wellbeing, tourism, and the economy. Comments were similar to those that supported option two, with requests for more fencing, riparian management, stock exclusion, research, active planting, education, monitoring, protection of dune lakes, and use of native trees for planting. Concern was also raised that funding should not subsidise farmers, or that only low-income farmers should be subsidised.

A small percentage of submitters (8.5%) selected **none of the provided options**, with varied comments made. These included support for water protection with similar points raised as covered above, acknowledgement of the size of the job and questioning if council can achieve it, concern about protecting water from mining, and combining the work with employment opportunities. Comments were also made that council should act on existing issues and just get more effective and prioritise.

There were numerous comments received from submitters **who did not clearly indicate a preferred option**, however all of these comments showed overall support for water quality noting its importance and urgency, with most comments closely mirroring the comments of submitters that had selected option 3 (go even further). Other comments urged a collaborative approach between agencies, noted that targets are too modest, that water management had insufficient funding when compared to other activities, and raised concern that council is providing funding to farmers.

3. Pest management

Work across the region

Recommendations:

31. That council supports the provision of an additional \$10,000 per year until 2022/23, for the control of wild ginger as proposed in the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 Consultation Document and supporting information.
32. That council supports the provision of an additional \$40,000 per year for a feral animal eradication response programme as proposed in the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 Consultation Document and supporting information.
33. That council supports the provision of an additional \$190,000 for the 2018/19 year and \$330,000 for two years from 2019/20 for additional staff members (inclusive of associated overhead costs) to implement the Pest Free Northland programme as proposed in the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 Consultation Document and supporting information, with ongoing costs for up to eleven additional members by 2027/28 as proposed in the supporting information.
34. That council supports the provision of an additional \$431,120 in 2018/19, \$530,702 in 2019/20, and \$606,802 in 2020/21 for the operational costs associated with the Pest Free Northland programme as proposed in the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 Consultation Document and supporting information, with ongoing costs until 2027/28 as proposed in the supporting information.
35. That council supports the provision of an additional \$60,000 in 2018/19, and \$40,000 in 2019/20 for a vessel hull surveillance database for marine biosecurity, as proposed in the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 Consultation Document and supporting information.
36. That council supports the provision of an additional \$5800 in 2018/19, increasing \$2475 every year following for additional costs associated with pest control and monitoring equipment, as

proposed in the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 Consultation Document and supporting information.

These recommendations do not change what was proposed in the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 Consultation Document.

Discussion:

Public submissions were in favour of doing something more for pest control, with a clear preference for council's preferred option to step up a gear and spend an extra \$2.29 million on pest management, with 37.8% of submitters that responded to the question agreeing with this option and 25% supporting to go even further and spend more than council's preferred option.

Staff recommend option 2 (extra \$2.29M per year) as the preferred option as this aligns with councils vision for a pest free Northland and supporting community led initiatives such as the Kiwicoast and biosecurity partnerships in western Northland and the Far North. It would also mean that Northland could also begin pest control initiatives in urban environments and support urban based pest control similar to other cities around New Zealand.

Kauri Dieback

Recommendation:

37. That council support an additional \$200,000 every year to address established and emerging risks posed by Kauri dieback on private land throughout the region, to be funded by a reduction in the funding of the projects (by 16.68%) in Western Northland, and the Mid North/Bay of Islands, Tutukaka, Kai Iwi Lakes and the Mangawahi/Waipū high value pest control areas.

This recommendation is additional to what was proposed in the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 Consultation Document.

Discussion:

The issue of doing more specifically to reduce the incidence of Kauri dieback featured in the feedback received via the consultation process. Kauri dieback was not subject to a specific recommendation in the Long Term Plan and is a significant disease which could have serious negative consequences for regional tourism and our forest environments. Therefore staff recommend a further \$200,000 be allocated to meet the demand of field inspections on private land, to provide landowner advice and to develop management plans so that the risk of disease spread can be minimised.

In order to fund this additional \$200,000 of work, and not increase the pest management rate, it is proposed that the projects in Western Northland, and the Mid North/Bay of Islands, Tutukaka, Kai Iwi Lakes and the Mangawahi/Waipū high value pest control areas are reduced in funding by 16.68% which generate \$200,000 of funding.

The impact of this reduction is shown in Table 1, below.

Table 1: Impact of funding decrease on pest programmes

Area	Funding Proposed In LTP	Funding based on a 16.68% reduction from LTP Proposed Funding
Tutukaka	\$110,000	\$91,652
Waipū/Mangawhai	\$200,000	\$166,640
Mid North/Bay Of Islands	\$300,000	\$249,960
Western Northland	\$439,000	\$365,775
Kai Iwi Lakes	\$150,000	\$124,980
Sum	\$1,199,000	\$999,007
Difference		\$199,993

A 16.68% reduction in funding in these projects is not considered to have a material influence on the delivery of these projects, as even with a 16.68% reduction in funding these projects are receiving a significant increase in funding (for example the existing Kai Iwi Lakes budget is currently \$90,000 per annum). In addition to this, the majority of these projects are building on existing pest control initiatives and require time to reach full capacity, as such budgets can be reviewed in future years and potentially increased if shown to be necessary.

The proposed additional Kauri dieback work will also be taking place in several of these areas, particularly in Western Northland, mid North/Bay of Islands and Waipū/Mangawhai, and this also provides an opportunity for additional work in these areas that offsets the impact of the recommended 16.68% reduction in funding. Given the iconic status of Kauri, particularly in Northland, it is considered essential that the funding of the Kauri dieback programme is prioritised accordingly.

Projects in western Northland

Recommendation:

38. That council supports the provision of an additional \$365,775 per year for Western Northland projects associated with Pest Free Northland, including projects at Tane Whakapiripiri, Puketi, Mataraua, Waimā, Waipoua and Warawara, as proposed in the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 Consultation Document and supporting information.

This recommendation does change what was proposed in the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 Consultation Document.

Discussion:

This funding will support the council's goal of a Pest Free Northland, ensuring more on the ground work is delivered with communities and forging new partnerships and building capacity, skills/knowledge and capability for pest control in Northland. This funding will provide for increased trapping infrastructure to achieve multi-species pest control across a range of community led projects.

The original funding proposed in the LTP was for \$439,000, the recommendation for \$365,775 per year is a reduction of \$73,225. This change provides for increased Kauri dieback work as proposed by recommendation 37 of this agenda.

High value pest control areas - Whangārei Heads

Recommendations:

39. That council supports the provision of an additional \$93,000 per year for biosecurity work in the high value pest control area of Whangārei Heads, to be funded from the pest management rate, as proposed in the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 Consultation Document and supporting information.
40. That council support ceasing the collection of the Whangārei Heads Pest Management targeted rate.

This recommendation does not change what was proposed in the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 Consultation Document.

Discussion:

It was clear from feedback received at the Long Term Plan 'Have Your Say' events and from submissions, that the pest control work being undertaken in the Whangārei Heads is hugely successful, and this proposal will allow this work to continue.

There were submissions for and against changing the Whangārei Heads funding from the targeted rate to the pest management rate. It is noted that the change in the funding mechanism has no impact on the quantum of funds being raised or provided to Whangārei Heads, has no influence on the nature of the work occurring at Whangārei Heads (i.e. the pest control work and the way this is managed will remain the same) and does not have any influence on the 'security' or guarantee of pest control funding for Whangārei Heads; in essence the change is totally immaterial to the future success of the pest control programme at Whangārei Heads. Changing of the funding mechanism also means that the proposal to fund via the biosecurity rate is the same with all other high value pest control areas in Northland and is administratively simpler to apply.

High value pest control areas - Mid North/Bay of Islands

Recommendation:

41. That council supports the provision of an additional \$249,960 per year for biosecurity work in the high value pest control area of the Mid North/Bay of Islands, as proposed in the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 Consultation Document and supporting information.

This recommendation does change what was proposed in the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 Consultation Document.

Discussion:

This funding will support the council's goal of a Pest Free Northland, ensuring more on the ground work is delivered with communities and forging new partnerships and building capacity, skills/knowledge and capability for pest control in Northland. Council has supported 14 community pest control programmes in this area over the past 12 years and 25 Environment Fund projects, which demonstrates the community interest for pest control in this high value area.

The original funding proposed in the LTP was for \$300,000, the recommendation for \$249,960 per year is a reduction of \$50,040. This change provides for increased Kauri dieback work as proposed by recommendation 37 of this agenda

High value pest control areas - Tutukaka

Recommendation:

42. That council supports the provision of an additional \$91,652 per year for biosecurity work in the high value pest control area of Tutukaka, as proposed in the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 Consultation Document and supporting information.

This recommendation does change what was proposed in the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 Consultation Document.

Discussion:

The Tutukaka community has been working with council for over five years through community pest control programmes and Environment Fund funding for pest control. This funding currently amounts to around \$50,000 per annum. The proposed funding will enable the Tutukaka community led pest control initiatives to continue and grow into a larger high value pest control programme, supporting the council's goal of a Pest Free Northland.

The original funding proposed in the LTP was for \$110,000, the recommendation for \$91,652 per year is a reduction of \$18,348. This change provides for increased Kauri dieback work as proposed by recommendation 37 of this agenda

High value pest control areas - Kai Iwi Lakes

Recommendation:

43. That council supports the provision of an additional \$124,980 per year for biosecurity work in the high value pest control area of Kai Iwi Lakes, as proposed in the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 Consultation Document and supporting information.

This recommendation does change what was proposed in the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 Consultation Document.

Discussion:

Council has been working with the Taharoa Domain since 2014 to undertake pest and weed control activities at the Kai Iwi lakes. The funding will support the growing and ongoing work in this area, and ensure that the ecological recovery of these iconic lakes is maintained and improved.

The original funding proposed in the LTP was for \$150,000, the recommendation for \$124,980 per year is a reduction of \$25,020. This change provides for increased Kauri dieback work as proposed by recommendation 37 of this agenda

High value pest control areas - Mangawhai/Waipū

Recommendation:

44. That council supports the provision of an additional \$166,640 per year for biosecurity work in the high value pest control area of Mangawhai/Waipū, as proposed in the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 Consultation Document and supporting information.

This recommendation does change what was proposed in the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 Consultation Document.

Discussion:

Council has supported more than 20 biosecurity Environment Fund projects in this area since 2010, and the community in this area is motivated to do more pest and weed control work. This funding will ensure this work can continue to grow and protect the high ecological values of this area.

The original funding proposed in the LTP was for \$200,000, the recommendation for \$166,640 per year is a reduction of \$33,360. This change provides for increased Kauri dieback work as proposed by recommendation 37 of this agenda

Summary of feedback received | Pest Management

Responses to this question demonstrated a preference for council's preferred option to step up a gear and spend an extra \$2.29 million on pest management, with 37.8% of submitters that responded to the question agreeing with this option. There was a more even split across the other two options for pest control, to do a bit more and spend half the preferred option (22%) and conversely, to go even further and spend more than council's preferred option (25%).

Submitters who agreed with **option 1 - do a bit more** and also made comment raised concern about rates increases, that council should apply for central government funding, that landowners should take responsibility, and also that landowners already face costs associated with pest management so shouldn't need to pay more. There was also some general support for pest management.

Submitters who agreed with **option 2 – step up a gear** (council's preferred option) were generally supportive of pest management, recognising its benefits and that more work needs to be done. Many comments related to specific areas and work that was being done. Submitters recognised council's role in pest management, and acknowledged the need for a coordinated approach and the importance of giving people the right information and resources. There was support for high value pest areas, and also support for providing funding to other areas that are not already recognised as high value, along with support for work in more populated and urban areas. There was support for Kiwi related pest control, and also comments that pest control shouldn't only be about Kiwi.

Comments also acknowledged the employment opportunities that arise from pest management, that contracts should be given to Northlanders, concern about the use of 1080, concern about the health impacts of privet, and noting that council needs to keep up with world research.

Submitters who supported **option 3 - go even further** with pest control raised concern about the rate of decline, noted increasing threats, and the value of biodiversity to the region. There was an acknowledgement that council provides supports to pest control initiatives and that this should continue, acknowledgement of marine biosecurity work, and concern about Kauri dieback, and that significantly increased investment is needed to address these threats. Funding comments included there should be an 'abuser pays' system, and that central government should contribute. There were several comments raising concern about the use of 1080, the impact of privet on health, and supporting more work in urban areas. Others commented that there should be a focus on specific areas, one at a time.

Submitters who selected **none of the above** commented that the current level of management was okay, that pest management wasn't achieving results, it wasn't important or not an issue. Issues already covered were mentioned, and there was also concern raised that cats and dogs were seen as pests and about the management of these animals, and concern that non-violent methods should be used, such as birth control. There were several comments that disagreed with extra spend due to rates increases, that council should just be more efficient or use existing funds, and discussing the use of skins/meat in economic enterprise. Several submissions acknowledged marine pest management and legal challenges around the marine biosecurity charge.

Several comments were received from submitters who **did not select an option**, with the majority of these comments being supportive of pest management. Other comments echoed concerns already mentioned, including references to the marine biosecurity charge and the inequity of a pest management rate verses a pest management user charge, concern about Kauri dieback, and that pest free goals are unrealistic. Other comments included that it was unclear which council was responsible and that facilities were needed to enable marine biosecurity.

Whangārei Heads rate

Six comments were made that specifically referred to the Whangārei Heads pest management rate. Of these, three comments wanted the current Whangārei Heads pest management rate to be retained, acknowledging the work that has occurred and the success of the funding. Comments also noted that if a region-wide rate was raised, that Whangārei Heads residents should not pay both this and the targeted rate. One comment supported the region-wide rate and a reduced targeted rate, to keep the community engaged. Two comments disagreed with the current targeted rate, stating that everyone should contribute to this activity.

4. Flood infrastructure rate

The recommendation to establish the flood infrastructure rate can be found in the 'changing the structure of rates' section of this report.

Recommendation:

45. That council supports the funding of 70% of the cost of new flood infrastructure capital work that meet the criteria of the Flood Infrastructure Fund, via the newly established flood infrastructure rate (FIR), making the portion of the rate to fund these works \$7.81 per SUIP/rating unit.
46. That council supports lowering the local contribution from 50% to 30% for ratepayers in the Awanui, Kaeo-Whangaroa, and Whangārei flood management areas.

This recommendation does change what was proposed in the Long-Term Plan 2018-2028 Consultation Document.

Discussion:

Of the 366 submissions on the Flood Infrastructure Rate (FIR), 46% supported the proposed 50/50 split (option 2) and another 30% supported a 100% contribution from the FIR (option 3). Only 16% favoured option 1 (User pays), and a further 8% supported none of the options. From this it can be concluded that 76% of submitters supported at least a 50% contribution from the FIR for new flood scheme works, but a significant 30% of submitters supported a 100% contribution from the FIR.

Feedback from 'Have Your Say' events generally recognised the need for new flood works, but concern was raised over the amount of the associated targeted rate, even with a 50% subsidy from the FIR, and many requested a greater contribution to flood schemes from the FIR. In light of this feedback, and the submissions referred to above, staff have modelled the impact of different FIR funding contributions (*refer table 1 below*).

The recommended 70/30 split, comprising 70% contribution from the FIR and 30% from the targeted rate, would see an increase in the portion of the region-wide Flood Infrastructure Rate that supports these projects of \$2.18 (GST inclusive), which sees it rising from the \$5.63 consulted on to \$7.81 inclusive per SUIP per year. This amount has been calculated based on the inclusion of all works as proposed in the consultation document. There are several recommendations in this report that would alter the timing of these works (see resolutions 53 and 54) however staff anticipate that these changes would have minor impacts on the per SUIP/rating unit amount per year. Staff will be available during the deliberations meeting to discuss this further with council.

The alteration to the split of contribution represents a transfer of funds collected from specific targeted rates to region-wide rates, and while this doesn't impact the total overall rate take of council, it will result in a 1.1% increase to the portion of rates collected on a region-wide basis.

The impact of this adjustment on the targeted rate is variable across the different flood schemes, but as an example, the increase in the targeted rate associated with Awanui Flood Scheme Option 1 (\$15 million capital works) would be 59.6% with a 70% contribution from the FIR, compared with the

81% targeted rate increase with a 50% contribution from the FIR which was proposed in the LTP. Increasing the FIR contribution to 70% has a significant benefit in reducing the increased targeted rate burden on communities such as Kaitaia and Kāeo, whilst having a modest impact (approximately an extra two dollars per SUIP per annum) on all ratepayers that contribute to the FIR.

Table 2: Modelled impact of different FIR funding contributions.

	CD Option 2 50/50 split - resulting Increase (decrease) in rates from 2017-18	Total Targeted Rate and FIR					
		30% subsidised capital by FIR		70% subsidised capital by FIR		100% subsidised capital by FIR	
		Increase or decrease from 2017-18	Increase or decrease from Consultation	Increase or decrease from 2017-18	Increase or decrease from Consultation	Increase or decrease from 2017-18	Increase or decrease from Consultation
Awanui	80.9%	102.2%	21.3%	59.6%	-21.3%	27.7%	-53.2%
Whangārei	8.7%	11.0%	2.3%	6.4%	-2.3%	2.9%	-5.8%
Kāeo / Whangaroa (including Matagirau)	24.2%	30.6%	6.3%	17.9%	-6.3%	8.4%	-15.8%
Taumārere (Kawakawa)	\$115,000	\$136,956	\$21,956	\$93,044	-\$21,956	\$60,112	-\$54,888
FIR	\$519,170	\$318,165	-\$201,005	\$720,176	\$201,006	\$1,021,684	\$502,514
FIR per SUIP	\$5.63	\$3.45	-\$2.18	\$7.81	\$2.18	\$11.07	\$5.45

Summary of feedback received | Flood Infrastructure

A large portion of people who responded to the question of how to fund flood infrastructure supported council's preferred option, **option 2 – Split the cost** (46%). Most of the comments associated with this option indicated a willingness to pay, noting community responsibility, fairness, maintaining connectivity across the region, and financial implications across the whole region. Several comments suggested other similar options, including a multi-tiered funding scheme where a lower amount is paid by all northlanders, a medium amount to be paid by far north residents, and ratepayers in a scheme area paying most. Others suggested the 50/50 arrangement only where council infrastructure and interests are at risk, that flexibility is needed where new dwellings are built in flood prone areas, and that the rates be lowered again once infrastructure is in place.

Other supporters of council's preferred option made comments about global warming and the urgency that is needed, mentioned the value of council expertise and mapping, that compostable erosion control is used so that it doesn't pollute when it eventually breaks down, raised concern about the impact of big business on flooding, and that council should consider a proposal for managed retreat.

Of the 16% who supported **option 1 - user-pays**, the most common comment was that people who bought land in flood prone areas should have to pay, as they will benefit the most, this land may have been cheaper, and those who purchased flood-free land should not have to subsidise them. There were also comments that those who aggravate flooding, and benefits from draining wetlands etc should also have to pay, and that farmers should pay more.

There were also comments about needing to be mindful about where development goes, and that councils should not have allowed people to build in these areas, and that council should assume liability for all ill-advised river reserve plantings by the catchment commission.

A large number of respondents, almost a third, selected **option 3 – everyone pays** as their preferred option for funding flood management. Comments associated with this option recognised that there was a need to share the load, and to get the work done, and that everyone benefits from the work. Specific considerations included the need to retain populations in these areas, to use the roads, and that there are impacts on the economy and the whole region when floods occur. A comment questioned other non-core spends when infrastructure is needed. Submitters comment that there would be unreasonably high rates burden to people in these areas with any other option, and that many families in this area are low-income.

Other comments included that council need to clear waterways and remove fallen trees and use works as an opportunity to create employment.

Submitters who indicated '**none of the above**' raised concern about rates increases in general and raised issues like those raised by the user-pays respondents, noting that people shouldn't be living in flood-prone areas.

Options for funding raised by these submitters included: borrow enough for 30 years then fund via rates; put a levy on the users of flooded roads; go at a slower pace, reduce the rates; split the costs three ways between all ratepayers, central government and affected properties; fund works 40:60 where the cost falls slightly more with the people most affected; split the funding private vs public on case by case basis using criteria. Submitters also commented that locals shouldn't be charged the targeted rate and the region-wide rate, and that the cost of the flood schemes needs to be weight against the costs of the assets that are at risk.

Other comments included that forest removal causes floods, there needs to be consideration of climate change, locals should be employed, there needs to be more money for flood management strategies within the Waitangi and other catchments, and general opposition of the schemes with a need for more consultation.

Where **no option was selected**, there were comments about development in flood-prone areas, opposition to maintenance of waterways, a request for funding improvisation between regions that have flooding hazards, and concern about the amount of impermeable surfaces.

5. Proposed new flood works - Awanui/Kaitaia

Recommendation:

47. That council supports the \$15 million 'Option 1' Awanui flood scheme upgrade proposal, as proposed in the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 Consultation Document and supporting information.

This recommendation does not change what was proposed in the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 Consultation Document.

Discussion:

Proposed works for the Awanui Flood Scheme constitute 72% of the capital budget for flood scheme works under the LTP. Of the 336 submissions on the Awanui Flood Scheme, 66% supported council's preferred option (Option 1), which includes a \$15 million upgrade to handle larger floods. Whilst there is clearly substantial support for the proposed upgrade submitters expressed concern about where the funds should come from and specifically the amount to be borne by local ratepayers.

There was strong turnout at the Kaitaia 'Have Your Say' event with approximately 60 people in attendance. To a large extent, the feedback received during this event mirrored the submissions

with strong support for the proposed \$15 million upgrade, and with the main debate on how to pay for the works and the need to seek additional external funding.

The analysis and consideration of the funding split between ratepayers in and around the affected areas and all ratepayers across the region is addressed in recommendation 45 and 46 of this report.

Summary of feedback received:

The majority of submitters that responded to the question of flood works for Awanui/Kaitiāia agreed with **Option 1 (our preferred option)**, to upgrade the scheme to handle bigger floods. 66% of respondents agreed with this option, with many of the comments echoing the message “Just get it done”. Other comments noted the need to be forward thinking, consider the chaos and disruption that floods bring, think long term, that there’s no other choice, and noted the increase of severe weather events as a result of climate change.

There were also comments, similar to those received as feedback on the Flood Infrastructure Rate, about buildings being located in flood-prone areas, and affected people needing to pay. Questions about how the scheme would be paid for were raised, and it was noted that central government should contribute and that funding should not be borne only by local ratepayers, while other comments noted that all ratepayers should cover the cost of protecting public areas.

20% of people who responded to the question selected **Option 2**, to make repairs only, with more similar comments about building in flood zones. Funding comments included that the work should be done over a longer period, that rating is unfair between urban and rural, that the work plan should be reviewed and made more cost effective, that the whole region should pay as communities cannot afford the rates, and that the rates should be dropped when the work is completed. There was a comment that the correct option will be determined by the outcome of funding models and what people can afford.

There were also comments about a lack of knowledge about the scheme and that the community should pay attention to the knowledge and mapping held by council.

Submitters who selected ‘**none of the above**’ noted the impact of climate change and forest clearance, the need to consider adaption in the long term rather than stop gap measures redevelop lake and wetland areas, and recommended other options such as planting programme for the whole catchment.

Funding comments included that enough rates had been paid, noted support for user pays, that council should stay within current budget and just be more effective, and that work should be funded more from urban than rural ratepayers.

Submitters that made comment **without selecting an option** noted both general agreement and disagreement with the scheme and echoed the comments mentioned above. There were also comments about the equity of farmers paying for flood mitigation that benefits the urban community, and questioning the cost for landowners further down the river.

6. Kerikeri-Waipapa

Recommendation:

48. That council supports ongoing flood works in Kerikeri-Waipapa, to be funded from the existing Kerikeri-Waipapa flood scheme reserve, as proposed in the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 Consultation Document and supporting information.

This recommendation does not change what was proposed in the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 Consultation Document.

Discussion:

Of the 296 submissions received 38% agreed and 15% disagreed with the proposal to not re-strike the rate and spend the reserve on the works now proposed in the LTP. There are effectively two parts to this question which has potentially complicated analysis of submitter responses. Comments from a few of the submitters in opposition clearly supported future flood works, suggesting that the targeted rate should be continued for future projects. As 85% of submissions in relation to the proposal are in support or neutral, staff do not recommend any changes to what was proposed in the LTP.

Summary of feedback received:

37.5% of people **agreed** with council's proposal not to re-strike the flood management rate, with mixed comments supporting ongoing work, and noting financial implications. There were comments about increasing needs for flood and stormwater management, that development should not have occurred in a flood zone, and questioning whether the reserve could be spent on an option for the storage of water.

Of those that **disagreed**, comments were made that the works are not supported, that they should be user pays, that the rate should continue until there are funds for future flood protection, and providing ideas of other areas where the reserve could be spent.

Submitters who were **neutral** or **didn't select an option** made comments about the accuracy of computer modelling and urging close monitoring.

7. Proposed new flood works - Kāeo-whangaroa

Recommendation:

49. That council supports the provision of an additional \$400,000 total funding from 2019/20 for floodway construction and channel benching works at Matangirau, as proposed in the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 Consultation Document and supporting information.
50. That council supports the provision of an additional \$750,000 total funding from 2024/25 for flood works at Kāeo (Kāeo Flood Scheme Stage II), comprising: widening of Waikare Creek (\$150,000); re-alignment of the Kāeo River (\$450,000); and deflection bank extension work (\$150,000), as proposed in the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 Consultation Document and supporting information.

These recommendations do not change what was proposed in the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 Consultation Document.

Discussion:

From the 317 submissions for the proposed new flood works for Kāeo-Whangaroa, 61% were in favour and only 9% opposed. Interestingly a number of the submitters who were opposed or neutral raised the option to re-locate the township of Kāeo instead of doing flood works. This was previously suggested by central government following the 2007 floods, and robustly rejected by the local community at that time. Re-locating the town would also incur a substantially higher cost than the proposed flood works.

There is strong support from the Kāeo-Whangaroa River Working Group with whom staff have developed the flood scheme proposals.

The analysis and consideration of the funding split between ratepayers in and around the affected areas and all ratepayers across the region is addressed in recommendation 45 of this report.

Summary of feedback received:

The majority of submitters who responded to the proposal for Kāeo-Whangaroa **agreed** with the proposal to spend an extra \$1.15 million. Comments include acknowledgement that there are serious flooding issues and a need to reduce the impact of flooding to protect people and property, with a feeling that there is no other choice. Comments also acknowledged that the area is an important transport link, and an area that needs a sustainable solution.

Comments from people who **disagreed** included several on managed retreat, moving the township or bypassing it. There were also comments on climate change and deforestation, and that it should be user pays. Comments from people who were **neutral or didn't select an option** also discussed managed retreat, with a comment that everyone should pay.

8. Proposed new flood works - Whangārei urban

Recommendation:

51. That council supports the provision of an additional \$950,000 total funding from 2018/19 for the lower Waiarohia stream flood overflow reduction project, as proposed in the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 Consultation Document and supporting information.
52. That council supports the provision of an additional \$50,000 total funding from 2022/23 for a basin wetland creation project at the Hopua te Nihotetea detention dam, as proposed in the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 Consultation Document and supporting information.

These recommendations do not change what was proposed in the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 Consultation Document.

Discussion:

Of the 294 submissions received 39% agree and 15% oppose the proposed works. It is noted that in many cases the neutral submitters were not residents of Whangārei. There was a relatively low public turn out at the two 'Have your Say' events hosted at Whangārei.

Staff have worked through the options with the Whangārei Urban Rivers Working Group which supports proposed works to raise the Level of Service for river flooding in the CBD to a 1:50 year flood.

The analysis and consideration of the funding split between ratepayers in the and around the affected areas and all ratepayers across the region is addressed in recommendation 45 of this report.

Summary of feedback received:

As with other flood schemes, those people who **agreed** with the proposal to spend \$1 million on the Whangārei flood scheme (38%), made comments about protecting people and property, stopping development on flood plains, charging the user, and being willing to contribute via a region-wide rate.

Those that **disagreed** (15%) commented that the CBD should be moved to higher ground, that no more money should be spent because a large amount has already been spent, and commented on deforestation and climate change.

Other comments included questioning whether the money is an effective use of funds, noted support for the creation of a wetland, and support for monitoring.

9. Proposed new flood works - Panguru

Recommendation:

53. That council supports the provision of an additional \$440,000 total funding from 2018/19 for the development of a flood scheme at Panguru, to be funded 100% from the Flood Infrastructure Rate. The works, budget, and funding arrangements are as proposed in the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 Consultation Document and supporting information, however the timing of the works is proposed to be brought forward to 2018/19 - 2019/20, with \$40,000 in 2018/19 (design and consenting) and \$400,000 in 2019/20 (construction).

This recommendation does change what was proposed in the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 Consultation Document.

Discussion:

Of the 334 submissions on these proposed flood works, 54% agree, 10% disagree and 36% are neutral. The Far North District Council (FNDC) has requested that this work be brought forward to years 1 and 2 to align with planned FNDC works (design and consenting in 2018/19, and implementation in 2019/20). An adjustment to project time frame is proposed in response to the FNDC submission, as well as other submissions received which request the works be brought forward.

Together with Councillor Blaikie, staff have attended working group meetings with community members at Panguru during 2017 to discuss the flood issues. It is clearly a community priority to make access along the West Coast Road possible during flood events. The most certain way of ensuring this is to raise a section of the West Coast Road immediately South of the township, and upgrade drainage at the road. River flood works should alleviate the flood situation, but road access during flooding cannot be guaranteed through river channel works alone. Collaboration is required with FNDC and the community to ensure that the desired community outcomes are achieved with the available funding.

A number of submissions expressed concern over rate increases associated with the proposed works, but as Panguru works are proposed to be 100% Flood Infrastructure Rate funded, there should not be a significant increase to local rates.

Summary of feedback received:

54% of people who responded to the question about the Panguru flood scheme **agreed** with the proposal. Comments from those who agreed acknowledged the impact of flooding on the community including schooling and employment, with one urging that the works be brought forward to stop the impact on education sooner. Other comments noted that high risk of the situation, the high costs of the floods, and that there is only one way out of the area.

Those that **disagreed** (9.5%) were concerned about rate increases, that users should pay, and raised concern about climate change and deforestation.

Of those who **did not clearly select an option**, there were comments about the work being funded by targeted rates, the need for monitoring, concern about students not being able to get to school, and a request from FNDC that work be re-timed to coincide with their funding for the same project to enable earlier resolution.

10. Proposed new flood works - Taumārere-Kawakawa

Recommendation:

54. That council withdraws the works proposed in the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 Consultation Document and supporting information, and not strike a targeted river management rate for this catchment.

This recommendation does change what was proposed in the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 Consultation Document.

Discussion:

From the 297 submissions 50% agree, 13% disagree and 37% were neutral in relation to the proposed works. Feedback from the community meeting held on 19 March 2018 showed there was a mix of support and opposition for the proposed river works in the Taumārere-Kawakawa catchment. There was debate on how to pay for these works and whether there had been enough consultation with the community regarding the specific works to be implemented from the proposed targeted rate of \$55.37 per year. There was also concern raised about the maintenance of existing drainage assets, and the effects of the proposed works.

Many of the submissions, including those in support of the proposed works, raised concern with the amount of consultation that had been undertaken by council in prioritising options, and insufficient consideration given to cultural and historical values.

The staff recommendation to withdraw the works from the LTP will allow additional time for community consultation and for further engineering investigations to be undertaken. The Otiria Stream benching work downstream of Turntable Hill bridge is to be undertaken in conjunction with NZTA, and will be largely funded by NZTA, as it promotes State highway resilience to flooding. Council contribution to these works can be made via the minor river works budget.

The Waiōmio Stream works and the Otiria Flood Spillway should be re-considered for a subsequent LTP or Annual Plan, once sufficient consultation and further engineering assessments have been completed. These further assessments will also allow staff to refine the cost estimates for Otiria Flood spillway, and further assess the downstream effects along the Waiharakeke Stream.

The proposed boundary of the targeted rating area was queried by stakeholders at the Kerikeri 'Have Your Say' event, on the basis that parts of the targeted rate boundary was outside of what could reasonably be considered to be representative of the Taumārere catchment area. This was primarily in relation to a number of properties that were located at the most downstream section (coastal confluence) of the river system and as a result of further consideration staff agree with the stakeholders view and have modified the rating boundaries accordingly. This has the impact of reducing the number of SUIPS in the rating area from 2077 to 1960, and as a consequence the targeted rate would increase from \$55.37 per SUIP to \$58.67 per SUIP to generate the same amount of revenue required for the project.

Should council decide to progress the Taumārere River capital works as proposed in the Long Term Plan 2018-2028, staff recommend that council supports the revised targeted rating area map (Map 1, Appendix 1) and sets the rate at \$58.67 per SUIP (GST Inclusive).

Summary of feedback received:

Almost half of the people who responded to this question **agreed** with council's proposal to spend \$2.9 million on a new flood scheme. Of those that agreed, submitters acknowledged the ongoing impact of floods on people and property, and the impact on roading and therefore the economy and regional development. Comments noted the urgency of the matter, and the need for resilience.

Other comments noted the impact on cycle trail users, that the works should be user pays, requested a focus on wetland creation as a tool for flooding, and asked for more consultation with the community.

Of those that **disagreed** with the proposal (13.5%) comments were made about deforestation and climate change, that land should have been wetlands, that the town shouldn't have been built on a flood plain and that a new flood risk plan should be prepared in conjunction with water quality and watershed management plan. Comments raised a lack of confidence in council's identification of problems, questioned whether the scheme will be effective, and raised specific concern at the proposal to install channel benching at Otiria stream. There was also concern at a lack of cultural assessment, and consultation with Iwi and Hapū.

Submitters who were **neutral** questioned whether it's possible to improve flooding, commented that work needs to be done in conjunction with Transit, and that consideration should be given to how much people will be affected, and not all properties in the area should pay the same. There were comments about a lack of consultation, and concern that the scheme is revenue gathering.

11. Working with Māori

Recommendations:

55. That council supports the provision of \$100,000 per year for a full-time equivalent staff member (including associated overhead costs) to effectively resource Māori engagement, as proposed in the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 Consultation Document and supporting information.
56. That council supports the provision of \$5000 in 2018/19 and 2020/2021, increasing to \$7000 in 2022/2023 and continuing every second year following, for sponsorship of the biennial Māori Business Awards, as proposed in the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 Consultation Document and supporting information.
57. That council supports the provision of an additional \$2000 in 2018/19, increasing to \$6000 from 2019/20, for a Northland Regional Council Tai Tokerau Māori Scholarship, as proposed in the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 Consultation Document and supporting information.
58. That council supports the provision of \$55,000 every year from 2020/2021 for a new Māori internship position (including associated overhead costs) as proposed in the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 Consultation Document and supporting information.
59. That council supports the provision of \$10,000 per year from 2019/2020 onward to support the Māori initiatives fund as proposed in the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 Consultation Document and supporting information.

These recommendations do not change what was proposed in the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 Consultation Document.

Discussion:

The current budget for Iwi Liaison has not changed for a number of years, however the landscape council works in has. New national policy directions and changes to existing legislation has seen a considerable increase in obligations for council to Māori. There has also been an increase in Treaty of Waitangi settlements as well as new negotiations that council is involved in. These and more require substantive input by specialist staff in order to ensure council is informed. Being informed also ensures council is aware of and working towards its enduring and meaningful relationships with tangata whenua.

Legislative compliance and delivering on council's area of focus and policies set the context for these proposed initiatives. Strong support (approximately 57%) was received for council to build the

capacity of council to engage with Māori and of Māori to engage with council. Staff therefore recommend that council support the proposals as outlined in the consultation material.

12. Communications/Enviroschools

Recommendations:

60. That council supports the provision of an additional \$25,000 per year for marketing and promotions, as proposed in the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 Consultation Document and supporting information.
61. That council supports the provision of \$15,000 for 2018/19 and 2019/20, increasing to \$20,000 from 2020/2021 for a community environmental awards programme, as proposed in the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 Consultation Document and supporting information.
62. That council supports the provision of an additional \$21,000 per year for work and equipment required to maintain online services, as proposed in the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 Consultation Document and supporting information.
63. That council supports the provision of an additional \$72,000 per year for a new full time equivalent position for social media management (including associated overhead costs), as proposed in the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 Consultation Document and supporting information.
64. That council supports the provision of \$20,000 per year for the first three years, increasing to \$22,500 from 2021/2022, and to \$25,000 from 2024/2025 for technical support to facilitate social media management, as proposed in the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 Consultation Document and supporting information.
65. That council supports the provision of an additional \$32,500 per year from 2019/20 onward for an additional Enviroschools early childhood contractor, as proposed in the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 Consultation Document and supporting information.
66. That council supports the provision of an additional \$5,000 per year to meet the demand for Enviroschools Biosecurity and WaiRestoration courses, as proposed in the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 Consultation Document and supporting information.

These recommendations do not change what was proposed in the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 Consultation Document

Discussion:

There is support (approximately 57%) for the need to improve engagement with Northland communities. Community engagement is an important function to ensure council is accessible to its communities and has a good understanding of the views and priorities of the people of Northland. Ongoing investment in technology and digital platforms and effective marketing channels and campaigns, will provide greater reach and improve council's ability to inform, engage and respond to its communities.

There are many committed groups and individuals across the region who are dedicated to the health and wellbeing of Northlands environment. An environmental awards programme would highlight this valuable work and formally recognise the many environmental achievements being made across the region.

Through the Enviroschools programme, council is creating a depth of environmental education and practice by working alongside schools and kindergartens across Northland. Feedback has supported the need to extend the programme to early childhood centres in Northland as proposed in the Long Term Plan 2018-28 Consultation Document.

Summary of feedback received:

The long term plan consultation sought feedback on the proposals for increased spend on connecting with communities and working with Māori together.

The majority of submitters who responded to this proposal **agreed** (approximately 57%), with comments acknowledging the need for community engagement and relationships building. Comments questioned whether the proposal is genuinely seeking meaningful relationship building, noted that more interaction with communities is wanted, and that there needs to be reviews to ensure tangible outcomes. Comments also requested an extension of the Enviroschools programme to include childcare and early education centres.

Other comments noted that poor engagement to date has meant Māori feel alienated and distrust council, that Māori need more representation in council, that Māori already make a significant contribution to Northland's economy and communities and that council needs a successful long-term relationship with this sector of Northland's community. One submitter commented that with settlements pending under Te Tiriti, councils must face a new reality of partnerships which are very real, and that councils will have to deal with a range of fully equal relationships with various hapū and iwi groups.

Submitters who **disagreed** with the proposal (21%) commented that the level of engagement is currently okay, that council should use existing resources, and raised concern about the proposed spending, suggesting that it's not a good use of ratepayers' money and council should focus on core business. Other comments included that the \$10,000 proposed for a Māori initiatives fund is insufficient, that there is growing demand to produce Iwi/Hapū Environmental Management Plans and Mātauranga Māori monitoring strategies, and Māori should be treated the same as everyone else.

The **neutral** and '**no option selected**' submissions tended to have similar comments as captured above, except for comment that connecting with communities and continuing to build relationships with Māori should be part of the culture of the organisation, and not an add-on that requires additional funding.

13. Customer Services

Recommendation:

67. That council supports the provision of an additional \$84,000 per year for a realignment and increase in capacity of the customer services front line team (including associated overhead costs), as proposed in the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 Consultation Document and supporting information.

This recommendation does not change what was proposed in the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 Consultation Document

Discussion:

The submissions indicate that customer service meets expectations, providing that staff are able to take the time to fully understand the customer's enquiry. The additional capacity proposed by this recommendation will allow better management of conflicting phone and visitor priorities, leading to a consistently high level of service. Under the expanded delivery model, customer enquiries can expect a full response at point of contact, or for more complex issues an accurate referral to a subject expert, and therefore staff recommend that council proceed with this proposal.

14. Governance and elections

Recommendations:

68. That council supports the provision of \$31,000 a year to increase funding for elected members expenses and allowances as required by the Remuneration Authority, as proposed in the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 Consultation Document and supporting information.
69. That council supports the provision of \$40,000 in 2019/20 and every election year following, for additional costs associated with elections as proposed in the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 Consultation Document and supporting information.

These recommendations do not change what was proposed in the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 Consultation Document.

Discussion:

The Local Government Act stipulates that the Remuneration Authority must determine elected members expenses and allowances. The proposed increase in elected members expenses and allowances reflects the increases determined by the Remuneration Authority which council is required to provide for. Equally, the Local Electoral Act stipulates that local authorities must hold elections on a triennial basis; therefore it is also considered appropriate to budget for their associated cost. Given that there were no submissions received specifically in relation to the governance proposals, staff recommend these proposals proceed as outlined in the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 Consultation Document and supporting information.

Summary of feedback received:

The long term plan consultation sought feedback on the proposals for increased spend on customer services, and governance and elections, together.

Over 40% of people who responded to the question about frontline customer services and governance **agreed** with council's proposal. Comments from those who agreed noted that an improvement in customer services was needed, noted support for initiatives that result in easier access to people who make the decisions, not being passed from one agent to another, and acknowledged the need to enhance communication with landowners and communities, to really understand issues, and agreed with improving the services, but within existing resources.

Those that **disagreed** (22% of people who responded) noted that customer service is adequate or excellent as is, and that the proposal was not an efficient spend of ratepayer money – that there are bigger priorities, and council needing to focus on core business.

The **neutral** and **'no option selected'** submissions made similar comments as above.

15. Economic development

Recommendation:

70. That council supports the provision of an additional \$81,000 per year for a full time equivalent position (including associated overhead costs) to support council's economic development activities, as proposed in the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 Consultation Document and supporting information.

This recommendation does not change what was proposed in the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 Consultation Document

Discussion:

Council established the role of an economist within the organisation in 2011. Over time there has been increasing demands placed on this service, from across the organisation and from external agencies and stakeholders such as local authorities and central government. In particular, opportunities to engage and work collaboratively with central government in the area of economic development will increase due to the establishment of the Provincial Growth Fund. The new role will also allow council to improve its relationship and support for Northland Inc and with external parties such as Amokura Iwi Consortium Ltd. In addition to work on economic development, the role will enable council to increase the level of economic analysis it can undertake on resource management issues and internal initiatives to increase the efficiency of the organisation. 50% of submitters were supportive of this proposed initiative.

Amokura Iwi Consortium Ltd sought greater acknowledgement and formal acceptance of the Taitokerau Māori Economic Growth Strategy as an iwi planning document and to ensure it has equality with the Regional Economic Development Action Plan. While not directly related to this proposal, nor necessarily appropriate for inclusion in the LTP, staff recommend further engagement with Amokura Iwi Consortium Ltd to fully understand what is being asked of council and consider further how this can be advanced.

16. Regional Planning

Recommendations:

71. That council supports the provision of an additional \$20,000 in 2018/19, and \$50,000 in 2019/20 and 2020/21 to progress stalled proposals for marine protected areas, as proposed in the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 Consultation Document and supporting information.
72. That council supports the provision of \$50,000 to complete the hearings process for the new Regional Plan, as proposed in the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 Consultation Document and supporting information.

These recommendations do not change what was proposed in the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 Consultation Document

Discussion:

Submitters did not raise concerns with councils proposal to provide funding support to progress marine protected areas. In considering this proposal, it's worth noting that initial signals from the new government is that the advancement of marine reserves is not a priority and iwi/Hapū continue to raised concerns with marine reserves as a mechanism to protect coastal waters. While staff support the initiative, it will not be easy to progress without central government, iwi/Hapū and community support and further consideration of councils approach will be required.

Again, submitters didn't raise concerns regarding councils proposal to provide additional funding to support the regional plan hearings. The regional plan hearings process is a mandatory requirement of the Resource Management Act 1991 and promotion of marine protected areas will assist communities to protect highly valued areas in the region.

Both proposals support councils vision and objectives and therefore staff recommend both proceed as per the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 Consultation Document.

Summary of feedback received:

The long term plan consultation sought feedback on the proposals for increased spend on economic development and regional planning together.

Exactly 50% of submitters who responded to this question **agreed** with the additional spend. Comments made by these respondents related mostly to economic development. These included acknowledgement that economic development is important for the region, general support for council's involvement in economic development and the need for council to take advantage of the PGF opportunities that are currently available. Other more specific comments mentioned that there should be a focus on poorer areas of Northland, that support for the proposal was linked to maintaining the funding for Creative Northland, and that more funding should be provided in increase council's capacity.

17% of people who responded to the question **disagreed** with the proposal. Concerns that were raised in the comments again focused on economic development. Comments included that it wasn't clear how the funding will be spent, questioned whether council is the best organisation to facilitate economic opportunities, that the spend is not good use of ratepayer money, that involvement in economic development was not a core function of council, and that council assets (Marsden marina) should be sold to provide funding.

The **neutral and 'no option selected'** submissions tended to make similar comments as above. A specific request was received for council to acknowledge and formally accept the Taitokerau Māori Economic Growth Strategy as an iwi planning document, and ensure it has equality with the Regional Economic Development Action Plan (see Amokura Iwi Consortium Ltd submission). Other specific comments requested that funding focus on ventures that will create employment (not Northland Inc.), that council work to improve efficiency in its operations, and questioned how the economic development position would interact with Northland Inc. One submission urged council to ensure that no-take marine reserves are established in and around 'kina barrens' and over-fished locations.

17. Maritime

Recommendations:

73. That council supports the provision of an additional \$71,000 per year from 2019/20 for a full time equivalent to increase the capacity of the maritime team (including associated overhead costs), as proposed in the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 Consultation Document and supporting information.
74. That council supports the provision of an additional \$15,000 in 2018/19, \$22,500 in 2019/20, and \$30,000 every year following, to fund an increase in remuneration for the region's harbour wardens, as proposed in the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 Consultation Document and supporting information.

These recommendations do not change what was proposed in the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 Consultation Document

Discussion:

Maritime officers are at capacity providing present services to council, with in particular summer workloads requiring staff availability 7 days a week. Bylaw enforcement is limited due to staff availability, and there has been a marked increase in enforcement demand in addition to increasing biosecurity, water quality, coastal monitoring and shipping work. Funding is required to keep up with present workloads and meet council's requirements for navigational safety. Maritime officers also deal with oil spill response and aid to navigation maintenance around the whole coast of Northland.

The 15 Harbour Wardens in Northland are invaluable to the Harbourmaster as 'eyes and ears' in areas that we are not regularly attended. They provide a valuable service, and have had no increase to their remuneration for 20 years. They reduce costs to the council by limiting unnecessary travel time for full time maritime staff to investigate initial reports of incidents, or visibly check the status of oil spills, they have the local knowledge of persons in the locality and their role in bylaw

enforcement is also required in the smaller harbours. It is recommended that the proposals proceed as per the Long Term Plan Consultation Document.

18. Transport

Recommendations:

75. That council supports the provision of \$50,000 per year from 2019/20, for an additional full time equivalent to increase capacity for transport project planning (including associated overhead costs), as proposed in the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 Consultation Document and supporting information.
76. That council supports the provision of a one-off payment of \$18,400 in 2019/20 to enable a regional investigation into disability transport need, as proposed in the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 Consultation Document and supporting information.

These recommendations do not change what was proposed in the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 Consultation Document

Discussion:

Currently one staff member is focused on the co-ordination and delivery of road safety initiatives through the compilation and monitoring of the Regional Road Safety Action Plan. The Government Policy Statement 2018 (GPS) lists safety as a strategic priority, and has signalled a new road safety strategy will be developed, and that increased monitoring and reporting will be required. The Transport Team is currently working at capacity, and requires additional resource to meet the increased demand in this field.

The Total Mobility Scheme, a national scheme subsidising door to door transport for eligible clients, is only in operation in the Whangārei District. Requests have been made in the past for a total mobility scheme to be provided in other parts of Northland, however neither the relevant district council, nor council, have been in a position to fund the local share. This proposal is for funding for a review of the transport needs in both the Far North and Kaipara districts, and is potentially an opportunity to look at combining disability transport needs with the wider community needs if, and where, possible for the short term.

The long term aim is to encourage the district councils to consider funding the local share required (to uplift the NZTA subsidy) for the provision of a full total mobility scheme, which council would administer as it does currently for Whangārei.

There was very little direct reference to either of these initiatives in the submissions.

Summary of feedback received:

The long term plan consultation sought feedback on the proposals for increased spend on maritime and transport activities together.

The majority of submitters who responded to this question **agreed** with the proposal (58%). Comments in agreement focussed on maritime activities, supporting safety of people on the water, noting that it would be good to see more attention given to monitoring and bylaw work, raising concern that bylaws are routinely flouted in smaller harbours and beach areas (jet skis and speeding boats), and that attention should be given to preventing oil spills. There were also comments supporting spend to achieve better management overall, supporting efforts to develop rail and shipping (e.g. moving Auckland's port operations to Northland), and acknowledging cycling and walking.

Of the 12% of submitters that **disagreed** with the proposal, comments included general disagreement with any rates increase and that council should stay within existing budgets as ratepayers can't afford increases, raised concern that it was not clear what the funding is for, and noted that licence fees are more successful than subsidising public transport.

The **neutral and 'no option selected'** submissions made similar comments as above, also noting that council should use funds available through the provincial development fund. One submitter commented on the council's Regional Land Transport Strategy, and asked that council explicitly references He Tangata as the parallel document to the regional economic action plan. (See Amokura Iwi Consortium Ltd).

19. Corporate Excellence

Recommendations:

77. That council supports the provision of an additional \$100,000 per year for a human resources manager (including associated overhead costs), as proposed in the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 Consultation Document and supporting information.
78. That council supports the provision of an additional \$70,000 per year for a full time equivalent (including associated overhead costs) to enhance financial management, as proposed in the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 Consultation Document and supporting information.
79. That council supports the provision of an additional \$152,000 in 2019/20 and 2020/21, and \$112,000 every year following to cover costs associated with necessary information technology consolidation and improvement, as proposed in the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 Consultation Document and supporting information.
80. That council supports the provision of an additional one-off cost of \$90,000 in 2020/21 to repaint the exterior to the council's Whangārei office to keep it in good repair, as proposed in the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 Consultation Document and supporting information.

These recommendations do not change what was proposed in the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 Consultation Document and supporting information.

81. That council supports the provision of an additional \$15,000 in 2018/19, increasing to \$40,000 by 2020/21, for vehicle running costs, as proposed in the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 Consultation Document and supporting information.
82. That council supports the provision of an additional \$68,000 in 2018/19, increasing to \$254,000 by 2020/21 for depreciation to allow for replacement of new capital assets, as proposed in the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 Consultation Document and supporting information.
83. That council supports a reduction in capital expenditure for corporate services by \$70,000 in 2018/19 and \$80,000 to reflect a reduction in the number of new vehicles.

These recommendations do change what was proposed in the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 Consultation Document and supporting information.

Discussion:

Staff recommend provision of additional corporate services to support the council's proposed additional work (especially for water, native life and floods) set out in this report. The recommendations support the council's community outcome of efficient and effective service delivery.

The proposed increases to council's core activities will result in increased demand for corporate services. Staff costs are a significant cost to council, so ensuring the efficient management of increased numbers of human resources is critical to the effectiveness of council operations. We need to ensure we make robust, well informed financial management decisions as we expand our activities. There will be a greater need for improved and consolidated information technology (IT), more vehicle use, and an increased need to provide for depreciation (as council will have more capital assets). We also need to ensure we keep the Whangārei office in good repair.

Whilst not a popular submission topic, more submitters agreed than disagreed with the proposal to increase support within the organisation, to have enough vehicles, and to be able to replace assets. Further analysis has been undertaken on the number of new vehicles required to support the delivery of the proposed new initiatives. This has resulted in a reduction in the recommended number of new vehicles, which reduces the vehicle running costs and depreciation costs required. This reduces the capital expenditure required by \$150,000, the cost of vehicle running costs by \$40,000, and the cost of depreciation by \$65,000, over years 2018/19 to 2020/21.

Many submitters supported a move towards electric vehicles. The council currently has 10 electric vehicles, and prioritises the purchase of electric vehicles when they meet business needs, including range and vehicle type.

Summary of feedback received:

Of those who responded to the question of spending more on increasing support across the region, 34% **agreed** with the proposal, with a large number of comments noting support for a move toward the use of electric vehicles. Other comments acknowledged the need for the organisation to be adequately resourced to carry out its functions.

Of those that **disagreed** (28.5%), comments were made that funding could be better spent on other things, raised concern about rates and that council should stay within existing budgets or be more efficient, or noted that it wasn't clear what the funding was for or how it would make a difference.

The **neutral** and '**no option selected**' submissions tended to make similar comments as above.

Proposed additional areas of spend

This section outlines additional projects, over and above what was included in the Consultation Document, which were either suggested by submitters or have been worked on by staff since the Consultation Document was publicly notified.

Staff have provided a brief assessment of each proposal, including the impact on rates, and ask that councillors consider whether these projects should be progressed as part of this Long Term Plan 2018 - 2028. Staff have assessed the proposed projects and have provided recommendations in a prioritised order broadly based on their contribution to council delivering its core functions, level of community support and environmental impact.

The impact on the overall rates increase as a result of these proposals is summarised in **Table 3**, below.

Table 3: Impact on rates of proposed new areas of spend

	Year 1		Year 2		Year 3	
	additional funding	average % increase	additional funding	average % increase	additional funding	average % increase
As consulted Excluding local transport & flood rates, incl GST		29.2%		8.1%		4.1%
Environment Fund			130,588	0.6%	112,117	-0.1%
Far North Nursery			66,285	0.3%	66,285	0.0%
Depreciation for Far North Nursery					6,250	0.02%
Monitoring FTE			70,000	0.3%	70,000	0.0%
Enviroschools Courses					5,000	0.02%
Enviroschools Contractors					72,000	0.3%
Upgrade IT systems	100,000	0.5%	150,000	0.6%	150,000	0.0%
Rates changes excluding local transport & flood rates, incl GST		0.5%		1.8%		0.2%
Rates increases excluding local transport & flood rates, incl GST		29.75%		9.9%		4.3%

20. Information Technology

Recommendation:

84. The council supports the provision of an additional \$100,000 in 2018/19 and \$150,000 per year in 2019/20 and 2020/21 for an additional resource and consultant support for the information technology team, to be funded from the Council Services Rate.

This recommendation is in addition to what was proposed in the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 Consultation Document.

Discussion:

Council proposed an additional \$152,000 in 2019/20 and 2020/21, and \$112,000 every year following to cover costs associated with necessary information technology consolidation and improvement (resolution 79). Of those who responded to councils support services proposals (which included information technology), 34% agreed with the proposals noting the need for the organisation to be adequately resourced to carry out its functions. While public support for support services, is understandable lower than for those activities that directly contribute to improved environmental outcomes, never the less, information technology is critical to council's ability to deliver an efficient environmental and regulatory services.

Since the development of the Long Term Plan 2018/28 Consultation Document it's become more apparent that councils increasing levels of reliance on information technology is greater than what can be supported by the proposed budgets. Particular areas that are not progressing a quickly as desired include council's transition to mobilise digital recording and data logging for compliance monitoring, hill country erosion activities and mooring monitoring.

Should council support fast tracking the transition to mobilised digital data recording and logging, then staff recommend that this is best achieved by a mixture of an additional full-time equivalent to support business-critical applications and systems, and consultants to help deliver one-off projects where differing skill sets will be required on a project-by-project basis.

Should council choose to support recommendation 84, this would result in an increase of 0.5% to the overall region-wide rate for 2018/19.

21. Far North Nursery

Recommendations:

85. That council supports additional capital expenditure of \$300,000 in 2019/20, and \$250,000 in 2020/21, for land purchase and development of a far north poplar and willow nursery, to be funded from both council's Property Reinvestment Fund and the Forestry Equalisation Fund.
86. That council supports the provision of an additional \$6,250 in 2020/21 for depreciation on the development of infrastructure for the Far North poplar and willow nursery, to be funded from the Council Services Rate.
87. That council supports the provision of an additional \$66,285 from 2020/21 for a full time equivalent Far North land management and nursery advisor, to be funded from the Land Management and Freshwater Management rates.

These recommendations are additional to what was proposed in the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 Consultation Document.

Discussion:

Feedback received demonstrated very strong interest in the community for sediment and soil erosion management and improving water quality, with over 75% of submitters either agreeing with council's preferred option to spend \$2.2 million to step up a gear (45%) or go even further (30%). Should council wish to "go even further", staff have identified that the local supply of locally derived poplar and willow materials is key for council to deliver the mid and far north catchment plan objectives and meet the demands for planting materials for soil conservation works on farm in the far north.

This is to begin the development, establishment, and management of a poplar and willow nursery in the far north, including land purchase and required facilities and equipment, to enable the acceleration of the far north soil conservation programme.

Should council wish to “go even further”, it’s recommended that budgeted funds (both capital and operational) be brought forward from years 4 - 10, to years 2 – 3, over and above that which was consulted on for those years, to accelerate councils poplar and willow nursery expansion programme.

22. Environmental Monitoring

Recommendation:

88. That council supports an additional \$70,000 per year from 2019/20 for an additional full time equivalent monitoring officer, to be funded from the Freshwater Management rates.

This recommendation is in addition to what was proposed in the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 Consultation Document.

Discussion:

The new government has strongly signalled that there will be further changes to the National Policy Statement Freshwater Management and for councils to put more resource into environmental monitoring and enforcement. Implementation of the existing requirements of the NPS Freshwater Management, growing national drive for good quality environmental data and having more data to support land use/water quality models is placing greater pressure on monitoring resources. In addition, while government direction on the management of drinking water in response to the recommendations of the Havelock North Drinking Water Inquiry is still pending, it is expected that regional councils will be expected to put greater effort into the management and protection of drinking water catchments. An example being to increase council monitoring of groundwater bore integrity.

The recent cyanobacteria bloom in Lake Omapere has also shown that the council needs to be able to divert resources into responding to such ‘unplanned’ events at short notice, which can place significant pressure on staff to complete the delivery of planned work that is put aside to respond to those unplanned events.

Feedback received demonstrated very strong interest in the community for sediment and soil erosion management and improving water quality, with over 75% of submitters either agreeing with council's preferred option to spend \$2.2 million to step up a gear (45%) or go even further (30%). Staff are concerned that the additional 4 FTE monitoring officers proposed in the LTP 2018-2028 consultation material may not be sufficient to meet these increasing demands, which have arisen either more recently or are now more apparent than when the LTP was being developed. Therefore, should council wish to “go even further”, staff recommend an additional FTE monitoring officer to deliver our monitoring services.

23. Enviroschools

Recommendation:

89. That council supports the provision of an additional \$5,000 per year from 2020/21 to meet the demand for Enviroschools Biosecurity and WaiRestoration courses to support delivery of the Enviroschools Strategy to be funded from the Council Services Rate.
90. That council supports the provision of an additional \$72,000 per year from 2020/21 for a new full time equivalent position and associated resources to support delivery of the Enviroschools Strategy to be funded from the Council Services Rate.

These recommendations are additional to what was proposed in the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 Consultation Document.

Discussion:

Through the Enviroschools programme, council is creating a depth of environmental education and practice by working alongside schools and kindergartens across Northland. Since the development of the Long Term Plan 2018/28 Consultation Document, staff have developed an Enviroschools Strategy which aims to offer the Enviroschools programme to all Northland schools and early childhood education centres (currently 152 schools and 157 early education providers). The strategy also seeks to work with local tertiary providers, for example NorthTec, to develop vocational pathways which increase the skills and opportunities required to create/or obtain employment in Northlands environmental sector. To deliver the Northland Enviroschools Strategy, council will need to allocate a further 4 FTE.

The ability to provide environmental teachings to students of Northland's Māori immersion classes in mainstream schools and/or Northland kura Māori and kohanga reo is also included in the Enviroschools Strategy. Toimata Foundation, who sponsor the national Enviroschools programme also sponsor Te Aho Tu Roa who deliver a national environmental programme in te reo Māori. Funding of \$30,000 per annum is recommended to support this programme in Northland.

Council has proposed an additional 0.5 FTE Enviroschools resource in 2019/20. While Enviroschools resourcing was not a specific consultation point, council did receive feedback supporting the need to increase and extend this programme, including into early childhood centres in Northland.

Staff recommend an additional FTE and \$5000 in 2020/21 to support course delivery should council wish to extend this programme within this Long Term Plan 2018-2028. Should council agree with this proposal, then staff will seek to progress the additional 3 FTE through the 2021/22 LTP.

24. Land and water

Recommendation:

91. That council supports the provision of an additional \$130,588 in 2019/20 and \$112,117 in 2020/21 to bring the additional amount available in council's Environment Fund during these years up to \$500,000, and supporting land management and biodiversity projects, to be funded from the Land Management and Freshwater Management rates.

This recommendation is additional to what was proposed in the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 Consultation Document.

Discussion:

Feedback received demonstrated strong interest in the community for sediment and soil erosion management and improving water quality, with over 75% of submitters either agreeing with council's preferred option to spend \$2.2 million to step up a gear (45%) or go even further (30%).

Increasing the amount of funding available for landowners through the council's environment fund will help to increase the rate of uptake of riparian management works recommended by council staff, including fencing and planting to stabilise erodible land. Active riparian management has multiple benefits relating to the council's mandated responsibilities, such as improving water quality through a reduction in sediment from bank erosion and inputs of bacteria from stock effluent. It also supports improved biodiversity values via better aquatic and terrestrial habitat.

Should council wish to "go even further" to improve water quality and sediment control, staff recommend that council's environment fund be increased by \$500,000 in the 2019/20 and 2020/21 (which is an increase of \$130,000 and \$112,000 respectively over that proposed in the Long Term Plan consultation material). This would also support the work of new land management advisors that were proposed in the Long Term Plan, and will increase the outreach to landowners in the lead up to the implementation of new rules in the proposed new regional plan.

25. Joining the LGFA

Recommendation:

92. That council determines to join the Local Government Funding Agency as a guarantor member, as proposed in the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 Consultation Document and supporting information.

This recommendation does not change what was proposed in the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 Consultation Document and supporting information.

Discussion:

By joining the Local Government Funding Agency (LGFA) as a guarantor member, the council can access up to 175% of its annual revenue (approximately \$64 million) of low interest borrowing, an increase from \$20 million as a non-guaranteed member.

As a guarantor member of the LGFA, council are liable for 0.4% of a defaulted loan, if another LGFA member defaults on its loan payments. Staff consider both the risk of this happening, and the financial consequences to be low, as a plausible scenario (\$400,000 on a \$100 million loan).

The recommendation to join the LGFA supports the council's community outcome of efficient and effective service delivery. Access to the additional funds allows us to fund a greater number of long term projects, particularly flood schemes, at low interest rates - resulting in a lower burden on current and future ratepayers.

On balance, submitters agreed with the proposal to join the LGFA as a guarantor member, but expressed reluctance to take on too much debt. While the council could access approximately \$64 million of borrowing from the LGFA, the total proposed loan balance in 2027/28 is well below this, at \$42.9 million.

Summary of feedback received:

Close to half of the submitters who responded to the question about council joining the LGFA **agreed** with the proposal (46%). Comments noted agreement with more money being available to invest in key community assets and infrastructure (e.g. flood schemes) and the lower borrowing costs. Some noted cautious support with reluctance to take on too much debt.

Of the 26.5% that **disagreed** with the proposal, comments noted the need for some borrowing, but raised concern that the amount proposed was excessive. Many comments raised concern about council accruing (more) debt, the costs of servicing, changes in interest rates, ability for council to make good economic decisions, borrowing more in current economic climate, and ratepayers having to foot the bill. There was also a comment that council should seek to have the Government supply Reserve Bank funding for capital works projects.

The **neutral** and '**no option selected**' submissions tended to make similar comments as above.

26. Funding for emergency services

Recommendation:

93. That council continues to support emergency services via the emergency services rate and that council makes this emergency services fund non-contestable, as proposed in the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 Consultation Document and supporting information.
94. That council supports the continuation of the allocations of funding to: the Northland Emergency Services Trust (\$525,000 per year); St John, Northern Region (\$90,000 per year); and Coastguard, Northern Region (\$84,000 per year);

95. That council supports an increased allocation of funding to Surf Life Saving Northern Region (of \$200,000 per year) for sustaining the regional lifeguard service at 6 Northland beaches.
96. That council adds Far North and Northland Search and Rescue (\$20,000) to the list of organisations supported by the emergency services rate.
97. That council increase the emergency services rate from \$11.76 per SUIP/rating unit by \$0.51, to \$12.27 to cover the increased allocation to Surf Life Saving, Northern region and the new allocations to Far North and Northland Search and Rescue.

This recommendation does change what was proposed in the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 Consultation Document

Discussion:

The community continues to strongly support council's financial support for emergency services through the emergency services fund, with support indicated by 92% of submitters. There was also reasonably strong support for council to make the funding non contestable, thus providing greater certainty of funding to those organisations and greater certainty of levels of services provided to the Northland community.

Submissions were received from two currently funded organisations for increased funding. Surf Life Saving seeking an increase from \$120,000 (\$140,000 this year) to \$201,000 per year in order to provide certainty of sufficient funding to provide the regional life guard service at the six current Northland beaches, the increase being primarily to cover minimum wage increases and increased health and safety requirements. Coastguard submitted seeking an increase from \$84,000 to \$130,000 per year for additional volunteer recruitment and training initiatives. In addition, submissions were received from Far North and Northland Search and Rescue and Volunteering Northland sought funding of \$10,000 - \$20,000 to assist training volunteers and providing basic equipment.

Council also sought feedback on whether the community supported council providing financial support to YES (Youth in Emergency Services). Subsequently ongoing funding has been secured for the running of a YES programme at one Northland town per year, and those involved in running the programme have advised that is all that can be sustainably supported and therefore no additional funding is needed from the fund.

Taking into consideration the need for the extra funding requested, and balancing that against the overall pressures on rate increases Council faces in these deliberations, staff recommend that funding support for Surf Life Saving be increased to \$200,000, that Far North and Northland Search and Rescue, be provided \$10,000 respectively (\$20,000 in total), and no increase in allocation to Coastguard. While Coastguard presented a worthy case for additional funding, they are a substantial organisation with multiple funding sources and it is considered that the Far North / Northland Search and Rescue and Surf Life Saving are more in need due to their more limited and uncertain funding sources.

If council supports those recommendations it would require a \$0.51 (GST inclusive) rate increase per rating unit, taking the rate to \$12.27 (GST inclusive) per rating unit.

Summary of feedback received:

A very large number of submitters who responded to the question of continuing to fund emergency services and make the funding non-contestable **agreed** with council's proposal (92%). Comments in support acknowledged that the services funded are vital or essential, noted that non-contestable funding provides greater certainty of being able to provide ongoing services and future planning, and that demand for the services is only going to increase with growing population and tourist numbers.

Other comments registered support but noted that more funding should come from central government and raised concern that central government will see the regional council as an open cheque book. There were comments both in support of and opposition to funding Youth in Emergency Services, and a submission requesting \$130,000 for Coastguard.

Submitters who **disagreed** (3%) made comments that the services should be funded by central government and that communities shouldn't have to pay. Concern was raised that the funding should be contestable or that the funding should be made available to other emergency services e.g. Search and Rescue and Volunteering Northland, and that it should be up to individual ratepayers which charities they fund. A comment stated that NEST doesn't need three helicopters to carry out their service.

The **neutral and 'no option selected'** submissions tended to make similar comments as above, with the addition of a request for increased funding for Surf Life Saving Northern Region to provide the desired level of service in the face of increasing costs (particularly labour costs) - an increase from \$120,00 per year to \$201,000 per year and reviewed annually. Another submission provided a comprehensive submission suggesting that instead of funding Coastguard, the funds should go on a range of other projects for the boating community.

27. Funding for regional sporting facilities

Recommendations:

98. That council supports the establishment of a regional sporting facilities rate at a fixed rate of \$17.25 a year per SUIP/rating unit ('option 1'), to provide funding support to assist the development of sporting facilities across Northland that are of regional benefit, as proposed in the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 Consultation Document and supporting information.
99. That council allocates funds from the sporting facilities rate to Northland projects of regional significance or benefit where a project is identified and financially supported in relevant Territorial Authority's Long Term Plans, is on the Northland Sports Facilities Plan schedule and has substantially met schedule criteria, is a sporting facility not active recreation facility, involves a new build or significant extension of a current facility (not maintenance or refurbishment) and the fund is used for construction and construction management only.
100. That staff prepare a paper for the July 2018 council meeting outlining the allocation process and procedures to cover the three years of the LTP 2018-2028.

These recommendations do not change what was proposed in the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 Consultation Document

Discussion:

The completed Northland Sports Facilities Plan 2014 is the lead document for new regional or district-level sports facility development/redevelopment in Northland. The Plan was a partnership between Sport Northland (lead), Council and Sport NZ (both co-funders) and the three district councils. The Plan provides a high level strategic framework for sports facilities planning. It is designed to focus thinking at a network wide sports facilities level with emphasis on international, national, regional and district level assets, while also capturing local level facility data.

The Plan has since led to the development of a schedule of projects across the region. The schedule identifies the need for a wider pool of funding for projects apart from the 'local share' where a project is of regional significance and benefit. Public feedback favours the use of a targeted rate across the region to fund such projects and only the regional council can strike such a rate.

Summary of feedback received:

The question of providing funding for the development of sporting facilities of regional significance was the subject of a pro-forma submission campaign, where Kaitiāia residents collected responses from others, and provided these to council. Over 1500 of these pro-forma submissions were received, with each submission completed on a full council submission form. As such each was treated as an individual submission.

Almost 95% of people who responded **agreed** with council's preferred option to establish a new rate to help develop regional sports facilities. The majority of comments received supported a sports hub in Kaitiāia, or more specifically, a heated or hydrotherapy pool in Kaitiāia. Comments included that the facility is needed to support youth and elderly, noted a lack of facilities in Kaitiāia, and noted benefits for health and wellness, and in attracting people to the area.

There were 26 submissions received agreeing with the proposal and supporting a contribution to the Northland Football Hub at Tikipunga, citing benefits for the long term sustainability and growth of the district and region.

There was also a submission received supporting the development of the Ruakākā recreation centre, requesting that council fund a third of the cost of the project. The submission was accompanied by 1005 letters of support.

Of those submitters (1%) who selected **Option 2 – to support** development to a greater or lesser degree, several comments supported a greater contribution of at least \$20 a year, with other comments that it should be user pays.

Submitters (2.5%) who selected **Option 3 – don't support regional sports facilities** and leave it to district councils, made comments that it should be user pays, it's not NRC business or is a district council responsibility, that money should be used for debt, or that alternative funding sources should be sought.

Similar comments were made for those who selected **none of the above**, with additional comments that council should also support creative/arts needs in the region, that recreational dog areas are needed, that a community hub for the elderly and disabled is needed, and raising concern that some areas will miss out.

Submitters who **did not select an option** commented in general support, raised concern about limited facilities for the elderly and disabled, raised points related to a sports hub in Kerikeri, and discussed recreational facilities at Opononi.

28. Continuing the regional infrastructure rate

Recommendation:

101. That council supports the continuation of the regional infrastructure rate at a rate of \$3.49 per \$100,000 land value in the Whangārei district, \$2.78 in Kaipara district and \$3.14 in the Far North district, to fund activities relating to the development and/or completion of the regional infrastructure projects, as proposed in the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 Consultation Document and supporting information.

This recommendation does not change what was proposed in the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 Consultation Document

Discussion:

To date, the regional infrastructure rate has been used to support the progress of the Marsden Point Rail Link. Continuation of the rate provides flexibility for it to continue to be used for this purpose or to support alternative investment opportunities across Northland including, but not limited to, rail,

digital, water, roading or other infrastructure. Submissions received favoured the continuation of the rate, citing rail as well as investment options other than rail.

Summary of feedback received:

Almost 80% of submitters who responded to the question of whether to continue the regional infrastructure rate **agreed** that it should be continued. The majority of comments that discussed the need for infrastructure including roading, rail, digital and projects that benefit the community. Other comments included that money should be spent on infrastructure that results in reduced emissions, and requesting a facility for the elderly and disabled.

Of those that **disagreed**, comments included concern about any rates increase, supporting rail, questioning why rail hasn't happened yet, and that not all areas would benefit.

Submitters who commented after selecting a **neutral** response questioned the proposal and requested more detail.

Others who made comment **without selecting an option** mentioned rail, free public transport, and Northport. Comments also acknowledged the need for digital connectivity, and the need to build resilience.

29. Transport

Whangārei transport rate

Recommendation:

102. That council supports an increase in the Whangārei transport rate of \$7.56, to allow for improvements to be made to the service as proposed in the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 Consultation Document and supporting information.

This recommendation does not change what was proposed in the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 Consultation Document

Discussion:

The CityLink Whangārei operational contract was reviewed and released for tender in 2017. It was awarded to the incumbent operator, Ritchies, and a number of improvements have been added to the service, resulting in an appropriate increase to the annual contract price. Improvements proposed include running services on all routes for longer on Saturday afternoons, an extension of the Fairway Drive route to include Winger Crescent, the retention of the Okara Park route, and the introduction of a new route to the Gumdigger Place industrial area returning to Rose Street via Kioreora and Port Roads.

Bike racks capable of carrying two adult sized bikes are also proposed to be fitted to the front of all vehicles. Passengers will also notice the fleet is being refreshed at present, with new upholstery and linoleum, and an update of the outside colour and decals.

The proposed rate increase of \$7.56 will take the total rate up to \$21.46.

Trailing additional public transport

Recommendation:

103. That council supports an additional increase in the Whangārei transport rate of \$2.50, to fund a trial of alternative transport services to Hikurangi, Whangārei Heads and Ruakaka/Waipū as proposed in the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 Consultation Document and supporting information.

This recommendation does not change what was proposed in the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 Consultation Document

Discussion:

Requests have been made over the past 18 months from both members of the public, and Whangārei District Council Councillors, for transport services to Hikurangi, Whangārei Heads and Ruakaka/Waipū. Past trial bus services (daily workers and shoppers trips) to two of those areas were not strongly supported by residents and were withdrawn. A variety of possible alternative solutions have been identified, including the potential to support various types of services already in operation, and staff will engage with residents on the best fit for each community. The possibility of providing the SuperGold Card concession will be explored with NZTA. The district wide rate will provide operational flexibility, and is consistent with the Far North district-wide rate proposal discussed above.

Should council support this increase of \$2.50 in addition to the \$7.56 (recommendation 102) this will take the overall rate to \$23.96.

Summary of feedback received:

48% of submitters who responded to the question of trialling public transport were in **agreement**, with specific mention of support made for One Tree Point/Ruakaka/Waipū (eight comments), Hikurangi (three comments), Ngunguru/Tutukaka (three comments), and Whangārei Heads (two comments) as well as the Dargaville, Whangārei Hospital, Mangawhai, and Whatuwhiwhi. Comments of support noted the importance of public transport for employment, reducing cars of the road, reducing social isolation and contributing to sustainability.

Of those who **disagreed** (12%), the majority of comments were that buses should be a user pays system. Other comments included that buses should be managed by district councils, and that buses won't work. Similar comments were made from those who were neutral.

Those who made comment **without selecting an option** were generally supportive, and particularly supported a trial to Hikurangi (five comments), citing the advantages of access to public transport, as well as mentioning Whangārei Heads and Ruakaka, and commented that they valued these trials over CityLink.

Far North transport rate

Recommendation:

104. That council supports the establishment of a district-wide rate for transport in the Far North of \$8.80 per SUIP, to fund the investigation and provision of transport services, as proposed in the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 Consultation Document and supporting information.

This recommendation does not change what was proposed in the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 Consultation Document

Discussion:

Current transport services operating in the Far North District, and contracted to the council, are Far North Link, Mid North Link and Hokianga Link. These services have been funded by a targeted rate for a designated area near the bus route, with the exception of Hokianga Link which was funded from general rates. NZ Transport Agency (NZTA) subsidies were also uplifted for these services, and have again been applied for through the 18/21 Regional Land Transport Plan. As council is aware, an error in the map provided for the 16/17 and 17/18 Annual Plans led to a refund being processed for some ratepayers (the FNDC have this process underway at the time of writing and should be completed before the end of 17/18 financial year). The investigation into this error concluded that,

in addition to tighter administrative controls, a district-wide rate would allow for trial services to be implemented, operated and managed with much more flexibility, without negatively affecting a rates resolution, ensuring that a repeat of this type would not re-occur. Staff recommend that funding proceed via a district wide rate.

The current group of Link services will be reviewed during the latter part of 2018, with a view to increasing services to smaller more isolated communities where possible. This also ties in with the request for funding for a study into the transport needs of disabled residents, scheduled for 19/20, where possible joint solutions will be explored. The possibility of providing the SuperGold Card concession on the smaller services will be explored with NZTA.

Feedback relating to services needing more promotion are noted and this will be addressed. Submitters can also be assured that money collected in the Far North district will only be utilised for service solutions in the Far North district.

Summary of feedback received:

The majority of people who responded to the proposal to change transport rates **agreed** (55%), with comments acknowledging the need for public transport and expressing a need for services in various individual areas, and isolated communities. Submitters acknowledged that money needs to be spend to avoid a 'catch up' situation down the track, and considered social, safety and emission factors. Support was registered provided funds are spend in the district that they're collected from. Comments also included that gold card holders should be able to travel for free, that more promotion was needed, and that plans need to be flexible until real customer demand is established.

Of those that **disagreed** (13%), comment was made that only urban areas should be rated as they benefit, raised concern about rate increases and costs, stated that bus services are district council business, and questioned how well the services were used.

Neutral responses included comments that the system should be user-pays, raised questions about the use of services, that the mid-north bus trial was poorly planned and executed, and that more discussion and planning is needed.

Submitters who **did not select an option** noted general support, raised some location-specific queries, questioned usage of the services and supported rail.

30. Stop funding Creative Northland

Recommendation:

105. That council stops funding Creative Northland, as proposed in the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 Consultation Document and supporting information.

This recommendation does not change what was proposed in the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 Consultation Document

Discussion:

Northland Inc is council's economic development agency (a Council Controlled Organisation). As such, the proper process for council to provide economic development related funding and support services is through Northland Inc. Councils support for Creative Northland was on the basis that Creative Northland provides support to build the arts sectors business capabilities and capacity. Councils direct funding support for Creative Northland is currently an anomaly as all other economic development related support is channelled through Northland Inc.

While feedback in support of stopping this direct funding to Creative Northland is only 10% more than those who disagreed and wished the funding to continue, staff are still of the view that all of

councils economic development support should be channelled through Northland Inc. The appropriate avenue for Creative Northland to seek future financial support from council is therefore through direct discussions with Northland Inc. To clarify, the proposal, as notified, is that Creative Northland's funding directly from council will stop. There is no proposal that that funding be transfer to Northland Inc. but simply that any further support for Creative Northland needs to be considered through the proper processes by Northland Inc. and considered against other economic development priorities that Northland Inc., and indirectly council, support.

Summary of feedback received:

Of those who responded to the question of whether council should stop their contribution to Creative Northland, over 40% **agreed** with the proposal to stop. Those who agreed made comments that costs need to be kept down, funding should be fairly allocated, the funding results in duplication with district councils, and that the funding should be stopped but only temporarily and the viability of Creative Northland be reassessed.

Of those that **disagreed** with the proposal to stop funding (30%), comments raised acknowledged the value of the arts and the work of Creative Northland, raised concern about not funding the arts and creative activities, and raised concern about Northland Inc and its role generally and with the arts. Submitters noted the other non-core activities that council supports.

Submitters who were **neutral** or **did not select an option** made comments similar to those that disagreed.

31. Rating Policies

Recommendation:

106. That council supports the rating policies (including the policy on the remission and postponement of rates on Māori freehold land) as consulted on and to be included in the Long Term Plan 2018-2028.

This recommendation does not change what was proposed in the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 Consultation Document and supporting information.

Discussion:

Section 102 of the Local Government Act (LGA) requires council to adopt a policy on the remission and postponement of rates on Māori freehold land and enables council to adopt policies on rates remissions and rates postponements. Sections 108 and 109 of the LGA require the policies to be reviewed at least once every six years.

The Far North, Kaipara and Whangārei district councils collect rates on Northland Regional Council's behalf. In order to minimise the marginal cost of collection, and for administrative efficiency, council has previously adopted the rates remission and postponement policies and policy on the remission and postponement of rates on Māori freehold land of each of the three district councils. While these policies differ from council to council, it would be administratively inefficient to adopt uniform policies across the region and then require each district council to apply two sets of policies.

The recommendation supports the council's community outcome of efficient and effective service delivery. The advantage of adopting the policies set by each of the three Northland district councils is that it would be administratively efficient for each district council who administers our rate collection in their respective district to only apply one set of policies. Ratepayers will also avoid possible confusion by having a single approach to all of their rates.

The reasonably practicable options are:

1. That the council supports the Policies on Rates Remission and Postponement Policies (including the policy on remission and postponement of rates on Māori freehold and) of each of the three Northland district councils, or
2. The council establishes its own policies to be applied on a regional wide basis.

On balance submitters support the rating policies. Many of the comments on the rating policies actually related the rates costs, affordability or structure - which are not part of these policies.

Summary of feedback received:

40% of people who responded to the question of making updates to our rating policies **agreed** with the proposal, with comments noting general agreement for required updates. Of those that **disagreed** (10%) concern was raised about rates in general, that introducing capital value rating leads to unnecessary increase, and raising questions about the changes.

Submitters who indicated a **neutral response** questioned what the updates were with one raising concern that affordability has not been adequately accounted for, and was not transparent in determining funding.

Those that **didn't select an option** raised concern about the rate increase, particularly for those on fixed incomes. They also recommended that council develop a consistent Rating Policy on Māori Freehold Land, asked that council reconsider the Rating policy, Remissions Policies, and the Fees and Charges Policies, and requested the assessment of affordability, raising questions about transparency.

32. Revenue and financing policy

Recommendation:

107. That council supports the Revenue and Financing Policy as consulted on, to be included in the Long Term Plan 2018-2028.

This recommendation does not change what was proposed in the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 Consultation Document.

Discussion:

The current Revenue and Financing Policy was included in the 2015-25 Long Term Plan and will expire on 30 June 2018. In order to comply with clause 10, Schedule 10 of the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA), it will be necessary to adopt a new Revenue and Finance Policy before adoption of the 2018-28 Long Term Plan, and this will happen in June this year.

The recommendation supports the council's area of focus of efficient and effective service delivery.

The Revenue and Financing Policy has been prepared in accordance with sections 101, 102 and 103 of the LGA and sets out how council intends to fund its operating and capital expenditure. In setting the Revenue and Finance Policy council is mindful of trying to achieve the right balance in terms of who benefits and who pays for services against affordability and wider social benefits.

On balance submitters support the proposed updates to the Revenue and Financing Policy.

Summary of feedback received:

32.5% of people **agreed** with the proposed updates to our revenue and financing policy, making comments in general support. Those that **disagreed** (10.5%), raised concern about the rates increase and spending in general, and asked for more information.

Submitters who registered a **neutral response** or **didn't indicate an option** were generally unsure about the proposal, raised questions about affordability and transparency and agreed with the proposal providing that more funding for Mana Whakahono a Rohe collectives was factored in.

33. Significance and Engagement Policy

Recommendation:

108. That council supports the Significance and Engagement Policy, as consulted on in the Long Term Plan Consultation Document and supporting information, for inclusion in the Long Term Plan 2018-2028.

This recommendation does not change what was proposed in the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 Consultation Document.

Discussion:

Council is required to adopt a Significance and Engagement Policy under section 76AA of the Local Government Act 2002. The current policy was reviewed prior to the consultation process, resulting in the removal of duplication and development of a new layout providing a more straightforward explanation of what is significant. The policy was also amended to ensure that the future setting of any new rate, or the increasing of any existing rate by any amount, will be considered significant and result in consultation.

Some of the feedback received on the proposal to make changes to the policy, raised concern about affordability and transparency. Both of these issues are addressed by these recent changes, which provide for a greater degree of transparency with the community in terms of rates. The policy also continues to consider meaningful engagement with Māori.

A comment was also made in relation to dog management which is not a regional council responsibility and is not addressed here.

Summary of feedback received:

33% of submitters that responded to the question about updates to council's significance and engagement policy **agreed** with the proposal, with comments acknowledging the value of engagement.

Of those that **disagreed** (8.5%), comments registered general disagreement and objection related to the marine biosecurity charge.

Submitters who registered a **neutral** response or **didn't select an option** made comments indicating that they weren't familiar with the policy, raised concern about affordability and transparency, and requested that any issue impacting dogs or dog owners be considered significant. Several comments supported building Māori capacity and engagement, ensuring the interests of Iwi and mana whenua are equitably catered for, and noting general concern that Mana Whakahono a Rohe be considered.

Other matters

Council received feedback on a wide range of matters not addressed in the consultation document - this section addresses that feedback.

Where there were a number of submissions providing feedback on the same matter, these have been grouped together and summarised and assessed below. Feedback on matters that didn't fall into one of the groups below are addressed individually in Appendix 2 and resolution 115.

34. Economic Development/Northland Inc

Recommendations:

109. That council supports the current arrangements for funding and operating the Investment and Growth Reserve and the Community Investment Fund as set out in the Supporting Information to the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 Consultation Document.
110. That council supports the proposed level of operational funding for Northland Inc. Limited as set out in the Supporting Information to the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 Consultation Document.

These recommendations do not change what was proposed in the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 Consultation Document

Discussion:

A review was recently undertaken of Northland Inc and council's role in economic development, as part of a broader review of the services Northland councils provide for supporting economic development (Section 17A, Local Government Act 2002). The conclusion of the review was that Northland Inc. generally provides a value for money service. The review also looked at how council fund's economic development initiatives, and generally supported the current approach.

A number of specific projects were suggested by submitters for council support. The correct process to seek council financial support for economic development related projects is through Northland Inc.. Northland Inc. will review the proposed project and, if supported, will work with the proponent to progress an application to councils Investment and Growth Reserve (IGR) for funding support.

In their submission, Northland Inc. Limited request an increase in their annual operational funding from \$1.2M to \$1.9M, and this allocation be available for them to spend on any work programme. This total is derived by summing the \$1.2M current operational funding, \$300,000 for business case assessment and \$410,000 for extended regional promotions. By including this third component they are seeking to continue, on a permanent basis, the level of funding provided by a three-year project investment for extended regional promotions from the IGR that finishes on 30 June 2018.

The current settings for the funding and operation of the IGR and the Community Investment Fund (CIF), as set out in the supporting information to the LTP 2018-2028 Consultation Document, are summarised below.

- The IGR is funded by an annual redirection of \$1.7 million from council's investment income.
- Council is proposing to inflation-adjust the \$1.7 million annual allocation with an annual transfer from the CIF.
- According to the IGR criteria and procedures for the allocation of funding, Northland Inc.'s operational funding is limited to what is budgeted in council's Long Term Plan. The proposed Long Term Plan currently has a budget of \$1.246M for 2018/19 increasing to \$1.538M in 2027/28 (adjusting for inflation).

- CIF revenue earned up to 7.5% will be reinvested in the fund (except for the portion required for the inflation adjustment of the IGR).
- Any annual revenue over 7.5% will be brought to council to decide whether to reinvest in the CIF or include in the IGR balance.
- Council maintains the ability to make a discretionary transfer from the CIF to the IGR. To ensure the integrity of the fund, it should not move below \$12.5 million.

The revised criteria and procedures for the allocation of funding from the IGR, agreed by council on 20 February 2018, made a number of changes including an increase in funding set aside for business case assessment from \$200,000 to \$300,000 and delegated authority to Northland Inc. for the allocation of business case assessment funding up to the value of \$100,000, without requiring the need to formally seek council approval. Under the new criteria council maintains the earmarked \$300,000 for business case assessment within the IGR. Payment is made to Northland Inc. on a case-by-case basis, upon receipt of an invoice accompanied by evidence of a Board decision to fund a business case assessment. Decisions on funding any single business case assessment of \$100,000 or more require a council resolution.

These changes were made to give greater responsibility to Northland Inc. and to streamline the funding allocation process for applicants. To date there have been no requests made to council to fund business case assessments that have been agreed to by the Board of Northland Inc. Given the new process has not been used yet, it is difficult to assess whether there is any need to change these arrangements. Therefore, until such time as the new system has been tested, staff recommend that the proposal to allocate the \$300,000, earmarked for business case assessment, as operational funding to Northland Inc., not be supported.

Northland Inc.'s proposal that council allocate to them an additional \$410,000 per annum in baseline operational funding has been raised by Northland Inc. in various workshop discussions held with council relating to the development of their Statement of Intent (SOI) 2018-2021. By way of background, when Northland Inc. was established in 2012, through council's Long Term Plan 2012–2022, an initial baseline level of operational funding of \$1.1 million was put in place. This quantum was set based on the level of funding that council was providing at that time to Destination Northland for regional promotions (\$350,000) and Enterprise Northland for other economic development services (\$750,000). This initial baseline has been inflation adjusted over time and now totals \$1.246M.

The forecast budget for the IGR, as set out in the Supporting Information to the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 Consultation Document, indicates that council has around \$540,000 available in each year of the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 to fund both business case assessments and to allocate to projects through the Enabling Investment category of the IGR. Assuming the \$300,000 is fully allocated each year, the allocation of an additional \$410,000 to Northland Inc. is therefore not possible without altering the current operational arrangements of the CIF.

Council has recently reassessed its policy around managing the CIF and confirmed that it would like to continue to build this fund while maintaining flexibility to allocated funds should specific investment opportunities present themselves. Allocating money from the CIF to increase Northland Inc operational funding will reduce council's capacity to invest in future projects.

The operational funding allocated by council to Northland Inc. is provided without any direction from council on how it is spent. It is up to the Northland Inc. board to prioritise the allocation of its operational funding across its various work programmes, including to fulfil its Regional Tourism Organisation role and functions. Council has expressed the view through a number of discussions with Northland Inc. that they need to focus and prioritise their activities and seek increased funding from alternative sources (including central government and private sector contributions) rather than relying so heavily on regional council to increase its operational funding budgets.

For the reasons stated above, staff recommend that the current arrangements for funding and operating the IGR and the CIF, and the level of operational funding for Northland Inc., as set out in the supporting information to the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 Consultation Document, remain unchanged.

Recommendations:

111. That council supports the replacement of the current list of objectives for Northland Inc. Limited in the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 with the following list:

- Advocate and promote the establishment and development of infrastructure that underpins regional economic growth.
- Attract, facilitate and support investment opportunities in regionally strategic sectors.
- Promote Northland as a progressive and positive place to visit, do business and live.
- Provide and facilitate business support services that enable Northland businesses to grow.
- Increase innovation and entrepreneurship in Northland.
- Partner with Māori to develop and implement economic development projects for the benefit of Northland.
- Support and facilitate the implementation of the Tai Tokerau Northland Economic Action Plan.
- Support tourism product development and infrastructure as enablers of Northland's tourism sector.

112. That council supports the replacement of the current key performance measures and targets for Northland Inc. Limited in the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 with the following list:

Work programme	How we will measure	2017/18 result	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Investment and infrastructure	Percentage of IGR business case decisions (by the Board) made within 90 days of receiving application	New measure	100%		
	Number of inward delegations hosted	New measure	4	4	4
	Investment recommendations are accompanied by a robust business case	New measure	100%		
	Number and value of high impact projects that are implemented	New measure	2	2	2
Business innovation and growth	Number of unique businesses assisted (by TA and industry)	225	230		
	Value of NZTE and Callaghan Innovation grant funding facilitated	\$1.5M	\$1.5M		
	Client satisfaction (as measured by Net Promoter Score)	New measure	75% (NPS 50)		
	Orchard occupancy rate	45%	60%	65%	70%

Regional promotion and tourism	Visitor spend from target markets	New measure	\$1,052M	\$1,099M	\$1,146M
	Value of industry investment in regional promotion activity	\$340,408	\$350,000		
	Equivalent Advertising Value achieved from destination marketing	\$15M	\$16.5M		
	RTO Net Promoter Score	New measure	40		
Action Plan	Percentage of milestones completed	New measure	100%		
Māori economic development	Number of unique Māori businesses assisted (by TA and industry)	New measure	30		
	Number and value of high impact projects that are implemented	New measure	1	1	1
	Value of NZTE and Callaghan Innovation grant funding facilitated for Māori businesses	New measure	\$50,000		
	Client satisfaction (as measured by Net Promoter Score for Māori businesses)	New measure	75% (NPS 50)		

These recommendations do change what was proposed in the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 Consultation Document

Discussion:

The list of objectives and key performance measures and targets for Northland Inc. Limited set out in the Supporting Information to the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 Consultation Document were based on those in place at the time of preparation of the document. Subsequent to the development of the Supporting Information council has held a number of workshop discussions with Northland Inc. Limited on the development of their Statement of Intent (SOI) 2018-2021. As a result of these discussions, a revised list of objectives and key performance measures and targets have been developed by Northland Inc. Limited. These are set out in the recommendations listed above. Agreeing to these changes will ensure alignment between council's Long Term Plan and Northland Inc. Limited's SOI.

Recommendation:

113. That council supports the inclusion of the following list of regionally strategic sectors for the Investment and Growth Reserve (IGR) in the Long Term Plan 2018-2028

- Agriculture and Horticulture
- Marine
- Tourism
- Digital

This recommendation does change what was proposed in the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 Consultation Document

Discussion:

At its meeting on 20 February 2018 council agreed to a revised version of the Criteria and procedures for the allocation of funding from the IGR. Clause 10.b.ii of the Criteria states that projects eligible for Enabling Investment grant funding must align with council's priorities for economic development, including the development of regionally strategic sectors as identified in council's Long Term Plan. Council asked Northland Inc. Limited to provide a list of regionally strategic sectors to include in both their Statement of Intent 2018-2021 and council's Long Term Plan 2018-2028, to give effect to this clause.

Northland Inc. Limited provided the following list as part of the Board approves Statement of Intent 2018-21: Agriculture and Horticulture, Marine, Tourism, Digital. Aquaculture, Green, Food and Beverage. Given the limited funds available over the next three years staff are concerned that the list of regionally strategic sectors is too broad and doesn't provide sufficient focus for both Northland Inc. and the Investment and Growth Reserve. It's therefore recommended that this list be further refined and staff recommend that the focus should be on Agriculture and Horticulture, Marine, Tourism and Digital.

Summary of feedback received:

In their submission, Northland Inc. Limited request an increase in their annual operational funding from \$1.2M to \$1.9M, and this allocation be available for them to spend on any work programme. This total is derived by summing the \$1.2M current operational funding, \$300,000 for business case assessment and \$410,000 for extended regional promotions. To provide for this increase in their operational funding, Northland Inc. suggest that all the investment returns generated by the CIF (≈\$800,000-\$900,000 per annum) be transferred into the IGR. Adding this to the \$1.7M annual investment income already redirected into the IGR results in an additional \$650,000 per annum available for investment into projects after taking into account the \$1.9M operational funding of Northland Inc.

There was also some support for council being involved in economic development from other submitters who either supported an increase in funding to Northland Inc or expressed concern should current levels of funding be reduced. However, some concerns were raised by other submitters about council's role in economic development including the funding of Northland Inc. Some considered that council should be putting more money into ventures that create employment rather than Northland Inc. There were also some specific projects for which submitters sought council support for including sorting out the Opuia to Kawakawa rail and bike track, rail tourism in Whangārei and Northport's intention to facilitate cruise ship berthing.

35. Grouped Submissions

Where there were a number of submissions providing feedback on the same matter, these have been grouped together and summarised and assessed below. Feedback on matters that didn't fall into one of the groups below are addressed individually in Appendix 2 and resolution 115.

Recommendation:

114. That council does not make any changes to the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 as a result of submissions on these topics: Climate Change/Sustainability, Core Business, District Council Matters, Finances, GE/GMO, Governance, LTP Process, Mangroves, Mining/Industry, RMA and Roothing/Rail.

This recommendation does not change what was proposed in the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 Consultation Document.

Climate Change/Sustainability

Discussion:

Council has made significant investment and progress in flood protection initiatives which consider climate change factors. Council has also proposed significant investment in water management (including \$385,000 extra per year by 2021 to look after dune lakes and wetlands) and another \$881,000 a year by 2021 to better understand water resources. Other initiatives include provisions in the Proposed Regional Plan relating to water quantity limits, water efficiency, metering and storage.

Council recognises the significance of climate change and will work with central government and LGNZ in determining responses. Local government has more of a role in adaption rather than mitigation which is primarily a central government role. Electric buses are a future possibility if the technology becomes readily available given council has a role in supporting bus services, however council does not have a direct influence on electrification for rail.

Council has supported measures to reduce pollution locally (e.g. SeaCleaners) and nationally (supported restrictions on use micro-beads). In terms of bans on plastics, such measures are more appropriately pursued by central government.

Council does not manage waste facilities but supports minimisation.

Summary of feedback received:

Fourteen submitters suggested that council's operations and planning need to address or factor-in climate change and sustainability generally. Examples included stressing the need for flood protection as the climate changes, council preparing a strategy for minimising rubbish and lowering emissions, encouraging electric vehicles, and council to fund a strategy for dealing with plastic pollution.

Core business

Discussion:

Council's rating structure has been reviewed as part of this consultation process with staff recommending that six core general rates be struck. The three most significant proposals being progressed in this LTP being water, pest management and flood infrastructure are directly related to councils core business

Summary of feedback received:

A few submitters suggested that council should be focusing on core business.

District council matters

Discussion:

This feedback will be passed on to the relevant district council(s) for their consideration.

Summary of feedback received:

Nine submitters raised various issues that are within the functions of district councils and not within the functions of the regional council. Issues included bilingual road and names, the state of the entrance into Kaitaia, wanting more bus shelters in Whangārei and resourcing for staff to follow up on conditions issued in property titles.

Finances

Discussion:

Costs of funding are always considered as part of any decision to proceed with a proposal. A number of options for funding are considered including private bank borrowing and various mechanisms for borrowing. The preferred option is generally that which is most effective for ratepayers.

Council does not use an international accounting firm to "do its books", these are done by council staff and audited by an international accounting firm as assigned and approved through the Office of the Auditor General. Council does pay GST, however all budgets, except cash flows, are expressed as GST exclusive.

Summary of feedback received:

Feedback in in this category included:

Comments on the financial system in terms of private bank borrowing and the costs of this way of doing things, question use of international accounting firm, question why expenditure is GST exclusive - Diagram of where money comes from - all comes from ratepayers, and that council should consider alternative mechanisms for borrowing.

GE/GMO

Discussion:

Long Term Plans do not influence GMO decisions. The matter of GMO's has been considered as part of the Regional Policy Statement and (following resolution of appeals) the Regional Policy Statement includes a precautionary approach to GMO.

Council can participate in proposals for use of GMO through EPA processes and can fund this through operational budgets / by resolution of council if needed (council often responds to national/local initiatives as part of its day to day business).

Summary of feedback received:

There was considerable feedback urging the council to maintain and protect the GE and GMO free status of Northland and place strong precautionary and prohibitive GE/GMO provisions, policies and rules in the Long Term Plan and the new Regional Plan and other sound environmental policies.

Various submitters also requested that council return to the original precautionary and prohibitive GE policy (that was in various previous council Long Term Plans since the 2004-14 LTCCP) and the \$10,000 contingency fund (in the event of any EPA approved outdoor GE applications for Northland).

Governance

Discussion:

The make-up of the regional council and its governance are outside the scope of the long term plan process.

Northlands four local authorities have increased their collaborative work programme highlighted in the document Northland Forward Together.

Council's tendering policy and employment policy are operational policies and are outside the scope of the long term plan process.

Summary of feedback received:

Feedback in this category included:

- concern about the governance of the regional council
- questioning whether the regional council is needed at all
- council should review the benefits of a unitary authority
- council needs to include wider representation in its governance
- council should give preference to local contractors and employed positions
- council needs to work better with the district councils

LTP Process

Discussion:

Staff will carry out a project debriefing after the conclusion of the long term plan which will also look at any shortcomings in the consultation process for future improvements. It is noted that while some people made comments about the shortcomings of the process via their submissions, particularly in relation to the Have Your Say events vs hearings, the feedback received at the events themselves was very positive with many people preferring the new approach. The Have Your Say events aimed to enable better engagement with council over a greater geographical area than traditional hearings would allow.

Staff strive for continuous improvement of the consultation process, and will work at identifying opportunities for this.

Summary of feedback received:

Twenty one submitters provided feedback under this category. While there was some support for the consultation process used (e.g. a well-written consultation document, good submission form), most of the feedback in this category were critical of the process, including:

- Limited opportunities to engage with council officers in a meaningful manner.
- Not everyone has access to computer and internet or can make the meetings. More discussion and input needed from the elderly and disabled residents and ratepayers in focus groups or organisations.
- Submitter concerned about way fellow attendee of a workshop was treated
- More effort should be made to engage with ratepayers before preparing the draft LTP
- Very disappointed about there being no hearings
- Concerned that far north residents have very few opportunities to address elected members.
- Concerned that submissions on other council plans don't appear to have informed the LTP
- Not enough information provided - too high level
- Notes the effort and thought put in the LTP
- Supportive of draft proposal and the work of council.

Mangroves

Discussion:

The Proposed Regional Plan includes provisions on the removal of mangroves (including for the purposes of maintaining drainage) and the matter will be considered in response to submissions. Council has not budgeted funds to assist community groups to remove mangroves as its not deemed to be a priority.

Summary of feedback received:

The feedback on mangroves was mixed - some urging council to fund communities to remove mangroves and others that disagree with mangroves being allowed to be removed.

Mining/Industry

Discussion:

Environmental effects of industries are regulated under the Resource Management Act 1991. It is not within the scope of the long term plan. Council is currently in the process of developing a new regional plan which addresses many of the environmental concerns raised in the feedback. However there are some exceptions - for example carbon emissions, plantation forestry and mining permits - which are generally regulated by central government.

Summary of feedback received:

Strong opposition was expressed by a number of submitters to any consent for mining at Puhipuhi. Some submitters were also concerned about the environmental effects of particular industries - such as chemical and timber industries, bee keeping, aquaculture forestry, air quality and industrial development in rural areas.

RMA

Discussion:

Freshwater is allocated in accordance with policy/rules in regional plans and the processes set out in the Resource Management Act 1991 - allocation is also guided by direction in the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management. It is acknowledged that allocation is an issue in some areas where demand is high, and council intends to prioritise investigations into such areas of high allocation (but this depends somewhat on the outcome of decisions on the Proposed Regional Plan).

Applications for water takes are processed in accordance with the Resource Management Act 1991 (including determining affected party status and notification decisions). Consent processes are not a Long Term Plan matter.

While council monitors farm dairy effluent discharges and compliance with regional rules, it reserves the right to vary the amount of resource put towards advice and assistance, noting there are industry bodies with expertise / capacity for this who levy farmers for such services.

Council has signalled that it wants to put more resources into managing water quality. Council is proposing to investing heavily in additional resource to improve water quality and in particular to reduce sedimentation (a combined value of \$2.2 million extra per year by 2021. Also, all consented wastewater treatment systems are monitored to ensure compliance with conditions of resource consents.

Council will respond to invitations for Mana Whakahono A Rohe (Mana Whakahono) in accordance with its obligations under the Resource Management Act 1991.

Council will continue to work with Northland's district councils on the management of horticultural and agricultural land. The Regional Policy Statement includes direction to district councils on how they should manage this issue.

The Regional Air Quality Plan and Proposed Regional Plan include controls on outdoor burning including restrictions on the burning of certain materials. A number of materials are also prohibited from being burnt on the basis of health effects.

Summary of feedback received:

There was a range of feedback in this category:

- Concerns about the water take resource consents currently under application for the Aupouri Peninsula
- Council should invest in developing a collaborative water allocation strategy.
- Council should increase its efforts in enforcing and supporting dairy farmers to better manage farm dairy effluent discharges.
- Council should increase monitoring of the Mangawhai Community Waste Water Scheme and review the resource consent.
- Sewage disposal polluting the Kawakawa, Taumārere, and Opuā River.
- A request to initiate a Mana Whakahono Ā Rohe with the Taia Mai ki te Marangai Resource Management Unit.
- Good quality horticultural and agricultural land needs to be protected from development
- Need to have more stringent controls for land clearing.
- Need to ban outdoor burning

Roading/Rail

Discussion:

The council's Regional Land Transport Committee (RTC) is awaiting further guidance from the government as to how regional rail fits into the Government Policy Statement (GPS) priorities, and if its potential implementation will be subsidised through the Regional Land Transport Plan. The government has advised a review of rail is required, and this will be addressed in a second stage GPS (GPS 2) due for release sometime in late 2019.

In regards to dust monitoring and the dust from unsealed roads, the monitoring programme outlined in the Regional Land Transport Plan has been updated, and the RTC and council staff continue to work with the three district councils to progress this matter.

Suggestions relating to carpooling and electric transport will be considered as part of the alternative transport solutions being developed.

Summary of feedback received:

There were requests for greater consideration for the provision of rail transportation (freight and passenger), suggestions for improving specific roading infrastructure, and that a lot more need to be done to address dusty unsealed roads.

Suggestions were also received to better utilise existing carpooling schemes and electric transportation, both as a means of providing transport, and for reducing emissions.

36. Individual Submissions

There are a number of individual submission points which did not relate directly to a topic being consulted on and didn't fit into one of the groups of submission points listed above. These individual submission points have been collated and considered by staff, as listed in Appendix 2, and staff recommend that no changes be made to the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 as a result of these submissions.

Recommendation

115. That council adopts staff recommendations outlined in the attached spreadsheet (Appendix 2) as council decisions, and do not make any changes to the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 as a result of these submission points.

This recommendation does not change what was proposed in the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 Consultation Document.

37. Strategic Direction

Recommendation

116. That council supports the Vision, Mission, Values and Areas of Focus (Community Outcomes), as set out in the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 Consultation Document and supporting information document.

This recommendation does not change what was proposed in the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 Consultation Document.

Discussion:

There were no submissions received that specifically made comment on council's proposed Vision, Mission, Values and Areas of Focus (Community Outcomes). However, there were many comments that indicated support for the work council is proposing to do which are tied back to delivering on council's strategic direction as articulated through the Vision, Mission, Values and Areas of Focus. Staff therefore recommend that no changes be made to the strategic direction included in the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 supporting information document.

38. Capital expenditure

Recommendation:

117. That council supports the capital expenditure required to support council's ongoing activities as included in the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 supporting information document, subject to specific resolutions elsewhere in this report.

This recommendation does not change what was proposed in the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 Supporting Information document.

Discussion:

Capital expenditure is required to support all of the activities council undertakes, and this is generally funded from council's retained earnings, with any associated depreciation funded from rates relative to the activity that the capital spend supports. The proposed capital expenditure for the period of the long term plan was set out in the supporting information document.

These areas of spend have been reviewed and reconsidered in line with feedback received via the consultation process, and proposals for changes made for the spends on corporate excellence (a reduction), the land and water activity (an increase for far north nursery), and for flood protection schemes (Taumāre and Panguru). These proposed changes have been addressed with individual recommendations in this report.

39. Targeted region-wide rate increase

Recommendation:

118. That council supports a total 29.2% average rate increase of the combined council services rate, freshwater management rate, pest management rate, land management rate, civil defence and hazard management rate, and flood infrastructure rate in the first year of the Long Term Plan, with projected increases of 1.8-8.1% (including inflation adjustments) each year for the next 10 years, as proposed in the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 Consultation Document and supporting information, with additional increases as resolved elsewhere in this report.

This recommendation does not change what was proposed in the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 Consultation Document.

Discussion:

The proposed total 29.2% average rates increase (an average of \$66.59 per rateable unit), of the combined council services rate, freshwater management rate, pest management rate, land management rate, civil defence and hazard management rate, and flood infrastructure rate was the first proposal covered in the Consultation Document. The total increase is made up of three key decision areas where there is growing urgency and public interest to do more: water, native life and floods; and a number of other decisions with financial implications. These decisions formed the bulk of the Consultation Document.

On balance, submitters support the proposed direction of council, but some are concerned about the increase to rates as a whole. The majority of submitters agree with the proposed increased spending across each of the council activities that contribute to the total proposed rates increase.

As noted elsewhere in this report, should council decide to move the funding mechanism (from targeted rates to region-wide rates, such as that proposed in recommendations 45 and 46) or support proposals to “go even further” (such as recommendations 86 – 88) then this will result in the average region-wide rate increasing.

Summary of feedback received:

While the Long Term Plan consultation material made it clear that the rates increase was proposed, and provided rates examples, there was not a specific question asking for agreement or otherwise with the increase. Instead, questions were focused on the work and proposals that would make up this increase. As such, comments on the rate increase were made throughout the feedback that was received, which has been collated.

23 comments received on the rate increase disagreed with council’s proposal to increase rates, with a general theme that the increase is unacceptable. Common comments included that the increase would not benefit the submitter directly, that increases should be limited to inflation, and that council should look at other ways to finance the work, look for inefficiencies, streamline, prioritise and stick to core business. Other comments included that council should honour the 5% cap on rate increases, and raised concern that ratepayers were making sacrifices and the potential impact on fixed income households and struggling families.

Comments from submitters that didn’t raise blanket disagreement (6) with the increase raised concern about overall increase in the cost of living, support for the increase for environmental issues, discussed the impact of doubtful debts, and recognised that the increase is in conjunction with a rate reform.

Considerations

Significance and engagement

Section 76AA of the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA) directs that council must adopt a policy setting out how significance will be determined, and the level of engagement that will be triggered. This policy assists council in determining how to achieve compliance with LGA requirements in relation to decisions.

The proposals set out in the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 Consultation Document triggered council's significance and engagement policy, and a comprehensive processes of consultation and engagement has now been carried out. The results of this engagement have been summarised in this document to inform council's deliberations and decision-making process.

The process of deliberations assists council in achieving compliance with sections 77 of the LGA.

Policy, risk management and legislative compliance

Consultation on the Long Term Plan 2018-2028 proposals has been carried out pursuant to sections 93, 93A, 93B, and 93C of the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA) and in accordance with the special consultative procedure (section 83 of the LGA).

Consideration of submissions through the process of deliberations will achieve compliance with section 77 of the LGA (Requirements in relation to decisions) and with council's Significance and Engagement Policy, in particular 'We will consult when we are required to by law, when a proposal is considered significant, and when we need more information on options for responding to an issue'.

Further considerations

Community views

A comprehensive process of consultation has been carried out to inform the recommendations set out in this report. A summary of this consultation and the feedback received is included in this report to inform council's decisions on the Long Term Plan 2018-2028.

Māori impact statement

The process of consultation included circulation of a pānui inviting feedback on the Long Term with the Te Tai Tokerau Māori and Council Working Party Māori Advisory Group during the development of the proposals. The Te Tai Tokerau Māori and Council Working Party has been provided with regular progress updates. This has provided council with feedback on Māori views and potential impacts on Māori.

Financial implications

Financial impacts or implementation issues are addressed in recommendations included within this report.

Attachments

Attachment 1: Have Your Say events feedback - Long Term Plan 2018-2028 (*separately circulated*)

Attachment 2: Summary of Submissions Part 1 - LTP 2018-2028 (*separately circulated*)

Attachment 3: Summary of Submissions Part 2 - LTP 2018-2028 (*separately circulated*)

Attachment 4: Summary of Submissions Part 3 - Regional Sporting Facilities Rate (*separately circulated*)

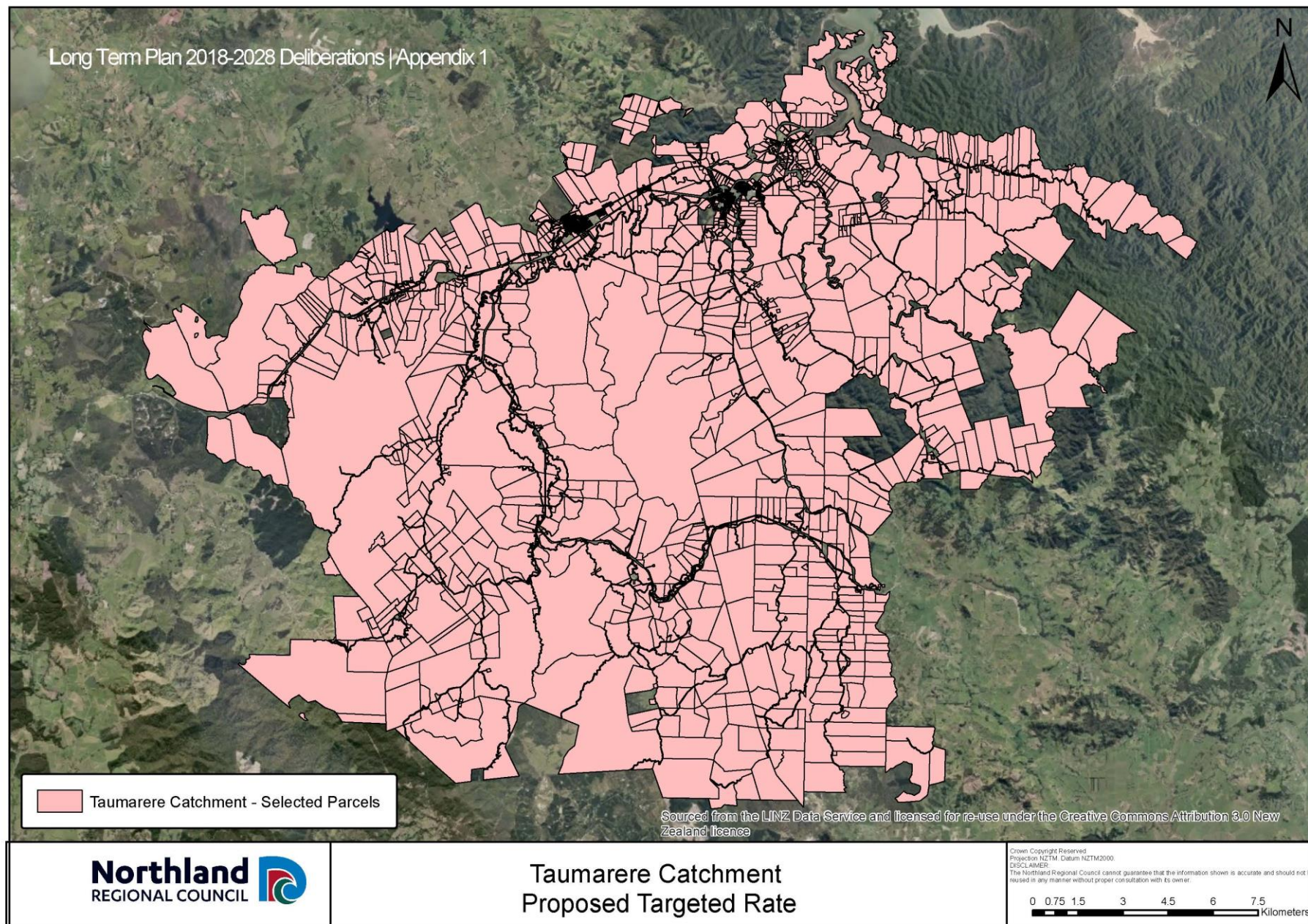
Attachment 5: Social Media Report - Long Term Plan 2018-2028 (*separately circulated*)

Authorised by Group Manager

Name: Jonathan Gibbard

Title: Group Manager - Governance and Engagement

Date: 09 May 2018



Deliberations Long Term Plan 2018-2028 Deliberations | Appendix 2

Submitter details	LTP ID	Submitter comment	Staff response
Kristi Henare	2018LTP1133	Better funding for signage that actual makes sense at Ruakaka Beach over dogs and horses being on the beach and in different areas and times of the years confusing and dogs can't read but their owners cant either.	Horse and dog access onto Ruakaka Beach is managed by Whangārei District Council. This enquire should be passed on to WDC. Staff recommend that no further amendments to the LTP 2018/28 are required as a result of this submission.
Judy Plain	2018LTP1179	Submitter requests: -council introduces in the LTP 2018-2028 compulsory de-sexing, microchipping and registration (of cat's owner and contact details) of all cats from 3 months old, to reduce the "huge and rapidly increasing number of stray/abandoned cats/kittens in our community."- NRC to adequately contribute to the funding of the Whangārei SPCA	Council has a significant biosecurity focus however domestic cat control is not currently part of councils focus. Staff recommend that no further amendments to the LTP 2018/28 are required as a result of this submission.
Billy Leonard	2018LTP452	Submitter states that in the next 10 years, Northland ought to be at the forefront - at the very least, abreast - of the societal trend in this country away from animal exploitation. Submits that the council needs introduce bylaws prohibiting torture and killing of animals, and to spend to enforce these. States that human health is at stake. {Staff summary; please see original submission}	Bylaws as requested by the submitter are outside the scope of the regional council to address. Staff recommend that no further amendments to the LTP 2018/28 are required as a result of this submission.
Leonie Exel Bay of Island Watchdogs	2018LTP1475	Submitter has two key recommendations: - Councils and relevant organisations work out ways that our working, farm and companion animals, and native animals, can best co-exist. - Northland Regional Council consider the needs and wishes of resident dog owners in all development of all future policies, plans, and projects, and that NRC establish a permanent consultation/working group of dog owners/groups to encourage this to occur. Submission also includes 5 other recommendations primarily focused on providing and/or managing dogs. (Staff summary; please see original).	Management and restrictions relating to dogs is the responsibility to district councils. Staff will forward this request to the respective district councils. Staff recommend that no further amendments to the LTP 2018/28 are required as a result of this submission.
Noel Douglas Whangārei Harbour Marina Management Trust	2018LTP1809	Submitter seeks \$1 million grant from the IGR to build a new marina downstream of the Te Matau a Pohe Hatea River Bridge. Submission attaches a business case. (Staff summary; please see original submission).	Council has an Investment and Growth Reserve to support such projects. Applications for funding to the IGR must be channelled through Northland Inc. This request

			therefore can not be progressed through the LTP process and staff will refer it to Northland Inc. for consideration. Staff recommend that no further amendments to the LTP 2018/28 are required as a result of this submission.
Bruce Leggatt	2018LTP813	Summary: Support for the proposed Whangārei marina. Benefits include: Carparking, not having to open bridge, closeness to marine industry and shopping, sheltered harbour, positive impression it will give to the area, increased capacity of berths will bring more marine businesses to Whangārei.	Council has an Investment and Growth Reserve to support such projects. Applications for funding to the IGR must be channelled through Northland Inc. This request therefore can not be progressed through the LTP process and staff will refer it to Northland Inc. for consideration. Staff recommend that no further amendments to the LTP 2018/28 are required as a result of this submission.
Stephen Tansey Mangonui Cruising Club	2018LTP1239	Mangonui Cruising Club supports Kerikeri Cruising Club (as part of the "Marinas Group", with Opuā, Whangaroa, Tutukaka, Whangārei Town Basin marinas) in its challenge over the legality of NRC's "Bio-security fee". We also support its action in the Environment Court ordered confidential mediation with Northland Regional Council (NRC) over the contents of NRC's Marine Pathways Plan which dictates the level of fouling permissible on boats & the actions & remedies that NRC can insist boat owners undertake. In support of the unfair nature of the bio-security charge please read the attached "Mediterranean Fanworm" article	Support for submission noted. Staff recommend that no further amendments to the LTP 2018/28 are required as a result of this submission.
Leigh Hopper Marsden Cove Canals Management Ltd and Marsden Maritime Holdings Ltd	2018LTP1430	Submitter concerned about the equity of marine biosecurity charge. Disappointed that the LTP doesn't address the inequity. Highlights that on land, council is recognising that biosecurity management is a public good and is funded by the public purse, but marine biosecurity management is being funded by private vessel and marine structure owners. Submission provides detailed rationale to support submitters opposition to the marine biosecurity charge. (Staff summary; please see original submission).	NRC does not consider that there is inequity with the marine biosecurity charge. Staff recommend that no further amendments to the LTP 2018/28 are required as a result of this submission.

Rangimarie Price Amokura Iwi Consortium Ltd	2018LTP998	Submission provides an introduction to Amokura Iwi Consortium Ltd, its history and projects, and summarises 'He Tangata, He Whenua, He Oranga - An economic growth strategy for the Tai Tokerau Māori Economy' which is also attached to the submission. Submission states that leadership is needed by council to enable growth of the Māori economy.	Staff recommend that further discussions with Amokura are required to better understand how He Tangata, He Whenua, He Oranga can be better recognised by council and Northland Inc. Staff recommend that no further amendments to the LTP 2018/28 are required as a result of this submission.
Kate Martin Te Au Marie Trust	2018LTP853	Submission requests that council make provision for resources in support of community engagement for the Taitokerau Northland events and infrastructure planned around the Tuia 250 commemorations of 2019, and that council consider retaining events funding for events that are in alignment with the Tuia Encounters theme. Submission requests that Tuia 250 be y mentioned in the 2018-19 annual plans. {staff summary; please see original submission}	It's noted that Tuia 250 commemorations has been supported by council through its inclusion on the Economic Action Plan. Council has also contributed financial support to a project manager to support the Tuia 250 commemorations. Any further support should be progressed through the Action Plan or Northland Inc. Staff recommend that no further amendments to the LTP 2018/28 are required as a result of this submission.
Ross Clark	2018LTP1170	Waste water should be reconsidered as a resource. - acknowledges the role of the 'four wellbeings' in council's work"If Council(s) are truly looking at long term planning, then inter-related subjects (such as Climate change/sustainability change/sustainability and community well-beings) need to be explicitly addressed in your long term planning document."	Councils resource management responsibilities are outlined in the Resource Management Act 1991 and specifically given effect to through the Regional Plan for Northland. Council is in the process of developing a new Regional Plan with public hearings scheduled for later in the year. Staff recommend that no further amendments to the LTP 2018/28 are required as a result of this submission.
James Ryan New Zealand Farm Environment Trust	2018LTP27	Submitter discusses the benefits of the Balance Farm Environment Awards, and the role of the New Zealand Farm Environment Trust. Submitter values the trust's partnership with the regional council and thanks council for ongoing support. [Staff summary; please see original submission]	Council currently supports the Balance Farm Environment Awards. Staff recommend that no further amendments to the LTP 2018/28 are required as a result of this submission.

Luana Pirihi Northland Conservation Board	2018LTP1177	3. We request the NRC lobby central government to address the shortfall in funding for infrastructure for the Department of Conservation (DOC) Estate. An example of this is an airport tax or similar. The primary role of DoC is not to spend money on infrastructure for tourists but to improve our environment.	Council works collaboratively with the Department of Conservation both locally and nationally. This include advocating on particular issues. Staff recommend that no further amendments to the LTP 2018/28 are required as a result of this submission.
Mike Butler Heritage New Zealand Phuhere Taonga	2018LTP974	Submitter comments on Northland's pivotal role in New Zealand's history, and encourages council to investigate incentives to promote the protection and conservation of historic heritage. Submitter offers assistance and advice to council to include heritage incentives in the Long Term Plan. Submitter states that council should strengthen protocols with territorial authorities for dealing with cross-boundary issues that relate to historic heritage. {Staff summary; please see original submission}	Council's role in managing and supporting the protection of historic heritage is more a Resource Management Act role and function than a Local Government Act role and function to be addressed through the LTP. Council is currently in the process of developing a new Regional Plan for Northland in which resource management issues are being considered. Staff recommend that no further amendments to the LTP 2018/28 are required as a result of this submission.
Judi Gilbert Ngunguru Sandspit Protection Society	2018LTP1114	Submitter wants NRC to show leadership and be proactive in helping to secure and protect Whakareora and the remainder of Ngunguru Sandspit not in Crown ownership. Submission includes detailed rationale and evidence	Council has not to date taken a position regarding the ownership of Ngunguru sandspit. This matter would be better considered by council outside of the LTP process. Staff recommend that no further amendments to the LTP 2018/28 are required as a result of this submission.
Annina Rueegger	2018LTP52	If you have any influence on institutions/companies/people using poisonous sprays (Roundup etc.) please can you try to ban this. It affects peoples health and the environment and will have very negative long term effects on our region. Thanks!	The EPA and MPI have the authority for the regulation of the approval for use of agrichemicals. Staff recommend that no further amendments to the LTP 2018/28 are required as a result of this submission.

Greg Rzesniowiecki	2018LTP1260	<p>Submitter discusses the history of the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) and Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement on the TPP (CPTPP). Notes public concern for clean water and concern about bottled water exporters. Also notes impacts on domestic flights and potential misuse of online data. Notes that the CPTPP would disallow a tax on exported water. Attaches supporting information. Submission provides recommendations that the council: - "formally supporting the 23 principles offered by Alfred de Zayas in his paper to the UNHRC (A/HRC/37/63) in which he "highlights the urgent need to apply human rights principles systematically and uniformly to all entities and endeavours.""- "endorse the model trade and investment treaty process offered in the www.dontdoit.nz petition"- "support the Local Government (Four Well-beings) Amendment Bill which amends the Local Government Act (LGA) 2002 to reinstate references to social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being"- "read and consider Kate Raworth's Doughnut Economics as a framework for thinking about economics in the 21st century"{Staff summary; please see original submission}</p>	<p>LGNZ has provided feedback to the government on the TPP and more recently amendments to the Local Government Act 2002. Articulating a council position on these matters in an LTP is not considered that most appropriate approach. Staff recommend that no further amendments to the LTP 2018/28 are required as a result of this submission.</p>
Graeme Edwards	2018LTP40	<p>Make sure urban pressures eg water quality are considered in a practica rural context. Aim for steady improvement without massive business and farm Same applies to SNA designations that amount to confiscation of private property rights.disruption.</p>	<p>Council is investing heavily in additional resource to improve water quality and in particular to reduce sedimentation (a combined value of \$2.2 million extra per year by 2021). Management of water quality also occurs through regional plans - council has recently developed a Proposed Regional Plan which includes provisions on water quality - the adequacy of these will be considered in responses to submissions. It is assumed the submitter is referring to Significant Natural Areas and potential impacts on property rights - these are a matter for RMA plans (District and regional) and are not an LTP matter. Staff recommend that no further amendments to the LTP 2018/28 are required</p>

			as a result of this submission.
Glenn Mortimer Whangārei Harbour Catchment Group	2018LTP1386	Submitter acknowledges the strong and continued commitment of NRC management and staff to the priority catchment groups and to catchment plan implementation. However submitter is concerned that the LTP does not include any evident ongoing funding to support catchment groups in progressing the non-regulatory actions detailed in the catchment management plans. (Staff summary; please see original submission).	Council's contribution (including funds and staff time) to catchment groups has been significant. Council has not budgeted additional funding for implementation of non-regulatory catchment plan actions (beyond the \$10,000 allocated to each group in the 17/18 financial year). There are however other options for this purpose including district council and other agency community funding schemes. There is also the option of incorporation which would enable applications to be made to private funders and NGO's. Staff recommend that no further amendments to the LTP 2018/28 are required as a result of this submission.
Dallas Williams Te Kura Taumata o Panguru	LTP2018-late	1. The plan is forward thinking and wide reaching but we struggle to see how this plan will improve the deprivation & isolation issues that are being experienced by Northland Communities - I will show some of the small indicators that cause concern and some direction on ways to begin to address the issue;	Isolation and deprivation in small communities is considered by council on an ongoing basis across many of its workstreams. One example of how council has sought to address these issues is through greater subsidy for these communities through region wide rates such as the Flood Infrastructure Rate. Staff recommend that no further amendments to the LTP 2018/28 are required as a result of this submission.

David McKenzie Russell Landcare Trust	2018LTP1226	Recommends listing the shellfish beds at Uruti/Pomare Bays as a site for regular monitoring. Supports the Coast Care programme. Submitter also raises concerns about how council has dealt with works at 6111 Russell-Whakapara Rd.	Staff prioritise monitoring sites across the region, and will take submitter's advice into account when considering any new monitoring sites. Individual consenting and monitoring matters are not considered to be an LTP matter - staff deal with these at an operational level. Staff recommend that no further amendments to the LTP 2018/28 are required as a result of this submission.
Andreas Kurmann Clean Waters To The Sea	2018LTP1105	Not enough emphasis on the environment. In particular we would like to see action to prevent soil erosion and nutrient leaching into our waterways by improving soil management practices.	Council is investing heavily in additional resource to improve water quality and in particular to reduce sedimentation (a combined value of \$2.2 million extra per year by 2021. Regional plan rules also contain standards and controls on discharges to water. Staff recommend that no further amendments to the LTP 2018/28 are required as a result of this submission.
Robyn Skerten Ngunguru Puke Kopipi Resdoration Group	2018LTP1196	Submitter would appreciate additional funding for Plants and to pay a Contractor to prepare Winter Planting Zones. Submitter also would like to see more selective weed control on road sides and more support for adjacent landowners to remove weeds - education and assistance empowering them to manage healthy indigenous biodiversity. (Staff summary; please see original submission).	NRC Environment Fund has increased in value and can support additional funding for plants for initiatives to improve water quality. Staff will continue to provide advice and assistance for weed control. Staff recommend that no further amendments to the LTP 2018/28 are required as a result of this submission.
Chris Richmond Waitangi Catchment Group	2018LTP1377	Submitter would like: - The regional afforestation package start in year 1, and for it to include a balance of native and non-native species. - More staff resources put to catchment groups and catchment plan implementation - More research into alternative land use for riparian zones and hill country. (Staff summary; please see original submission)	NRC is proposing to continue to support these initiatives. Staff recommend that no further amendments to the LTP 2018/28 are required as a result of this submission.

Dylan Lease The Tutukaka Marina Management Trust	2018LTP881	The TMMT is requesting the NRC consider the purchase of the Tutukaka Slipway. We feel that: i. There is a real environmental issue without the Slipway in Tutukaka Marina. Without a viable infrastructure for boat hull cleaning, we see future problems keeping not only the Tutukaka Harbour but the surrounding area (including the Poor Knights Islands) marine 'pest free'. The TMMT sees real environmental benefits with a workable Slipway and is aware that the Tutukaka Marina is the 'gateway' to the Poor Knights Islands and the Far North.	NRC does not provide permanent infrastructure for hull cleaning facilities and is not proposing to start. Staff recommend that no further amendments to the LTP 2018/28 are required as a result of this submission.
Dylan Lease	2018LTP1111	The Tutukaka Marina Management Trust would like to submit a formal submission for the purchase of the Tutukaka Slipway and ask the NRC for its support for this purchase. We want this purchase to go ahead for the following reasons: There is a real environmental issue without the Slipway in Tutukaka Marina. Without a viable infrastructure for boat hull cleaning, we see future problems keeping not only the Tutukaka Harbour, but the surrounding area (including the Poor Knights Islands), marine-pest free. Tutukaka Marina will be able to process and certify visiting boats, especially from the Auckland region, for continued access to the Northland boating area without risk of spreading marine pests. A solid, workable Slipway in Tutukaka will not only encourage boaties to remain compliant below the water line but could become a platform for a possible expansion of Tutukaka Marina. The TMMT sees real environmental benefits with a workable Slipway and is aware that the Tutukaka Marina is the 'gateway' to the Poor Knights Islands and the Far North.	NRC does not provide permanent infrastructure for hull cleaning facilities and is not proposing to start. Staff recommend that no further amendments to the LTP 2018/28 are required as a result of this submission.

TITLE: Council Deliberations on the Charging Policy 2018/19

ID: A1064087

From: Kyla Carlier, Strategy Specialist

Executive summary

This report provides background information and presents staff advice and recommendations, as part of council's deliberation on the submissions received on the Draft Charging Policy 2018/19 and Statement of Proposal. Staff recommend council support the draft Charging Policy, as notified, subject to two minor amendments as outlined in this report.

Recommendations

1. That the report 'Council Deliberations on the Charging Policy 2018/19' by Kyla Carlier, Strategy Specialist and dated 7 May 2018, be received.
2. That Jonathan Gibbard, Group Manager - Strategy and Governance be given delegated authority to approve any consequential amendments as a result of council decisions on submissions and any minor accuracy and grammatical amendments.
3. That council supports the increase in charges contained in the Charging Policy by 2%, as set out in the draft Charging Policy 2018/19.
4. That council supports the draft Charging Policy 2018/19, as notified, subject to the inclusion of an explanatory note in relation to cancellation of charges for cruise ships and an amendment to section 1.3.5 relating to remissions of charges, as documented in this report.

Background

Consultation was carried out on council's proposed charging policy 2018/19 in conjunction with the Long Term Plan 2018-2028. The annual review of the charging policy ensures that changes can be made and that the charges and policy do not become outdated. The draft Charging Policy for 2018/19 proposed several minor amendments and updates that are administratively efficient, reflect real changes in costs, or were required for clarification. These amendments included:

- Increasing all charges within the policy by 2% to reflect inflation. This increase does not apply to those charges that are set by parties outside of council, in which case the charge is set at the actual cost to council, to be passed on to the user.
- Additional text has been added to clarify the way that we set charges for navigation fees for coastal structures (CST011, NAV001, CST012, and NAV002). The text explains that the navigation fee is calculated according to the number of vessels that are berthed, to provide clarity to the user about how these are charged. Please see section 3.5.4.2 for this new wording.
- The costs associated with the purchase of plans have been further reduced, to reflect actual costs and savings made by council - please see section 3.10.11 for these charges.
- Minor typographical and referencing updates have been made

The draft also proposed new charges and policy sections that are required to more clearly set out council's position on charging. These new areas include:

- A new section has been added that sets out council's policy on penalties to be applied to unpaid charges under the Biosecurity Act 1993. Footnotes have also been added to the schedule of charges that this penalty would apply to make it clear that a penalty will apply to unpaid charges. Please see section 2.6.7 for the new policy, and sections 3.5.4.1 and 3.5.4.2 for charges and footnotes.
- The New Zealand Refining Company Ltd has been added to the scale of annual charges for coastal structures, as a large commercial marine facility eligible for the marine biosecurity charge. Please see section 3.5.4.2.
- An additional subsection has been added that covers the cost of leasing council owned moorings. This section is for clarification of an amount that is already charged in practice. Please see section 3.10.7 for this charge.
- An additional subsection has been added to set out council's discretion to charge for monitoring of plantation forestry activities, specified by regulations 24, 37, 51 and 63(2) of the National Environmental Standards

Feedback on the charging policy was generally supportive. Comments were made with specific reference to the RMA, however the referenced section have little relevance to the charging policy and the relief sought is unclear. Concern was raised about the marine biosecurity charge, however no change is proposed to this charge (outside of the overall inflationary increase).

In addition to these changes that were set out for consultation in the draft Charging Policy and Statement of Proposal, it is proposed that the final charging policy include an explanatory note on cancellation charges for cruise ships. The cancellation charges were a new addition to the current (2017/18) policy, and the explanatory note will serve to ensure that it is clear when these charges will apply, particularly in instances when piloting services are provided but a vessel does not remain or anchor. The need for this clarification has become clear as charges for the summer season were finalised during the consultation period. The footnote is proposed as follows:

"Piloting cancellation fees apply when cancellation notice is given, and pilot and crew are not mobilised. In the event that a pilot attends a vessel arrival but the vessel does not remain or anchor, then the services provided will be charged at the full rate (discounted at harbourmasters discretion), and a cancellation fee will not apply."

Also during the consultation period, legal advice was received that recommended amendment to section 1.3.5 of the charging policy, relating to the remission of charges. As a result, it is proposed that the section be amended to read: *"Existing waivers or remissions issued for charges may be subject to review, as this policy may be reviewed."* This amendment extends the circumstances for a review of waivers.

Summary of feedback received:

Of those submitters who responded to the question about updates to council's charging policy, **32% agreed** with the proposal, with comments agreeing that it's helpful for transparency, and noting that Schedule 1 of the RMA has been amended to insert clause 4A and Section 58L - 58U agreements and that fees should be included in to the charging policy.

Of those that **disagreed (11.5%)**, comments raised concern about rates increases, that not enough information was provided, and raised concern about the marine biosecurity charge.

Similar comments were made by those who registered a neutral response or didn't select an option.

Considerations:**1. Significance and engagement**

Section 76AA of the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA) directs that council must adopt a policy setting out how significance will be determined, and the level of engagement that will be triggered. This policy assists council in determining how to achieve compliance with LGA requirements in relation to decisions.

Engagement with the community has now been carried out. The process of deliberations assists council in achieving compliance with sections 77 of the LGA.

2. Policy, risk management and legislative compliance

Consultation on the Charging Policy has been carried out pursuant to section 150 of the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA) and in accordance with section 82A of the LGA.

Consideration of submissions through the process of deliberations will achieve compliance with Section 77 of the LGA - Requirements in relation to decisions - and with council's Significance and Engagement Policy, in particular 'We will consult when we are required to by law, when a proposal is considered significant, and when we need more information on options for responding to an issue'.

Authorised by Group Manager

Name: Jonathan Gibbard
Title: Group Manager - Governance and Engagement
Date: 09 May 2018