

Overview

This Volume contains Council's funding and financial policies, the policy on determining significance and the steps Council is taking to foster the development of Māori capacity to contribute to decision-making processes. It also contains a statement on Council-controlled organisations and a summary of Council's assessment of water and sanitary services and the waste management plan.

An explanation of each matter's status and, where appropriate, the main changes to these matters is summarised in this overview.

Significance Policy

The Significance Policy was reviewed by considering cases where a matter had been found to be significant and whether it was difficult to apply the policy.

A new section about consultation is included where the approach to consultation and the standard exceptions are set out.

Public-private partnerships

This policy is unchanged from the policy adopted through the LTCCP 2004-14.

Development Contributions Policy

The Development Contributions Policy (DCP) was first adopted by Council in June 2003. It has been updated each year to reflect changes to the capital works programme and was amended in the LTCCP 2006-16 and the 2008-09 LTCCP Amendment. This year the amendments are to:

1. Ensure better alignment of the costs being charged for assets to those who are benefitting
2. allow adjustment of the development contribution rates annually with movement of the Statistics NZ construction cost index to align development contributions with construction costs
3. to clarify that financial contributions taken for reserves under the District Plan are not used for the same purposes as development contributions for community facilities taken under this policy.

Funding Impact Statement

The Funding Impact Statement sets the operating and capital funding sources for the next 10 years.

Rating Policies

Council has confirmed the direction of the rating policies which it set in the LTCCP 2006-16, and made some changes:

1. A new Auckland Regional Amenities Targeted Rate is established to fund levies paid by the District subsequent to the enactment of the Auckland Regional Amenities Funding Act 2008 and this rate is set in relation to all rateable land in the District, and assessed at a uniform rate in the dollar based on capital value (CV) of the rating unit
2. the current policy of increasing the percentage of rates levied through the uniform annual general charge by 0.5 per cent per annum is continued until 2015-16 (26.5 per cent) and maintained at that level for the years 2016-17 through 2018-2019

3. residential/residential in business zones rate step differential will remain at 75 per cent of the residential/residential in business zones base rate differential
4. the rural rate base differential will be increased by 0.02 per annum until it reaches a level equivalent to 80 per cent of the residential rate and will remain at this level for subsequent years of the plan
5. the rural rate step differential will remain at 41 per cent of the residential rate base differential
6. the business rate differential will continue to reduce at a rate equivalent to the increase in the rural base rate and then remain at this level for subsequent years of the plan
7. the business in residential zones rate and business in rural zones rate differentials will be maintained at 75 per cent of the business rate.

The following new elements have been added to the policy on remission of instalment penalties:

- where a direct debit authority is established and maintained over at least four subsequent rates instalment payments the policy will be applied;
- where property has been rezoned for business purposes but where development has not begun and the resulting charge is inequitable.

Revenue and Financing Policy

This policy was completely reviewed in the 2006-16 LTCCP to reflect the changes in expectation set in the Local Government Act 2002. The same policy has been applied for this 2009-19 Plan.

Treasury Policy

Council's Treasury Management policies were amended following the LTCCP Amendment and Annual Plan 2008-09 consultation. A further change has been made as follows: Policy 3.2 - gross annual interest expense as a proportion of net cash inflow from operating activities from 1 : 5 to 1 : 4.5.

Summary Assessment - Water and Sanitary Services

Council's assessments of Water and Sanitary Services were completed, subject to consultation and published in June 2005. The summary of the assessments, included in this LTCCP, has not been updated.

Waste Management Statement

Council's Waste Management Plan was completed, subject to consultation and published in June 2003.

The new Waste Minimisation Act requires all new waste minimisation and management plans to be fully costed. Council has developed proposals for new initiatives, but costings will not be available for some time. Council has, therefore, decided to delay adoption of the new Plan.

There will be full community consultation on any new plan proposed.

Processes for Māori to contribute to the decision making processes of Council

This section sets out Council's current practice and future intentions.

Council-controlled organisations

Council has only one Council-controlled organisation, the Safer Papakura Trust. The Papakura community is concerned about the control of graffiti in the District and safety and security in the Town Centre. The Council has agreed to provide funding to the Trust to assist in its activities.