

Report to the Council on the audit of

Westland District Council's

Consultation Document to amend the
Long-Term Plan and the
Amended Long-Term Plan for the period
1 July 2018 to 30 June 2028

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Key messages

We have completed the audit of Westland District Council's (the council's) Consultation Document (CD) to amend its Long-Term Plan (LTP) and the Amended LTP for the period 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2028. This report sets out our findings from the audit and draws attention to our findings, and where appropriate makes recommendations for improvement.

Audit opinions

We completed the audit of the council's CD to amend the LTP for the period 2018-28 and issued an unmodified opinion on 21 August 2020.

We concluded that the council produced a CD that fulfilled its primary purpose of providing an effective basis for public participation in decision making related to the proposed amendment. The CD included all the major matters that we expected, provided a preferred and an alternative option to address these issues and encouraged the community to provide feedback.

We have completed the audit of the council's amended LTP for the period 2018-28 on 29 April 2021. As a result of our work completed, we do not consider it necessary to amend our previous opinion which was included in our report on the plan as originally adopted. We confirm that our previous audit opinion on the plan as originally adopted issued on 2 July 2018 is not affected by the amendment to the plan.

Thank you

We would like to thank the council, management, and staff for their assistance during the audit.



Chantelle Gernetzky
Appointed Auditor
1 June 2021

1 Our audit opinions

1.1 We issued unmodified audit opinions

We issued an unmodified audit opinion on the council's CD on 21 August 2020.

This means we were satisfied the council's CD meets the statutory purpose and provided an effective basis for public participation in the council's decision making in relation to the matters covered by the proposed amendment.

We found the underlying information and assumptions used to prepare the CD provided a reasonable and supportable basis for the preparation of the document.

We completed the audit of the council's amended LTP for the period 2018- 28 on 29 April 2021. As a result of our work completed, we do not consider it necessary to amend our previous opinion which was included in our report on the plan as originally adopted. We confirm that our previous audit opinion on the plan as originally adopted issued on 2 July 2018 is not affected by the amendment to the plan.

1.1 Unadjusted misstatements

The CD and amended LTP are free from material misstatements, including omissions. We have discussed any misstatements that we found with management. During the audit, we have discussed with management any misstatements that we found, other than those which were clearly trivial. The following unadjusted misstatements (from the original 2018-28 LTP audit) remain. There were no unadjusted audit differences arising from the audit of the LPT amendment. We are satisfied that these misstatements are individually or collectively immaterial.

Groups of Activities Funding Impact Statements

	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28
1) Payments to suppliers and staff	252,468	254,443	256,574	263,359	265,794	268,479	276,515	279,557	276,682	277,943
2) Capital expenditure to replace existing assets	15,344	228,767	230,106	230,155	141,590	180,148	129,029	218,397	217,757	217,881
3) Development contributions	93,336	94,936	96,650	98,399	100,271	102,270	104,316	93,347	95,583	98,063

- 1 There are misclassifications in the Groups of Activities Funding Impact Statements for “Payments to Suppliers and Staff” and “Finance Costs”. These are offset in “Internal Charges and Overheads Applied”. The sub-totals of “Total Application of Operating Funding” are not affected.

The Council has not adjusted this as it does not believe this materially affects the financial forecasts in the Long-term Plan.

- 2 “Capital Expenditure to replace existing assets” does not reconcile between the Groups of Activities Funding Impact Statements and the Whole of Council funding Impact Statement.

The Council has not adjusted this as it does not believe this materially affects the financial forecasts in the Long-term Plan.

- 3 “Development Contributions” as a source of capital funding does not reconcile between the Groups of Activities Funding Impact Statements and the Whole of Council funding Impact Statement.

The Council has not adjusted this as it does not believe this materially affects the financial forecasts in the Long-term Plan.

2 Audit scope and objective

The scope of our audit engagement and our respective responsibilities are contained in our audit engagement letter dated 11 August 2020.

The amendment to the 2018-28 LTP is as a result of the following proposed change:

- To return the Museum functions to Westland District Council from Destination Westland Limited management and to consider a level of service change regarding the i-SITE (visitor services). This includes the proposed purchase of 41 Weld Street, formerly Mountain Jade, to develop a 'Westland Discovery Centre' consisting of library, museum and visitor services. It would also provide an alternative location for Westland's Civil Defence Emergency Operations Centre.

3 Publication of the documents on the council's website

As the council intends to publish the amended LTP electronically, please allow time for us to examine the final electronic file version of the amended LTP incorporating our audit report before its inclusion on your web site.

We need to ensure consistency with the paper-based documents that have been subject to audit.

Appendix 1: Disclosures

Area	Key messages
Our responsibilities in conducting the audit.	<p>We carried out this audit on behalf of the Controller and Auditor-General. We are responsible for expressing an independent opinion on the CD to amend the 2018-28 LTP and the amended LTP and reporting the opinions to you. This responsibility arises from section 93C(4) of the Local Government Act 2002.</p> <p>The audit of the CD and the LTP amendment does not relieve management or the council of their responsibilities.</p> <p>Our audit engagement letter dated 11 August 2020 contains a detailed explanation of the respective responsibilities of the auditor and the council.</p>
Auditing standards	<p>We carry out our audit in accordance with the International Standard on Assurance Engagements (New Zealand) 3000 (revised): <i>Assurance Engagements Other Than Audits or Reviews of Historical Financial Information</i>, the International Standard on Assurance Engagements 3400: <i>The Examination of Prospective Financial Information</i>, and the Auditor-General's Auditing Standards.</p>
Auditor independence	<p>We confirm that, for the audit of the council's CD and LTP amendment for the period 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2028, we have maintained our independence in accordance with the requirements of the Auditor-General, which incorporate the independence requirements of the New Zealand Auditing and Assurance Standards Board.</p> <p>In addition to the audit of the council's consultation document and LTP amendment, we have completed all other legally required external audits and assurance engagements. These engagements are compatible with those independence requirements. Other than the audit and these engagements, we have no relationship with or interests in the council or any of its subsidiaries.</p>
Other relationships	<p>We are not aware of any situations where a spouse or close relative of a staff member involved in the audit occupies a position with the council that is significant to the audit.</p> <p>We are not aware of any situations where a staff member of Audit New Zealand has accepted a position of employment with the council during or since the end of the financial year.</p>
Unresolved disagreements	<p>We have no unresolved disagreements with management about matters that individually or in aggregate could be significant to the CD or the LTP amendment. Management has not sought to influence our views on matters relevant to our audit opinion.</p>

AUDIT NEW ZEALAND

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