

Report to Council



DATE: 15 June 2021

TO: Mayor and Councillors

FROM: Strategy and Communications Advisor

Submissions to the Westland District Council Draft Long Term Plan 2021 - 2031

1. Summary

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to hear submissions on the Draft Long Term Plan 2021 – 2031 (LTP 2021 – 2031).
- 1.2. This issue arises from the requirements of s 93(2) of the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA).
- 1.3. Council seeks to meet its obligations under the Local Government Act 2002 and the achievement of the District Vision adopted by the Council in May 2018, which are set out in the Long Term Plan 2018-28. Refer page 2 of the agenda.
- 1.4. This report concludes by recommending that Council hear the submissions to the Draft Long Term Plan 2021 – 2031 and use these submissions to make decisions about the content of the Long Term Plan 2021 – 2031 and direct the CE to make any necessary amendments, ready for the adoption of the final Long Term Plan 2021 – 2031 on 30 June 2021.

2. Background

- 2.1. Council agreed to conduct public consultation under s 93(2) LGA at the Extraordinary Meeting to Adopt the Draft Long Term Plan 2021 – 2031 and Consultation Document on 7 May 2021.
- 2.2. The consultation document was audited by Audit New Zealand and met the requirements of s 93C LGA.
- 2.3. The public were asked to consider the following significant topics:
 - Is our Uniform Annual General Charge set at the right level? The preferred option is to reduce it to 17.5%.
 - Should we transfer ownership of our elderly housing portfolio to Destination Westland? The preferred option is to transfer ownership.
 - If we should invest in further improvements to the Hokitika Centennial Swimming Pool? The preferred option is to develop a warm water toddler or learners' pool.
 - If Council should adopt the Rates Remission: Adverse Possession Policy. The preferred option is to adopt the policy.

2.4. The Consultation document also sought public feedback on the future use of the Pakiwaitara Building, Cass Square and the Hokitika Racecourse, as well as any other comments on the content of the Draft LTP 2021 – 2031.

2.5. Public consultation commenced on 10 May 2021 and closed on 11 June 2021 at 12pm (32.5 days).

3. Current Situation

3.1. Council received 160 submissions. There were repeat submissions from a small number of submitters representing different organisations for each submission. Many submissions were about a specific topic and did not respond to the significant items.

3.2. The following submissions were received for the significant items:

3.2.1. Reducing the Uniform Annual General Charge to 17.5%.

3.2.1.1. 24 submitters support the preferred option of reducing the charge to 17.5%.

3.2.1.2. 25 submitters support lowering the charge further to 12.5%.

3.2.1.3. 32 submitters support leaving the charge at the current rate of 21.7%.

3.2.1.4. 79 submitters provided no response, and one submitter provided a different alternative response.

3.2.2. Transferring Elderly Housing portfolio to Destination Westland.

3.2.2.1. 38 submitters support transferring the Elderly Housing portfolio.

3.2.2.2. 33 submitters do not support transferring the Elderly Housing portfolio.

3.2.2.3. 89 submitters provided no response.

3.2.3. Investing in Stage 3 of the Hokitika Swimming Pool development.

3.2.3.1. 48 submitters support the proposed development.

3.2.3.2. 37 submitters do not support the proposed development.

3.2.3.3. 75 submitters provided no response.

3.2.4. Adopting the Rates Remission: Adverse Possession Policy.

3.2.4.1. 37 submitters support adopting the policy.

3.2.4.2. 21 submitters do not support adopting the policy.

3.2.4.3. 102 submitters provided no response.

3.3. Submissions were received on 55 other topics, including:

3.3.1. 44 submissions on the future use of Hokitika Racecourse, many in support of retaining equestrian use and supporting Riding for the Disabled to continue to have facilities there.

3.3.2. There were mixed opinions over 38 submissions on the engagement topic of the future use of 'Places and Spaces'. Final decisions will be put out to further consultation.

3.3.3. There were 21 submissions from businesses and individuals in the Glacier Country concerned with the rates increases and the impacts of Covid-19 in the area. A further 6 also commented on tourism promotion in the district.

3.3.4. 32 submissions commented on rating in general, with concern that Council should only focus on necessary services and not 'nice-to-haves'.

3.3.5. There were 34 submissions about walking and cycling tracks, with many in support of the Hokitika Mountain bike club's proposal (submission 75).

- 3.3.6. A submission was received with 129 signatures from the children at Hokitika Primary School with suggestions for the Hokitika Skate park (submission 93).
- 3.3.7. 17 residents of Cement Lead Road, Hokitika submitted a petition to improve the quality of this road (submission 130).
- 3.3.8. Requests for additional funding were received from:
- 3.3.8.1. Westland Industrial Heritage Park (submission 1): 50% contribution to funding of \$150,000 for car parking and sewerage connection (\$75,000).
 - 3.3.8.2. Hokitika Regent Theatre (submission 2): Annual inflation of 2.5% and additional annual contribution of \$25,000.
 - 3.3.8.3. Foodbank Canterbury (submission 6): \$45,000 per year from each district council.
 - 3.3.8.4. Chief Executive Westland District Council (submission 19): \$20,000 funding for events to Development West Coast for distribution to Destination Westland (offset by return of \$20,000 of management fee).
 - 3.3.8.5. Chief Executive Westland District Council (submission 20): Funding for an Infrastructure Development Manager.
 - 3.3.8.6. Westland Mayor (submission 116): Up to \$200,000 emergency provision for critical staffing. Carried over and offset against rates increase if unused.
 - 3.3.8.7. Lions Club Hokitika (submission 121): \$35,000 to complete fencing and car park at Lazar Park, Hokitika.
 - 3.3.8.8. Westreap (submission 132): Grant of \$25,000 - \$30,000 for feasibility study for a Community Hub.
 - 3.3.8.9. Kaniere School (submission 146): Funding of \$350,000 in years 2/3 to build a hall.
 - 3.3.8.10. DWC Westland Sports Hub field (submissions 149 and 155): Funding of \$122,566 + GST towards drainage and lighting; annual grant of \$50,000 + GST to cover day-to-day operating costs including staff wages.
 - 3.3.8.11. Heritage groups (submission 160): Funding of \$20,000 to support development and maintenance of heritage assets in the district in each annual plan.
 - 3.3.8.11.1. The impact of these funding requests on rates:

Impact of funding requests on rates increase (Year 1)		
<i>Increase per consultation</i>		<i>13%</i>
Heritage park car parking/sewerage connection*	75,000	0.41%
Regent theatre	25,000	0.13%
Food bank funding	45,000	0.25%
Staffing DA	[withheld]	0.78%
Critical staffing	200,000	1.12%
Lions funding	35,000	0.19%
Community hub	30,000	0.17%
DWC sports hub	122,566	0.68%
DWC sports hub	50,000	0.28%
Heritage park	20,000	0.12%
Total % rates increase		17.13%

Note *assumed to be 50% of cost with grant funding for other 50%

4. Options

- 4.1. Option 1: Do not hear and consider submissions to the Draft Long Term Plan 2021 – 2031.
- 4.2. Option 2: Hearings.
 - 4.2.1. Hear submissions.
 - 4.2.2. Deliberate on submissions.

4.2.3. That the CE be instructed to make the necessary amendments to the Draft Long Term Plan 2021 - 2031, and present the Long Term Plan 2021 – 2031 to the Extraordinary Council Meeting on 30 June 2021 for adoption.

5. Risk Analysis

5.1. Risk has been considered and the following risks have been identified;

- Fatigue – This has been reduced by scheduling regular breaks.
- Threats to staff / councillors / members of the public – Anyone considered to exhibit threatening behaviour will be asked to leave.

6. Health and Safety

6.1. Health and Safety has been considered and the following items have been identified;

- These are the same as the risks identified above.
- Evacuation in an emergency – Emergency exits have been noted at the beginning of the meeting by the Chair.

7. Significance and Engagement

7.1. The level of significance has been assessed as being high under Council's Significance and Engagement Policy.

7.2. Public consultation was undertaken under s 93(2) LGA from 10 May 2021 to 12pm, 11 June 2021. This was advertised through public notices in both the Hokitika Guardian and Grey Star, public community meetings throughout the district, in the community notices, posters in the library and customer service centre, and on the Council's website and Facebook page.

8. Assessment of Options (including Financial Considerations)

8.1. Option 1: Council has an obligation to hear and consider submissions. To do nothing would breach Council's obligations under the LGA.

8.2. Option 2: Hearings are an important part of community consultation and engagement. Council needs to understand the community's view on the Draft LTP 2021 - 2031.

8.3. There are no financial implications to carrying out a hearing.

9. Preferred Option(s) and Reasons

9.1. The preferred option is Option 2.

9.1.1. Hear submissions.

9.1.2. Deliberate on submissions.

9.1.3. That the CE be instructed to make the necessary amendments to the Draft Long Term Plan 2021 - 2031, and present the Long Term Plan 2021 – 2031 to the Extraordinary Council Meeting on 30 June 2021 for adoption.

10. Recommendation(s)

- 10.1. That Council receive the report, hear the verbal submissions and receive the written submissions.
- 10.2. That Council will deliberate on the submissions to the Draft Long Term Plan 2021 - 2031 in the open part of the meeting on Wednesday, 16th June 2021.
- 10.3 That after hearing and deliberating on the submissions to the Westland District Council Draft Long Term Plan 2021 - 2031, that the Chief Executive be instructed to make the necessary amendments to the Draft Long Term Plan 2021 - 2031, and present the Long Term Plan 2021 – 2031 to the Extraordinary Council Meeting on 30 June 2021 for adoption.

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Strategy and Communications Advisor

- Appendix 1:** Table of Submitters
Appendix 2: Submission analysis
Appendix 3: Additional requests for funding: Impact on rates
Appendix 4: Submissions received.