
Long-term Plan 2021–41

Our plan for securing our future

REPORTING BACK

July 2021


Kāpiti Coast
DISTRICT COUNCIL
Me Huri Whakamuri, Ka Titiro Whakamua



Reporting back

About this booklet

In this booklet we're reporting back on feedback received through the Long-term Plan consultation phase – we outline what we proposed, how the community responded and final decisions.

No decisions were made lightly. Councillors, as your elected community representatives, weighed up the views of submitters, the benefits and risks, and the needs and aspirations of our community both now and in the future.

Even if you don't agree with the decision made, it's important that you know what's been agreed upon and why.

Your views count

Consultation ran from 7 April to 10 May 2021 and the final Long-term Plan was adopted by Council on 24 June 2021. We received a total of 741 submissions from individuals and organisations across the district.

Our consultation document, *Securing our future*, provided information on the big issues our district is facing; what elected members are planning to do about them over the next three years and beyond; the important projects under way; and the four key decisions we wanted your views on.

People provided feedback via our online survey, email, on paper, or in person. Submitters didn't have to respond to all the questions we asked, just the ones that mattered to them.



Our Long-term Plan 'pop ups' gave the community an opportunity to talk with elected members during consultation.

Message from the Mayor

Tēnā koutou katoa

A big thank you to everyone who helped shape our Long-term Plan 2021–41, whether you had a say during the consultation phase or shared your thoughts with us another time over the last three years.

There was a lot to consider for this Long-term Plan, from our COVID-19 response and recovery, to housing, through to managing growth and responding to climate change. It was important that we heard from community members from across the district – and we did. You can read the full *Summary of submissions*, including demographics of submitters, at kapiticoast.govt.nz/ltp-consultation-documents.

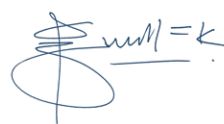
While many expressed concern over the rates increase, the plan was well supported, and there was agreement that investing for growth and resilience is the right approach to take at this time. The community also told us it wanted to see movement on a number of key issues and in this plan we are taking steps to address these.

The plan will see an average rates increase of 7.79 percent for 2021/22. While Council would absolutely prefer to have a lower rates increase, Council's view is that the district's key need at this time is for investment to help stimulate recovery and prepare for the future. We can't afford to wait.

This booklet outlines our key decisions and any big changes. The decision-making process saw elected members read through every submission (over 2,600 pages worth), listen to close to 100 people over three full days of public hearings, and consider close to 90 community proposals and the officer recommendations put forward.

We stand behind our decisions, even the ones we know might be less favourable. We hope you find this booklet useful in understanding the why. We also encourage you to check out the adopted Long-term Plan 2021–41 at kapiticoast.govt.nz/longtermplan.

Ngā mihi nui



K Gurunathan
Mayor, Kāpiti Coast District



Our direction

THE DECISION:

Council has kept the overall vision agreed with the community in the last Long-term Plan:

**Toitū te whenua,
toitū te wai, toitū te tāngata,
toitū Kāpiti!**

**Thriving environment,
vibrant economy, strong
communities.**

Supporting the vision

To support the vision, we have added to this plan community outcomes that reflect the big issues we must address so we can continue strengthening our community, environment and economy.

THE WHY:

We asked whether people felt these were the right priorities for Council at this time. Of those who responded to this question, 68 percent felt that we got it right. Housing is clearly front of mind for many, as it received the greatest support.

Many of those who didn't support the outcomes said that they felt Council should be solely focused on the delivery of core infrastructure and services. This Long-term Plan is heavily centred on the delivery of core infrastructure and services – for example, 71 percent of our capital expenditure is on core infrastructure.

However, with the Government's reintroduction of the four wellbeings into the Local Government Act 2002 – our governing legislation – contributing to the social, cultural, environmental and economic wellbeing of our community is a core responsibility of Council. This means we need to look at what we can do across the spectrum to care for our people and our environment.



Working with Mana Whenua representatives from Ngāti Raukawa au ki te Tonga, Te Āti Awa ki Whakarongotai, and Ngāti Toa Rangatira iwi, we developed a community outcome highlighting the importance of the Mana Whenua–Council relationship and how it contributes to all the other outcomes.

Investing for resilience and growth

THE DECISION:

Investing for resilience and growth is the right approach for this Long-term Plan.

THE WHY:

A big part of this Long-term Plan is our investment in our district's infrastructure and facilities. We will be increasing our investment in these areas to respond to the impacts of the pandemic on our community as well as the impacts of growth and climate change.

We asked if people thought that investing for resilience and growth is the right approach for Council to take at this time. Out of 382 responses to this question, 307 were in support of this approach but emphasised the need to proceed with care.

Council acknowledges that there will be challenges in getting through the level of work outlined in the plan and is gearing up to manage all aspects of what is proposed closely. We are also looking to do some things differently to create efficiencies. To learn more, read our infrastructure strategy at kapiticoast.govt.nz/council-strategies.

Council also acknowledges that we're facing some fairly big uncertainties in this Long-term Plan. For example, we were advised to budget to progress our significant programme of work across the three waters (drinking water, wastewater and stormwater) even though Government is currently looking at new regulation and supply arrangements for these services across the country.

Learn about the Three Waters Reform at kapiticoast.govt.nz/three-waters-reform.



Our substantial investment through this Long-term Plan recognises the growth that is occurring in our district.

Our financial and infrastructure strategies

THE DECISION:

Change the limits for rates, capital spending and borrowing for the 2021–41 Long-term Plan given the extra costs that need to be met and the challenges the district is facing – particularly to be able to replace vital infrastructure in the future.

THE WHY:

During the consultation phase we asked people what they thought about changing limits. Of those who answered, the majority were opposed, with almost half (93 people) stating they do not want rates to increase above inflation. Almost 100 people supported the changes.

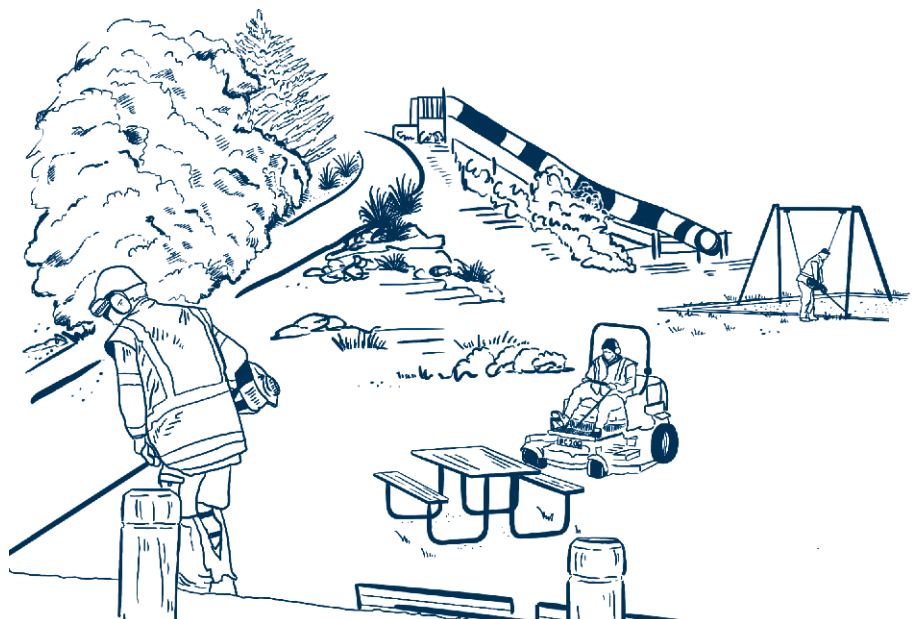
Council is aware of people's frustrations with increasing rates, and the burden this puts on some. However, Council sees the need to invest in resilience and growth as critical to securing our district's future. Failure to invest now will cost us more down the line.

We're facing increasing costs on all fronts. In fact, just 1.6 percent of the average rates increase for year one of this plan is for new projects and initiatives or changes to the work programme. Inflation and depreciation accounts for 6.2 percent (on average) of the increase.

The feedback from the community was mostly supportive of this plan's approach to invest in resilience and growth and the financial and infrastructure strategies are necessary to enable this work. For example, our financial strategy ensures that growth and demand dictates our spending. If it's slower than anticipated, spending will be slowed accordingly.

Through our rates remission policy, which we have increased by \$50,000 in this Long-term Plan, we will continue to do what we can to assist households who have significant affordability issues.

Learn about our financial and infrastructure strategies at [kapiticoast.govt.nz/council-strategies](https://www.kapiticoast.govt.nz/council-strategies).



Investing in our district's infrastructure and assets will help stimulate the local economy and continue to build our district's resilience.

Our big issues

Kāpiti is facing some big issues that will have an impact on our priorities for this Long-term Plan.

We asked the community for their views on these issues to help guide our response over the coming years. Below is a short summary of what we heard.



Members of social enterprise Pae Cycle with their composting system. Through our Long-term Plan, we will increase education to encourage the community to reduce the amount of waste that is dumped, such as by reducing food waste and composting.



COVID-19 response and recovery

Without COVID-19 this Long-term Plan might have looked quite different. As it is, our response to the pandemic – both the impacts it has had on our district, and what we need to do to rebuild and prepare for possible future impacts – is now a critical element.

- If we were to experience a resurgence of COVID-19, people would like Council to maintain the same level of involvement and response as before.
- Others felt that the responsibility of responding to the pandemic lies with central government, not local government.
- A strengthened sense of community and neighbourly support were identified as positives that have come out of the pandemic.

Learn more about our response to COVID-19 and our recovery plan at kapiticoast.govt.nz/recovery-and-support.



Access to housing

Housing access and affordability is linked to many of the other issues we face and is a significant and worsening problem in the district. The recent and projected growth and the ongoing impacts of COVID-19 are exacerbating this issue.

- There was strong support for Council to be an enabler for more housing.
- Ideas about how Council might do this included expanding land supply and incentivising higher-density development in suitable areas, streamlining building and consents for private building, and working with organisations, Mana Whenua and central government on solutions.
- Some felt that access to housing is the responsibility of central government and the market, and not the Council's concern.

Learn more about our role in housing at kapiticoast.govt.nz/housing.



Responding to climate change

Acting on climate change is a key driver for this Long-term Plan. How we mitigate and adapt to a changing climate was a key issue raised through consultation – particularly flooding and coastal erosion.

- Over half of those who commented on climate change felt that Council should continue to prioritise emissions reduction within Council.
- To ensure equity across the district, as climate change impacts become more severe and costly, 58 respondents proposed an increase in rates for those living on the seashore.
- There was support for Council's strategic framework to guide climate-related decision making.

Learn more about our response to climate change at kapiticoast.govt.nz/climate-change.

Our big issues (continued)



Managing growth

Our district has been growing steadily and we are set for more. With a population currently at around 57,000* and projected to reach 85,000 by 2050, careful planning for how to accommodate additional people is crucial.

- As our district grows, those who commented on this issue would like Council to focus on infrastructure and housing – both key elements of our Long-term Plan.
- Fostering community ties and protecting the environment were also common ideas.

* This is the most recent estimate provided by Stats NZ. At the time of consulting on the Long-term Plan, the estimated population for the district in 2020 was 55,500.

Learn more about our growth strategy at kapiticoast.govt.nz/growth-strategy.



Strengthening our resilience

Being resilient means we can quickly recover from challenges and difficulties. For Council, this means being able to keep our important services and facilities operating when the unexpected happens.

- A focus on infrastructure and the community were the most common suggestions for how Council can build community resilience.
- To encourage households' emergency preparedness, some respondents suggested an improvement, and increase, in targeted communications.
- Few people shared their views on whether Council should explore different options to insure Council assets. 31.9 percent of respondents felt that Council should explore more options and 31.9 percent supported more self-insurance/increasing reserves. 8.6 percent of respondents suggested insuring only certain assets.



Government changes impacting Council

Central government is making major changes in the local government sector that will have a significant impact on communities and the role of councils.

The Government is changing regulation and supply arrangements for what are known as the 'three waters services' – drinking water, wastewater and stormwater.

Respondents who commented on this issue identified two general areas for Council's role and advocacy in the Three Waters Reform process – governance and water quality.

Learn more about the Three Waters Reform at kapiticoast.govt.nz/three-waters-reform.



In our Long-term Plan, we are increasing our investment in all aspects of our district's infrastructure.

Key decisions

This Long-term Plan consultation we asked the community for feedback on four key decisions for councillors to decide on – two key projects and two significant proposals. Following consideration of the submissions, councillors have agreed to proceed with action on these issues.

Key project 1:

Should Council take a bigger role in housing?

THE DECISION:

- ☒ **YES – Council should take a bigger role in housing**
- ☐ **NO – Council should not take a bigger role in housing**

In the Long-term Plan, we will take action in several ways to expand our contribution to improving housing access and affordability in our community. Our main focus will not be in development, but will be to increase our activities to support and enable development.

THE WHY:

There are significant and well-documented issues with access to housing and housing affordability in Kāpiti and we know this is something many are concerned about.

Over half of the respondents to this question said yes, Council should take a bigger role, with 244 wanting Council to take on the role of enabler. Many of those who didn't think Council should take a bigger role felt that housing is the responsibility of central government.

Council will now look at the options available to us, including the possibility of exploring opportunities to increase our role in social housing (in partnership with iwi, a community housing provider or central government), how we could influence the supply of affordable housing through things like expanding land supply, incentivising higher-density development in suitable areas or looking at providing increased housing by encouraging a wide range of developments.

Learn more about our role in housing at kapiticoast.govt.nz/housing.

Improving access to housing is one of the five community outcomes agreed by councillors for this Long-term Plan.



Key project 2:

Should we renew the Paekākāriki sea wall a different way?

THE DECISION:

- ☒ **YES – replace it like-for-like in timber at an estimated cost of \$17 million**
- ☐ **NO – proceed with the design already agreed, at the revised estimated cost of \$27 million**

Starting in the coming year (2021/22), we will rebuild the wall in timber to improve protection of the road, three waters infrastructure and the beach environment.

As far as possible we will work to ensure we retain the core elements of the concrete design option worked on with the Paekākāriki Seawall Design Group and the Community Board in consultation with the Paekākāriki community. This includes improving access to the beach for all users and incorporating an art and cultural thread in the design.

THE WHY:

Since consultation was undertaken with the community for the 2018–38 Long-term Plan about the Paekākāriki seawall and a plan developed, costs and conditions have changed and the previously agreed plan is now unaffordable.

For this Long-term Plan Council instead recommended to rebuild the wall in timber, incorporating improved beach access and artistic elements agreed with the community.

70.9 percent of respondents to this question said they would like the seawall to be replaced with a timber wall, and Councillors agreed. The timber wall will cost \$17.1 million and will be built in stages over the next five years. The staged approach better suits local contracting companies and will enable us to plan construction for when the weather is more reliable. The wall's estimated life will be 25 years.

Learn more about the Paekākāriki seawall at kapiticoast.govt.nz/paekakariki-seawall.

We will rebuild the Paekākāriki seawall with improved access to the beach for all users.





When we asked people if they support Council exploring other ways to generate income, 79.3 percent of those who responded said yes, we should.

Significant proposal 1:

Should we set up a CCO (Council-controlled organisation)?

THE DECISION:

- ☒ Yes – we should set up a CCO
- ☐ No – we should not set up a CCO

In the first year of the plan, we will set up a CCO for Kāpiti. If and when we have a specific activity or activities that we consider could be managed by this CCO, we will undertake a specific community consultation before any action is taken.

THE WHY:

Over half (56.1 percent) of respondents to this question indicated support for Council setting up a CCO. Many saw an opportunity for a CCO to play a role in the airport. The main reason respondents gave for not wanting Council to set up a CCO was the belief that CCOs are not the core business of Council.

CCOs are used by more than half of New Zealand's councils. Council made the decision to proceed with establishing a CCO for potential future use because it can be useful to manage services, hold assets and leverage opportunities for delivering major projects.

CCOs can also attract funding from sources other than ratepayers and a council-controlled trading organisation can generate a profit from its activities that is returned to the council. Under its governing legislation, a council itself is not allowed to generate a profit.

When we asked people if they support Council exploring other ways to generate income, 79.3 percent of those who responded said yes, we should. A range of ideas was put forward by respondents and we will now consider which of these might be worth investigating further.

Significant proposal 2:

Should Council explore ways to have a role in the future of the Kapiti Coast Airport?

THE DECISION:

- ☒ **Yes – Council should explore ways to have a role in the airport**
- ☐ **No – Council should not explore ways to have a role in the airport**

We will start exploring whether the Council could potentially have a role in the airport.

As Kapiti Coast Airport is privately owned, any future steps would need the agreement of the airport's owners and a full consultation with the community about a specific proposal, so this is a first step.

THE WHY:

The future of the privately owned Kapiti Coast Airport is uncertain. 73.6 percent of respondents who answered this question indicated that Council should explore ways to have a role in the airport. The main reason is that the airport is an important asset for Kāpiti.

Some of those who were opposed felt that the airport is not within the scope of Council's core business. The role of local iwi with regards to ownership and management of the land was also commonly mentioned in submissions.

Many in the community have clearly expressed to us that they support Council exploring ways to have a role in the airport. We will begin this process while building and maintaining dialogue with the airport owner, iwi and other important stakeholders. This process might identify other available options.

What we will do initially is investigate how various scenarios could work for our district, for example operating the airport under a lease or owning it in partnership. We will also be open to other options that may emerge, which would benefit our community. If we identify a viable option, the second step will be to consult with the community on a specific proposal.

Learn more about Kapiti Airport at kapiticoast.govt.nz/kapiti-coast-airport.

We will investigate whether it may be feasible for Council to have a role in the operations of the privately owned Kapiti Coast Airport.



Major project and initiatives

Our Long-term Plan progresses work on the key projects and initiatives listed below. We asked people to share their views on any or all of the projects and initiatives to help inform our work.

Waikanae Library	Stormwater updates	Town centres
Te Uruhi – Kāpiti Gateway	Waste minimisation	Link road
Ōtaki community facilities	Ngā Manu Nature Reserve	Footpaths
Indoor sports centre	Ōtaki Pool upgrade stage 2	Playgrounds
Maclean Park	Drinking water safety and resilience	
Community Board proposals	Te Newhanga Kāpiti Community Centre	

The majority of feedback was positive.

Te Uruhi (formerly known as the Kāpiti Gateway) was the only exception, with over 170 people expressing their opposition to this project. Most felt that it was either a waste of money, not financially viable, or that the community doesn't want it.

As a key part of the Maclean Park Development Plan, Te Uruhi has been discussed for more than 25 years. It was included in Council's Toitū Kāpiti 2018–2038 Long-term Plan as a priority project and will be co-funded with a \$2.3 million grant from the Government's COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund.

It is intended to improve the Kāpiti visitor experience, especially for those stopping off to visit Kāpiti Island. It would also strengthen our biosecurity procedures for Kāpiti Island – one of New Zealand's most significant nature reserves.

Te Uruhi aims to foster a strong sense of identity and place for our community. It will also showcase our district's unique stories

and rich cultural history. The project itself has highlighted the significance of this site to iwi, and the story of Te Rauparaha.

Domestic tourism is strong across the country and the focus of *Council's Destination Management Plan*. Te Uruhi will promote tourism of the whole Kāpiti Coast District and, by the time it is complete, we could be seeing borders gradually opening to international visitors.

Council made the decision to proceed with Te Uruhi in February 2021, after listening carefully to the evidence and opinions both for and against the proposal. They concluded that their decision to proceed with the project is in line with the overwhelming evidence that it will deliver positive social, cultural, environmental and economic benefits for our district.

An application for resource consent was lodged in late June and early works are expected to start on site in September 2021.

Learn more at kapiticoast.govt.nz/teuruhi.

Costs and rates

Council proposed changes to the rating system, user fees and charges and policies for the Long-term Plan. It also proposed an average rates increase of 7.8 percent for 2021/22.

Changes to rating system

THE DECISION:

Proceed with the below rating system changes.

- Move a further \$225,000 from the districtwide general land value rate to the commercial targeted rate to promote economic development in the district.
- Move the remaining 20 percent land value roading rate (\$2.353 million for 2021/22) to capital value.



Young people enjoying Coastlands Aquatic Centre. Council subsidises running costs to keep charges for our three district pools affordable.

THE WHY:

Council reviews its rating system every three years to ensure it's fair and equitable. We asked for people's views on two proposed changes to the rating system – the majority were opposed to these changes.

Of those opposed, many said it was because they didn't want a rates increase. It's because of this reasoning that Council decided to proceed with the changes, as these changes in fact reduce the rates burden on the residential sector.

Modelling carried out early on in developing this Long-term Plan showed that based on 2020/21 rates requirement and new rating valuations, residential ratepayers would be paying \$450,000 more in rates. The proposed changes reduce the impact on residential ratepayers by \$200,000.

We also received feedback that the rating system is hard to understand. Council agrees that it is complex and that, in the future, work needs to be done to communicate this more clearly.

Learn more about the changes to the rating system at kapiticoast.govt.nz/rates.

Costs and rates (continued)

Changes to the help council provides with rates

THE DECISION:

Increase the rates remission fund by \$50,000 per year and changes to our rates remission policy, which will widen the eligibility criteria.

- Increasing the income threshold to ensure that people who have rates bills greater than 5 percent of their income can still apply for a rates remission.
- Introducing a new remission policy for excess volumetric water rates charges resulting from a private water leak where the leak has been repaired.

THE WHY:

Council, with the support of the community, decided that our key need at this time is to invest in resilience and growth. To enable this, the rates increases for the next three years will be higher than in recent years.

The Council is very mindful that affordability of increasing rates is a concern. The \$50,000 per year increase to our fund will potentially provide rates assistance to a further 167 households on top of the current level of uptake.

The majority of feedback we received was in support of the proposed changes. Opposition was mainly expressed for rates increases that necessitate the need for remissions.

We also understand that we have a high dependence on rates income. Council will be looking seriously at how we can generate other income and ease the rates burden in the future.

Learn more about the help Council provides with rates at kapiticoast.govt.nz/rates.

Our customer service team are often the main point of contact for residents and business owners.



Rates for 2021/22

THE DECISION:

Council has set the average rates increase of 7.79 percent for 2021/22. Some of this increase is related to our proposed increased spending, but the Council is also facing higher costs that we have no choice but to pass on. For example, inflation* and depreciation accounts for 6.2 percent (on average) of the proposed rates increase. Only 1.6 percent (on average) of the proposed rates increase is for new projects and initiatives or changes to the work programme.

The rates increase will vary for different properties across the district. This is because of:

- differences in properties – value, type and location
- the changes in property values after last year's revaluation by Quotable Value (done every three years)
- the changes to our rating system
- the increase in rates from Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC).

To find out the 2021/22 increase for your property use our rates calculator at kapiticoast.govt.nz/rates.

THE WHY:

Over half (57 percent) of the respondents who shared their views on the proposed rates said that they did not accept the need for the increase and think that Council should find a different way to deal with cost increases. The main reason given for opposition was that rates increases result in hardship and unaffordability.

As mentioned at the front of this booklet, while Council would absolutely prefer to have a lower rates increase, Council's view is that the district's key need at this time is for investment to help stimulate recovery and prepare for the future. When asked, the community agreed that investing for resilience and growth is the right approach for Council to take at this time. We also need to make some catch-ups after a lower than proposed increase last year in response to COVID-19.

When asked if they support Council exploring other ways to generate income, almost 80 percent of respondents said they do. The establishment of a CCO might provide an opportunity to attract funding from sources other than ratepayers and a council-controlled trading organisation can generate a profit from its activities that is returned to the council. Under its governing legislation, a council itself is not allowed to generate a profit.

Learn more about rates for 2021/22 at kapiticoast.govt.nz/rates.

* We use the Local Government Cost Index (LGCI) to measure inflation, rather than the Consumer Price Index (CPI) because the LGCI refers specifically to costs councils face.

Costs and rates (continued)

Changes to user fees and charges

The Council receives about 11 percent of its income from fees and charges. Fees and charges cover everything from building consents to hall hire.

As part of managing increased costs, we proposed some changes to fees and charges.

General increase	To reflect increased costs of providing services, Council set the general fees increase at 3.6 percent, which is in line with the Local Government Cost Index (LGCI).
Older persons housing	<p>Council is adjusting rents to ensure equity across the housing for older persons portfolio. We are introducing a new flat rental structure where individuals pay \$170 per week for single occupancy tenancies and couples pay \$246.50 per week for double occupancy tenancies.</p> <p>Council will support tenants through this change and work with them to access accommodation supplements available to them. With this additional financial support, superannuitant rents will meet a commonly accepted housing affordability model, with rents to be no more than 35 percent of after-tax income.</p> <p>Ratepayers currently subsidise 40 percent of costs for council to deliver the housing for older persons accommodation programme. During the last Long-term Plan, council direction was to recover 80 percent of costs through rents received from tenants and reduce the ratepayer burden to 20 percent of costs.</p> <p>The rates impact for year one of increasing rents on the Long-term Plan budget is 0.36 percent. This means that if rents are not raised, the average rates increase would have been 8.15 percent.</p> <p>This proposed increase is subject to further review by the Council. Should the Council wish to charge less, this can be revisited during the year and a revised fees and charges schedule will need to be adopted by the Council.</p>
Swimming pools	Following significant opposition from the community on the proposed new swimming pool fees, Council decided against adding a new spectator charge of \$1 for all swimming pools, and an additional swimming pool charge of \$1 per swimmer attending club or group activities that hire lanes. All existing fees increase by 3.6 percent.
Building consents	<p>To ensure Council covers increasing costs, Council has decided to add a new hourly charge for LIMs for additional time required to complete the application after five hours.</p> <p>Council has also decided to pass on the application fees for GoCouncil building consents (\$51.75 per application) and GoGet building consent online application processing (\$23 per application) to applicants. This is consistent with other councils.</p>
Resource consents	<p>Again, in response to increasing costs, Council adopted a new fee for administration time related to coordinating and attending pre-application and business start-up meetings. First two hours no fee, \$108 per hour thereafter.</p> <p>It has also introduced a new fee for planner/engineer time related to preparing for and attending pre-application and business start-up meetings. First two hours no fee, \$163 per hour thereafter.</p>
Laboratory services	Council is increasing laboratory fees of between 5 percent and 10 percent to reflect the higher costs of chemicals and overseas shipping, for example, for private drinking water testing.

For the full schedule of fees and charges for 2021/22 go to kapiticoast.govt.nz/fees-and-charges.

Changes to levels of service

THE DECISION:

For this Long-term Plan, we have maintained our levels of service to the community, such as swimming pool opening hours and frequency of roadside mowing, with only one specific change – the closure of the recycling facility at the Waikanae greenwaste and recycling site on Park Avenue.

THE WHY:

The community has told us that they don't want to see a drop in current service levels. However, where services are not equitable and where funds could be better spent elsewhere, Council needs to make changes.

Council was able to confirm a one-year agreement with Composting New Zealand that will see the greenwaste facility retained at no cost to ratepayers.

The recycling facility will still close as it costs Council approximately \$123,000 per annum to resource, manage and maintain (Composting New Zealand are not interested in running the recycling facility). Council feels this money could be better used in providing other services, facilities and projects in the district.

The closure would make levels of service for Waikanae residents similar to other urban areas of the district where kerbside recycling collection services are available to most and the Otaihangā transfer station is only a short distance away.

Those in opposition to the closure were most concerned about the impact on the environment. Council remains committed to waste minimisation and to offset the closure of the recycling facility in Waikanae, Council has committed an additional \$150,000 (in year one) to fund further climate change initiatives across the district.

The hydroslide at the outdoor Waikanae pool is a popular attraction in summer.



Changes to policies

THE DECISION:

We have made changes to four of our policies: revenue and financing, rates remission, development contributions, and significance and engagement.

THE WHY:

People were mostly supportive of the proposed changes to the four policies. Read the adopted policies at kapiticoast.govt.nz/council-policies.

Revenue and financing

This policy describes how our spending – operating and capital – is funded (where the money comes from).

Feedback relating to proposed changes was evenly split between support and opposition.

The most frequent reason given in opposition to the changes was disapproval for the percentage of rates increase.

Rates remission

This policy sets out how Council provides assistance to people who face significant difficulty paying their rates.

As per page 18, feedback was mostly supportive. Opposition was mainly expressed for rates increases that necessitate the need for remissions.

Development contributions

This policy provides the Council with a means of recovering costs of specific growth infrastructure that is required for new development, where the development results in an increase in demand on the district's infrastructure.

The majority of feedback was supportive.

Significance and engagement

This policy sets out how and when our communities can expect to be engaged in decisions about different issues, assets, or other matters, depending on their level of significance.

We are making some minor changes to make the policy more accessible and better reflect and clarify our engagement framework.

The majority of feedback was supportive.

Additional proposals

Council considered 741 submissions. As a result the following additions have been included in the Long-term Plan.

Paraparaumu College safety improvements	In response to the submission made by Paraparaumu College, Council has agreed to support a collaborative solution to address the safety concerns in and around Paraparaumu College. Specifically, Council will fund \$60,000 in year one for an alternative entrance path to the college cycle parking area.
Town planning consultation and engagement	Following a submission from the Raumati Village Business Association, and further discussion around the need for greater consultation and engagement with town centre businesses and associations across the district, Council decided to add \$10,000 annually to enable Council to work with sectors of the community on town centre planning.
Ngā Manu rephasing	<p>Ngā Manu Nature Reserve makes a unique contribution to our environmental and economic development outcomes.</p> <p>Council has budgeted \$266,000 to contribute to their visitor centre development and proposed forest canopy walkway.</p> <p>In the draft plan we had this spread over years two and three of this plan. Since then, through its submission, Ngā Manu has prompted Council to rephase this money, so that \$50,000 is available in year one to help fund the more immediate improvements to the visitor centre.</p>
Social investment fund for Ōtaki community	Council will increase the social investment fund by \$50,000 annually specifically for Ōtaki to reflect the range of equity issues that were reflected through the submissions.
Youth Space for Ōtaki	Again, to reflect what was heard through a number of submissions about the need for services for youth in Ōtaki, Council is funding \$50,000 to go towards a space or hub for youth.
Indoor sports centre feasibility study	Elected Members added \$50,000 into the budget for a feasibility study for an indoor sports centre in year two of this plan.

OTHER FEEDBACK:

We gave people the opportunity to provide any other feedback they may have. Responses mostly focused on governance, infrastructure and the environment.

These have been noted and will be shared with the appropriate council staff.

STAY IN TOUCH

- Subscribe to our weekly e-newsletter, Everything Kāpiti, at **kapiticoast.govt.nz/everythingkapiti**
- Download the Antenno app at **kapiticoast.govt.nz/antenno**
- Follow us on Facebook and Instagram **@kapiticoastdistrictcouncil**
- Visit our website **www.kapiticoast.govt.nz**
- Pop into our district Libraries and Council Service Centres

For more information, or to read our Long-term Plan, go to kapiticoast.govt.nz/longtermplan or visit your local library or Council service centre.

