

Mayor and Councillors
COUNCIL

12 MARCH 2015

Meeting Status: **Public**

Purpose of Report: For Decision

FUTURE KĀPITI: CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1 This report seeks to have Council adopt a Consultation Document (CD) for the purposes of consulting on the draft Long Term Plan (LTP) 2015-35.

DELEGATION

- 2 Only the Council can adopt the CD.

BACKGROUND

- 3 Several briefings and public workshops have laid out for Council the new legislative requirement in the amended Local Government Act 2002 (LGA) that councils use a specially produced CD as their main vehicle for consultation with their communities on the LTP from 2015 onwards. This information has been conveyed formally through reports number SP-15-1500 and SP-15-1519.
- 4 The legislation expressly prohibits councils from consulting on a summary version of the LTP, as has occurred in the past. Instead, councils must decide which issues and projects will be sufficiently significant to their community to warrant their inclusion in the CD. The council must then describe the proposal, canvass options, indicate the council's preferred option and give an indication of impacts on rates and borrowings.

CONSIDERATIONS

- 5 To meet the new requirements of the legislation, the Council has produced a plain English consultation document (CD) setting out the key initiatives and major projects proposed in the draft LTP. Their description and analysis of options meet the requirements of the legislation. The reasons for choosing these initiatives also mean they are significant under the Council's Significance and Engagement Policy. The CD invites the community to provide their views.
- 6 The CD presents the four key development proposals the Council has determined for this LTP. These are presented with options highlighting the Council's preferred option and costs and rates impacts as required by the legislation. The CD also includes six major projects Council is proposing to progress which Council considers to be of interest to the community. For a variety of reasons, including the fact that some have been the subject of previous consultation, these do not include options but costs and rates impacts are presented for each. Feedback is encouraged on these initiatives as well.
- 7 The CD presents the key points of the Financial Strategy and the Infrastructure Strategy and refers readers to the full strategies on the Council's website. It includes references to key policies being adopted as part of the LTP, or sitting

alongside as do the Significance and Engagement Policy and the Development Contributions Policy (which are also provided on the website).

- 8 The CD is being produced as a small, printed publication which will be made widely available within the community particularly at the events planned to support consultation such as the Sustainable Home and Garden Show. The electronic format of the CD provided on the Council's website will be interactive enabling viewers to travel between the CD and detailed underpinning information at will. It will also be available in an epub form which assists readers who have visual impairments.
- 9 The community will be invited to provide feedback through a range of channels. They can make a submission online, use the form in the back of the consultation document or use a separate hard copy form that will be available in libraries and service centres. They can also email their feedback and this will be treated as a submission. Members of the community making a submission will be invited to advise if they wish to also speak to their submissions during the hearings process.
- 10 As part of engaging more widely as is intended by the legislation, the community are also being offered opportunities to provide more informal feedback. They may note their views at events such as the Sustainable Home and Garden Show and post on the Council's Facebook page. People providing informal feedback in these ways will also be invited to make a more formal submission if they wish, however all feedback received will be taken into account by Council.

Policy considerations

- 11 The policies specifically consulted on through the CD are
 - Draft Revenue and Financing Policy
 - Draft Development Contributions Policy
 - Significance and Engagement Policy.

Legal considerations

- 12 The production of the CD meets the legal requirements relating to LTP consultation in the LGA.
- 13 The Council's auditors have issued a verbal acceptance of the CD. Their written opinion will be inserted in the document prior to printing.

Financial considerations

- 14 The CD contains significant financial information concerning rates and borrowings movements, the infrastructure strategy, the financial strategy, changes to fees and charges and proposed changes to the rating system.

Tāngata whenua considerations

- 15 The ART Forum of the three local iwi – Te Ātiawa, Ngāti Raukawa and Ngāti Toa Rangatira – has provided a vision statement for inclusion at the beginning of the CD.

SIGNIFICANCE AND ENGAGEMENT

Degree of significance

16 This matter has a high degree of significance, and it is significant under Council policy.

Consultation

17 This CD will form the basis of the LTP consultation from 20 March to 24 April 2015.

Engagement planning

18 Council was briefed on 25 February 2015 on the details of the engagement plan for the draft LTP.

Publicity

19 Publicity plans were covered in the 25 February 2015 briefing.

RECOMMENDATIONS

20 It is recommended that Council adopts the Consultation Document attached to report SP-15-1526 as the basis for its consultation with the community on the draft Long Term Plan 2015-35.

Report prepared by	Approved submission	for	Approved for submission
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ATTACHMENT: CONSULTATION DOCUMENT – FORWARDED UNDER SEPARATE COVER