

**Mayor and Councillors**  
COUNCIL

4 OCTOBER 2012

Meeting Status: **Public**

Purpose of Report: For Decision

**WAIKANAЕ POOL REVIEW OF LEVELS OF SERVICE**

**PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1 This report seeks Council's approval for changes to the opening hours and length of the season at Waikanae Pool.

**SIGNIFICANCE OF DECISION**

- 2 This report proposes a change to the level of service at Waikanae Pool that differs to that described in the 2012 Long Term Plan. The proposal does not trigger the Council's Significance Policy.

**BACKGROUND**

- 3 Waikanae Pool has historically been open for a 22 week season each year, from early November until late March or early April. An average of 43,000 visits are made to the pool each season. Although this varies according to the time of the season and the weather, this equates to an average of 279 visits per day. In the last three to four weeks of the season attendance numbers decrease largely due to the change of weather and lower temperatures with an average of 132 people attending per day during March.
- 4 The opening hours of the facility have varied depending on the time of the season, ranging between 6:00 am opening and 8:00 pm closing each day. The weekend opening time of 6:00 am is early for an outdoor pool and attendance numbers are limited to an average of up to three each hour between 6:00 am and 8:00 am. Alternating closing times throughout the season means a difficult message to be communicated to the public and an uncertainty of what is available when. By structuring the opening hours to be the same throughout the season public access will be easy to communicate.
- 5 After discussion with the Waikanae Swim Club, it is proposed that Monday and Thursday nights will remain as exclusive use for the club from 6:00pm – 8:00pm during their swim season (12 weeks). Thus, the pool will remain closed to the public from 6:00pm on these nights.

**CONSIDERATIONS**

- 6 The decision to bring the management of the District's swimming pools back under the Council's direct control, instead of through an operating contract with an external provider, has provided an opportunity to explore the potential to

establish more efficient operating practices. Two options are presented for the Council to consider with regard to the Waikanae Pool.

*Option One*

- 7 Under Option One it is proposed the season would be reduced from 22 weeks to 18 weeks. This will make the most efficient use of the facility by minimising operating costs during periods of low demand at the end of the season due to inclement weather and the end of daylight saving.
- 8 Under this proposal the pool would open from Saturday 17 November 2012 and close on Sunday 24 March 2013. The proposed opening date in 2012 is a week later than would usually be the case due to the timeframe required for the necessary maintenance and upgrade work that is taking place. In future years, the pool would open and close one week earlier than these proposed dates. In the last four weeks of the season a total of approximately 4,000 visits to the pool could be expected.
- 9 Due to the very low visitor numbers in the early morning (an average of three per hour between 6am and 8am), it is proposed that the hours of operation are reduced at the weekend and on public holidays by opening at 8:00am. Further to this, the opening hours should remain the same on a daily basis throughout the season, with exception of Monday and Thursday nights during the Swim Club season.

*Option Two*

- 10 The change proposed in Option Two is limited to the amended opening hours at weekends and on public holidays, as described in Option One above.

### Financial Considerations

- 11 Net savings of up to \$29,000 could be realised by shortening the season by four weeks.

### Legal Considerations

- 12 There are no legal considerations.

### Delegation

- 13 The Council has the authority to make this decision.

### Consultation

- 14 Informal discussion has been held with the Waikanae Community Board chair who has indicated he would only support Option Two.
- 15 Staff have spoken directly to the Waikanae Schools who hire the pool for swimming lessons and would be affected by any change in the length of the season. The schools have been offered alternative arrangements for the current year to ensure the children continue to have the same level of access to the water.

## Policy Implications

- 16 Subject to the Council's decision on this matter, there may be a change in the level of service for Waikanae Pool which would be reflected in future Asset Management Plans as well as Annual and Long Term Plans.

## Tāngata Whenua Considerations

- 17 There are no Tāngata Whenua Considerations.

## Publicity Considerations

- 18 Specific communications will be required to ensure the local community is aware of any change of hours and shortened season. Communication will be predominantly via targeted promotions and local news media.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 19 That the Council approves:

- 19.1 Option One – a reduced operating season of 18 weeks per year for Waikanae Swimming Pool and opening hours of 6:00am – 8:00pm Monday to Friday (with the exception of Swim Club nights) and 8:00am – 8:00pm on weekends and public holidays.

OR

- 19.2 Option Two – opening hours of 6:00am – 8:00pm Monday to Friday (with the exception of Swim Club nights) and 8:00am – 8:00pm on weekends and public holidays at the Waikanae Swimming Pool.

**Report prepared by:**

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