

Taupō District Council

Notes of Council Workshop

Group	Council
Date	Tuesday 2 April 2024, 10.30am-2.46pm (the workshop was adjourned at 12.16pm and reconvened at 12.48pm)
Venue	Council Chamber
Topic	Long-term Plan 2024-34
Facilitated by	General Manager Organisation Performance (S Matthews) and Senior Policy Advisor (K Goode)
Members present	Mayor David Trewavas (in the Chair), Cr Duncan Campbell, Cr Karam Fletcher, Cr Sandra Greenslade, Cr Kylie Leonard (via MS teams from 12.48pm), Cr Danny Loughlin (from 10.35am), Cr Anna Park, Cr Rachel Shepherd, Cr Kevin Taylor (via MS Teams), Cr Yvonne Westerman, Cr John Williamson (until 2.13pm)
Officers present (in addition to facilitators)	Chief Executive (J Gardyne), Acting General Manager Operations and Delivery (T Hale), General Manager People and Community Partnerships (L O'Brien), General Manager Strategy and Environment (W Zander), Finance Manager (J Paenga), Events and Venues Manager (S Giles), Policy Manager (N Carroll), District Customer Relations Manager (T Russell), People and Culture Manager (L Nienhuser), Environmental Services Manager (J Sparks), Project Management Office Manager (P Fletcher), Digital Solutions Manager (T May), Senior Infrastructure Specialist LT Planning (D Lewis), Communications Manager (L McMichael), Acting Three Waters Manager (K Sears) (via MS Teams), Senior Financial Planner (J Caldwell), Executive Manager Mayors Office (J Later), Asset Manager Water & Waste (M Cordell), Waste Minimisation Officer (S Hanson), Executive Assistant Operations, Strategy & Environment (M Niva), Executive Assistant People, Community and Performance (M Bennett), Programme Manager (J Walton), Senior Project Manager (P Bradshaw), Team Lead Transportation Operations (I Cruz), Team Leader Corporate Planning (A Smith), Senior Project Manager PMO (T Delich), Project Manager Stakeholder Specialist (T Perry), Infrastructure Project Manager Operations 3 Waters (E May), Asset Manager Transportation (C Sharland), Senior Policy Advisor (P Caruana), Policy Advisor (A Wilson), Senior Community Engagement Advisor (G Smith), Governance Quality Manager (S James)
Public / media present	No public or media present
Documents either pre-circulated or tabled	<p><u>Pre-circulated (via Diligent):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft Development Contribution Changes 2024 (A3522988) • Fundamentals of Development Contributions (A3522991) • Vision and Community Outcomes (A3522995) • Draft Fees and Charges Schedule (A3522996) • 2024 Capital Projects List (3522999) <p><u>Tabled:</u> Long-term Plan 2024-34 workshop PowerPoint (A3537994)</p>
Public or closed¹	Public

¹ Workshops are public (and are always advertised whether public or closed), unless there is a good reason(s) for information to be withheld and there is no overriding public interest in holding the workshop in public. Withholding grounds set out in the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA) are a guide. If closed, cite relevant LGOIMA section.

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Notes²

The purpose of the workshop was to discuss Long-term Plan 2024-34 (LTP) financials with elected members and get some clear direction from them to allow preparations for the LTP consultation document to continue.

Key messages from the workshop were:

- At this stage, TDC would be going out with an average 13% rates increase for year one, 11.1% for year two and 5.4% for year three.
- This would continue to impact heavily on residential ratepayers with water and wastewater being large cost drivers. This could be partially mitigated depending on how TDC charge electricity generators.
- Delaying or removing projects where possible was a big focus for this LTP to reduce rates increases.
- Debt was currently \$213 million and this LTP showed that this debt would likely double. This was due to Taupō District being very fast growing so it was important that infrastructure was kept on top of.
- Operational cuts had been suggested such as a reduction in funding for Destination Great Lake Taupō and Amplify.
- There were no plans to reduce staff members however in the future there might be a need to hold off on recruitment of some roles.
- Capital works for the first year was roughly \$74 million but there was also approximately \$30 million of carry-forward from the current year as well.
- The focus for Council and Audit was deliverability of the capital works programme with projected carry-forward. Consultation with public on the existing plan would occur and deliverability would be looked at prior to the finalisation of the LTP.

Major projects were discussed and elected members were asked for a direction so a draft budget could be finalised. The highlighted options for the following projects below were the direction given by elected members:

Taupō northern wastewater capacity solution

- **Option A** – convey wastewater across the Waikato River.
- Option B – Investigate land disposal options north of Taupō.

Tūrangi wastewater solution

- Option A – Develop a new irrigation site where we discharge to land.
- **Option B** – Status quo with enhancements – ie a constructed wetland or similar.

East Urban Lands (no direction given as this will be subject to a paper to Council in late April).

- Option A – proceed with affordable housing partner to help address housing issue without impacting rates or debt.
- Option B – sell EUL land on the open market.

Kerbside delivery (no direction given as this will be subject to a paper to Council in late April).

- Option A – bring in bins for recycling, refuse and food.
- Option B – Retain bags, crates (status quo) for recycling and add food collection.

Taupō northern access transport solution

- **Option A** – budget \$65 million in draft LTP to progress project for years six and seven.
- Option B – budget \$65 million in draft LTP and shift proposed timing.

² Workshops are not decision-making forums, therefore this document contains notes of key points discussed only, not decisions.

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Tūrangi Recreation Events Centre

- **Option A** – community-operated model, delay project start time to year four and complete a spatial planning process in year one to inform location.
- Option B – Council operated model, start project in year one (design and consent).

Other matters

Updates on the following matters were also provided:

- Broadlands Landfill
- Various LTP projects
- Projects by area
- Development Contributions; and
- Fees and Charges.