

2024-2034 LONG TERM PLAN: STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Through the first phases of LTP planning staff sought direction from Council on its priorities to help develop the LTP work programme. Council's Strategic Priorities were adopted by Council on 7 June 2023, and are intended to provide useful guidance to staff, iwi partners, stakeholders, and the public on Council's priorities. They will also help to focus discussions, guide work programmes and prioritise activities in the Long Term Plan (LTP).

The following outlines the Strategic Priorities that were adopted by Council and provides a summary of proposals that staff are putting forward under each of the priorities.



Building community resilience

We will prioritise the wellbeing of our district by building and supporting strong and resilient communities.

We will partner with communities to address climate change, natural disasters, and social change.

We will do this by connecting volunteers, businesses, communities, and agencies, and by providing relevant information and protecting our critical infrastructure.



Building relationships

We are committed to building strong partnerships.

We will work with our communities, stakeholders and governance to tell our stories, learn from each other, and build a shared sense of belonging.

We will uphold Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

We will foster and strengthen relationships within and between our communities, respecting cultural heritage and embracing diversity.



Consistent delivery of core services

Council will focus on reliable and essential services that keep our community safe and resilient.

We will ensure our current levels of service for core assets and services such as roading, parks and open spaces, waste collection, and water services, meet agreed standards and will seek to improve animal control, rural roadside amenity, and safety measures.



Improving connectivity

Our district is easy to explore, and communities are connected and well-informed.

We are committed to improving connectivity within and between settlements to create a more accessible and connected district.

We will make it easy for you to engage in what's important to you, to access information about what's happening locally, and promote local attractions and events.

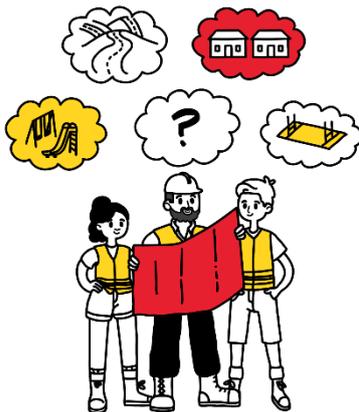


Improving Council responsiveness

Council will improve its responsiveness and communication to communities and customers.

We will keep you informed about our work and services, what you can expect from us, and respond to requests in a timely manner.

We aim to listen and engage with you on issues that matter most, and ensure your voices are heard and represented in our decisions.

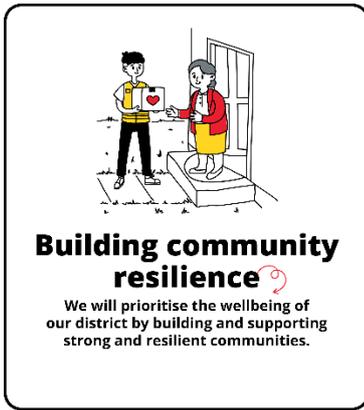


Supporting sustainable growth

We plan for growth in a sustainable and responsible way, ensuring we preserve our local heritage and sense of community.

We will focus on existing and planned growth nodes throughout the district and explore funding tools to ensure that economic and residential growth benefits our communities.

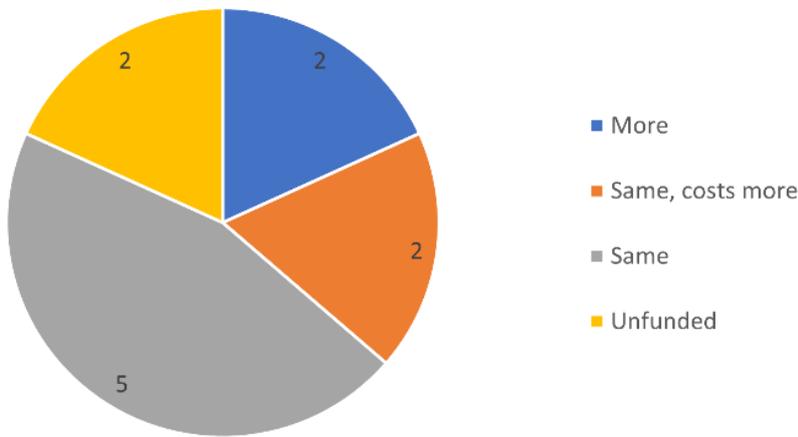
We will work with you to create a vibrant and active district, while managing regulatory processes to preserving our unique identity.



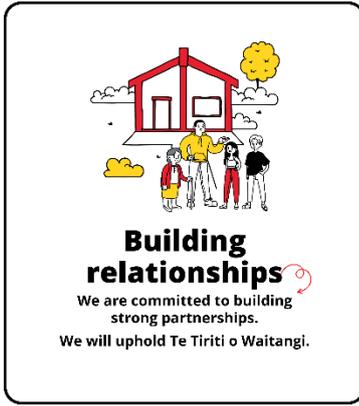
Staff propose to mostly deliver the same level of service in this priority. We work closely with our communities to build their resilience and ensure they are prepared to respond in the event of an emergency.

We want to continue to deliver on this excellent mahi and respond to climate change and adaptation through the managed retreat business case.

PROPOSALS



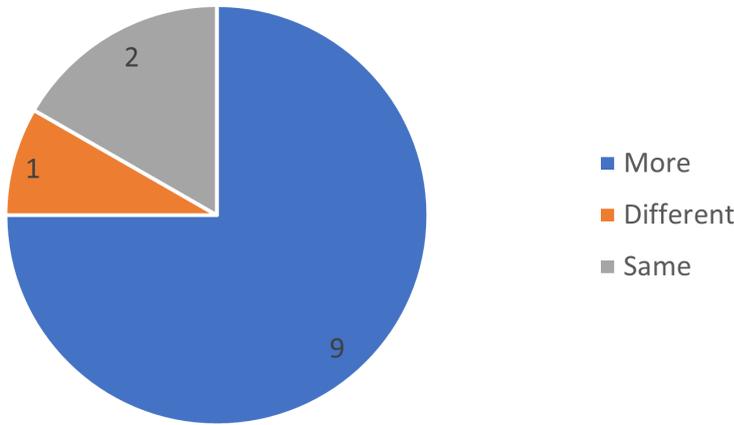
Ref	Activity	Proposal	Change
CR4	Community Resilience	Long-term adaptive management planning in communities vulnerable to natural hazards influenced by climate change.	More
CR5	Community Resilience	Local emergency management: response and recovery coordination during an emergency event.	Same Service, Higher Cost
CR6	Community Resilience	Development and delivery of programmes and initiatives to support community and organisational resilience.	Same level of service – costs associated with continuation of service
OS9	Open spaces	Climate change and adaption BC #033 Managed retreat	More



Staff are proposing to increase the level of service for this priority, while maintaining a number of the relationships and partnerships that we already hold.

The work that staff are proposing to do more of relates to strengthening our partnerships with iwi Maaori, working more closely with community boards and committees, and providing support to Mana Whenua forums.

PROPOSALS



Ref	Activity	Proposal	Change
SP14	Cultural partnerships	Opportunity: Hapuu Management Plans	More
ED2	Economic and community development	Work with community groups and iwi in partnership with agencies to strengthen capability building through training and development.	More
ED4	Economic and community development	Work with community boards and committees to increase citizen-led democracy and local governance.	More, same cost
D2	Democracy	Opportunity: Community committees and boards engagement / relationships with Councillors	More
D3	Democracy	Issue: Support for Mana Whenua forums	More
CP1	Cultural partnerships	Provide funding and facilitation to increase the number of Hapu Management Plans across the District.	More
CP2	Cultural partnerships	Providing support to enhance the capacity and capability of Maaori stakeholders to engage in and contribute to council decision-making processes.	More
CP3	Cultural partnerships	Provides Maaori focused strategic advice that informs a range of work across the council by providing a Maaori partnership perspective.	More
CP5	Cultural partnerships	Development of Strategic documents to guide our work programme including Te Tiriti o Waitangi Strategy and Maaori Strategic Strategy (both strategies are not in place).	More

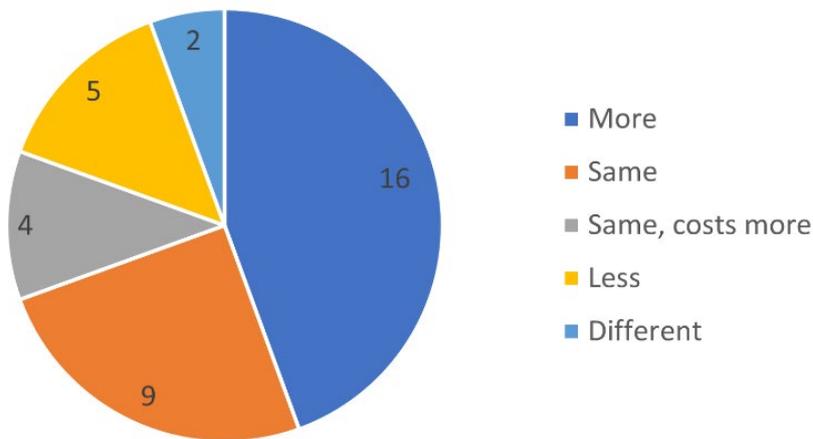


Consistent delivery of core services

Council will focus on reliable and essential services that keep our community safe and resilient.

Staff are proposing a range of changes to levels of service for this priority. Those areas where we propose to do more relate to providing additional waste services, increasing our response in Animal Control, improving the management of our facilities, maintaining more parks and reserve space as its vested to Council. There are also some areas in our Open Spaces activities where we propose to do less to offset some costs.

PROPOSALS



Ref	Activity	Proposal	Change
WM1	Waste Management	Collecting kerbside recycling and rubbish. Introduce two more monthly rural recycling drop-off collections.	More
WM2	Waste Management	Develop Bollard Road (Tuakau) site into a community Resource Recovery Centre. Further develop McVie Road Transfer Station in Huntly to accommodate a community resource recovery centre.	More
WM4	Waste Management	Introduce kerbside food-waste collection in January 2027.	More
WM5	Waste Management	Increased compliance and administrative costs will require an additional FTE.	More
CS1	Community Safety	Increase proactive work to get dogs registered through the creation of a new role from within existing budgets.	More
CS3	Community Safety	Build a new pound.	More
PF1	Property and Community Facilities	Planning for the provision of and the management of Community Facilities and Council occupied and owned buildings	More
PF10	Property and Community Facilities	Planning for the provision of land and community facilities.	More
OS1	Open spaces	Ensuring playgrounds are safe, maintained, clean, and provide positive visitor experiences for our communities.	More

Ref	Activity	Proposal	Change
OS2	Open spaces	Ensuring furniture, equipment and structures are safe, maintained, clean, and provide positive visitor experiences for our communities.	More
OS3	Open spaces	Maintaining, sportsfields, hard courts and turf.	More
OS4	Open spaces	Maintaining new parks and reserves that are vested to us through development.	More
OS5	Open spaces	Managing cemeteries and providing sexton duties associated with burial processes.	More
OS8	Open spaces	Regular auditing of structures and delivery of contracted maintenance programmes.	More
OS11	Open spaces	Maintenance of boat ramps, wharves, and pontoons.	Same costs more



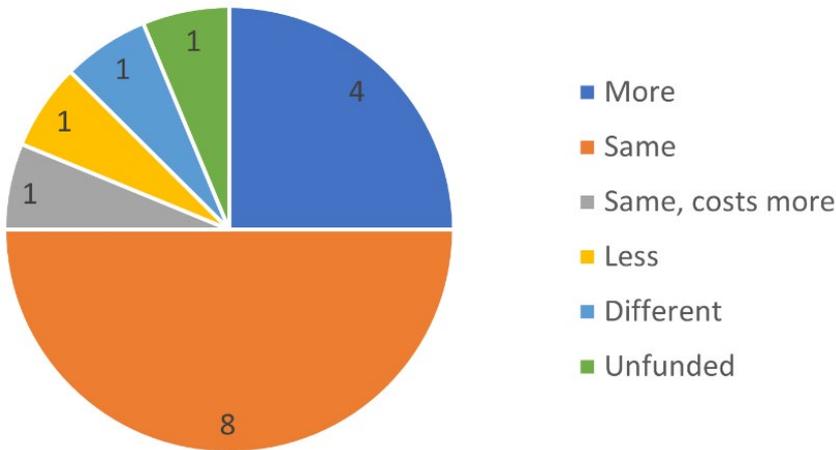
Improving connectivity

Our district is easy to explore, and communities are connected and well-informed.

Across the business staff are proposing more effort on our trail and walkways, planning for reserves, maintaining our library services and continuing to work on advocating for increased access to rail services. It should also be noted that the cost of maintaining our current services in relation to halls has increased significantly.

We propose to decrease our effort in reservice planning, and consider how we could do things differently in our preservation of natural areas.

PROPOSALS



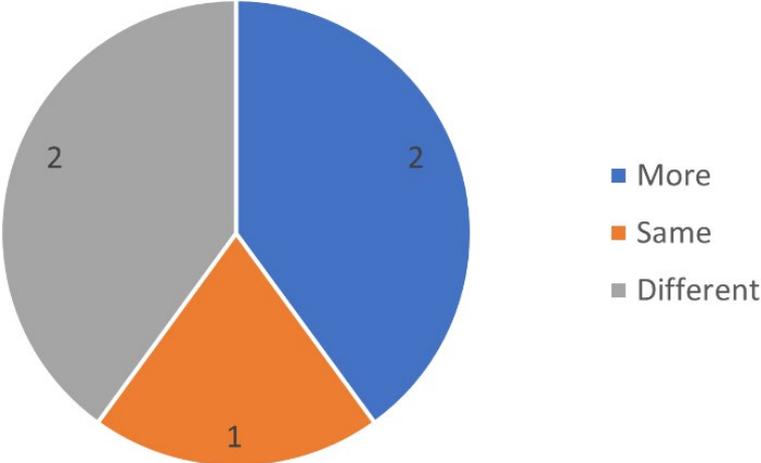
Ref	Activity	Proposal	Change
SP4	Transport	Active partner in the operations of Te Huia and further planning and investigations for the provision of additional railway stations in the northern Waikato to service the community.	More
SP11	Strategic and spatial planning	Issue: Expectations of analytics - community expectations to be able to interrogate and understand local and district wide projects and service activity	More
PF2	Property and Community Facilities	Managing and maintaining library buildings.	More
PF5	Property and Community Facilities	Managing and maintaining community halls.	Provide the same, but costs have increased significantly.
OS6	Open spaces	Maintaining trails and walkways	More
OS25	Open spaces	Planning for the provision of reserves	More



Improving Council responsiveness
 Council will improve its responsiveness and communication to communities and customers.

In order to be more responsive to our customers, staff are proposing training to ensure we can respond to customer queries consistently and effectively, we are also proposing to continue with the customer portal program to support more self-service. Staff are investigating ways to undertake monitoring of some bylaws differently, as well as trying to gain additional information on areas of concern from our residents survey.

PROPOSALS



Ref	Activity	Proposal	Change
CE1	Customer experience	Effectively managing customer queries, transactions, and issues utilising councils systems and processes to resolution	More
CE6	Customer experience	Customer portal: Deliver and maintain online tools to customers that allow them to apply, pay and report matters. Also, we enable customer to self-serve and have access to selected personal and financial information.	More

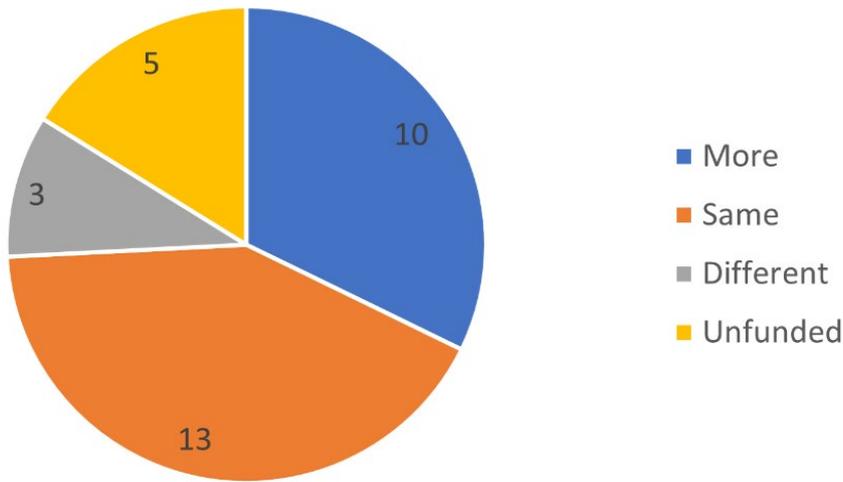


Supporting sustainable growth

We plan for growth in a sustainable and responsible way, ensuring we preserve our local heritage and sense of community.

The areas where staff propose to do more under this strategic priority include reinstating the duty planner service, developing a monitoring and enforcement strategy, and implementing the Taiao Strategy. Staff are also proposing a change to the way that we do strategic and spatial planning, as well as identifying some efficiencies gains that will be realised in the consenting space as a result of the customer portal.

PROPOSALS



Ref	Activity	Proposal	Change
SP1	Strategic and spatial planning	Taiao (Nature) in the Waikato Strategy	More
SP2	Strategic and spatial planning	Heritage: Permanent funding for Strategic Advisor	More
SP5	Strategic and spatial planning	Maintaining and implementing Council's development contribution policy. Development contributions are Council's key growth funding revenue stream.	More
SP6	Strategic and spatial planning	Enabling un-serviced developments: Negotiate and implement Development Agreements (commercial agreements to determine funding and delivery obligations) with large developers. We also act as Council's lead on the enablement of large, un-serviced developments.	More
SP7	Strategic and spatial planning	Growth Analytics: provide ongoing support to the organisation in terms of growth analytics including analysing and presenting growth projections – this supports growth and infrastructure planning.	More
SP9	Strategic and spatial planning	Opportunity: Infrastructure funding and financing	More
C1	Consenting	Reinstate duty planner service. Instigate a developers' forum.	More
CS2	Community Safety	Monitoring and Bylaws: Monitoring and investigating breaches of rules made under various enactments, policies	More

Ref	Activity	Proposal	Change
		and bylaws including the Resource Management Act (which includes Resource Consents and District Plan).	
ED1	Economic and community development	Supporting business sustainability and growth by working with partners to provide businesses with external support and advice to ensure investment is realised into local communities and iwi.	More