

HE KUPU WHAKATAKI

INTRODUCTION



WELCOME

A MESSAGE

FROM THE MAYOR

Council has been working on a plan for the next 10 years for several months, taking a hard look at what needs to be done to help our district move forward.

Council signed off the LTP and consultation document for public consultation, with a total rates increase in the first year of 11.85%.

This means Council would collect 11.85% more from rates than in 2020/21, but 1.5% of that is expected to be covered by new ratepayers, as the district is continuing to experience strong growth. This means existing ratepayers would fund 10.35% of the total rates increase. How that impacts different properties would vary - some would see an increase of more than 10%, and others would see less. This is a LTP that is grounded in reality.

We live here too and we don't like large rates increases either, but we are dealing with escalating costs in core areas of our business - like maintaining our roads, rubbish and recycling and complying with drinking water standards. We have no choice but to face these challenges head on.



We're tackling the issues, but we also have some really exciting proposals included over the next 10 years, like revitalising our main streets, and planning ahead for recreation facilities - including an additional indoor stadium for Matamata and re-development of the Morrinsville pool. Projects that will help make our community a more vibrant, thriving place.

We're also proposing to develop a new day spa in Te Aroha, starting with a plan that will allow us to stage the project in a cost effective way. We expect when the development is up and running it will be self-funding, so there should be little impact on rates, but a significant impact on the district - attracting both domestic and international visitors in time. We've put a lot of time into evaluating the options and trying to find a balance between these exciting projects, and what is affordable.

In June 2020, in response to Covid-19, Council opted for a zero increase to general rates - which meant farmers had no rates increase at all, while urban properties had a small increase in targeted rates. The flow on effect of this is that higher value farms will see a higher increase in 2021/22 than urban properties.

We kept the increase to general rates at zero this year, but we have some big challenges that we have to face, such as more frequent droughts, changing weather patterns and a reform of our three water activities by Central Government which you can read more about inside this document. Keeping rates low just to be popular puts our district in a dangerous position in years to come - no one will thank us in the future if we're facing 20-30% rates increases because we weren't brave enough to face facts, if we stick to our current limits our community will not be able to move forward towards our vision. Whatever the total draft rates increase is, the community will have their opportunity to have their say on it.

We know that any rates increase, however big or small, can have a significant impact on some people in the community, and this Council is committed to engaging with the community so we can make informed decisions.

Council will be consulting on the LTP from 16 March to 19 April 2021. Opportunities to tell us what you think will be widely advertised in local newspapers, Council's Facebook page, and mpdc.govt.nz. If you want to be notified directly of the opportunity to have your say, you can sign up for email notifications on Council's website, or download the free Antenna app from Google Play or the App Store.

Ash Tanner
Mayor

OUR GOVERNANCE

Council has established the following governance structure:

Council

The Matamata-Piako District is divided into three wards: Matamata, Morrinsville and Te Aroha. Our Council consists of 11 Councillors, elected by their respective wards, and the Mayor, elected by all voters throughout the District. The Councillors and Mayor are elected to represent their communities and make decisions for the District. The elected representatives are supported by the Council's Chief Executive Officer and staff who provide advice, implement Council decisions, and look after the District's day to day operations.

The Corporate and Operations Committee

This committee is made up of the Mayor and all 11 Councillors. Council has delegated all of its responsibilities, duties and powers to the Corporate and Operations Committee, except for the ones it can't delegate under the Local Government Act 2002 (like adopting an Annual Plan or Report), and these delegated to the Hearings Commission

Te Mana whenua Forum mo Matamata-Piako

The Te Mana whenua Forum mo Matamata-Piako (Forum) is a standing committee of Council who advise on cultural, economic, environmental and social issues of significance to Mana whenua groups. The Forum also provides advice to Council about issues that affect Māori in our District, and provides feedback when we are developing plans and policies, such as the LTP or District Plan. The Forum includes representatives from Council, Ngāti Hauā, Ngāti Rahiri-Tumutumu, Ngāti Maru, Ngāti Whanaunga, Ngāti Paoa and Ngāti Hinerangi. Raukawa and Ngāti Tamatera also have the ability to join.

The Hearings Commission

The Hearings Commission is responsible for hearing and determining applications for resource consents under the Resource Management Act 1991, granting exemptions to fencing requirements under the Fencing of Swimming Pools Act 1987, and hearing and determining objections under the Dog Control Act 1996. The Hearings Commission is made up of five Councillors, one of which is the chairperson.

The District Licensing Committee

Council has a District Licensing Committee to consider and determine applications under the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012. The District Licensing Committee considers and makes decisions on alcohol licences (including club, special, on and off licences and manager's certificates). The District Licensing Committee is chaired by a Councillor. Members of the committee are appointed from a list of appropriately qualified people, which may include Councillors, and two of these members sit on the District Licensing Committee.

The Audit and Risk Committee

The Audit and Risk Committee ensure we have appropriate risk management and internal and financial control systems. This committee includes an independent chairperson, independent member, the Mayor and five elected members.

The Waharoa (Matamata) Aerodrome Committee

The Waharoa (Matamata) Aerodrome Committee is a committee that was established in 2015 by legislation under the Ngāti Hauā Claims Settlement Act 2014. The committee comprises of the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, one Council appointed member and three members appointed by the Ngāti Hauā Iwi Trust Board trustees. The functions of the Waharoa (Matamata) Aerodrome Committee, as set out in the Ngāti Hauā Claims Settlement Act 2014 are to:

- make recommendations to Council in relation to any aspect of the administration of Waharoa Aerodrome land
- make final decisions on access and parking arrangements for the Waharoa Aerodrome land that affect Raungaiti Marae.
- perform the functions of the administering body under section 41 of the Reserves Act 1977 in relation to any review of the reserve management plan that has been authorised by Council
- perform any other function delegated to the committee by Council.

Chief Executive Officer Performance Committee

Chief Executive Officer Performance Committee undertakes a review of the performance and remuneration of the Chief Executive Officer on an annual basis in accordance with the Chief Executive Officer's employment agreement. The Committee includes the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and five Councillors.

COUNCIL

COUNCILLORS & MAYOR

Council staff Council employs the Chief Executive Officer, who in turn employs Council staff	Corporate and Operations Committee Chairperson Kevin Tappin	Te Mana whenua Forum mo Matamata-Piako Chairperson Te Ao Marama Maaka	Hearings Commission No chairperson	District Licensing Committee Chairperson Adrienne Wilcock	Audit and Risk Committee Independent Chairperson	Waharoa (Matamata) Aerodrome Co-Chairpersons Mokoro Gillett and Ash Tanner	Chief Executive Officer Performance Committee No chairperson
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ASH TANNER
MAYOR



CAITLIN CASEY



TEENA CORNES



RUSSELL SMITH



JAMES SAINSBURY



KEVIN TAPPIN



SUE WHITING



ADRIENNE WILCOCK



NEIL GOODGER
DEPUTY MAYOR



BRUCE DEWHURST



DONNA ARNOLD



JAMES THOMAS

YOUR GUIDE

TO THE LONG TERM PLAN

The Long Term Plan sets our direction for the next 10 years; outlining our key aims, objectives and priorities for the Matamata-Piako District.

This plan

- Describes the type of District our communities have told us they want - our community outcomes.
- Identifies the key projects to take place over the next 10 years.
- Provides an overview of each activity we will carry out and the services we provide for the next 10 years.
- Determines how much this will all cost and how we will fund it.

Why produce a Long Term Plan?

Under the Local Government Act 2002, we have to set out a LTP for the community. We also do it to give our community the opportunity to have a say on where we are heading and to ensure our planning is robust. In completing the plan we are required to do a number of things, including:

- Take a sustainable development approach to promote community interests.
- Carry out our business in a clear, transparent and accountable manner.
- Operate in an efficient and effective manner, using sound business practices.
- Take into account community views by offering clear information and the opportunity to present views.
- Provide opportunities for Māori to contribute to decision making.
- Collaborate and co-operate with other agencies and councils to achieve desired outcomes.

Annual Plan

We produce an Annual Plan in the two years that we don't produce a LTP. The Annual Plan highlights any changes or variances from the LTP for the coming year. If the proposed Annual Plan does not include significant differences from the content of the LTP for that year then we are not required to consult the community on it.

Annual Report

We produce an Annual Report every year. This reviews our performance, letting the community know whether we did what we said we would. It also checks financial performance against the budget and Financial Strategy.






MATAMATA-PIAKO THE PLACE OF CHOICE

LIFESTYLE. OPPORTUNITIES. HOME.

Our vision and community outcomes

Back in 2017 we reviewed our vision and community outcomes for our District. Over the past three years we have made progress towards making Matamata-Piako the place of choice, and we want to continue to build on this to provide lifestyle, opportunities, and home.

To make this vision a reality we see ourselves enabling the community in five key areas, with fifteen specific community outcomes we want to achieve outlined below:

Our Community outcomes				
Connected Infrastructure	Economic Opportunities	Healthy Communities	Environmental Sustainability	Vibrant Cultural Values
				
Infrastructure and services are fit for purpose and affordable, now and in the future.	We are a business friendly Council.	Our community is safe, healthy and connected.	We support environmentally friendly practices and technologies.	We promote and protect our arts, culture, historic, and natural resources.
Quality infrastructure is provided to support community wellbeing.	Our future planning enables sustainable growth in our District.	We encourage the use and development of our facilities.	Development occurs in a sustainable and respectful manner considering kawa/protocol and tikanga/customs.	We value and encourage strong relationships with iwi and other cultures, recognising wāhi tapu and taonga/significant and treasured sites and whakapapa/ ancestral heritage.
We have positive partnerships with external providers of infrastructure to our communities.	We provide leadership and advocacy is provided to enable our communities to grow.	We encourage community engagement and provide sound and visionary decision making.	We engage with our regional and national partners to ensure positive environmental outcomes for our community.	Tangata Whenua with Mana whenua status (those with authority over the land under Māori lore) have meaningful involvement in decision making.

You can read more about how each of Council activities contributes to these community outcomes in section 6 of the LTP.

It's all about balance...

Over the next few years there are things we have to do, and there are lots of things we really want to do – projects that will help make our community a more vibrant, thriving place. But we are also grounded in reality – we can't do everything. We have to choose.

As a community we face a range of external factors that can influence our decision making. As part of our LTP we have identified four main challenges that we must consider as we aim to balance affordability with the resilience, compliance growth and demand. These four challenges have an impact across all of our activities.



Affordability – our communities are ageing, which means more people on fixed incomes, there is also a limit as to what our community in general can afford to pay for. This means that with all of the decisions we make as part of this LTP, we have to ask “can we afford to pay for this?”



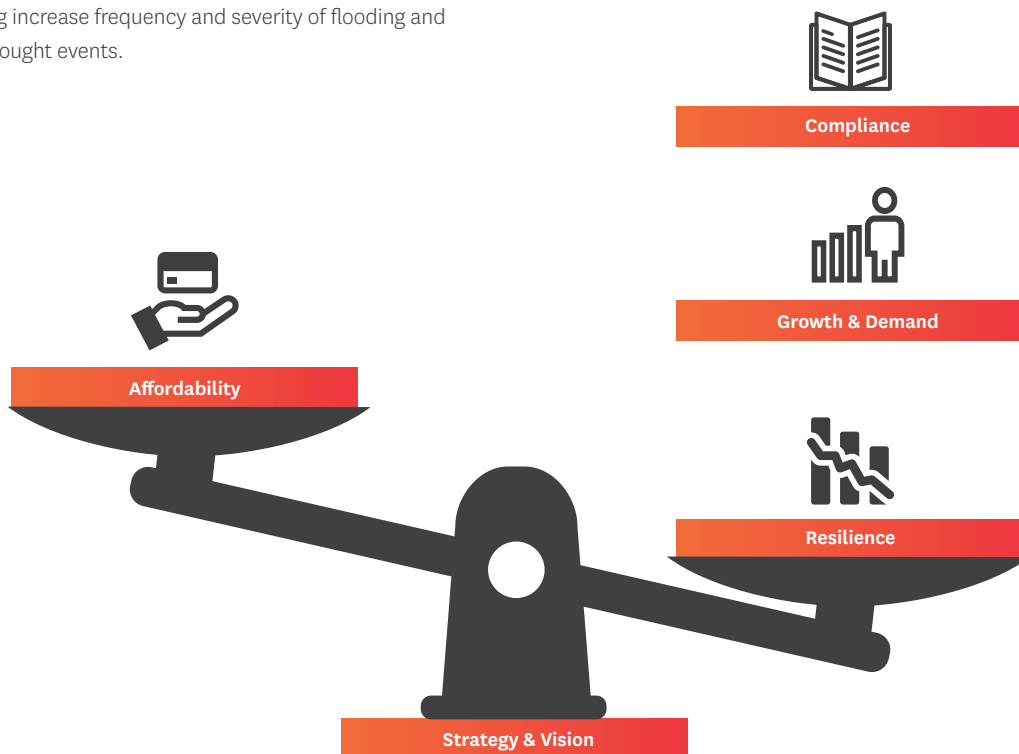
Growth and demand – Although our population is ageing, we are also experiencing steady population growth in our urban areas, while rural areas remain static or will decline over time. We also experience demand from industries that want to locate themselves in our District. Our communities also have different priorities and expectations which we need to consider.



Resilience – the global Covid-19 pandemic and its impact on the economy is a prime example of why it's important that we plan for emergencies – our strong financial position meant that we were able to keep the general rates increase at zero in 2020/21 during a time of uncertainty, while still driving projects forward. We need to make sure that as an organisation we are in the best position we reasonably can be in case the worst does happen. The same applies to infrastructure resilience, ensuring that our infrastructure assets continue to deliver services to our community amidst our changing environment e.g increase frequency and severity of flooding and drought events.



Compliance – we face increasing pressure in the need to comply with increasing environmental, health and other standards. How we meet those standards and the cost of doing so is an ongoing challenge that we have to manage.



The road ahead – how are going to get there?

The Financial Strategy (Section 2) and Infrastructure Strategy (Section 3) are two of our key strategies that aim to ensure we can provide quality infrastructure while maintaining a healthy financial position well into the future. It's important that these strategies align with our vision, our priorities and what we are trying to achieve for our community. The below table shows the relationship between these two key strategies, and how they address our future challenges.

CHALLENGE	FINANCIAL STRATEGY RESPONSE	INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGY RESPONSE
Affordability	Sets rates limits	Flat lining renewal programme
	Revenue and Financing Policy including use of Development Contributions to pay for growth	Risk based prioritisation of new capital works
	Sets debt limits	Optimised asset management (efficient operations and maintenance to ensure optimised life expectancy, and timely replacement to prevent asset failure)
	Funding of depreciation to replace assets	Timely development of new infrastructure (aligned with when growth happens)
Resilience	Debt limits and allow headroom to respond to unforeseen circumstances (such as Covid-19)	Optimised asset management
	High ratio of rates income minimises risk of revenue loss	Stringent maintenance of critical infrastructure
Growth & Demand	Using Development Contributions	Timely investment in growth infrastructure
Compliance	Taking a “whole of life” approach to decision making on investments	Our water supplies will meet drinking water standards
	A greater proportion of costs can be recovered from exacerbators through the use of water meters, trade waste agreements and pan charges	Our water and wastewater treatment plants will meet resource consent conditions
		We will reduce death and serious injuries on our roading network