

SECTION 1 – INTRODUCTION

FOREWORD BY THE MAYOR AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Waipa District continues to grow in a positive manner – not only in terms of development, but also its diversity, population and innovation. There is increasing recognition of what Waipa has to offer, not just locally, but nationally and internationally. Waipa is blessed with a unique mix of location and exceptional environmental features that combine to offer a quality of life second-to-none. Waipa residents, through the development of community outcomes, have identified that this quality of life must be preserved and enhanced for the well-being of current and future generations. This remains Council's primary focus.

The District has grown positively in recent years, enjoying a number of significant successes that have enhanced the District's reputation and improved the social, cultural, economic and environmental well-being of our communities. The development of Waipa District must be undertaken with the purpose of maintaining and enhancing the quality of life for residents, and this requires careful planning to shape Waipa now and into the future.

The community's long-term aspirations are set out as community outcomes, and it is these outcomes that help Council align its activities and services. Council acknowledges that it is only one of many agencies that contribute to the positive development of the District. Council will work closely with these other agencies to ensure that the well-being of communities remains its collective focus. Council's intended contribution towards the achievement of community outcomes is set out in this 10-year Plan (LTCCP).

Council is pleased to present this 10-year Plan which builds on the successes of the past. It outlines the services, activities and projects Council intends to undertake from 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2016 and sets out in detail the activities and projects planned for the next 3-year period.

The things that make Waipa unique – our natural environment, history and heritage, and recreational opportunities – feature strongly in the aspirations and expectations of residents. It is these elements that are also attracting new residents to the District. Council remains committed to maintaining, enhancing and promoting these unique features, and this Plan reflects that long-term commitment.

A large component of the proposed 10-year work programme provides for the maintenance and development of infrastructure crucial to maintaining the high standards of service expected in Waipa District. High levels of population growth in the District have been a feature of recent years, and show no immediate signs of slowing. Such growth, while bringing positive benefits to the District, places pressures on community infrastructure, services and operating costs. Recent inflation, at around 3% per year, also adds to this pressure. This Plan takes these growth and inflationary pressures into account.

A key feature of this Plan is the introduction of an expanded development contributions regime. Under a new Development Contributions Policy, the costs of development will be funded by developers, sparing existing ratepayers from most of the costs associated with growth. Over the next ten years development contributions totalling \$40 million are expected to offset the costs of providing an equivalent value of growth-related community infrastructure.

Against this backdrop, activities and work programmes are based on maintaining and, where appropriate, enhancing current levels of service. Meeting environmental, public health and safety standards remains an important focus. Savings have been made in recent years, and further cost reductions are sought in future years.

The projects presented in this Plan are necessary for renewing and upgrading infrastructural assets to meet operating needs, maintain levels of service, provide for increased environmental and health standards, facilitate growth and promote development. They will be funded from a combination of rates, fees and charges, depreciation, financial reserves and loans.

Key projects programmed over the next ten years include:

- Development of the Karapiro Domain
- Development of new reserve on Lake Karapiro
- Construction of a new swimming pool in Cambridge
- Upgrades of stormwater systems
- Development and enhancement of Lake Te Ko Utu
- New footpaths for Cambridge and Kihikihi
- Upgrades of community water supplies
- Introduction of a new kerbside recycling service in urban areas
- New museum facilities in Cambridge and Te Awamutu
- New library facilities for Te Awamutu
- Development of soccer facilities in Te Awamutu
- Resolving heavy vehicle access in the Te Awamutu CBD
- Refurbishment of the Te Awamutu CBD
- Pirongia main-street upgrade
- Sealing roads

This 10-year Plan proposes a total rate revenue requirement of \$27.22 million for 2006/2007, which represents a rate increase of 6.0% to cover increased work and inflation. Growth in the number of new rateable properties is expected to contribute a further 1.9%. Growth, additional rateable properties, and changes in valuations and rating processes all combine to alter the rating impact on individual properties.

Council thanks the members of the community who put in submissions to the draft Plan and appreciate the interest and support shown.



Alan Livingston
Mayor JP



John Inglis
Chief Executive

INTRODUCTION

The Local Government Act 2002 introduced a new planning framework for local government. The Local Government Act requires Council to take a sustainable development approach in the provision of its activities and services. Council must also take into account the need to:

- a) promote the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of residents, both now and for the future;
- b) maintain and enhance the quality of the environment;
- c) consider the reasonably foreseeable needs of future generations; and
- d) ensure prudent stewardship, and the effective and efficient use of its resources in the interests of the District.

The Local Government Act provides a much greater opportunity for communities to be involved in decision-making and direction setting, and requires local authorities to clearly align activities and services with what the community wants.

A key element of this new planning framework is the 10-year Plan (or Long Term Council Community Plan – LTCCP), which sets out Council's 10-year programme of works and activities. The purpose of the 10-year Plan is to:

- a) describe the activities of Council (what the Council does and why);
- b) describe community outcomes (what the community wants);
- c) provide integrated decision-making and co-ordination of Council resources (making sure decisions are supported by relevant information and that resources are used to maximum community benefit);
- d) provide a long-term focus for the decisions and activities of Council (setting Long Term Plans and programmes);
- e) provide a basis for accountability of Council to the community (by clearly setting out what Council intends to do and when; and
- f) provide an opportunity for public participation in the decision-making process on proposed activities to be undertaken by Council (by ensuring that residents and ratepayers have the opportunity to share their views before decisions are made).

Council's first LTCCP was published in 2004 and covered the ten year period until 2014. It outlined the services, activities and projects Council intended to provide from 1 July 2004 to 30 June 2014 and set out in detail the activities and projects planned for 2004-07. This is Council's second LTCCP, and has been renamed 'The 10-year Plan' for simplicity. The preparation of the 10-year Plan 2006-16 involved reviewing the 10-year Plan 2004, and updates and changes have been made and are presented in this Plan.

The 10-year Plan 2006-16

The 10-year Plan sets out the services and programmes of work that Council intends to undertake to enhance community well-being and to ensure that resources are used in a sustainable manner. While keeping that in mind, there will be occasions where Council is faced with making decisions to promote certain aspects of well-being where those decisions may have a significant negative effect elsewhere. In such circumstances Council will have regard to the likely impact of the decision and the views of the

community. In making its decisions, Council will conduct its business in an open, transparent and democratically accountable manner.

This 10-year Plan reviews and updates the projections contained within the 2004-14 LTCCP. It shows in some detail the significant activities to be undertaken by Council for the period 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2009, and an outline of these activities and their financial implications through to 2016. The 2007/2008 Annual Plan will be based on the second year of this Plan.

Consultation Process

This 10-year Plan was adopted by Council having regard to views and comments expressed by residents, ratepayers, community organisations and other stakeholders. As part of the consultation process, the draft 10-Year Plan and summary document were made available for public comment and supported by public meetings across the District. Information was published in the Word on Waipa during the submission period (March/April 2006), and all documents were available at Council offices and libraries, and on Council's website www.waipadc.govt.nz. Submissions were considered by Council in May 2006 and changes to the draft Plan were made as a result. This Plan was adopted by Council at its meeting on 27 June 2006.