

10-year Plan

Part 4 - Policies

The Local Government Act 2002 requires that Council adopt a number of policies that provide guidance around financial management and decision-making.

These policies are:

- Significance Policy – sets out Council’s approach in determining the significance of proposals and the process for making decisions, including consulting with the community, in relation to issues, assets or other matters. It also lists Council’s strategic assets.
- Revenue and Financing Policy – sets out how Council will fund operating and capital expenditure. In establishing the Policy, Council looked at community well-being, distribution of benefits and the timing of those benefits.
- Liability Management – sets out how Council will manage debt, including the criteria for setting maximum levels.
- Investment Policy – sets out Council’s objectives for financial and equity investments. This includes investment mix, acquisition, management procedures and risk management.

Note: the Liability Management and Investment Policies are referred to as the "Treasury Management Policy"

- Policy on Development and Financial Contributions – sets out whether funding of growth will be by way of financial contributions (Resource Management Act 1991) or development contributions (Local Government Act 2002). Council currently uses a mix of financial and development contributions.
- Policy on Private Sector Partnerships – sets out the circumstances in which Council would enter into financial arrangements with private sector organisations, and the consultative process, conditions and management requirements that would be adopted when pursuing any such partnership. Council has no private sector partnerships.
- Policy on the Remission and Postponement of Rates – sets out the objectives, conditions and criteria under which Council may remit or postpone rates to community organisations and individual ratepayers suffering financial hardship or wishing to covenant land for community benefit.

- Policy on the Remissions and Postponement of Rates on Māori Freehold Land – sets out the objectives, conditions and criteria for providing for the remission and postponement of rates on Maori freehold land.

These policies are included in the 2006-16 10-year Plan, and are being reviewed as part of the 2009 Plan process. The reviewed policies will be included in the draft 10-year Plan that goes out for public consultation in March 2009. At that time Council will invite submissions on the policies (and the draft Plan) .