

Summary of decisions following consultation

Changes to who pays

Stormwater

The Council adopted the proposal to fund the Stormwater activity on a district funding basis. Previously each urban area funded the majority of their stormwater expenditure with a small amount funded by all ratepayers. Over 75% of submitters were in favour of moving the funding of stormwater from local to district. The proposal was also supported by all five Community Boards. The Council adopted the proposal on the basis of strong support for the proposal and because it was consistent with our move to make all essential services district funded.

Cemeteries

From 2015/16 cemeteries will be funded on a local basis with Community Boards deciding the priorities in their respective areas and increase or decrease service levels according to the needs of their community and their ability and willingness to pay for these service levels. Responses from submitters were mixed (53% opposed, 47% supported). The proposal was supported by all five Community Boards.

Public conveniences

From 2015/16 public conveniences will be funded on a local basis for similar reasons noted above for cemeteries. Submitters in opposition to this proposal noted that many of the district's public conveniences were provided to assist visitors and should therefore be funded at a district level. All Community Board areas have one or more public conveniences of this nature. While the majority of submitters opposed this proposal the Council considered having local choices on service levels was more important.

Information centres

District funding of all information centres will be retained. We had proposed to move the funding of the Tairua, Pauanui, Whangamata and Coromandel Information Centres to local funding over the next three years. The majority of the submissions received on this proposal were in opposition and the affected Community Boards were in favour of retaining district funding or have the i-sites at Thames and Whitianga also change to local funding. An annual review of the funding model will occur while a longer term arrangement is developed.

Library funding

Libraries will be fully funded by each local Community Board area. In 2014/15 20% of the library activity was still being funded through district rates.

Short term holiday home accommodation rate

The proposed \$200 annual fee for anyone renting their home as short-term holiday accommodation will not be introduced in 2015/16. Many submitters supported the concept of short term accommodation providers contributing to economic development but had concerns about implementation. Over 2015/16 we will work with short-term accommodation booking providers like Bachcare, Bookabach and Trademe to look at what methods can be used to see how the groups they represent can contribute financially to our economic development activity. Economic development is strongly orientated towards supporting the tourism sector and the Council recognises that short-term accommodation providers are a direct beneficiary of this work.

Commercial rating for large bed and breakfast businesses

Properties advertised as bed and breakfasts with 4 or more bedrooms for hire will be reclassified as commercial properties as these are considered commercial businesses by Council. These properties will pay the commercial economic development rate and wastewater pan tax where connected to the Council's wastewater network. A majority of submitters supported this proposal.

Eastern seaboard wastewater plant debt

Council adopted the proposal to transfer \$46.6 million of the future development related debt to be repaid by the wastewater rate and depreciation reserves. If the Development Contribution model is not changed and the debt not moved then the current debt associated with the future development will continue to grow (with interest compounding) as the growth projections do not substantiate that future development will come soon enough to pay this share. Council considered their decision to be the most financially prudent option available as the debt could no longer be expected to be repaid by future development due to the slow growth projections. The wastewater debt is planned to be repaid over the next 40 years to ensure the rates are kept as affordable as possible and ensure ratepayers benefitting from the wastewater plants are contributing to the funding.

Only ratepayers that are charged the wastewater rate will be repaying this wastewater related debt.

UAGC over General rates

The Grants and Remissions activity and the District Plan activity will be funded through the uniform annual general charge from 2015/16.

Local fees and charges - Mercury Bay

A new pay and display fee for parking areas in Hahei (with an exemption upon application for residents and ratepayers in the Hahei Village area) will be introduced in 2015/16 (\$2 per hour or \$15 daily rate) This fee was supported in the majority of submissions received, as well as by the Mercury Bay Community Board.

New boat launching/trailer parking permit fees will be implemented at the sites below as each of these facilities is upgraded. The Mercury Bay Community Board and the majority of submitters supported the fees. Sites to be upgraded include:

- Purangi Boat Ramp
- Matarangi Boat Ramp
- Robinson's Road Boat Ramp
- Kuaotunu Boat Ramp

Thames local Economic Development

Council adopted the proposal for both the Thames marketing and promotion (\$90,000) and the grant funding (\$50,000) for external and community group projects for the first three years of the Plan. The funding will be reviewed annually for effectiveness and is funded locally by the Thames Community Board area. The proposal was developed in response to initiatives from both community groups and the Thames Community Board and aligns with the objectives of the Thames Urban Development Strategy.

Whangamata local roads and footpaths

The accelerated footpath and kerb and channel programme for Whangamata was adopted. The Community Board will complete the priority footpath programme in 2015/16 and priority kerb and channel programme over 2015-17.

The wide road berms and road edges will be maintained over the balance of the Long Term Plan with no more new footpaths and kerb/channel constructed.

Wentworth Valley, Whangamata - seal extension and walkway/cycleway proposal

The proposal generated sufficient interest and support for the Community Board to develop a more detailed proposal and options and has committed \$75,000 to develop the business case and carry out technical assessments funded from the Whangamata local roading budget. This work was brought forward to 2015/16 from 2017/18. The business case will consider the wider economic development benefits to the district so Council can consider if district funding is appropriate.

World War I Memorial Forests - Te Wao Whakamaumaharatanga

The project to establish a series of memorial native forests around the Coromandel Peninsula in order to commemorate the NZ soldiers who died in World War I was endorsed. Since some external funding has already been secured and future applications look promising we have agreed to underwrite the first three years of funding to plant the forests and have retained the maintenance budget for the remaining years in the Plan. We intend to coordinate volunteers and school groups to undertake the planting.

New rate remissions

Minor dwellings

An automatic remission of 50% of the fixed charges applicable to owners with one additional unit (sometimes known as granny flats) used as accommodation where these units are 50m² or less in size (as these are permitted to be built on a property as of right in our District Plan) has been introduced. Buildings 60m² or less in size will also meet this remission if it is Lifemark™ Design certified or has another certification that it is functional for elderly and disabled residents. This should provide greater certainty and require less administration for the relevant property owners.

Retirement villages - licence to occupy owners

Those residents of retirement villages who own a "licence to occupy" their homes, rather than having a freehold interest in their home, will be eligible for a rates remission to an amount equal to that which they would receive from central government where the retirement village can prove that the remission is received by the licence to occupy owner.

Other changes

- Pauanui Trail funding of \$50,000 was confirmed for 2015/16 (the year of funding had been transposed with the Pepe Bridge Reserve project in the Consultation Document).
- Projects/funding that have been removed from the Plan include:
- Hannafords Carpark improvements project and budget of \$152,000 from 2016/17 (replaced with budget of \$10,000 for 2015/16 for establishment and implementation of proposed changes to the Parking Control Bylaw).

Projects/funding that have been added to the Plan include:

- Grant to Sport Waikato of \$9,570 plus GST annually for the first three years of the Long Term Plan to fund TCDC's contribution to the Regional Sports Facilities Plan.
- Additional annual budget up to \$175,000 to the Great Walks Anchor Project for years 1-3 to provide for project management fees, including transport and on-going consultation with iwi; consultancy with Giblin Group, consultation with Hahei Stakeholders Group and other community interest groups in Whitianga and north, Tairua and south.
- Thames and Coromandel cemetery master plan development \$9,600 and \$6,400 respectively for 2015/16.
- Making a bid for a portion of Central Government's \$350 million investment into urban and rural broadband - loan funding of \$125,000 in 2015/16 for our contribution.

- Natural and cultural heritage grant of \$30,000. Funded on a district basis and distributed to Community Boards based on their share of the rating base.
- Funding EnviroSchools (\$11,000) in the 2015-2016 year from the waste levy fund with review of the EnviroSchools and zero waste education for future funding as part of the 2016-2017 Annual Plan.
- Funding for protecting kauri on Council land from kauri dieback disease - signage, cleaning stations and appropriate structures of high profile visitor sites for Kauri; risk assessment and identification process; work with other funding agencies and community groups to leverage further funding contributions.
- Funding for landscaping and hard structures in the Thames area for relocation of Cooks Landing Monument, Thames Monument restoration, Tapu reserve landscaping, replacement of specimen trees in Pollen Street, Thames.
- Mackay Street carpark project in Thames.
- Renewal budget for Coromandel Wharf head and retaining structures in 2022/23 in the event the Coromandel Harbour project does not proceed.
- Project to address stormwater and roading issues at the end of Wyuna Bay Road, Coromandel.
- Operations and maintenance budget for the Kopu - Kaiaua leg of the Hauraki Rail Trail.
- Budget for partial sealing of Kauaeranga Valley Road in 2016/17 and 2017/18 subject to Council completing a business case and confirmation of DOC financial funding/investment for their share of the costs.
- A pedestrian needs assessment for Queen Street and Mackay Street in Thames.
- Investigations into the fees and charges model for Coromandel-Colville harbour facilities.
- Dredging to clear Royal Billy Point Boat Ramp and access channel over 2015-17 along with investigations into increasing the consent volume for sand removal and trailer boat parking fees for Royal Billy Boat Ramp users to ensure sufficient funds are available throughout the year to maintain the required access and sand removal.