



NOTICE OF AN EXTRA ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

**Opotiki District Council Chambers, 108 St John Street, Opotiki
Wednesday, 18 September 2024
Commencing at 09.00am**

ORDER PAPER

APOLOGIES

DECLARATION OF ANY INTERESTS IN RELATION TO OPEN MEETING AGENDA ITEMS

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ITEM 07 LATE SUBMISSION TO OPOTIKI DISTRICT COUNCIL DRAFT 2024-2034 LONG TERM PLAN AND REPRESENTATION REVIEW	Tabled Item

Chair: His Worship the Mayor – David Moore

Members: Cr Shona Browne (Deputy Mayor)

Cr Tom Brooks

Cr Barry Howe

Cr Maxie Kemara

Cr Steve Nelson

Cr Dean Petersen

Committee Secretary: Gae Finlay

Quorum: 4

LOCAL AUTHORITIES (MEMBERS' INTERESTS) ACT 1968

Councillors are reminded that if you have a pecuniary or non-pecuniary interest in any item on the agenda, then you must declare this interest and refrain from discussing or voting on this item, and are advised to withdraw from the Council chamber.

Stace Lewer

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

SCHEDULE OF THOSE THAT WISH TO BE HEARD

Submission Number	Submitter	Speaking Time	Page Number	Attendance
OPENING OF HEARING AT 09.00AM				
17	Chris Hopman	9.00am		CONFIRMED
20	Opotiki Gymnastics Club – Tania Fisher	9.10am		CONFIRMED
1	Motu Charitable Trust – Jim Robinson	9.20am		CONFIRMED
16	Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society – EBOP Branch	9.30am		CONFIRMED
15	Carol Quirke	9.50am		CONFIRMED
MORNING TEA AT 10.10AM				
19	Liz Mc Adam (Speaking on behalf of Kenny McCracken)	10.35am		CONFIRMED
40	FR Initiatives Ltd – Justin Ford	10.55am		CONFIRMED
46	Matetu Herewini	11.05am		CONFIRMED
38	Sports BOP – Larissa Cuff	11.15am		CONFIRMED
31	Tracey Hillier	11.25am		TBC
53	Kayreen Tapuke	11.35am		CONFIRMED
35	Felicity Barry	11.45am		CONFIRMED
LUNCH AT 12.05PM				
35	Toi Rawhiti	12.35pm		CONFIRMED
30	Simon Pratt	12.55pm		CONFIRMED
18	Doug Leeder BOPRC	1.05pm		CONFIRMED

COUNCIL REPORT

Date : 11 September 2024
To : Extra Ordinary Council Meeting, 17 September 2024
From : Chief Executive Officer, Stace Lewer
Subject : **RESULTS OF CONSULTATION ON DRAFT 2024-34 LONG TERM PLAN**
File ID : A1259398

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Council publicly consulted on its draft 2024-34 Long Term Plan, through its associated Consultation Document, from 7 August 2024 to 4pm 4 September 2024. The Revenue and Financing Policy was also out for consultation during this time.
- Council received 56 submissions, one of which doubled as a submission on the Revenue and Financing Policy and one of which was received late. When analysed for main topics, 55 submissions translated to 123 topic points.
- Staff have drafted responses to submissions based on direction provided to develop the draft 2024-23 Long Term Plan so far.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1) **That the report titled "RESULTS OF CONSULTATION ON DRAFT 2024-24 LONG TERM PLAN" be received.**
- 2) **That Council receive and acknowledge the 55 on-time submissions, attached in full in Appendix 2.**
- 3) **That Council receive the draft preliminary responses to submissions detailed in Appendix 1 to be accepted and used (or amended) as the basis of responses to submitters.**
- 4) **That Council accept the late submission 56 from Toi Rawhiti.**

PURPOSE

1. This report provides a summary of the submissions received during Council's consultation on the draft 2024-34 Long Term Plan.

STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

2. The matters detailed in this report relate to the following priorities from Ōpōtiki District Council's Long Term Plan 2021-2031.
 - Development and protection of the natural environment.

- ☒ Services and facilities meet our needs.
- ☒ Fair and efficient leadership.
- ☒ A strong and effective community spirit.
- ☒ Purposeful work and learning opportunities.
- ☒ Development supports the community.
- ☒ Culture and history are treasured.

BACKGROUND

Legislative context

3. Section 93 of the Local Government Act 2002 (“the LGA”) details that local authorities must have a Long Term Plan (LTP) in place at all times which covers a time period of ten years and is reviewed every three years.
4. The Long Term Plan is the overarching strategic document produced by Council which outlines the key strategic directions and intentions for the next ten years. The work programme for years 1-3 is relatively firmly set. It can be shaped differently by annual plan processes in year two and three, but it cannot be significantly altered without a full LTP amendment process. Years 4-10 are a projection and will be reconsidered at the next LTP review in three years’ time.
5. The contents of the Long Term Plan are outlined in Schedule 10 of the LGA and include Key Planning Assumptions, Community Priorities (Outcomes), Activity Structure, Strategic Performance Framework, Financial Strategy, Infrastructure Strategy, Asset Management Plans, financial information such as funding impact statements for each activity, and various policies, including the Significance and Engagement Policy, Revenue and Financing Policy, others.
6. Councils must consult on the draft LTP through a Consultation Document in a manner which gives effect to the Special Consultative Procedure detailed in 93(c)(4) of the LGA.
7. Ōpōtiki District Council adopted the Consultation Document for public consultation at the 6 August 2024 Ordinary Council Meeting.
8. Public consultation ran from 7 August 2024 to 4pm 4 September 2024.

Timeline

9. Council began the 2024-2034 Long Term Plan development process in May 2023. Since then, there have been a total of 17 workshops to develop the key underlying documents which make up the bulk of the Long Term Plan.
10. Ordinarily, the Long Term Plan would be developed for an adoption date no later than 30 June 2024, as per the legislative timeframe of LTPs being reviewed three-yearly. However, in light of the changing three waters legislation, central government made allowances available to local government on LTP timelines.

11. At the 7 February 2024 Ordinary Council Meeting, Council resolved to defer the adoption of the 2024-2034 Long Term Plan to 30 September 2024, an extension of three months.
12. This shifted Council's LTP consultation period from mid-March, the original period in order to allow for a 30 June 2024 adoption.
13. At the 13 May 2024 Extra Ordinary Council Meeting Council adopted the draft Consultation Document and all key underlying LTP documents to be audited by Audit New Zealand. Several difficulties during the auditing process resulted in a longer process than anticipated. As a result, Council is now expecting an adoption date of the final Long Term Plan in late October.

DISCUSSION

Consultation Document Key Issues and summary of submissions

14. Council consulted on three Key Issues.
15. Key issue one: "Making do with what we have." Option one: Continue with the capital works programme as planned. Option two: Pull back on our capital works programme – Council's preferred option.
16. Key issue two: "Reducing running costs by reducing services." Option one: Continue the same level of service across all areas of the organisation. Option two: Reduce services in events, engineering, parks and reserves, and Toi EDA – Council's preferred option.
17. Key issue three: "Delay paying for the running costs of the Harbour." Option one: Begin paying for the operational/maintenance costs of the harbour from rates in the 2024-24 financial year. Option two: Delay funding the harbour from rates until at least 2026 – Council's preferred option.
18. A total of 56 submissions were received, including one which was late. Staff recommending accepting the late submission. When analysed by topic, the 55 on-time submissions produced 123 topic points.
19. All submissions received are attached in full in Appendix 2.
20. The full list of topic points, and suggested responses, are attached in Appendix 1 for Council to approve and/or amend, with the exception of the late submission.
21. One LTP submission also functioned as a submission on the Revenue and Financing Policy, which was out for public consultation for the same duration as the Consultation Document.
22. 16 submitters indicated they will be speaking to their submissions. At the time of writing, 13 of these individuals have confirmed their attendance.
23. For Key Issue One, 7 submissions supported Option One and 24 supported Option Two (Council's preferred option).
24. For Key Issue Two, 21 submissions supported Option One and 14 submissions supported Option Two (Council's preferred option).

25. For Key Issue Three, 8 submissions supported Option One and 21 submissions supported Option Two (Council's preferred option).
26. As can be read in Appendix 1, topics discussed in submissions outside of the three Key Issues include the general impact of rates increases and suggestions for cost-savings, the desire to see user-pays models for the harbour maintenance costs, concerns about debt-financing, climate change, and partnerships.

Matters arising after consultation

27. Due to information becoming available after consultation opened, staff are already aware of some areas of the draft LTP which will require changes. These are detailed below.
28. NZTA recently informed staff that Council's Low Cost Low Risk (LCLR) funding bid was not successful, with \$0 approved. This is consistent with other councils across the country. Although unfortunate, NZTA has indicated there may be future opportunities to apply for funding, but they will be seeking better alignment with the Government Policy Statement on Land Transport (GPS). In the interim, it is staff's recommendation Council proceed with maintaining a 25% funding allocation, as already planned, which will contribute toward any funding we will seek. The immediate impact will be delaying planned LCLR projects to outer years of the LTP and a likely refocus of LCLR allocation in Years 1 to 3 on state highway detour routes within our local roads.
29. Council's Planning Assumption 9, *Future Price Changes and rate of inflation*, will need to be updated to align with the latest data from BERL on the Local Government Cost Index. Taituarā advised councils who had not yet adopted their LTPs of the requirement to have the most recent data incorporated.
30. There have been minor changes to the Funding Impact Statement for the Harbour and Wharf activity which affect Years 5 onwards in the LTP.
31. DIA has released new requirements for non-financial Key Performance Indicators related to Water Supply. As a result, Council will need to update our Performance Framework to reflect this.

Financial/budget considerations

32. Costs associated with the development of the development of the 2024-34 Long Term Plan have been included in the 2023-24 Annual Plan.

Policy and planning implications

33. The matters of this report align with Council's policy and planning obligations as per Long Term Plan legislation outlined in the LGA.

Impact on mana whenua

34. Public consultation on the Long Term Plan works towards Council's legislative obligation of providing opportunities for Māori to contribute to decision-making processes under section 81 of the LGA.

Climate impact considerations

35. There are no identified climate impacts.

Risks

36. There are no identified risks associated with the recommendations of this report.

Community wellbeing considerations

37. The purpose of Local Government includes promotion of social, economic, environmental and cultural wellbeing of communities in the present and for the future ('the four well-beings').
38. The subject matter of this report has been evaluated in terms of the four well-beings during the process of developing this report as outlined below.

Social, Economic, Environmental, Cultural

39. The matters in this report relate to all four well-beings as public consultation on the 2024-2034 Long Term Plan enables input from the community on the overall direction of the Ōpōtiki District for the next 10 years.

SIGNIFICANCE AND ENGAGEMENT ASSESSMENT

Assessment of significance

40. On every issue requiring a decision, Council is required to determine how significant a decision is to the community, and what the corresponding level of engagement should be. Council uses the Significance Flowchart in the Significance and Engagement Policy to determine the level of significance.
41. The level of significance related to the decision in this report is considered to be **high**. Because the decision is determined to have **high** significance in accordance with the policy, the corresponding level of engagement required is **Consult**.

Assessment of engagement

42. As the level of significance has been determined to be **high**, the level of engagement required is **Consult** according to the Engagement Framework of the Significance and Engagement Policy:

CONSULT

To obtain public feedback about ideas on rationale, alternatives, and proposals to inform decision making.

43. Council has undertaken public consultation, and this report is on the results.

CONCLUSION

44. Council publicly consulted on its draft 2024-34 Long Term Plan, through its associated Consultation Document, from 7 August 2024 to 4pm 4 September 2024. The Revenue and Financing Policy was also out for consultation during this time.
45. Council received 56 submissions, one of which doubled as a submission on the Revenue and Financing Policy and one of which was received late. When analysed for main topics, the 55 on-time submissions translated to 123 topic points.
46. Staff have drafted responses to submissions based on direction provided to develop the draft 2024-23 Long Term Plan so far.

Stace Lewer

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

2024-2034 LTP Topic List Meeting appendix

Topic number	Topic heading	Topic	Suggested Council Decision:	Suggested Response	Applies to Submission/s	Total
T1	Key issue 1 - Making do with what we have	Supports Option 1 to continue with the capital works programme as we have planned.	Response only.	Thank you for your feedback on the draft 2024-34 Long Term Plan. Your time and thoughts are appreciated. At this time, Council has decided to proceed with its preferred option on this issue, Option 2.	10, 25, 46, 49, 50, 51, 52	7
T2	Key issue 1 - Making do with what we have	Supports Option 2 to pull back on our capital works programme.	Response only.	Thank you for your feedback on the draft 2024-34 Long Term Plan. Your time and thoughts are appreciated. Council has decided to proceed with its preferred option on this issue, Option 2, and notes your support for this.	02, 04, 06, 07, 08, 09, 11, 12, 13, 14, 22, 19, 17, 26, 27, 28, 47, 48, 32, 34, 36, 37, 40, 54	24
T3	Key issue 2 - Reduce services to reduce running costs	Supports Option 1 to continue the same level of service across all areas of the organisation.	Response only.	Thank you for your feedback on the draft 2024-34 Long Term Plan. Your time and thoughts are appreciated. At this time, Council has decided to proceed with its preferred Option on this issue, Option 2.	08, 07, 10, 13, 14, 17, 24, 25, 26, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52	21
T4	Key issue 2 - Reduce services to reduce running costs	Supports Option 2 to reduce services in events, engineering, parks and reserves, and Toi EDA.	Response only.	Thank you for your feedback on the draft 2024-34 Long Term Plan. Your time and thoughts are appreciated. Council has decided to proceed with its preferred option on this issue, Option 2, and notes your support for this.	02, 04, 09, 11, 12, 22, 19, 27, 28, 32, 34, 36, 40, 54	14
T5	Key issue 3 - Paying for the running costs of the harbour	Supports Option 1 to begin paying for the operational/ maintenance costs of the harbour from rates in the 2024-2025 financial year.	Response only.	Thank you for your feedback on the draft 2024-34 Long Term Plan. Your time and thoughts are appreciated. At this time, Council has decided to proceed with its preferred Option on this issue, Option 2.	12, 10, 14, 15, 25, 46, 49, 50	8
T6	Key issue 3 - Paying for the running costs of the harbour	Supports Option 2 to Delay funding the harbour from rates until at least 2026.	Response only.	Thank you for your feedback on the draft 2024-34 Long Term Plan. Your time and thoughts are appreciated. Council has decided to proceed with its preferred option on this issue, Option 2, and notes your support for this.	02, 04, 07, 08, 09, 11, 13, 22, 19, 17, 24, 26, 27, 28, 47, 51, 52, 32, 34, 36, 54	21
T7	Key issue 2 - Reduce services to reduce running costs	Asks Council to consider every aspect of spending in order to reduce rates increases as much as possible.	Response only.	Thank you for your feedback on the draft 2024-34 Long Term Plan. Your time and thoughts are appreciated. Council agrees that reducing the cost for ratepayers is a high priority. Council considers the draft LTP as it went out for consultation provides for a rates increase as low as possible while still keeping the lights on and continuing services crucial to the community and district.	02, 09	2
T8	Affect of rates increases on community	Asks Council to take note of how rates increases affect everyone: community members, business owners, home-owners, and renters, and that money is stretched thin across the board.	Response only.	Council agrees and acknowledges the cost of living crises. Council's primary concern this LTP has been to reduce cost on ratepayers.	02	1
T9	Benefits of Motu Trails for Opōtiki District	Submitter notes the benefits of the Motu Trails, including free access to healthy activities and attracting visitors to the district, including economic activity generated from visits.	Accept.	The submitter's comments are noted and appreciated. Council continues to support the Motu Trails Trust by the provision of an annual grant of \$26,500 over a renewed three-year term.	01, 06	2
T10	Asks for continued Council support toward Motu Trails	Asks Council to continue historic support of Motu Trails through renewal of three-year agreement, including financial grant of \$26,500.	Accept.	Council continues to support the Motu Trails Trust by the provision of an annual grant of \$26,500 over a renewed three-year term. This will be finalised upon the adoption of the 2024-34 Long Term Plan.	01	1
T11	Support for cycleways	Supports expenditure related to cycleways.	Response only.	Council notes the submitter's support. Council continues to support the Motu Trails Trust by the provision of an annual grant of \$26,500 over a renewed three-year term.	03	1

Topic number	Topic heading	Topic	Suggested Council Decision:	Suggested Response	Applies to Submission/s	Total
T12	Rural services	States rural areas do not receive any water services or solid waste services, only road maintenance.	Response only.	Thank you for your feedback on the draft 2024-34 Long Term Plan. Your time and thoughts are appreciated. Council has adjusted the funding allocation for various services, including three waters, through the reviewed Revenue and Financing Policy and the 2024-25 Fees and Charges Schedule. It is considered all ratepayers receive benefit from a district with a functioning and safe three waters network. This is recognised through three waters being partially funded by general rates, as opposed to these activities only being funded through targeted rates and fees/charges.	04	1
T13	Non-support of Harbour	States the Harbour was always a stupid idea and does not serve any significant purpose.	Response only.	Thank you for your feedback on the draft 2024-34 Long Term Plan. Your time and thoughts are appreciated. Council respectfully disagrees and feels the Harbour, and subsequent/surrounding industry, provides valuable and significant economic and wellbeing opportunities for the district. At this time, Council has decided to proceed with its preferred Option on this issue, Option 2.	04	1
T14	Harbour levy	Would like Council to introduce an annual levy for all ratepayers.	Response only.	<p>Thank you for your feedback on the draft 2024-34 Long Term Plan. Your time and thoughts are appreciated. At this time, Council has decided to proceed with its preferred Option on this issue, Option 2.</p> <p>Option 2 is looking to alleviate impact on ratepayers in the short-term and the backstop mechanism to do that is debt financing. However, this is a last resort.</p> <p>A general rate will be implemented to service the debt funding in Years 1 and 2 of the LTP. From Year 3 this will increase as the debt financing approach will stop and funding will come entirely from rates.</p> <p>Council are actively pursuing other options to alleviate impact on ratepayers, primarily by exploring options to delay the taking on the operational/maintenance responsibility, utilising external funding, implementing user-pays where available, and of course continuing negotiations with public sector partners.</p> <p>In the early years of the harbour operation, the ability to lean on the user-pays approach is limited as there is not a well-established commercial user base to charge. However, Council has every intention to explore and implement user-pays models to ensure users are paying their fair share.</p> <p>Council is currently focussing on the commercial user base and not focussed on potential revenue gathering from recreational users at this stage. That may come later down the line.</p>	05, 10	2
T15	Key issue 1 - Making do with what we have	Would like Council to keep on top of asset renewals, but in the short term put upgrades and new things on the back burner.	Response only.	Thank you for your feedback on the 2024-34 Long Term Plan. Council appreciates and acknowledges your thoughts on maintaining assets while 'pushing out' upgrades/new things. Council considers this balance has been struck in the proposed LTP.	06	1

Topic number	Topic heading	Topic	Suggested Council Decision:	Suggested Response	Applies to Submission/s	Total
T16	Key issue 2 - Reduce services to reduce running costs	Would have liked being able to select which services should be reduced and provides suggestions for cost savings, and community run and joint council initiatives.	Response only.	Thank you for your feedback on the draft 2024-34 Long Term Plan. Council is required to present clear options, including a preferred option in the consultation document. However, Council is likely to face ongoing cost pressures as evidenced by the expected significant rate increases required in each of the next three years. If you have suggested areas of cost savings and community run initiatives, we encourage you to provide these in further consultations.	06	1
T17	Key issue 3 - Paying for the running costs of the harbour	Asks if Council has looked at, or encourages Council to look at, other operating or funding models and provides suggestions.	Response only.	<p>Thank you for your feedback on the draft 2024-34 Long Term Plan. Your time and thoughts are appreciated. At this time, Council has decided to proceed with its preferred Option on this issue, Option 2.</p> <p>Option 2 is looking to alleviate impact on ratepayers in the short-term and the backstop mechanism to do that is debt financing. However, this is a last resort.</p> <p>A general rate will be implemented to service the debt funding in Years 1 and 2 of the LTP. From Year 3 this will increase as the debt financing approach will stop and funding will come entirely from rates.</p> <p>Council are actively pursuing other options to alleviate impact on ratepayers, primarily by exploring options to delay the taking on the operational/maintenance responsibility, utilising external funding, implementing user-pays where available, and of course continuing negotiations with public sector partners.</p> <p>In the early years of the harbour operation, the ability to lean on the user-pays approach is limited as there is not a well-established commercial user base to charge. However, Council has every intention to explore and implement user-pays models to ensure users are paying their fair share.</p> <p>Council is currently focussing on the commercial user base and not focussed on potential revenue gathering from recreational users at this stage. That may come later down the line.</p>	06, 18, 33, 37	4
T18	Skatepark	Would like cars to be kept out of the skatepark - they are a danger to children and mess up the grass and gardens. Provides suggestions for physical barriers.	Accept.	Council notes your concern and thanks you for the feedback. Measures are being planned to restrict vehicular movements and keep them confined to the sealed carpark area which will be in place by this summer.	06	1
T19	Parking	Would like to see more enforcement for cars parking on footpaths and roads.	Response only.	Council notes your concern and thanks you for the feedback. Illegal parking complaints are responded to as they arise, however Council does not have dedicated parking staff to continuously monitor this. Council staff do keep an eye out for illegal parking and take photos for infringements to be issued. Daily enforcement is not possible without additional resources.	06	1
T20	Street lights	States there is a gap in the streetlights along Woodlands Road between the Waioweka Bridge and Hukutaia road and would like the light to be reinstated.	Accept.	<p>Thank you for your feedback on the draft 2024-34 Long Term Plan. Your time and thoughts are appreciated. We note your concern about a possible gap in streetlighting.</p> <p>Streetlighting is undertaken as part of our Transport programmes. Renewals of these assets are completed on as needed basis. We will check our records to understand if a renewal is required in this area.</p>	06	1

Topic number	Topic heading	Topic	Suggested Council Decision:	Suggested Response	Applies to Submission/s	Total
T21	Cycleways	Asks if Council can work with Motu trails and get the Whakaumu track completed and provides a route suggestion. Would also like Council to complete the trail alongside SH2 between the Pipi Beds, and the Ohiwa Beach Rd and Waioatahe Valley Back road intersection.	Decline.	The Whakaumu Trail passes through private land and the landowner will not agree to connecting the trail through their property. The terrain of the surrounding land is such that there is no viable alternative to reroute the trail past this land without incurring significant costs and still ending up with an extremely steep section of the trail. The section of trail alongside State Highway 2 from the Pipi Beds to Ohiwa Beach Rd is included in a feasibility report already completed and previously submitted to MBIE for funding in 2019 which was declined. The most expensive component of this is crossing the Waioatahe River to access Ohiwa Beach Rd. This whole intersection area of State Highway 2, Waioatahe Valley Back Rd & Ohiwa Beach Rd is under NZTA consideration for a substantive upgrade.	06	1
T22	DOC Land	Suggests Council advocate to DOC for better access and maintenance.	Response only.	The Department of Conservation, like Council has limited resources to put to opening up new areas however they are proactively engaging with local groups exploring ways to make the limited funding they have go further.eg. They have engaged the Motu Trails Charitable Trust to maintain and keep open the Pakahi Track. They have also committed a large amount towards the upgrading and replacement of structures along this track all contributing towards improving access.	06	1
T23	Community Safety	Asks Council to do what they can to get rid of hoons on dirtbikes.	Response only.	Bylaws are enforced where applicable, however Council has limited resource to apply to compliance activities. If on a road, however, this is a Police matter.	06	1
T24	Urupa grants	Would like Council to increase urupā maintenance grant.	Decline.	Thank you for your feedback on the draft 2024-34 Long Term Plan. Council remains committed to supporting the maintenance of Urupā, due to the tight fiscal environment and Councils need to reduce costs this funding is not able to be increased.	07	1
T25	Community Support	The Disabilities Resource Centre Trust express they are happy to support council in any way they can and offer their expertise and advice from the disability sector. Working together will enable positive changes and create a more inclusive and accessible environment for everyone.	Accept.	Council acknowledges and thanks you for your submission and the extension of support. We hope to find opportunities for partnership in the future.	08	1
T26	Wastewater	Submitter asks why previously, funds set aside for sewage upgrades were diverted to the Waiotahi subdivision. Could these houses have instead been put on their own septic tank systems?	Response only.	Thank you for your feedback on the draft 2024-34 Long Term Plan. Your time and thoughts are appreciated. Council is unsure what the submission is specifically referring to around funding and therefore cannot comment on this. We note that if Waiotahi Drifts subdivision were to be completely on a septic tank system then this would have significantly limited the scope of the development and number of available dwellings	09	1
T27	Key issue 3 - Paying for the running costs of the harbour	Submitter asks if the harbour will need constant dredging, why was this not the first option	Response only.	Thank you for your feedback on the draft 2024-34 Long Term Plan. Your time and thoughts are appreciated. Your question whether dredging will need to be constant is a good one. Given the harbour is new and the river is going to take time to settle into it's new alignment there is a range of uncertainty about how constant the dredging will need to be. Due to this uncertainty, Council is currently working an assumption that a dredge will required to operate for a range of days between 60-170 throughout the year. However, it remains to be seen what will be required.	09	1

Topic number	Topic heading	Topic	Suggested Council Decision:	Suggested Response	Applies to Submission/s	Total
T28	Key Issue 2 - Reduce services to reduce running costs	Submitter asks if Events could be supported by sponsorship and questions if they are really worthwhile to the wellbeing of the community.	Response only.	Thank you for your feedback on the draft 2024-34 Long Term Plan. Your time and thoughts are appreciated. A significant portion of Councils' events budget is already supported by external and grant funding. It is Council's firm position that community events provide significant wellbeing benefits to the community and district. They also provide economic benefit through tourists and non-local visitors which extends to local businesses.	09	1
T29	Town centre	Would like Council to make our town inviting and remove dilapidated, half demolished and burned buildings.	Response only.	Council notes your concern and thanks you for the feedback. Unfortunately, Council is unable to intervene where buildings are privately owned unless they are deemed dangerous, affected or unsanitary under the Building Act 2004. However, Council acknowledges and supports the endeavour to continue to improve the district's appearance.	11	1
T30	Rates	Requests increased transparency and communication with ratepayers about where income collected from rural property owners is being spent in comparison to other ratepayer categories.	Response only.	Council notes your concern and thanks you for the feedback. Council considers the updated Revenue and Financing Policy, which was out for consultation during the same period as the LTP, to provide increased transparency on funding sources and how they applied to the various activities and services Council provides.	12	1
T31	Rates	Submitter states the LTP does not cut costs enough and proposed increase in rates is unreasonable. They request council create a budget plan more aligned with CPI increases.	Decline.	Thank you for your feedback on the draft 2024-34 Long Term Plan. Your time and thoughts are appreciated. Council agrees that reducing the cost for ratepayers is a high priority. Council considers the draft LTP as it went out for consultation provides for a rates increase as low as possible while still keeping the lights on and continuing services crucial to the community and district. Many of the costs Council faces are not best represented by the Consumer Price Index (CPI) but other indices which follow capital, civil, and construction price movements.	12	1
T32	Key issue 2 - Reduce services to reduce running costs	Submitter asks Council to continue to support Opotiki's walking and cycling trails and parks and reserves.	Accept.	Council thanks you for the feedback. We currently provide funding to work with Motu Trails Charitable Trust to maintain and improve connectivity between these trails and intend to continue to provide this support to Motu Trails Charitable Trust to continue this service.	13	1
T33	RRCs	Submitter would like Council to continue to allow people to retrieve (free-of-charge) disposed timber, concrete and other materials from the yard.	Response only.	Thank you for your feedback on the draft 2024-34 Long Term Plan. Your time and thoughts are appreciated. Council has historically allowed the retrieval of disposed timber, furniture, concrete and some metal scrap from Opotiki RRC (free of charge). We are exploring the opportunity to see if this practice can be continued or not and how retrieval can be managed with a weighbridge in place.	13	1
T34	Key issue 2 - Reduce services to reduce running costs	Submitter states a reduction in services would erode the non-material aspects of life that make our lives rich.	Response only.	Thank you for your feedback on the draft 2024-34 Long Term Plan. Your time and thoughts are appreciated. Council agrees there are many significant non-material benefits the community receives from community services and the proposal to reduce these services has not been made lightly. However, Council's primary concern this LTP has been to reduce the cost impact on ratepayers. Council feels the proposed LTP has struck the balance between this cost reduction while maintaining a level of services that are impactful for the community.	14	1

Topic number	Topic heading	Topic	Suggested Council Decision:	Suggested Response	Applies to Submission/s	Total
T35	Key issue 3 - Paying for the running costs of the harbour	Submitter states Council has not been upfront with ratepayers about the ongoing and future costs of the harbour build and maintenance. Would like Council to not put off costs, or convince central government that the depreciation doesn't need to be paid and that the asset won't be replaced.	Response only.	<p>Thank you for your feedback on the draft 2024-34 Long Term Plan. Your time and thoughts are appreciated. At this time, Council has decided to proceed with its preferred Option on this issue, Option 2.</p> <p>Option 2 is looking to alleviate impact on ratepayers in the short-term and the backstop mechanism to do that is debt financing. However, this is a last resort.</p> <p>A general rate will be implemented to service the debt funding in Years 1 and 2 of the LTP. From Year 3 this will increase as the debt financing approach will stop and funding will come entirely from rates.</p> <p>Council are actively pursuing other options to alleviate impact on ratepayers, primarily by exploring options to delay the taking on the operational/maintenance responsibility, utilising external funding, implementing user-pays where available, and of course continuing negotiations with public sector partners.</p> <p>In the early years of the harbour operation, the ability to lean on the user-pays approach is limited as there is not a well-established commercial user base to charge. However, Council has every intention to explore and implement user-pays models to ensure users are paying their fair share.</p> <p>Council is currently focussing on the commercial user base and not focussed on potential revenue gathering from recreational users at this stage. That may come later down the line.</p>	14	1
T36	Climate Change	Submitter questions if instead of Council focussing on growth, maybe relocation would serve the community better.	Response only.	<p>Council notes your concern and thanks you for the feedback. Climate change is a significant and growing concern in local government as well in New Zealand (and the world) at large. Council does not have the information to propose any given course of action for the community in relation to climate change at this stage, however, this will be an area of increased focus for Ōpōtiki District Council.</p>	14	1
T37	Community Outcomes	Submitter questions if growth is what our residents actually want and if it is what is best for our rohe. Comments that these are good topics for a non-biased survey.	Response only.	<p>Council notes your concern and thanks you for the feedback.</p>	14	1
T38	Remission Policies	Submitter states Council's current Rates Remission and Postponement Policy gives the Council discretionary power to grant or deny applications without clear, transparent criteria. Suggests Council establish a community oversight committee to review applications.	Response only.	<p>Thank you for your submission on the draft 2024-34 Long Term Plan. Council has considered appropriate levels of delegations to staff when these policies were developed and consulted on and feels it has achieved an appropriate balance of transparency and efficiency with the current delegations.</p>	10	1

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T39	Infrastructure Strategy	Submitter states the Infrastructure Strategy in the LTP relies heavily on debt-funded projects, creating a significant long-term financial risk. Suggests Council engage with the local community to prioritise infrastructure projects, and focus on smaller, community driven projects, and provides ideas on achieving this.	Response only.	Thank you for your feedback on the draft 2024-34 Long Term Plan. Your time and thoughts are appreciated. Debt funding of capital works projects is the preferred mechanism to allow the construction of crucial infrastructure that is needed for our District. The debt funding levels proposed by Council in this LTP are within Local Government Funding Agency prescribed debt to revenue ratios. However in saying this, a number of projects would align well with other funding arrangements such as central government grant funding. Council will explore these opportunities to leverage the best funding outcomes for projects.	10	1
T40	Economic Development	Submitter states Council's economic development plans are focused on attracting large-scale investments and outside developers. Suggests Council shift focus towards nurturing local businesses and creating a thriving local economy and provides ideas on achieving this.	Response only.	Council is presently contributing to a sub-regional economic development strategy alongside its partner councils, Kawerau and Whakatāne. While the draft strategy identifies a development growth area for Ōpōtiki as aquaculture, it also signals that agriculture and horticulture are strong supported industries. Following adoption of the regional strategy, a local economic strategy will be developed in consultation with our local business and industry communities to ensure we meet best meet our local needs strengthening our economy.	10	1
T41	Infrastructure Strategy	Submitter states Council's Infrastructure Strategy fails to include clear, enforceable environmental protections which exposes the region to significant risks. Suggests Council establish an environmental oversight body to review and approve major projects. Also suggests Council should prioritise projects that enhance natural ecosystems.	Response only.	Thank you for your feedback on the draft 2024-34 Long Term Plan. Your time and thoughts are appreciated. The proposed Infrastructure Strategy includes responding to existing and future environmental requirements under the RMA, and to adhere to current resource consenting obligations. Council feels that environmental oversight is achieved by existing consultation processes and Council obligations under the RMA. Further to these comments Council does look for opportunities to enhance the natural ecosystem as part of the projects we undertake. For example, the works along Tawara Creek in recent years.	10	1
T42	Key issue 1 - Making do with what we have	Submitter would like to make the point that deferring maintenance or replacement will be more expensive in the long run.	Response only.	Thank you for your feedback on the draft 2024-34 Long Term Plan. Your time and thoughts are appreciated. Council acknowledges your concern. This LTP has needed to balance the cost on ratepayers while maintaining prudent management of our assets and activities/services. This has meant the deferral of maintenance or replacement for some assets and Council has accepted the risk noted in your submission.	15	1
T43	Key issue 2 - Reduce services to reduce running costs	Submitter states that while some examples where provided not enough information was given in the consultation document. They ask what events will be cut, will grants or other support be cut to community organisations, are there cuts to library, and will cuts to rubbish collection and parks and reserves work leave the town looking shabby?	Response only.	Thank you for your feedback on the draft 2024-34 Long Term Plan. Your time and thoughts are appreciated. The areas stated in the Consultation Document are the areas which will have reduced budgets. Funding provided through grants and/or individual contracts with community groups will be negotiated on a case-by-case basis. There have been no cuts to Te Tāhuhu o Te Rangi. Council is unable to predict the exact affect the reduction in rubbish collection/parks and reserves will have on the town/district, but the concern is acknowledged and this is a risk Council is prepared to accept in order to provide cost-savings for the community.	15	1

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T44	Key issue 2 - Reduce services to reduce running costs	Submitter states instead of reducing isite funding the isite team should be congratulated on their great win and encouraged to expand not contract.	Response only.	Council notes your concern and thanks you for the feedback. We are immensely proud of the Ōpōtiki isite receiving the award for Best Community or Not-for-profit Event 2024 (under 3000 participants) and completely agree in congratulating the team. Council also agrees it is never ideal to reduce community services. This was a difficult decision; however, Council feels it strikes the balance between reducing the cost for ratepayers while still providing services we know the community wants, albeit at a reduced level.	15	1
T45	Key issue 3 - Paying for the running costs of the harbour	Submitter supports not deferring costs and asks if it is user pays for boats and vessels using the harbour and wharf?	Response only.	<p>Thank you for your feedback on the draft 2024-34 Long Term Plan. Your time and thoughts are appreciated. At this time, Council has decided to proceed with its preferred Option on this issue, Option 2.</p> <p>Option 2 is looking to alleviate impact on ratepayers in the short-term and the backstop mechanism to do that is debt financing. However, this is a last resort.</p> <p>A general rate will be implemented to service the debt funding in Years 1 and 2 of the LTP. From Year 3 this will increase as the debt financing approach will stop and funding will come entirely from rates.</p> <p>Council are actively pursuing other options to alleviate impact on ratepayers, primarily by exploring options to delay the taking on the operational/maintenance responsibility, utilising external funding, implementing user-pays where available, and of course continuing negotiations with public sector partners.</p> <p>In the early years of the harbour operation, the ability to lean on the user-pays approach is limited as there is not a well-established commercial user base to charge. However, Council has every intention to explore and implement user-pays models to ensure users are paying their fair share.</p> <p>Council is currently focussing on the commercial user base and not focussed on potential revenue gathering from recreational users at this stage. That may come later down the line.</p>	15	1
T46	Cost savings	Submitter recommends Council withdraw from Local Government NZ and instead enhance relationships with Kawerau, Whakatane and Gisborne Councils.	Decline.	Council notes your concern and thanks you for the feedback. We appreciate the suggestion to achieve further cost savings by withdrawing from Local Government NZ. However, at this time Council feels this decision would come at more detriment than benefit as we, and therefore the district, receive much benefit from this partnership. That being said, Council is in complete agreement on the strength of fostering our relationships with our surrounding councils and we will continue to do so.	15	1
T47	Community Outcomes/Priorities	Submitter highlights how Council's community outcomes align to some degree with those of Forest and Bird's Eastern Bay of Plenty branch. They provide suggestions for seeing biodiversity as an economic asset, and increased resilience through strengthening coastal dune systems and moving development away from flood plans.	Response only.	Council notes your feedback and thanks you for it. Once BOPRC has made changes to the regional plan in response to recent national government direction regarding biodiversity, ŌDC will review the district plan. Once it has been identified and consulted on through the district plan review, Council can consider biodiversity as an economic asset as part of the next LTP review.	16	1

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T48	Monitoring and enforcing regulations	Submitter states that the budget and capability to monitor and enforce regulations is insufficient, and they request that the LTP include adequate and increased budget for these tasks.	Accept.	Council notes your concern and thanks you for the feedback. Council has a part-time compliance officer which is currently not sufficient to cover the enforcement breaches of bylaws, policies and Acts, ie noise, pollution, illegal buildings, consent monitoring etc. A review of the needs in this area will be commenced before the end of 2024 to ensure Council can meet our legislative requirements.	16	1
T49	Monitoring and enforcing regulations	Eastern Bay of Plenty Branch of Forest and Bird is willing to contribute financially to security cameras for the purpose of monitoring beach bylaws and wishes to work with the council on this issue.	Accept in part.	In 2021 the cost for temporary CCTV cameras was \$3000 for a six-week period. The cameras during this six-week period often were often vandalised resulting in further costs to repair or replace. Council does not have resource to monitor CCTV or to issue education letters and/or fines.	16	1
T50	Key issue 2 - Reduce services to reduce running costs	Submitter supports Option 1 Status quo as far as parks and reserves are concerned. They have no comment regarding reducing services in events, engineering, and Toi EDA.	Response only.	Thank you for your feedback on the draft 2024-34 Long Term Plan. Your time and thoughts are appreciated. Council agrees it is never ideal to reduce community services. This was a difficult decision; however, Council feels it strikes the balance between reducing the cost for ratepayers while still providing services we know the community wants, albeit at a reduced level.	16	1
T51	Pest control	Submitter states Council has responsibilities under the Regional Pest Management Strategy, and should work with NZTA to control wild ginger, pampas, woolly nightshade and Taiwan cherry from road reserves.	Response only.	Thank you for your feedback on the draft 2024-34 Long Term Plan. Your time and thoughts are appreciated. Council have an ongoing annual Transport programme under Environmental Maintenance that includes vegetation maintenance for roadsides in rural areas. In addition, this LTP includes a portion of funding allocated under Cyclepath maintenance to tackle vegetation control on new cyclepaths. NZTA funds a significant proportion of these programmes.	16	1
T52	Development contributions	Submitter suggests that development contributions be increased so those benefitting do not do so at the cost of the rest of the community, and this can assist with infrastructure investment.	Response only.	Thank you for your feedback on the draft 2024-34 Long Term Plan. Your time and thoughts are appreciated. Council agrees that development contributions are a valuable financial tool for infrastructure development, and we intend to review our Development Contributions Policy within the Long Term Plan period to ensure it is appropriate for future development opportunities.	16	1
T53	Key issue 2 - Reduce services to reduce running costs	Submitter would like to see another option for increasing the level of basic services which they believe are currently delivered poorly. Submitter provides suggestions for improved service for Public Toilets, Reserves and Cycleways.	Response only.	Thank you for your feedback on the draft 2024-34 Long Term Plan. Your time and thoughts are appreciated. While our most recent community survey results suggest our recreation facilities are currently well-received (they had the 2nd highest performance rating of 82%), we know there is always room for improvement and we appreciate your thoughts and suggestions. Additionally, we acknowledge there are areas needing improvement - in the same survey, the public toilet facilities were rated much lower at 44%. Council has budget allocated in the 2024-34 Long Term Plan for updates to public toilet facilities.	17	1
T54	Rating for 3 Waters	Submitter asks Council not to discriminate against rural ratepayers and that Council reduce general rating practice to all rural ratepayers for 3 waters services they cannot access and provides suggestions to achieve this and supporting information.	Response only.	Thank you for your feedback on the draft 2024-34 Long Term Plan. Your time and thoughts are appreciated. Council has adjusted the funding allocation for various services, including three waters, through the reviewed Revenue and Financing Policy and the 2024-25 Fees and Charges Schedule. It is considered all ratepayers receive benefit from a district with a functioning and safe three waters network. This is recognised through three waters being partially funded by general rates, as opposed to these activities only being funded through targeted rates and fees/charges.	17	1

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T55	Consultation for 3 Waters	Submitter asks what consultation is to occur on 3 Waters and wasn't the delay in adopting the LTP to include this?	Response only.	Thank you for your feedback on the draft 2024-34 Long Term Plan. Your time and thoughts are appreciated. Legislation from Central Government has mandated a significant amount of strategic work on three waters to be undertaken by local councils across the nation throughout 2024-25 and onwards. It is anticipated consultation on three waters will take place through these processes. In addition, yes, Ōpōtiki District Council took up the option provided by Central Government to delay the adoption of the 2024-34 LTP in order to bring three waters back into the financial modelling, documentation, and other workings required to make up the LTP.	17	1
T56	Rating for Solid Waste	Submitter states rural ratepayers are heavily subsidising urban ratepayers and provides suggestions for other rating methods and supporting information.	Response only.	Thank you for your feedback on the draft 2024-34 Long Term Plan. Your time and thoughts are appreciated. Council is looking for avenues to move more toward a 'user pays' approach. It is correct that Council currently does not operate a full 'user pay' system. We will continue to review this approach throughout the LTP period.	17	1
T57	Key issue 3 - Paying for the running costs of the harbour	Submitter believes there should be another option and that general ratepayers should not be funding this facility. They state it should be entirely user pays and provide a suggestion for leasing the facility. Requests Council does not burden ratepayers for any capital over runs for future maintenance costs.	Response only.	<p>Thank you for your feedback on the draft 2024-34 Long Term Plan. Your time and thoughts are appreciated. At this time, Council has decided to proceed with its preferred Option on this issue, Option 2.</p> <p>Option 2 is looking to alleviate impact on ratepayers in the short-term and the backstop mechanism to do that is debt financing. However, this is a last resort.</p> <p>A general rate will be implemented to service the debt funding in Years 1 and 2 of the LTP. From Year 3 this will increase as the debt financing approach will stop and funding will come entirely from rates.</p> <p>Council are actively pursuing other options to alleviate impact on ratepayers, primarily by exploring options to delay the taking on the operational/maintenance responsibility, utilising external funding, implementing user-pays where available, and of course continuing negotiations will public sector partners.</p> <p>In the early years of the harbour operation, the ability to lean on the user-pays approach is limited as there is not a well-established commercial user base to charge. However, Council has every intention to explore and implement user-pays models to ensure users are paying their fair share.</p> <p>Council is currently focussing on the commercial user base and not focussed on potential revenue gathering from recreational users at this stage. That may come later down the line.</p>	17, 21, 48, 32	4
T58	Consultation	Submitter states due to a change in 3 Waters legislation that Council needs to consult again on its Revenue and Financing Policy, the Annual Plan and the Long Term Plan.	Response only.	Thank you for your feedback on the draft 2024-34 Long Term Plan. Your time and thoughts are appreciated. Yes, Council initially consulted on the Revenue and Financing Policy in late 2023 and early 2024, before legislation changes were made which required local councils to bring three waters back into documents and financial modelling. As a result, Council re-consulted on this policy in tandem with the LTP consultation. The LTP consultation was delayed, not repeated. The first year of the LTP becomes the Annual Plan so does not require a separate consultation.	17	1

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T59	Partnerships	BOPRC acknowledges the work Council does for the Ōpōtiki community and appreciates the ongoing collaboration and cooperation between councils. They see this as improving outcomes for Ōpōtiki district and the Bay of Plenty region, and look forward to continuing the partnership.	Accept.	Thank you for your feedback on the draft 2024-34 Long Term Plan. Your time and thoughts are appreciated. Ōpōtiki District Council concurs with your points and looks forward to continuing our partnership and shared services to provide wellbeing outcomes for our shared communities.	17	1
T60	Key issue 3 - Paying for the running costs of the harbour	Bay of Plenty Regional Council will consider the proposal for a Memorandum of Understanding with ODC for a partnership approach to enabling the long-term vision of aquaculture development within the region as part of the Annual Plan process.	Accept.	Thank you for your feedback on the draft 2024-34 Long Term Plan. Your time and thoughts are appreciated. ODC support this proposal.	18	1
T61	Financial Strategy	Submitter is concerned that the combined decisions on funding harbour maintenance and depreciation may turn out to be unsustainable over the medium term.	Response only.	Thank you for your feedback on the draft 2024-34 Long Term Plan. Your time and thoughts are appreciated. Council acknowledges your concern. This LTP has required very carefully considered tradeoffs, with the primary concern being the immediate alleviation of cost on ratepayers while maintaining prudent management of our assets and activities/services. Council feels it has found the appropriate balance between these priorities and has accepted the risk noted in your submission.	18	1
T62	Climate Change	Submitter suggests ODC attendance at the regional adaptation technical working group would be a great way for ODC to connect with progress across the region and with the work of other Territorial Authorities undertaking local climate risk assessments.	Response only.	Thank you for your feedback on the draft 2024-34 Long Term Plan. Your time and thoughts are appreciated. Council staff is in discussions with BOPRC and other eastern bay Council staff regarding climate change considerations under the Eastern Bay Spatial Plan. A climate change strategy and action plan is to be developed this financial year and funding is provided to implement priority actions in Year 1 to 3 of the LTP.	18	1
T63	Climate Change	Submitter states the Eastern Bay Spatial Plan will be a key document in understanding how to manage growth in the district through a climate resilient lens.	Response only.	The spatial plan does consider climate resilience in identifying development options.	18	1
T64	Partnerships	Bay of Plenty Regional Council supports ODC acknowledgment and commitment to working in partnership with iwi towards the future development and growth of the Ōpōtiki District. They note the alignment with their own 'Te Ara Poutama' Community Outcome within their LTP, and the potential opportunity to work collaboratively on like matters.	Accept.	ODC is committed collaborative relationships with other local authorities. Thank you for your feedback on the draft 2024-34 Long Term Plan. Your time and thoughts are appreciated.	18	1
T65	Key issue 1 - Making do with what we have	Submitter responds that funds may be required to undertake upgrades to infrastructure that is current (or soon) to require new resource consents.	Response only.	Thank you for your feedback on the 2024-34 Long Term Plan. ODC appreciates and acknowledges your thoughts on infrastructure upgrades in response to resource consenting requirements. ODC has actively prioritised upgrade projects to infrastructure where new consents are required (or will be in the near future), as well as upgrades to ensure that existing resource consent condition requirements are met. This includes the Resource Recovery Centres where budget has been allocated to undertake upgrades that may be required to meet consent conditions.	18	1
T66	Infrastructure Strategy - Stormwater	Bay of Plenty Regional Council state they are happy to work with ODC on the Stormwater project.	Accept.	Thank you for your feedback on the draft 2024-34 Long Term Plan. Your time and thoughts are appreciated. ODC is committed to collaborative partnerships and thanks you for the identification of this opportunity.	18	1

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T67	Infrastructure Strategy - Our Assumptions (NPS Freshwater)	Bay of Plenty Regional Council states their draft limits information for NPS Freshwater may be helpful to ODC for long-term infrastructure planning.	Accept.	Thank you for your feedback on the draft 2024-34 Long Term Plan. Your time and thoughts are appreciated. Council thanks Regional Council highlighting available draft limits information for NPS Freshwater and proposed future consultation in 2024/25. Council will be in contact (if not already) to understand any implications for ODC future long-term planning.	18	1
T68	Infrastructure Strategy - Rates Affordability - Target Rates	Bay of Plenty Regional Council note they are in consultation with ODC, Iwi and key community stakeholders about future scheme management operations through the function of the Waioeka-Otara Rivers Scheme Advisory Group and the River Scheme Sustainability Project. They state scheme affordability, service level provision options, and consequent implications for rate payers will continue to be a key part of these discussions.	Accept.	Thank you for your feedback on the draft 2024-34 Long Term Plan. Your time and thoughts are appreciated. Council acknowledges Regional Council's ongoing consultation on this matter and we are keen to continue to be involved to understand scheme affordability, service level provision options, and consequential implications for rate payers.	18	1
T69	Transportation AMP	Bay of Plenty Regional Council state that overall, there is general support for the transport AMP and the preferred Scenario 2 for balanced investment. The benefits identified in the Transport Asset Management Plan align with the objectives of the Regional Land Transport Plan (RLTP).	Accept.	Thank you for your feedback on the draft 2024-34 Long Term Plan. Your time and thoughts are appreciated. Council notes your support for a balanced investment approach as outlined in the Transportation AMP.	18	1
T70	Transportation AMP	Bay of Plenty Regional Council support the focus on climate change and mitigation.	Accept.	Thank you for your feedback on the draft 2024-34 Long Term Plan. Your time and thoughts are appreciated.	18	1
T71	Transportation AMP	Submitter supports the focus on road safety, healthy and safe people and to further strengthen and support the benefits identified in the AMP, suggests there could be more of a focus on the reduction of death and serious injuries (DSIs).	Response only.	Thank you for your feedback on the draft 2024-34 Long Term Plan. Your time and thoughts are appreciated.	18	1
T72	Transportation AMP	Submitter notes a correction to Section 4.2.1; the Vision of the RLTP is "Our transport system meets the needs of our diverse communities, our environment and our economy".	Accept.	Thank you for your feedback on the draft 2024-34 Long Term Plan. Council appreciates the correction and thanks you for your time.	18	1
T73	Transportation AMP	Submitter notes that the RLTP also includes supporting the business case; Opotiki Urban Growth and Resilient Access Improvements - intersection improvements at the SH2 and Woodlands Rd intersection to enable housing supply in the Hukutaia Growth Area.	Response only.	Thank you for your feedback on the draft 2024-34 Long Term Plan. Your time and thoughts are appreciated.	18	1
T74	Transportation AMP	Submitter suggests that the RLTP could be included as a sub-regional and regional strategy under Section 4.2.2.	Response only.	Thank you for your feedback on the draft 2024-34 Long Term Plan. Your time and thoughts are appreciated.	18	1
T75	Waste AMP - Relevant Strategic Documents	Bay of Plenty Regional Council notes that in their LTP they approved an additional \$50,000 per year towards the refresh and implementation of the regional waste strategy, subject to additional funding being contributed by territorial authorities. This will allow Council to take a leading role in collaborative regional waste initiatives, in alignment with regional and national activity and will build on prior work.	Accept.	Thank you for your feedback on the draft 2024-34 Long Term Plan. Your time and thoughts are appreciated. Council is keen to continue to explore collaborative regional waste initiatives and will consider how and what funding may be allocated to a regional waste strategy review.	18	1

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T76	Freedom camping	Submitter approves of council's awareness of spending limits and the burden of rates on the community but would like council to also focus on potential revenue streams. They provide suggestions for changes to how freedom camping currently operates in the district to improve tourism and generate income.	Decline.	Thank you for your feedback on the draft 2024-34 Long Term Plan. Your time and thoughts are appreciated. As part of the process in developing the Draft Freedom Camping Bylaw, currently still under consultation, Council has decided not to introduce a freedom camping booking system with associated charges to recover some of the costs. It was decided that currently for Opōtiki, the cost of setting up and monitoring such a system would outweigh the returns from any cost recovery charges imposed.	19	1
T77	Tourism website	Submitter feels the isite has had its day and would prefer council to invest in a dynamic visitor website fit for the future.	Response only.	Thank you for your feedback on the draft 2024-34 Long Term Plan. Your time and thoughts are appreciated. Council greatly values the work that the isite team does to support tourism in the Opōtiki District. At this time, there are no plans to update the website. However, this may be reviewed in the future. We appreciate your suggestion and will keep it in mind for future improvements.	19	1
T78	Town Centre	Submitter provides suggestions for improving the town centre.	Response only.	Thank you for your feedback on the draft 2024-34 Long Term Plan. Your time and thoughts are appreciated. Since 2019 Council has been working with businesses and the community to revitalise our town centre. Completed projects include Te Tāhuhu o Te Rangī, the skate park and playground, cenotaph refurbishment and the Te Wānanga o Aotearoa development. Earlier this year Council completed the Elliot Street/Potts Ave paving followed by Church Street. Project work is ongoing and Council endeavours to work with property owners to facilitate quality developments in the town centre.	21	1
T79	Infrastructure	Submitter would like to see more effort put in to maintaining what already exists instead of investing in new projects or having depreciation funds spent elsewhere.	Response only.	Thank you for your feedback on the draft 2024-34 Long Term Plan. Your time and thoughts are appreciated. Council considers Key Issue One to be relevant to this topic and agrees on the focus of maintenance for existing infrastructure.	21	1
T80	Harbour	Submitter would like to see a new boat launching area for non-commercial users to link with the opening of the harbour.	Response only.	Thank you for your feedback on the draft 2024-34 Long Term Plan. Your time and thoughts are appreciated. ŌDC are still exploring options for where and how this could be implemented.	21	1
T81	Wastewater	Submitter believes a large amount should be spent on the system and provides suggestions for shifting the ponds and soakage site.	Response only.	<p>Thank you for your feedback on the draft 2024-34 Long Term Plan. Your time and thoughts are appreciated. We note your suggestions regarding wastewater system upgrades.</p> <p>The consent of the current Opotiki Township WWTP expires July 2025. We have a project underway to apply for a new consent. You can find information about this project online at https://connect.odc.govt.nz/opotiki-wastewater-treatment-plant-project</p> <p>After going through the information on our webpage we welcome any additional feedback you may have on this project and you can submit that online through that portal.</p> <p>As part of the project we are reviewing the suitability, or lack of, of the current site which includes looking at natural hazard assessments.</p>	21	1

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T82	Building	Submitter would like council to stop residential buildings being built on the flood plain.	Response only.	Thank you for your feedback on the draft 2024-34 Long Term Plan. Your time and thoughts are appreciated, and Council notes the concern in your submission. ODC would need more information. The District Plan and Building Act directs if and how buildings can be erected in low lying areas. If the risks can be sufficiently mitigated, buildings may be able to be established in low lying areas. Future growth is however planned to be on climate resilient land (higher ground).	21	1
T83	Town Centre	Submitter states horses should not be allowed in the town centre and wants them removed.	Accept.	Council currently has a bylaw in place which allows horses in the township (but not stallions) and understands this is a contentious issue with health and safety considerations. Council is open to continuing the discussion and understanding the community's wishes on this topic.	21	1
T84	UAGC	Submitter states this should always be set at the maximum allowed.	Decline.	Thank you for your feedback on the draft 2024-34 Long Term Plan. Council has considered a range of factors in establishing the level of the UAGC and other fixed rates against the legislative maximum of 30%. Council feels the current settings provide an appropriate balance between various ratepayers.	21	1
T85	Rates	Submitter would like the rates payments to return to quarterly instalments.	Response only.	Thank you for your feedback on the draft 2024-34 Long Term Plan. Due to the late adoption of the Long Term Plan Council is unable to set the rates for this year to allow for quarterly instalments. Ratepayers still have the option to pay on a quarterly basis if this is their preference (through Direct Debit arrangement).	21	1
T86	Vision Statement / Community Outcomes	Submitter would like these to remain as they are.	Accept in part.	Thank you for your feedback on the draft 2024-34 Long Term Plan. Your time and thoughts on Council's vision and Community Outcomes are appreciated. At this time, Council has decided to proceed with the new Community Outcomes, and we note our Vision Statement has remained the same.	21	1
T87	Rates	Submitter would like to see lower rates than what is being proposed.	Response only.	Thank you for your feedback on the draft 2024-34 Long Term Plan. Your time and thoughts are appreciated. Council agrees that reducing the cost for ratepayers is a high priority. Council considers the draft LTP as it went out for consultation provides for a rates increase as low as possible while still keeping the lights on and continuing services crucial to the community and district.	21, 32	2
T88	Facilities	Submitter requests provision on Council land in the upcoming Long-term Plan for a purpose built gymnastics facility to be constructed within easy access of the Opotiki township and for Council to help facilitate the consent process.	Accept.	Council is currently working with the local Gymnastics Club to secure a suitable site on reserve land for them to enter into a long-term lease arrangement to be able to construct and operate a purpose-built gymnasium. Council are working with the club to facilitate this process	20	1

Topic number	Topic heading	Topic	Suggested Council Decision:	Suggested Response	Applies to Submission/s	Total
T89	Facilities	Submitter asks Council to support growth within sporting and recreational groups by improving facilities which can encourage local sport tourism.	Accept in part.	The Bay of Plenty region has had a Regional Spaces and Places Strategy to guide planning and investment in play, active recreation and sport spaces and places (facilities) across the Bay of Plenty since 2017. The Regional Spaces and Places Strategy provides high-level, regional direction on the priorities for investment in play, active recreation and sport spaces and places across the Bay of Plenty, along with a regional planning framework for considering future investment. Ōpōtiki District Council (ODC) has identified a need for more detailed play, active recreation and sport spaces and places planning at a local level. This district-level strategy is being developed alongside the review process for the regional strategy. This Ōpōtiki-focussed strategy will provide more detailed guidance for the Ōpōtiki district based on a greater level of local detail, analysis and insights which will enabled the development of specific, local recommendations. It is intended that both the regional and district strategies will help guide DC's Long Term Plan (LTP), annual plans and its future work and investment in play, active recreation and sport spaces and places.	20	1
T90	Land Transport	Submitter strongly endorses the road improvements for Waioeka Pa Road and asks that council does not forget upgrades for 21, 23, 22, 24 and 26 Pa Road.	Response only.	<p>Thank you for your feedback on the draft 2024-34 Long Term Plan. Your time and thoughts are appreciated. ODC notes your support for road improvements for Waioeka Pa Road.</p> <p>Pg 78 of the Transport Activity Management Plan identifies road improvements of Waioeka Pa Rd near the top of the list. However, the delivery of the project does rely on NZTA providing funding from their Low Cost Low Risk funding pool.</p> <p>ODC have received confirmation from NZTA that they have decided to allocate zero funding to ODC for Low Cost Low Risk projects for the next three years. However, ODC will keep the project in the work programme but it will need to be pushed out until funding is available.</p>	22, 23, 29	3
T91	Land Transport	Submitter feels what is most important for their request for road improvements for Waioeka Pa Road is consultation and would like Nathan Hughes to come and talk with whanau/residents.	Response only.	Thank you for your feedback on the draft 2024-34 Long Term Plan. Your time and thoughts are appreciated. Staff from ODC are more than happy to come out and see the community. Please get in touch with Council if you have a proposed meeting date and we will do our best to attend.	22	1
T92	Key issue 2 - Reduce services to reduce running costs	Submitter requests that Council continue financial support of Toi EDA at its current level.	Decline.	Thank you for your feedback on the draft 2024-34 Long Term Plan. Council remains committed to collaboration with partners. Due to the tight fiscal environment and Councils need to reduce costs this funding is not able to be continued.	24, 40	2
T93	Rates	Submitter is concerned about the future affordability of the proposed general rates increase of 22 percent in Year 3.	Response only.	Thank you for your feedback on the draft 2024-34 Long Term Plan. Your time and thoughts are appreciated. Council acknowledges your concern. Council is mindful of the proposed general rates increase in year 3 of the plan. Council will be working over the initial years of the plan to explore alternative funding sources, re-evaluate cost increase assumptions and identify opportunities for cost savings.	28	1

Topic number	Topic heading	Topic	Suggested Council Decision:	Suggested Response	Applies to Submission/s	Total
T94	Key issue 2 - Reduce services to reduce running costs	Submitter states further savings are achievable if Council reduces the operating hours of the district library and I-Site or by combining the two.	Response only.	Thank you for your feedback on the draft 2024-34 Long Term Plan. Your time and thoughts are appreciated. In establishing the proposed LTP Council did consider options including reductions in hours of operations. Council feels it strikes the balance between reducing the cost for ratepayers while still providing services we know the community wants, albeit at a reduced level.	28	1
T95	Facilities	Submitter would like improvements be made to be the public toilets on Church Street.	Response only.	Thank you for your feedback on the draft 2024-34 Long Term Plan. Your time and thoughts are appreciated. Council has budget allocated for public toilet facility improvements. Specifically, there is budget available to look at options for improvements of the Church Street public toilets.	28	1
T96	Facilities	Submitter would like Council to consider installing a wastewater dump station for fully self contained freedom campers at Omaio.	Response only.	Thank you for your feedback on the draft 2024-34 Long Term Plan. Your time and thoughts are appreciated. Council have budget allocated for Years 4 onwards to install a wastewater dump station for campervans in Opotiki Township. As identified in your submission Council are looking at focusing on limiting the construction of new infrastructure and therefore at this stage Opotiki Township has been prioritised in this LTP. We note your submission for a similar wastewater dump station at Omaio which is something that can be reviewed and considered in the future.	28	1
T97	Key issue 1 - Making do with what we have	Submitter would like to see the capital programme concentrate on fixing current systems for water, waste water and storm water and roading and rubbish collection.	Response only.	Thank you for your feedback on the draft 2024-34 Long Term Plan. Your time and thoughts are appreciated. Council considers Key Issue One to be relevant to this topic and agrees on the focus existing infrastructure. Council has proposed an LTP capital works programme that emphasises renewals (replacement of existing infrastructure). This LTP has required careful consideration of tradeoffs, with the primary concern being the immediate alleviation of cost on ratepayers while maintaining prudent management of our assets and activities/services. Council feels it has found the appropriate balance between these priorities.	32	1
T98	Key issue 1 - Making do with what we have	Submitter would like to know what items are on the capital works programme.	Response only.	Thank you for your feedback on the draft 2024-34 Long Term Plan. The detailed breakdown of intended capital works programmes for Years 1-3 of the LTP can be read in our Infrastructure Strategy. In addition, Council creates an Annual Plan yearly which includes a capital works programme for the forthcoming year, and which is then reported on in the Annual Report for that year.	32	1
T99	Key issue 2 - Reduce services to reduce running costs	Submitter would like to know what services will be reduced and how they will be reduced and states support for Events.	Response only.	Thank you for your feedback on the draft 2024-34 Long Term Plan. Your time and thoughts are appreciated. The areas stated in the Consultation Document are the areas which will have reduced budgets. Funding provided through grants and/or individual contracts with community groups will be negotiated on a case-by-case basis. There have been no cuts to Te Tāhuhu o Te Rangi.	32	1
T100	Community Facilities	Submitter requests Council allocate funding for the development of a community field and recreational centre in Cape Runaway.	Decline.	Council along with Sport BOP is currently working with the Tihirau Victory Club to develop a Needs and Feasibility Study on providing a community hub (field and Facilities) that will inspire whānau and increase participation in sport, recreation, and social cultural activities. This study has been enabled by external funding source by TVC. It would be prudent to wait until this report has been developed before any decision on allocating funding is made	30	1

Topic number	Topic heading	Topic	Suggested Council Decision:	Suggested Response	Applies to Submission/s	Total
T101	Infrastructure	Submitter states council's focus on renewing existing infrastructure while limiting new projects overlooks the urgent need for infrastructure to support the district's future growth. They urge council to adopt a dual approach to infrastructure development and provide comprehensive feedback to support this request.	Response only.	Thank you for your feedback on the draft 2024-34 Long Term Plan. Your time and thoughts are appreciated. Council acknowledges your concern. This LTP has required very carefully considered tradeoffs, with the primary concern being the immediate alleviation of cost on ratepayers while maintaining prudent management of our assets and activities/services. Council feels it has found the appropriate balance between these priorities and has accepted the risk noted in your submission. Council also notes the 2024-34 Long Term Plan signals an increase in focus on growth and development in the later years of the ten year plan, and it is a key Community Outcome.	33	1
T102	Key issue 2 - Reduce services to reduce running costs	Submitter requests council reconsider its approach to service reductions and provides suggestions for alternative funding models. They would like to see maintenance and enhancement priority given to services that contribute to well-being, resilience, and environmental sustainability.	Response only.	Thank you for your feedback on the draft 2024-34 Long Term Plan. Your time and thoughts are appreciated. Council agrees it is never ideal to reduce community services. This was a difficult decision; however, Council feels it strikes the balance between reducing the cost for ratepayers while still providing services we know the community wants, albeit at a reduced level. The primary concern in developing this LTP was to reduce the cost for ratepayers. We also note that wellbeing and resilience are two of Council's new five Community Outcomes which guide the entire LTP.	33	1
T103	Key issue 3 - Paying for the running costs of the harbour	Submitter urges council to secure long-term funding for harbour maintenance through strategic partnerships with central government, iwi, and private sector stakeholders rather than relying solely on debt financing. Additionally, that Council should consider implementing a user-pays model for specific harbour services, ensuring that those directly benefit from the harbour's operations contribute to its upkeep.	Response only.	<p>Thank you for your feedback on the draft 2024-34 Long Term Plan. Your time and thoughts are appreciated. In large part Council agrees with your suggestions to leverage partnerships with both public and private sector stakeholders, including Iwi, as well as the eventual implementation of user-pays models.</p> <p>Option 2 is looking to alleviate impact on ratepayers in the short-term and the backstop mechanism to do that is debt financing. However, this is a last resort.</p> <p>A general rate will be implemented to service the debt funding in Years 1 and 2 of the LTP. From Year 3 this will increase as the debt financing approach will stop and funding will come entirely from rates.</p> <p>Council are actively pursuing other options to alleviate impact on ratepayers, primarily by exploring options to delay the taking on the operational/maintenance responsibility, utilising external funding, implementing user-pays where available, and of course continuing negotiations with public sector partners.</p> <p>In the early years of the harbour operation, the ability to lean on the user-pays approach is limited as there is not a well-established commercial user base to charge. However, Council has every intention to explore and implement user-pays models to ensure users are paying their fair share.</p> <p>Council is currently focussing on the commercial user base and not focussed on potential revenue gathering from recreational users at this stage. That may come later down the line.</p>	33	0

Topic number	Topic heading	Topic	Suggested Council Decision:	Suggested Response	Applies to Submission/s	Total
T104	Climate Change	Submitter strongly recommends that council develop and implement a comprehensive climate adaptation strategy as part of the LTP. The strategy should include specific investments in resilient infrastructure, and programs to retrofit existing buildings and infrastructure.	Response only.	Thank you for your feedback on the draft 2024-34 Long Term Plan. Your time and thoughts are appreciated. Climate change is a significant and growing concern in local government as well in New Zealand (and the world) at large. Council is early into its journey of gathering information and understanding implications for the district in order to create an appropriate strategy. However, we agree entirely with the concerns noted in your submission. Resilience is a key Community Outcome guiding this LTP.	33, 40	2
T105	Climate Change	Submitter states Council must engage with the community to develop a shared vision for climate resilience. Additionally, that Council must seek partnerships with central government, iwi, and private sector stakeholders to secure funding and support for climate adaptation initiatives.	Response only.	Refer to the following link to see what ODC is doing regarding climate change: https://connect.odc.govt.nz/community-hub/climate-hub BOPRC has a climate adaptation plan: https://atlas.boprc.govt.nz/api/v1/edms/document/A3896371/content ODC is open to discussions to work collaboratively and support community-driven climate adaptation initiatives.	33, 40	2
T106	Key issue 2 - Reduce services to reduce running costs	Submitter strongly advises council to reconsider its decision to discontinue support for Toi EDA. Council should recognise the critical role that Toi EDA plays in the district's economic development and engage with the organisation to develop a clear, collaborative strategy that aligns with the aspirations of the recently settled iwi. The strategy must be integrated into the LTP and include targeted investment in economic development initiatives that support job creation, sustainable growth, and the community's overall well-being. The Council must demonstrate a commitment to inclusive growth that leverages the opportunities provided by Treaty settlements to benefit the entire district.	Response only.	Thank you for your feedback on the draft 2024-34 Long Term Plan. Your time and thoughts are appreciated. Council agrees it is never ideal to reduce community services. This was a difficult decision; however, Council feels it strikes the balance between reducing the cost for ratepayers while still providing services we know the community wants, albeit at a reduced level. The primary concern in developing this LTP was to reduce the cost for ratepayers. We also note that wellbeing and resilience are two of Council's new five Community Outcomes which guide the entire LTP.	33	1
T107	Revenue and Financing Policy	Submitter request that Funding Impact Statements be made public for future consultation processes as they provide essential information for the community about funding sources and total costs and also increases transparency and trust.	Response only.	Thank you for your feedback on the draft 2024-34 Long Term Plan. Your time and thoughts are appreciated. Council agrees with the endeavour to increase transparency. Unfortunately, the Local Government Act 2002 is explicit in what information can and cannot be provided to the public for the purpose of the Long Term Plan Consultation Document. Section 93(c)(3)(b) lists the information that must not be included in the consultation, which includes Funding Impact Statements as detailed in Schedule 10 of the LGA. However, this information will be available in full in the final adopted 2024-34 Long Term Plan.	37	1
T108	Revenue and Financing Policy	Submitter would like council to consider the use of differentials, targeted rates and the UAGC at its maximum allowable level, to achieve equity and transparency in the rating system. They would be pleased to offer feedback in this respect if they had access to the proposed funding impact statement.	Response only.	Thank you for your feedback on the Revenue and Financing Policy. Council has, through the financial strategy, considered the appropriate level of fixed rates compared to the allowable maximum of 30%. Council feels that the current settings provide for an appropriate balance of cost and affordability across various ratepayers. The Funding Impact Statement is not usually produced until the adoption of the Long Term Plan.	37	1

Topic number	Topic heading	Topic	Suggested Council Decision:	Suggested Response	Applies to Submission/s	Total
T109	Key issue 1 - Making do with what we have	Submitter offers use of the Bay of Plenty Spaces and Places Strategy 2024 as a high-level framework to guide council in prioritising and managing spaces for play, active recreation and sport. They commend the ongoing work of Council in the development of their own draft Spaces and Places Strategy and offer to support council with this.	Response only.	As a partner to the BOP Spaces and Places Strategy, Council fully intends to use it as a high level framework for sport and recreation planning with more specific actions coming from the ODC strategy. A dedicated Spaces and Places Planner (fixed term) will be recruited later in the year to facilitate actions in the strategy.	38	1
T110	Key issue 2 - Reduce services to reduce running costs	Submitter acknowledges the need to reduce services and minimise the rates burden on the community but encourage council to maintain play, active recreation, and sport opportunities.	Accept.	Thank you for your feedback on the draft 2024-34 Long Term Plan. Your time and thoughts are appreciated. As a partner to the BOP Spaces and Places Strategy, Council fully intends to use it as a high level framework for sport and recreation planning with more specific actions coming from the ODC strategy. A dedicated Spaces and Places Planner (fixed term) will be recruited later in the year to facilitate actions in the strategy.	38	1
T111	Key issue 2 - Reduce services to reduce running costs	Submitter asks that any reduction in services to the general maintenance and upkeep of the community's parks and reserves not be in detriment to the safety and appeal of these spaces and places.	Response only.	Thank you for your feedback on the draft 2024-34 Long Term Plan. Your time and thoughts are appreciated. Council agrees that maintaining our places and spaces for the community is an important priority. Council is working in partnership with other organisations in the development of a Places and Spaces Strategy to be implemented throughout this LTP.	38	1
T112	Rangatahi	Submitter encourages Council to consider ways it can influence and minimise barriers for its young population and welcomes the opportunity to liaise with council on the information gained through the Active As project.	Accept.	Thank you for your feedback on the draft 2024-34 Long Term Plan. Your time and thoughts are appreciated. Council is in agreement on the importance of improving opportunities for rangatahi, and notes the work done through our Workforce Development team and the delivery of the Mayors Taskforce for Jobs Programme. We welcome further opportunities for collaboration.	38	1

Topic number	Topic heading	Topic	Suggested Council Decision:	Suggested Response	Applies to Submission/s	Total
T112	Key issue 2 - Reduce services to reduce running costs	Submitter does not support council reducing services to parks and reserves and would like Council to 1. Fully secure Ohui Domain so vehicles can not enter the grounds 2. Install training lights 3. Install rubbish bins 4. Hand over maintenance of Ohui Domain to Opotiki Junior Football Club.	Response only.	<p>Thank you for your feedback on the draft 2024-34 Long Term Plan. Your time and thoughts are appreciated. Council agrees it is never ideal to reduce community services. This was a difficult decision; however, Council feels it strikes the balance between reducing the cost for ratepayers while still providing services we know the community wants, albeit at a reduced level. The primary concern in developing this LTP was to reduce the cost for ratepayers.</p> <p>Regarding Ohui Domain 1. Ohui Domain is fully fenced to prevent unauthorised vehicular access however there have been occasions where access has been gained by cutting locks and/or fences & gates. This is repaired as soon as paratactical as soon as we are made aware of it. Currently we are awaiting reinstatement of damage to the memorial entrance gate that was damaged by a private contractor. 2. Council has no plans to install training lights at Ohui Domain. Only training lights available are at Memorial Park currently utilised by Opotiki Rugby club 3. ODC has adopted a Zero Waste Policy that places the responsibility back on individuals and users take ownership of the litter their activities generate and as such does not support rubbish bins on our parks. 4. Ohui Domain is one of the reserves that has been gifted back to Whakatohea as part of their treaty settlement and will be working with them regarding the ongoing provision and maintenance of recreation facilities and activities on this reserve.</p>	39	1
T113	Key issue 2 - Reduce services to reduce running costs	Submitter approves of council's preferred option with the expectation of Toi EDA who they would like council to continue funding.	Response only.	<p>Thank you for your feedback on the draft 2024-34 Long Term Plan. Your time and thoughts are appreciated. Council agrees it is never ideal to reduce community services. This was a difficult decision; however, Council feels it strikes the balance between reducing the cost for ratepayers while still providing services we know the community wants, albeit at a reduced level. The primary concern in developing this LTP was to reduce the cost for ratepayers. At this stage, Council has decided to proceed with Option 2, reduced services, including Toi EDA. However, we remain committed to collaboration with partners.</p>	40	1
T114	Key issue 2 - Reduce services to reduce running costs	Submitter agrees with maintaining support for Te Tāhuhu o Te Rangi and feels there is an opportunity to reduce costs by installing solar PV panels on the roof. Suggestions for obtaining funding for this are provided.	Response only.	<p>Thank you for your feedback on the draft 2024-34 Long Term Plan. Council notes your support of Te Tāhuhu o Te Rangi and thanks you for your suggestion regarding the installation of solar PV panels. Council recognises the importance of Te Tāhuhu o Te Rangi in providing much-needed social support for the community, and while some adjustments to services have been made to achieve cost savings, Council remains committed to its continuation. Council notes the funding suggestions you have provided and it will consider this as part of the future planning for this facility.</p>	40	1

Topic number	Topic heading	Topic	Suggested Council Decision:	Suggested Response	Applies to Submission/s	Total
T115	Key issue 3 - Paying for the running costs of the harbour	Submitter would like council to not defer paying for operational/maintenance costs but would like those costs paid for by targeted rates to harbour users. Suggestions for decreasing maintenance costs are provided.	Response only.	<p>Thank you for your feedback on the draft 2024-34 Long Term Plan. Your time and thoughts are appreciated. At this time, Council has decided to proceed with its preferred Option on this issue, Option 2.</p> <p>Option 2 is looking to alleviate impact on ratepayers in the short-term and the backstop mechanism to do that is debt financing. However, this is a last resort.</p> <p>A general rate will be implemented to service the debt funding in Years 1 and 2 of the LTP. From Year 3 this will increase as the debt financing approach will stop and funding will come entirely from rates.</p> <p>Council are actively pursuing other options to alleviate impact on ratepayers, primarily by exploring options to delay the taking on the operational/maintenance responsibility, utilising external funding, implementing user-pays where available, and of course continuing negotiations with public sector partners.</p> <p>In the early years of the harbour operation, the ability to lean on the user-pays approach is limited as there is not a well-established commercial user base to charge. However, Council has every intention to explore and implement user-pays models to ensure users are paying their fair share.</p> <p>Council is currently focussing on the commercial user base and not focussed on potential revenue gathering from recreational users at this stage. That may come later down the line.</p>	40	1
T116	Key issue 2 - Reduce services to reduce running costs	Submitter encourages Council to share any reservations and provide input on priorities to help guide future activities of ToIEDA.	Response only.	<p>Thank you for your feedback on the draft 2024-34 Long Term Plan. Your time and thoughts are appreciated. Council remains committed to collaboration with local and regional partners for the betterment of the district and region.</p>	40	1
T117	Community Outcomes/Priorities	Submitter encourages Council to interpret the current priorities in terms of the future of the district and asks how council describes resilient communities and growth.	Response only.	<p>Thank you for your feedback on the draft 2024-34 Long Term Plan. Your time and thoughts are appreciated. Descriptions, goals, and sub-goals which feed into each Community Outcome were adopted in draft form by Council earlier in the LTP development process and will be included in the final adopted LTP.</p>	40	1
T118	Consultaton Document	Submitter provides feedback on the 2024-2034 Long Term Plan consultation document.	Response only.	<p>Thank you for your feedback on the draft 2024-34 Long Term Plan and the Consultation Document. Your time and thoughts are appreciated.</p>	53	1
T119	Long Term Plan content	Submitter states the LTP must have a focus on essentials such as service quality, bylaws, and in-house business. Their view is supported by listing council activities, council structure, and professionalism of council staff as important to them.	Response only.	<p>Thank you for your feedback on the draft 2024-34 Long Term Plan. Your time and thoughts are appreciated. Council agrees the focus of this LTP is a "back to basics" approach.</p>	53	1
T120	Bylaws	Submitter would like council to implement the existing bylaw for Vehicles on Beaches. They ask what is the point of the bylaw if it is not enforced.	Accept.	<p>Thank you for your feedback on the draft 2024-34 Long Term Plan. Your time and thoughts are appreciated. There is a bylaw in place and our staff try to respond as soon as is practicable when alerted of an event. The Antenno app (free mobile application) is in place for people to report and attach any photos they may have taken to help staff gain context for reported events.</p>	54	1

Topic number	Topic heading	Topic	Suggested Council Decision:	Suggested Response	Applies to Submission/s	Total
T121	Key issue 3 - Paying for the running costs of the harbour	Submitter supports deferring costs and asks if it is user pays for boats and vessels using the harbour and wharf?	Response only.	<p>Thank you for your feedback on the draft 2024-34 Long Term Plan. Your time and thoughts are appreciated. At this time, Council has decided to proceed with its preferred Option on this issue, Option 2.</p> <p>Option 2 is looking to alleviate impact on ratepayers in the short-term and the backstop mechanism to do that is debt financing. However, this is a last resort.</p> <p>A general rate will be implemented to service the debt funding in Years 1 and 2 of the LTP. From Year 3 this will increase as the debt financing approach will stop and funding will come entirely from rates.</p> <p>Council are actively pursuing other options to alleviate impact on ratepayers, primarily by exploring options to delay the taking on the operational/maintenance responsibility, utilising external funding, implementing user-pays where available, and of course continuing negotiations with public sector partners.</p> <p>In the early years of the harbour operation, the ability to lean on the user-pays approach is limited as there is not a well-established commercial user base to charge. However, Council has every intention to explore and implement user-pays models to ensure users are paying their fair share.</p> <p>Council is currently focussing on the commercial user base and not focussed on potential revenue gathering from recreational users at this stage. That may come later down the line.</p>	54, 55	2
T122	Government legislation	Submitter urges council not to use governments fast track legislation for any projects it is currently undertaking or planning in the future.	Response only.	<p>Thank you for your feedback on the draft 2024-34 Long Term Plan. Your time and thoughts are appreciated. There are no current plans to use fast track legislation.</p>	55	1
T123	He tuku mihi	Submmiter commends Council for showing respect for King Tuheita by lower our flag to half mast and providing a space for the community to pay their respects at Te Tāhuhu o Te Rangī.	Response only.	<p>Thank you for your feedback. Council appreciates your acknowledgment of our efforts to honor King Tūheitia. Lowering the flag to half-mast and providing a space at Te Tāhuhu o Te Rangī for the community to come together in reflection was important, as it allowed the wider community to pay their respects in a meaningful way.</p>	55	1

COUNCIL REPORT

Date : 11 September 2024
To : Council Meeting, 18 September 2025
From : Stace Lewer, Chief Executive Officer
Subject : **REPRESENTATION ARRANGEMENTS REVIEW – HEARING AND DELIBERATIONS AND FINAL PROPOSAL**
File ID : A1259619

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- At its meeting held 30 July 2024 Council decided its initial representation review proposal for the 2025 local body elections.
- Under the requirements of the Local Electoral Act 2001, the initial proposal was subject to a public submission process. Submissions closed on 6 September 2024 and a total of twelve submissions were received and two submitters wish to be heard.
- The purpose of the meeting is to hear the submissions from Toi Rawhiti and Simon Prout, consider all the written and verbal submissions received, and deliberate and decide Council's final representation review proposal.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1) **That the report titled "Representation Arrangements Review – Final Proposal" be received.**
- 2) **That the Council notes it has considered all submissions received on its resolutions dated 30 July 2024, made pursuant to section 19H of the Local Electoral Act 2001 ("the Initial Resolution").**
- 3) **That the Council resolves the membership of Council be a total of seven elected members, plus the Mayor.**
- 4) **That the Council resolves, pursuant to section 19H of the Local Electoral Act 2001, the proposed number of general and Māori wards, proposed names of each general and Māori ward, the number of members proposed to be elected by the electors of each general and Māori ward, and the proposed boundaries (as set out in the maps appended to this report) are as follows:**

Urban General Ward	Two Councillors
Rural General Ward	Two Councillors
Ōpōtiki Māori Ward	Two Councillors
Coast Māori Ward	One Councillor

5) That the Council determines, pursuant to section 19J of the Local Electoral Act 2001 that there should be one community board (being the existing community board):

- **Coast Community Board comprising four elected members and one appointed member, being the councillor representing the Coast Māori Ward.**

6) That under section 19K of the Local Electoral Act 2001 the reasons for the proposed changes to the number of members and wards are:

that the Ōpōtiki District Council resolved to establish one or more Māori wards and based on a membership of a total of seven councillors results in:

- **the total number of members elected from one or more general wards is four**
- **the total number of members elected from one or more Māori wards is three.**

7) That Council notes under section 19T of the Local Electoral Act 2001 that:

- The proposed number of wards and their boundaries, and the community board will provide for effective representation of communities of interest in the district**
- The proposed ward and community board boundaries coincide with the boundaries of the current statistical meshblock areas determined by Statistics New Zealand and used for parliamentary electoral purposes**
- The proposed ward boundaries coincide with the community board boundaries.**

8) That under section 19V of Local Electoral Act 2001, council has determined that the number of members to be elected by the electors of the proposed wards and community board will ensure that the electors of the wards and community board receive fair and effective representation having regard to the population of each ward and community board in the district.

The general wards, number of councillors per general ward, the general ward population estimates (as of 30 June 2023) and the population ratio per general ward councillor are as follows:

General Ward	Population	Number of councillors	Population per councillor	Difference from quota
Urban General	2,790	2	1,395	-3.79%
Rural General	3,010	2	1,505	+3.79%
Total	5,800	4		

The Māori wards, number of councillors per Māori ward, the Māori ward population estimates (as of 30 June 2023) and the population ratio per Māori ward councillor are as follows:

Māori Ward	Population	Number of councillors	Population per councillor	Difference from quota
Coast Māori	1,140	1	1,140	-28.30%
Ōpōtiki Māori	3,630	2	1,815	+14.15%
Total	4,770	3		

- 9) That the Council's final proposal does not comply with section 19V(2) (fair representation criteria) of the Local Electoral Act 2001 and therefore must be referred to the Local Government Commission for determination.
- 10) That the Council notes the final representation review proposal is the subject of an appeal period of not less than one month following the date of the public notice of its decision.
- 11) That the Council notes that if it receives appeals to its final representation review proposal, the matter is forwarded to the Local Government Commission to consider
- 12) That the Council notes that the Local Government Commission is required to make its decisions no later than 10 April 2025.
- 13) That the Council delegates to the Chief Executive whatever is necessary for the Council to meet its obligations under the Local Electoral Act 2001 to:
 - a) distribute copies of the resolution (section 19L)
 - b) give public notice following consideration of public submissions (section 19N)
 - c) forward appeals as well as Councils decisions under section 19V(4) to the Commission (section 19Q).

PURPOSE

The report outlines and summarises the submissions received and provides an assessment of the reasons for acceptance or out of scope submissions.

The report also provides an overview of the review process undertaken, and recommends a final proposal for Council to adopt.

STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

1. The matters detailed in this report relate to the following priorities from Ōpōtiki District Council's Long Term Plan 2021-2031:

- Development and protection of the natural environment.
- Services and facilities meet our needs.
- Fair and efficient leadership.
- A strong and effective community spirit.
- Purposeful work and learning opportunities.
- Development supports the community.
- Culture and history are treasured.

BACKGROUND

The last representation review for the Ōpōtiki District Council was undertaken in 2021 (for the 2022 triennial election). The next review was due in 2027 (for the 2028 triennial election) however a review must be undertaken in 2024 as Council is introducing one or more Māori wards.

In August 2023 Council resolved to retain First Past the Post as its electoral system for the 2025 election, and in November 2023 resolved to establish one or more Maori wards. The decision to establish one or more Māori wards was made after a non-binding poll was run in the 2022 local elections that resulted in the majority of voters (50.23%) supporting the establishment of one or more Māori wards.

Since January 2024 four workshops were held with Council that explained the representation review process and explored a number of representation options available to Council under the Local Electoral Act 2001, as well as a bespoke option. Options were also presented to the Coast Community Board. Council considered the options and at a meeting held on 30 July 2024 decided an initial proposal that comprised a seven member council elected from two general wards and two Maori wards, plus the Mayor elected district wide.

The initial proposal was the subject of a public consultation process, submissions opened 6 August and closed 6 September 2024.

THE INITIAL PROPOSAL

In summary the initial proposal was:

1 x Mayor elected district wide	
General Wards	Members
Urban General	2
Rural General	2
Maori Wards	Members

Opotiki Maori	2
Coast Maori	1
Community Board	Members
Coast Community Board	4 + 1 appointed councillor

The initial proposal did not comply with section 19V(2) of the Local Electoral Act 2001 by:

- Opotiki Māori Ward -14.15%
- Coast Maori Ward -28.30%.

Therefore, the proposal must be referred directly to the Local Government Commission for its determination.

SUBMISSIONS

A total of 12 submissions were received and two submitters will be heard.

The key themes from the submissions were:

Seven submitters supported or supported in part the initial proposal and raised the following:

- Have four Maori Wards and four General Wards
- Allow for tribal representation
- Provide for more diverse representation
- Provide for increased Maori participation in voting
- Have a different make up of councillor numbers

Five submitters opposed the initial proposal and raised the following:

- Don't establish Maori Wards
- Have less councillors to reduce costs
- Have a different make up of councillor numbers

The two submitters who wished to be heard will present their submissions to Council on 18 September 2024. After the presentation of the submissions council will deliberate and decide its final proposal.

Council is required to provide reasons for acceptance or out of scope submissions. Draft reasons are outlined in the submissions report attached.

THE FINAL PROPOSAL

Subject to the consideration of submissions it is recommended the initial proposal is the final proposal, based on the following assessment:

General Ward	Population	Number of councillors	Population per councillor	Difference from quota
Urban General	2,790	2	1,395	-3.79%
Rural General	3,010	2	1,505	+3.79%
Total	5,800	4		

Māori Ward	Population	Number of councillors	Population per councillor	Difference from quota
Coast Māori	1,140	1	1,140	-28.30%
Ōpōtiki Māori	3,630	2	1,815	+14.15%
Total	4,770	3		

Maintain the existing Coast Community Board structure comprising four elected members and one appointed member from the Coast Māori Ward.

THE APPEAL/OBJECTION PERIOD

Council's final representation arrangements are subject to a one month appeal/objection period.

Any person or organisation that made a submission to Council's initial proposal may lodge an appeal against Council's final proposal. Because it is proposed Council adopts its initial proposal as its final proposal, objections are not provided for in this caseⁱ.

If any objections or appeals are received, the matter is forwarded to the Local Government Commission (the LGC) to decide. If the Council's final proposal does not comply with the requirements of the LEA, it also must be referred to the LGC for determination.

The Local Government Commission is required to make its determinations on all local authority representation reviews no later than 10 April 2025.

OPTIONS

A range of representation options were outlined and considered during the review process.

DISCUSSION

Subject to the consideration of submissions, it is recommended Council adopt its initial proposal as its final proposal.

Financial/budget considerations

The cost of the representation review and associated unbudgeted expenditure was considered in Council's decision to implement Māori wards. Costs to date include consultant and staff time to develop the proposal.

Policy and planning implications

The recommended decision being considered is not significantly inconsistent with and is not anticipated to have consequences that are significantly inconsistent with any of Council's policies or plans.

Impact on mana whenua

Mana whenua has an interest in the review and understanding what introducing Māori wards at the local body elections in 2025 means. A programme of hāpori/community engagement to promote the 2025 election and promote voting is planned for all the community.

Climate impact considerations

There is no identified impact on climate change in relation to this report

Risks

The recommended proposal does not comply with the +/- 10% rule and therefore is automatically referred to the LG commission. The LG commission may in their review not approve the preferred option.

Community wellbeing considerations

The purpose of Local Government now includes promotion of social, economic, environmental and cultural wellbeing of communities in the present and for the future ('the 4 wellbeings').

The subject matter of this report has been evaluated in terms of the 4 wellbeings during the process of developing this report.

SIGNIFICANCE AND ENGAGEMENT ASSESSMENT

Assessment of significance

On every issue requiring a decision, Council is required to determine how significant a decision is to the community, and what the corresponding level of engagement should be. Council uses the

Significance Flowchart in the Significance and Engagement Policy to determine the level of significance.

The level of engagement required for this decision is 'Consult' and 'Inform' according to the Engagement Framework of the Significance and Engagement Policy.

Assessment of engagement

The level of significance has been determined to be high as the representation review and establishment of Māori wards is expected to have an impact on the current and future wellbeing of our communities and the district.

The level of engagement required for this decision is 'Inform' according to the Engagement Framework of the Significance and Engagement Policy.

INFORM

To provide balanced and objective information to assist understanding about something that is going to happen.

The tools that council will use for the 'Inform' level of engagement include a report in the public agenda of the Council meeting and may include a combination of public notices in the newspaper and/or on Council's social media.

CONCLUSION

It is recommended that Council adopt its initial proposal as its final representation proposal as outlined in the report.

The final proposal does not comply with section 19V(2) of the Local Electoral Act 2001 (the +/-10% rule) and therefore must be referred to the Local Government Commission for determination. The Local Government Commission is required to decide by 10 April 2025.

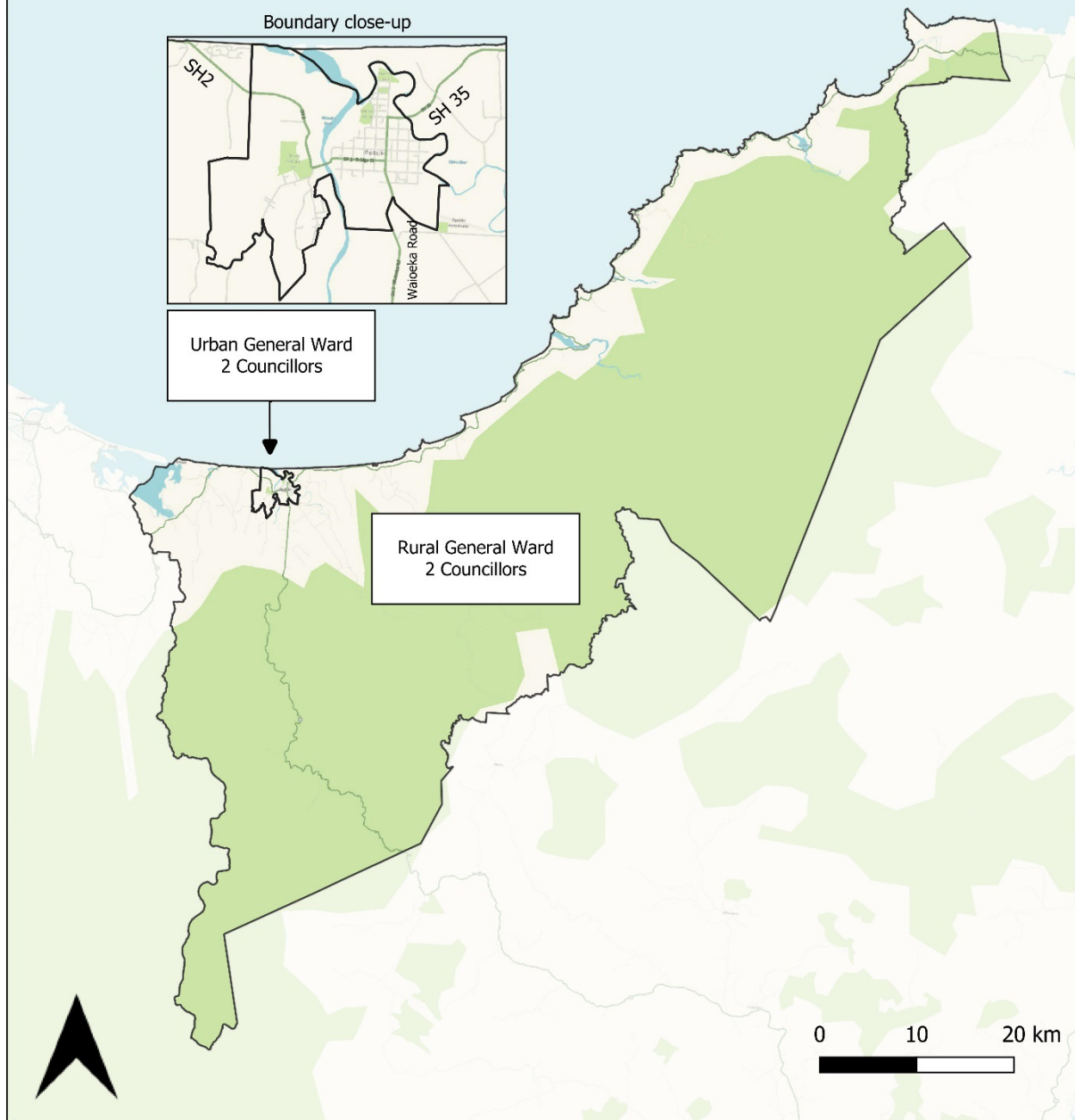
Stace Lewer
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

ⁱ Part 1A, section 19P, Objections

Appendix 1

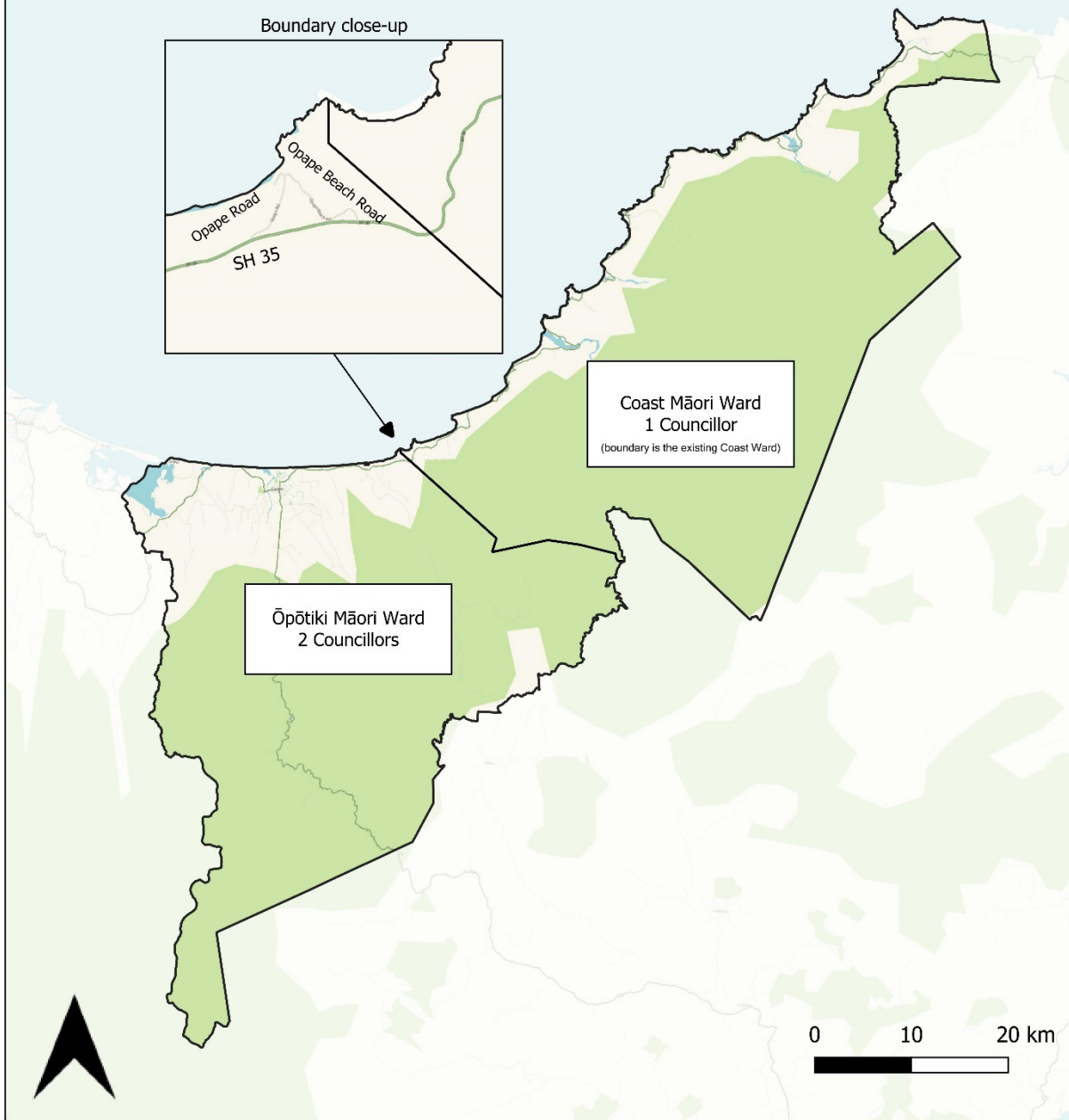
Ōpōtiki General Wards (4 Councillors from 2 Wards) All General Wards Compliant

General Ward	Population	Councillors	Ratio	# Difference	% Difference
Urban General	2,790	2	1,395	-55	-3.79%
Rural General	3,010	2	1,505	+55	+3.79%
Total	5,800	4	1,450		



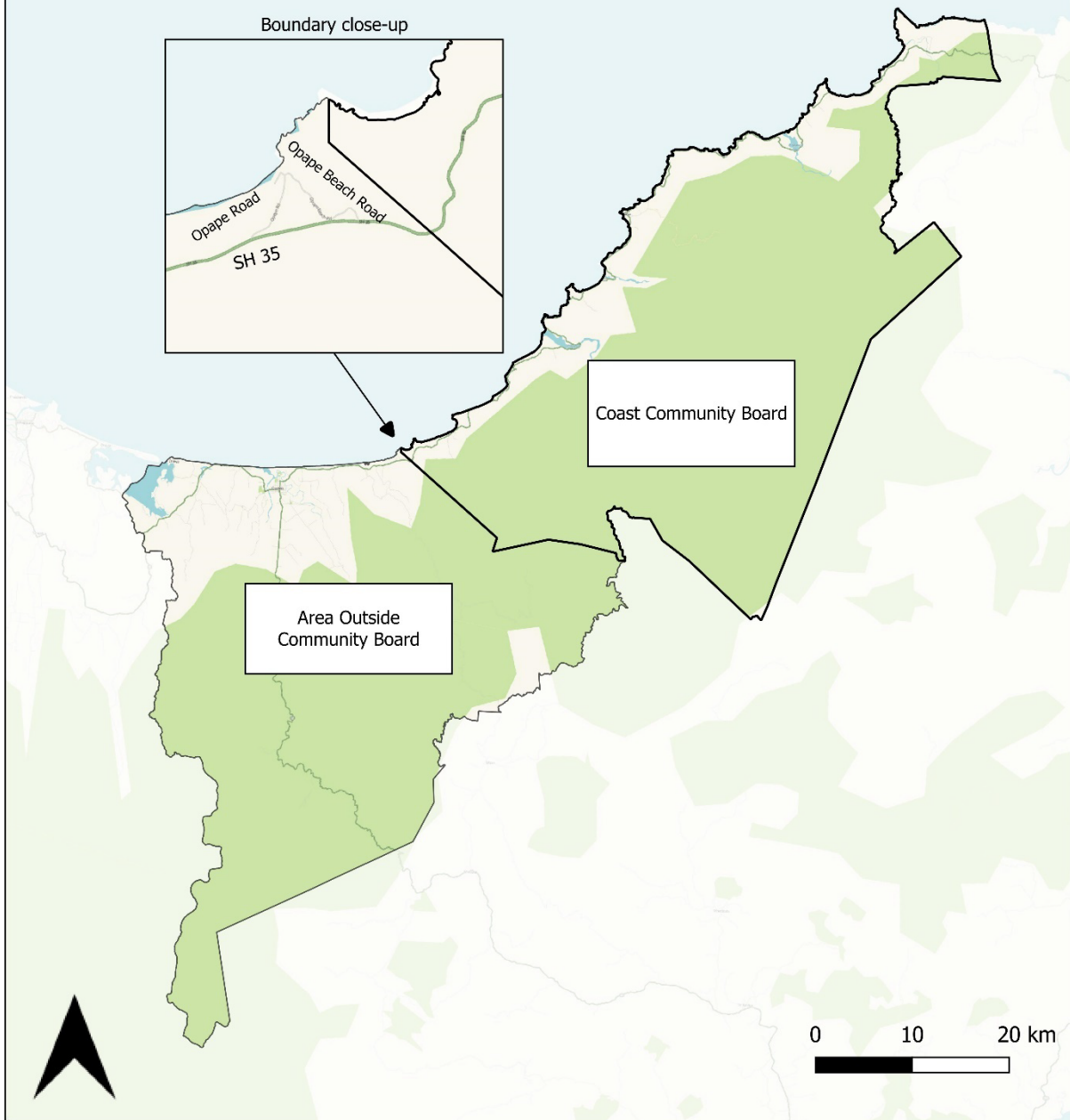
Ōpōtiki Māori Wards (3 Councillors from 2 Wards) Māori Wards Non-Compliant

Māori Ward	Population	Councillors	Ratio	# Difference	% Difference
Coast Māori	1,140	1	1,140	-450	-28.30%
Ōpōtiki Māori	3,630	2	1,815	+225	+14.15%
Total	4,770	3	1,590		



Coast Community Board

Community Board	Population	Members	Ratio
Coast Community Board	1,740	4	435



	Name	Organisation	Oppose/ Support	Wish to be heard	Summary of submission	Relief sought	Staff response
1	Jon Burchett	-	Oppose	-	Oppose Māori wards as racist	Don't have Māori wards	Out of scope - the decision to establish one or more Māori wards was made in 2023, after a non-binding poll was run in the 2022 local elections that resulted in the majority of voters (50.23%) supporting the establishment of one or more Māori wards. That decision made in 2023 legally requires Council to establish one or more Māori wards. The initial proposal provides for fair and effective representation for the Opotiki Districts community.
					Should be less councillors, more councillors will cost more	Have less councillors to reduce the cost	Out of scope - The proposal is for seven councillors, an increase of one councillor from the previous structure. The remuneration pool that pays councillors cannot be increased and will remain the same and be divided amongst the seven councillors
					No Councillors should be allowed more than three terms	Amend the Local Electoral Act 2001 (LEA) so that councillors can only be elected for a maximum of three terms	Out of scope - Council has no power to amend the LEA
2	Chair Douglas Leeder	Bay of Plenty Regional Council	Support	No	Support the proposal for three Māori ward councillors	Adopt the initial representation arrangements as proposed	Accept
					Support the Coast Māori Ward despite it being outside the fair representation rule. It is important that distinct communities within a district feel represented, and the Coast Māori ward is an important aspect of enabling this	Adopt the initial representation arrangements as proposed	Accept
					Support the general ward structure as it successfully balances the two main communities of interest in the district	Adopt the initial representation arrangements as proposed	Accept
3	David Briscoe	-	Oppose	No	Councillors should be elected by the general populace only and not by race	Don't have Māori wards and retain the current Council structure	Out of scope - the decision to establish one or more Māori wards was made in 2023, after a non-binding poll was run in the 2022 local elections that resulted in the majority of voters (50.23%) supporting the establishment of one or more Māori wards. That decision made in 2023 legally requires Council to establish one or more Māori wards. The initial proposal provides for fair and effective representation of the Opotiki Districts community.

	Name	Organisation	Oppose/ Support	Wish to be heard	Summary of submission	Relief sought	Staff response
4	Jodi Porter	Toi Rawhiti	Support and Oppose	Yes	The initial proposal does not comply with the implementation of Te Tiriti o Waitangi or the standards in the UN Declaration	That Council state to central government that it should not be compelled by law to act in a way that breaches the Crowns Tiriti obligations or international law. That the Council is being compelled by central government as an instrument to operationalise those breaches is erroneous, and Toi Rāwhiti would support the Council taking the strongest legal position possible to push back on this compulsion	Out of scope – local government is established by Parliament and receives its powers and authority/kāwanatanga through legislation and is subject to more than 100 different statutes. The Local Government Act (LGA) 2002 spells out local government’s purpose, its general powers, and the principles and processes that councils/kaunihera must abide by when making decisions. Part 1, section 4 of the LGA requires Councils to: <i>“... recognise and respect the Crown’s responsibility to take appropriate account of the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi and to maintain and improve opportunities for Māori to contribute to local government decision-making processes ...”</i>
					Increase Council to 8 members; 4 for Māori wards and 4 for general wards. Allows for each tribal region to be represented (1 from Te Whanau a Apanui, 1 from Ngaitai, and 2 from Te Whakatohea)	Increase the Māori ward members from three to four	Support in part - Council considered an option for eight councillors (four Māori ward and four general ward councillors) but believed the proposed structure for seven councillors (three Māori ward and four general ward councillors) provided for fair and effective representation for the Opotiki district. Establishing Māori wards provides for Māori representation, and does not necessarily provide for Iwi representation, however the proposed structure does not preclude each tribal region selecting candidates to stand in the proposed Māori wards
					Increase the Coast Community Board membership to elect four board members	CCB membership be increased to 4 members to ensure representation from Te Whānau a Apanui (2), Ngāi Tai (1) and Te Whakatohea (1)	Support – the current, and proposed, Coast Community Board structure provides for the election of four board members from within its area which is from Opape to Whangaparaoa. Anyone eligible from within the community board area is encouraged to stand as a candidate for CCB election

	Name	Organisation	Oppose/ Support	Wish to be heard	Summary of submission	Relief sought	Staff response
5	Simon Prout	-	Support	Yes	Strongly tautoko the introduction and ongoing use of Māori wards for the Opotiki District rohe	Adopt the initial representation arrangements as proposed	Support
					The Local Government Electoral Legislation and Māori Wards and Māori Constituencies Amendment Bill is anti-environment, anti-democratic and anti-Te Tiriti	Oppose the Local Government Electoral Legislation and Māori Wards and Māori Constituencies Amendment Bill	Support – the Local Government Electoral Legislation and Māori Wards and Māori Constituencies Amendment Bill came into force in July 2024, and Opotiki District Council supported Local Government New Zealand’s opposition to the reinstatement of binding polls for Māori wards and Māori constituencies and urged the Government to reconsider its position and leave local councils to make decisions about appropriate representation arrangements in partnership with iwi and their communities
					Māori wards are a good start for a vision of Aotearoa living in harmony, but we need to go further to see people from other ethnic groups and social sectors in the community being represented at the council table	Support more diverse representation from different ethnic and social groups	Support - As part of its election campaign for the 2025 election Council will ensure it promotes candidates from all sectors of the community
					Pleasing to see the change in the number of councillors does not have any effect on the cost of paying elected members	Support the change in the number of councillors to include Māori wards will not have any effect on the cost of paying our elected members	Support
6	Linda Steel	Coast Community Board	Support	No	The proposed structure seems the most feasible	Adopt the initial representation arrangements as proposed	Support
					Strongly protest interference from Central government about how the local government should operate. We do not have to go through this process for any other wards so why in particular "Māori" wards. It should be the same standard across the constituencies	Protest against the Local Government (Electoral Legislation and Māori Wards and Māori Constituencies) Amendment Bill	Support – the Local Government Electoral Legislation and Māori Wards and Māori Constituencies Amendment Bill came into force in July 2024, and Opotiki District Council supported Local Government New Zealand’s opposition to the reinstatement of binding polls for Māori wards and Māori constituencies and urged the Government to reconsider its position and leave local councils to make decisions about appropriate representation arrangements in partnership with iwi and their communities

	Name	Organisation	Oppose/ Support	Wish to be heard	Summary of submission	Relief sought	Staff response
7	Kim Thompson	-	Support	No	-	Adopt the proposed initial representation arrangements	Support
8	Lyn Riesterer	-	Support and Oppose	No	Object to the 4:3 split. 7 Councillors plus the Mayor means too many decisions would be made by split vote and Mayor making the final decision	Have three Māori and three general ward councillors	Support in part - Council considered an option for six councillors (three Māori ward and three general ward councillors) but believed the proposed structure for seven councillors (three Māori ward and four general ward councillors) provided for fair and effective representation for the Opotiki district
					Increasing the number of Councillors is not necessary and I believe that the 3x Māori and 3x General number of Councillors will suffice for our population	Have three Māori and three general ward councillors	Support in part - Council considered an option for six councillors (three Māori ward and three general ward councillors) but believed the proposed structure for seven councillors (three Māori ward and four general ward councillors) provided for fair and effective representation for the Opotiki district
					Council must do work to increase Māori participation in voting	Increase Māori participation in voting	Support - As part of its election campaign for the 2025 election Council will ensure it promotes Māori participation in voting
					Census population figures show Māori are in the majority in the District then we should have EQUAL representation among the Councillors OR change the ratio around and have 4x Māori Councillors with just 3x General Councillors	Have four Māori and three general ward councillors	Support in part - Council did not consider this option, but did consider the option for eight councillors (four Māori ward and four general ward councillors) however, it believed the proposed structure for seven councillors (three Māori ward and four general ward councillors) provided for fair and effective representation for the Opotiki district
					Māori can either stand in a Māori or General ward, I believe that is also true for "others", they can stand in a Māori ward too. This is an anomaly that ought to be advocated against at Local Government level to Central Government	Advocate to fix the anomaly that "others" can stand in a Māori ward too	Out of scope – the submitters point is noted however this submission process does not provide any opportunity to advocate for this type of law change
					Support the Coast Community Board (CCB) still operating	Retain the status quo CCB structure	Support

	Name	Organisation	Oppose/ Support	Wish to be heard	Summary of submission	Relief sought	Staff response
9	Paul Owen	-	Support and Oppose	No	Support establishment of Māori wards	Adopt the proposed initial representation arrangements	Support
					Methodology used to determine proportionality does not meet the requirements of the Local Electoral Act. To comply, should be 5 general seats alongside the 2 Māori seats.	Have five general ward councillors and two Māori ward councillors to better comply with proportionality requirements of the Local Electoral Act	Out of scope – Council explored five representation options, and the methodology used to assess compliance for fair and effective representation (proportionality) was based on the most up to date population data provided by Statistics NZ and used for representation purposes across all Councils in NZ
					General seats are based on population whereas Māori seats are based on the number of voters enrolled on the Māori roll	Have five general ward councillors and two Māori ward councillors to better comply with proportionality requirements of the Local Electoral Act	Out of scope –this is not correct. As per the general seats, Māori seats are also based on the most up to date population data provided by Statistics NZ, and used for representation purposes across all Councils in NZ
					The proposal as presented completely ignores the voters of Māori descent who reside on the General roll	Voters of Maori decent who are on the general roll are ignored	Out of scope – the methodology used for the initial proposal was based on the most up to date population data provided by Statistics NZ and used for representation purposes across all Councils in NZ
10	Mark White	-	Oppose	No	Support status quo council structure, it provides equal rights for all communities and people of the district	Retain the current Council structure	Out of scope – Council made the decision to establish one or more Māori wards in 2023 and therefore Council is legally required to put in place a new representation structure. Representation reviews across New Zealand are conducted under the rules of the Local Electoral Act 2001 to ensure fair and effective representation and to ensure communities of interest are considered
					Defining a voting system based on genetics of the voter is not democratic	The voting system is not democratic	Out of scope – it is outside the mandate of this submission process to consider the efficacy of New Zealand's voting system
					The proposed system may actually create a situation where over-representation can occur and has no place in a modern democratic community like the one we should be aiming to maintain in the Opotiki district	The proposal may create over-representation	Out of scope – the initial representation proposal was conducted under the rules of the Local Electoral Act 2001 to ensure fair and effective representation

	Name	Organisation	Oppose/Support	Wish to be heard	Summary of submission	Relief sought	Staff response
11	Catriona White	-	Oppose	No	Oppose increasing the number of councillors	Don't increase the number of councillors	Out of scope - Council explored five representation options, and believes the initial proposal to increase councillors by one, provides for fair and effective representation for the Opotiki Districts community, and notes the change in the number of councillors will not have any effect on the cost of paying our elected members
					We do not need to be segregated to get a good community representation onto our council	Don't have Maori wards	Out of scope - the decision to establish one or more Māori wards was made in 2023, after a non-binding poll was run in the 2022 local elections that resulted in the majority of voters (50.23%) supporting the establishment of one or more Māori wards. That decision made in 2023 legally requires Council to establish one or more Māori wards. The initial proposal provides for fair and effective representation for the Opotiki Districts community.
					Support the Mayor elected at large	Retain the Mayor is elected at large	Support
12	Lynette Mckain	-	Support and Oppose	No	Agree with the initial proposal for general wards	Maintain the general ward proposal	Support
					Strongly disagree with the initial proposal for Maori wards, against race based representation	Do not have Maori wards at all	Out of scope - the decision to establish one or more Māori wards was made in 2023, after a non-binding poll was run in the 2022 local elections that resulted in the majority of voters (50.23%) supporting the establishment of one or more Māori wards. That decision made in 2023 legally requires Council to establish one or more Māori wards. The initial proposal provides for fair and effective representation for the Opotiki Districts community.