

Report to Council



DATE: 7 May 2021

TO: Mayor and Councillors

FROM: Strategy and Communications Advisor

Adoption of the Draft Long Term Plan 2021 – 2031 and Consultation Document

1. Summary

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to adopt the Draft Long Term Plan 2021 – 2031 (LTP) and Consultation Document.
- 1.2. This issue arises from the requirement under the s 93 Local Government Act 2002 (LGA) for Council to at all times have a long-term plan and for the long-term plan to be in force for a three year period.
- 1.3. Council seeks to meet its obligations under the Local Government Act 2002 and the achievement of the District Vision adopted by the Council in May 2018, which are set out in the Long Term Plan 2018-28. Refer page 2 of the agenda.
- 1.4. This report concludes by recommending that Council receive the report and adopt the draft Long Term Plan 2021 – 2031 and Consultation Document, and direct staff to undertake consultation with the community.

2. Background

- 2.1. The reason the report has come before the Council is due to the requirement under s 93 of the LGA for Council to have a long-term plan that is adopted before the commencement of the first year to which it relates, and continues in force until the close of the third year to which it relates. The previous long-term plan was adopted in July 2018 and expires on 30 June 2021.
- 2.2. In order to adopt a new long-term plan, Council must consult with the community on the content of the plan, using the special consultative procedure set out in s 93A of the LGA.

3. Current Situation

- 3.1. Council and staff have drafted an LTP covering the period 2021 – 2031, having regard to the requirements of LGA and feedback from the community over the past three years of the current LTP. This has been audited by Audit NZ and in their opinion meets the requirements of s 93.

3.2. Council and staff have prepared a consultation document according to the requirements of the LGA. This has been audited by Audit NZ and in their opinion meets the requirements of s 93A.

3.3. Adoption of the final LTP is scheduled for Wednesday 30 June, meeting the requirements of s 93.

4. Options

4.1. Option 1: Adopt the draft LTP and Consultation Document, and hold community consultation.

4.2. Option 2: Do not adopt the draft LTP and Consultation Document, and do not hold community consultation.

4.3. Option 3: Amend the draft LTP and Consultation Document, and hold community consultation.

5. Risk Analysis

5.1. Risk has been considered and risk has been identified if Council choose to amend the draft LTP or do not adopt the draft LTP and hold consultation, that Council might not be able to adopt the final LTP within the required timeframe, and will not meet the legislative requirements.

6. Health and Safety

6.1. Health and Safety has been considered and no items have been identified.

7. Significance and Engagement

7.1. The level of significance has been assessed as being high. Council has a legal requirement to involve the community in the adoption of the LTP, by providing a summary of the LTP in the consultation document, holding consultation and giving the community the opportunity to provide their feedback.

7.2. Public consultation will take place from 9am, Monday 10 May 2021 – 12pm, Friday 11 June 2021 (31.5 days). Submissions hearings are scheduled for Tuesday 15 and Wednesday 16 June 2021 and Council will consider and make decisions on the submissions on Thursday 17 June 2021.

8. Assessment of Options (including Financial Considerations)

8.1. Option 1 – Adopt the draft LTP and Consultation Document, and hold community consultation. As noted, this has been audited by Audit NZ and is considered to meet the requirements of the LGA. Council cannot adopt a final LTP until the community has been consulted.

8.2. There are minor financial implications to this option. Councillors and staff will travel to various locations in the district to speak with interested community members and discuss the content of the plan to help them to make informed submissions to Council.

8.3. Option 2 – Do not adopt the draft LTP and Consultation Document, and hold community consultation. This is not a feasible option. Council is legally obliged to adopt the draft LTP and Consultation Document in order to undertake community consultation. If there is no community consultation, Council cannot adopt a final LTP and will not meet the legislative requirement in s

93 of the Local Government Act 2002 to adopt an updated Long Term Plan before the close of the third year of the previous Long Term Plan.

8.4. There are no financial implications to this option.

8.5. Option 3 – Council could request amendments to the draft LTP and Consultation Document, before holding community consultation. This is not feasible because the document has already been approved by Audit NZ. Any amendments would need to be audited and Council would be unlikely to meet the legislative timeframes set out in the LGA.

8.6. There would be a financial implication to this option – Audit NZ would charge for their time and this would increase the cost of the audit process. Consultation will incur the same financial implications as set out in 8.2.

9. Preferred Option(s) and Reasons

9.1. The preferred option is Option 1 – Adopt the draft LTP 2021 – 2031 and Consultation Document, and hold community consultation.

9.2. The reason that Option 1 has been identified as the preferred option is that it enables Council to meet all of its legislative requirements in respect of ss 93 and 93A of the LGA.

10. Recommendation(s)

10.1. That the report be received.

10.2. That Council adopt the draft Long Term Plan 2021 – 2031 and Consultation Document.

10.3. That Council direct staff to undertake consultation with the community.

Emma Rae
Strategy and Communications Advisor

Appendix 1: Draft Long Term Plan 2021 – 2031 *(To be tabled)*

Appendix 2: Draft Consultation Document to the Long Term Plan 2021 - 2031 *(To be tabled)*