



Media release

Friday 22 June

### **Selwyn District Council adopts Long-Term Plan**

Selwyn District Council has signed off on a 10-year programme of continued investment in providing community facilities, services and infrastructure for a rapidly-growing district.

At an extraordinary meeting this week (Wednesday 20 June 2018) the Council adopted its Long-Term Plan 2018-2028, signalling a series of landmark projects for Selwyn.

Major projects endorsed by the Council include an additional 25-metre pool for the Selwyn Aquatic Centre, a new indoor courts complex at Foster Park; new community centres at Hororata, Leeston and Prebbleton; and an extension to the Council premises at Rolleston.

The Council approved a change to district-wide rating for community centres, halls and reserves; and confirmed it will take a risk-based approach to future chlorination of community water supplies. Also adopted were changes to rating for water races and to community grants funding, along with a new walking and cycling strategy with seven new cycleways planned.

The plan also includes continuing significant expenditure on roading improvements and upgrades to water supplies, stormwater and wastewater networks.

Mayor Sam Broughton says the 10-year plan sets out an ambitious programme of new projects.

"Selwyn's population is set to grow by around 20,000 - to around 80,000 people - over the next decade," he says. "This plan is a response to the challenges and opportunities of that growth, and we've worked hard to ensure we provide the infrastructure and services our community needs, while balancing the affordability of rates.

"There are some big projects ahead - and we're committed to getting them under way as soon as possible because we know how important they are to the whole community.

"We're also pressing ahead with projects already in progress, like the exciting Rolleston Town Centre development, and a Health Hub to bring key health services to the district."

Overall the plan forecasts average rate rises of 4% per year over the 10 years of the plan. In the coming 2018/19 year, the average rates rise will be 6%, with a similar

rise in 2019/20, reflecting the expenditure on major community facilities and roading improvements.

Adoption of the plan came after widespread community consultation during April and May. A total of 436 formal submissions were received, while a further 1,300 people provided feedback through online polls and a survey.

"The engagement with our community has been hugely important in this process," Mayor Broughton says. "We've listened carefully to what residents have told us, both in support of what we proposed and suggesting alternative approaches.

"For some projects, public feedback has prompted us to commit to further reviews in future - for example in reassessing some of the facilities proposed for the Aquatic Centre extension, future funding levels for community grants, and the timing of new community centre projects and cycleways.

"We also responded positively to a number of additional requests for support or additional work, including a grant for St John Ambulance, lighting upgrade at Brookside Park, funding for additional carparking in Lincoln, and support for a public transport trial serving Darfield and Leeston."

Audit New Zealand issued an unmodified (clean) opinion on the Plan, noting that it provides a sound basis for the Council's decision-making and accountability to the community.

## Selwyn District Council Long-Term Plan 2018-2028

### Summary of key decisions

#### **District-wide rating for community centres, halls and reserves**

##### What was proposed?

Introduction of a district-wide rating system to fund the district's community centres and halls, and reserves. This would replace the current system of targeted rates paid by local communities.

##### Submissions and comments

Formal submissions and online survey responses showed a clear majority of respondents supported the proposal. Some submitters noted that the system would provide a fairer and more equitable funding system, while others raised questions about the future role of volunteers and the status of locally-owned facilities.

##### Council's decision

The district-wide rate for community centres, halls and reserves was adopted as proposed and will be introduced from the 2018/19 year. Councillors opted for a uniform system with no exceptions or special grants for individual facilities. A sub-committee comprising Councillors Alexander, Lemon, Lyall and Mugford has been established to liaise with local committees.

#### **Selwyn Aquatic Centre extensions**

What was proposed?

An extension to Selwyn Aquatic Centre including:

- New programme pool - 25 metre, 8 lane \$9.3m
- Café with outdoor courtyard \$1.1m
- Fitness/wellbeing space \$1.6m

Submissions and comments

This proposal received very clear support both in formal submissions and in online surveys. Many respondents noted the pressure on the existing facility and supported the provision of additional pool space. A significant number of submitters proposed that the extension should be based on a 50-metre pool, rather than 25 metres. Other comments queried the need for a fitness and café area, while some proposed that the extension should be funded solely by Rolleston residents.

Council's decision

The Council approved the extension as proposed, with a 25-metre pool. The Council took account of advice from key sports bodies, who noted that with a 50-metre pool already planned in Christchurch, there would not be sufficient demand for a second pool in the region. The Council also considered the financial impact on ratepayers, as a 50-metre facility would cost more than double the budgeted construction cost, and close to three times the annual operating cost. Councillors noted the public feedback on the fitness and café facilities and resolved that final decisions about these spaces would be decided through business case processes, which would give consideration to submission feedback.

### **Indoor courts facility at Foster Park**

What was proposed?

A new multi-use indoor courts complex and sports hub at Foster Park, Rolleston

- Indoor courts facility \$17m
- Sports hub building \$4m

Submissions and comments

A substantial majority of submissions and survey responses on this proposal were in favour of proceeding. The proposal was endorsed by a number of local and regional sports bodies, while many community submitters acknowledged the need for more facilities. Some submitters queried the funding for the project, proposing a local targeted rate or more user-pays funding.

Council's decision

The Council supported the project as proposed, to be funded from the district-wide rate. The final layout and design is yet to be confirmed by the Council.

### **Water quality improvements and chlorination**

What was proposed?

The Council asked for community feedback on whether to introduce chlorination to some community water supplies, to provide improved protection against possible contamination. The Council's preferred option was to introduce chlorination to specific supplies, based on risk assessment.

Submissions and comments

Submitters to the draft plan favoured no additional chlorination by a significant margin over the proposed risk-based approach. In online surveys opinion was more evenly divided, but with a majority of respondents opposing any additional chlorination. Comments addressed factors such as smell and taste, along with possible health effects and impacts on stock.

Council's decision

Based on the need to ensure the safety of community water supplies, and the advice of the Director-General of Health to provide adequate protection to public health, the Council endorsed the preferred option and recommended that the implementation of a risk-based approach to the protection of drinking water schemes with filtration, UV treatment and chlorination as needed, be progressed. Blanket chlorination of supplies was not supported. Current projects to chlorinate the community supplies at Malvern Hills and Sheffield-Waddington, on a risk-based approach, were also endorsed by the Council.

### **Water race rating review**

What was proposed?

The Council proposed the introduction of a new rating structure for the water race network, based on a standard district rate. The new rate will replace the previous complex 10-factor system with a simpler three-factor system which includes a 'public good' element payable by all ratepayers, to reflect the environmental and amenity value of the network.

Submissions and comments

More submitters and survey respondents supported this proposal than opposed it, although a significant proportion were undecided. Some submitters expressed the view that the water race network should be funded on a user-pays basis, while others acknowledge the public good value of the network. Some submitters called for the discontinuance of the network.

Council's decision

The new water race rating structure was adopted by the Council as proposed. Councillors noted that the usage of water races is changing over time and will need to be monitored in future.

### **Changes to community grants processes**

What was proposed?

Introduction of a new Community Grants Scheme to bring together various existing funding and grants programmes, promoting improved efficiency and effectiveness, equity, accountability and encouraging community-led development. The proposal included new funding of \$140,000 in addition to existing budgets.

#### Submissions and comments

A significant majority of submitters and survey respondents supported the proposal for a new community grants process. A number of submitters asked that funding be incorporated for activities such as arts, heritage and biodiversity, while others requested a higher level of funding.

#### Council's decision

The Council adopted the proposed new community grants fund and process as proposed. The Council will review the level of funding for future years, and indicated its intention to increase funding by \$10,000 each year after the first year, for the next nine years. The Council also agreed to retain a separate funding stream related to the environment and biodiversity. The development of new funding processes and criteria will take account of submission feedback.

### **New and upgraded community centres**

#### What was proposed?

Over the coming 10-year period the Council proposes to replace three major community centres, in Prebbleton (2020/21), Hororata (2023/24) and Leeston (2025/26). The projects would be funded from the district-wide rate and other sources.

#### Submissions and comments

The proposals for new community centres received strong support from the majority of submitters and survey respondents. A number of submitters noted the lack of suitable community facilities in these townships; others queried the funding of the projects, suggesting targeted rates should be used. Some submissions discussed the timing of the projects.

#### Council's decision

The Council approved the proposals for the new community centres, to be funded from the district-wide rate and other sources. Further work will be undertaken to assess local needs and confirm the timing of the respective facilities.

### **Rolleston council offices extension and parking**

#### What was proposed?

Construction of a 385 square metre extension to the Selwyn District Council offices in Rolleston, to meet current and future staff accommodation requirements. The project would be completed in 2019/20.

#### Submissions and comments

Both online responses and formal submissions on this proposal showed around 50% support, with both undecided and opposed views at around 25%. Some submitters commented on the pressure on current office and parking space both now and in the future, while others queried the levels of staff growth.

#### Council's decision

The Council resolved to proceed with construction of the extension to the Rolleston offices and car parking as proposed.

### **Walking and cycling strategy and action plan**

#### What was proposed?

The Council proposed the adoption of the Draft Walking and Cycling Strategy and the proposed programme of projects and improvements.

#### Submissions and comments

The proposed strategy and programme to build seven new cycleways was strongly supported in submissions and online responses. Many submitters endorsed the value of connections between townships; a number of comments also suggested other potential locations for cycleways.

#### Council's decision

The Walking and Cycling Strategy was supported by the Council and will proceed as proposed for the first three years, with the prioritization and timing of future cycleways to be reviewed from 2022.

### **OTHER PROJECTS AND DECISIONS**

#### Darfield and Kirwee wastewater system

The Council endorsed the plan to progress further work to explore wastewater options for Darfield and Kirwee, to gather more information and undertake targeted consultation with the community.

#### Selwyn Huts licences and wastewater options

The Council agreed to continue working with the Upper Selwyn Huts community, to develop a plan for the future residential occupancy of the settlement. This process will also involve Environment Canterbury, the Department of Conservation (which holds the lease for the nearby Lower Selwyn Huts settlement), Te Taumutu Rānanga and Ngā i Tahu.

#### Seal widening and extensions

The proposed programme of seal widening and extensions was endorsed by the Council, with the addition of a project to undertake improvements along High Street in Southbridge, connecting the Bellfield subdivision to the town. This will take place in 2018/19, at a cost of \$250,000.

### **Public transport**

Funding of \$60,000 in 2018/19 was approved for a trial public transport service to service the Darfield and Leeston areas. The trial will be planned and conducted in association with Environment Canterbury and will be subject to public consultation.

### **Solid Waste**

An increase in the targeted rate for recycling, from \$63 to \$80 per household, was approved. This increase is because of significant changes in global markets for recycled materials, particularly the restrictions on recycled materials being accepted by China. These changes will result in significant increases for councils in the cost of processing these materials, and councils throughout New Zealand are facing similar challenges.

### **Health Hub**

Funding to construct a district hub for health and social services has been increased from \$9 million to \$15 million, in response to an increase in the range of services that health service providers are indicating they may provide. Detailed feasibility work will be undertaken in consultation with health services. This project is an investment by the Council, and will be funded from within existing commercial property budgets, with no impact on rates.

### **St John Ambulance**

The Council approved a one-off grant of \$60,000 in 2018/19 to support the development of ambulance services in Selwyn district. Councillors noted that funding support from central government was limited but demand for ambulance services in Selwyn is growing.

### **Brookside Park lighting**

An upgrade to sports field lighting at Brookside Park, Rolleston, was approved by the Council. The upgrade, estimated at around \$300,000, will be undertaken in 2018/19 and will provide lighting for night-time usage of three fields, particularly for rugby league. This project will be funded from a mix of district-wide reserve rates and development contributions.

### **Liffey Domain fencing**

Remediation work to a value of approximately \$32,000 will be funded, to provide fencing at both Liffey Domain North and Liffey Domain South.

### **Rolleston Town Centre retail space**

An allocation of \$5.4 million has been provided in 2018/19 and 2019/20 for the development of retail/cinema space as part of the Rolleston Town Centre development. There is no impact on rates from this project. A full financial analysis and business case will be presented to the Council for approval.

### **Sicon development in Izone**

The Council has approved funding of \$3 million in the 2018/19 year for the development of new premises in Izone for Sicon, the contracting company 100%

owned by the Council. Lease payments by Sicon to the Council will provide an appropriate financial return for these premises and the land on which they are located. There is no impact on rates from this project.

### **Lincoln Town Centre parking space**

Funding of \$2.5 million was approved for the acquisition of land in Lincoln, to accelerate the provision of car parking as part of the Lincoln Town Centre Plan implementation. This will be funded from the General Rate.

### **Roading maintenance and renewals**

The Council noted that the roading maintenance and renewals budget approved by the NZ Transport Agency for subsidised works was \$40 million, around \$5 million lower than the total requested by the Council. As a result the planned maintenance programme has been reduced in order to align with the NZTA funding.

### **Reduction in dividend income**

The Council noted that Orion New Zealand Limited has forecast a lower than expected dividend return, as a result of changes in the company's regulatory environment. This results in a 10-year revenue loss impact for the Council of \$6 million.