

REPORT

TO: Council

FOR: Extraordinary Council Meeting - 27 March 2024

FROM: Jennie Nicholson -Head of Programme and Performance

DATE: 22 March 2024

SUBJECT: **CONSULTATION DOCUMENT ADOPTION**

RECOMMENDATION

'That the Council:

- 1. Adopts the unaudited Long Term Plan 2024-34 Consultation Document for public consultation, noting minor changes to page 62 as tabled.*
- 2. Adopt the Growth and Demand Report 2024*
- 3. Adopt the Significant Forecasting Assumptions for 2024-2034*
- 4. Adopt the following draft policies for consultation concurrent with the Long Term Plan consultation*
 - Significance and Engagement Policy*
 - Development Contributions Policy*
 - Rates Remission Policy*
 - Rating of Māori Freehold Land Policy*
 - Treasury Risk and Liability Management and Investment Policies*
- 5. Notes that the following plans and strategies have been prepared in support of the consultation document and will be publicly available during consultation.*
 - Draft Financial Strategy*
 - Draft Infrastructure Strategy*
 - Draft Asset/Activity Management Plans*
 - Other relevant supporting information as outlined in section 4 of this report.*
- 6. Progresses with community consultation for the Long-Term Plan 2024-34' starting 02 April 2024 and finishing 02 May 2024.'*

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to present the Long Term Plan 2024-2034 Consultation Document and key draft policies for consultation, and to note the supporting information to be made publicly available for consultation.

2. SIGNIFICANCE ASSESSMENT/COMPLIANCE STATEMENT

*“The decisions and matters of this report are assessed as of **High** significance, in accordance with the Council’s Significance and Engagement Policy.”*

The Consultation Document and supporting information has been prepared in accordance with the Local Government Act 2002. The Consultation Document is of high significance as it outlines our proposal to residents and the community on what Council is looking to achieve in the draft Long Term Plan 2024-34 and how that impact on rates. Council anticipate a high-level of community interest in councils Long Term Plan proposal for 2024-34.

3. HISTORY/BACKGROUND

Section 93A of the Local Government Act 2002 (the Act) requires Councils to prepare a Consultation Document to meet the special consultative procedure requirements of the Act.

The Consultation Document must be prepared and adopted in accordance with sections 93B to 93G of the Act. Under the provisions of the Act, the consultation document is required to set out the matters that the Council considers to be significant and of importance to the district and its communities. The document should be readily understood by interested or affected parties and be presented in a “concise and simple manner” consistent with its purpose. Along with the Consultation Document supporting information is provided to assist our community in better understanding the proposal.

Under the Act, Council are required to allow the community one month to consider and provide feedback on matters that will shape the final long term plan.

Overall, the consultation process is a key part of developing a Long Term Plan. The process helps Council to better understand the communities views on the priorities and directions for the decade ahead.

Development of the content for the 2024-34 Consultation Document and Draft Long Term Plan has been shaped through a series of LTP focused workshops with Councillors held between mid 2023 through to March 2024.

On 13 October 2024, Council resolved to proceed with the 2024-34 LTP for adoption by 30 June 2024 without audit of consultation document. Though the Consultation Document will be presented to the community without an Audit opinion, Audit New Zealand have reviewed and provided feedback on the Draft Consultation Document and this feedback has been taken into account.

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4. PROPOSAL

a) The Consultation Document and supporting information

i. Overview of the Consultation Document

Selwyn District Council’s Long-Term Plan 2024-2034 Consultation Document is attached to this report.

It sets out the significant issues and proposals that the Council now wishes to present to the community for information and consultation. The major proposals for consultation include:

- Big Decision1: Public Transport
- Big Decision 2: Community facilities – Leeston
 - a) Whata Rau

b) Leeston Park

- Big Decision 3: Community facilities – Malvern facility
- Matters for community guidance
 - Sheffield Memorial Pool
 - Economic Development
 - Enhancing Digital Solutions

The document also provides information on a range of other projects and initiatives that the community needs to be aware of and may wish to provide feedback on.

Based on the proposals in the consultation document, The Council is forecasting average rate increases per ratepayer of 8.5% per year over the next 10 years, with the majority of the increase occurring in years 1-3. Legislation requires councils to set a limit on rate increases. We have set a limit that the average rate increase per ratepayer will not exceed 16% in the first four years of the plan and 10% for the remaining six years. These are average increases per ratepayer across the district, and the actual increases for individual properties in different locations may be smaller or greater, depending on their location and the services provided.

Council staff are finalising the application of financial modelling in Years 1-10, to ensure consistency through years 11-30 of the Infrastructure Strategy. This will be updated and reflected in a revised version of the CD (page 62 updated) to be tabled at the meeting.

ii. Supporting Information – for Adoption

Outlined below are the documents for Council to Adopt as supporting information for Consultation Document as well as the draft LTP 2024 – 2034. All documents have been workshopped with Council, reviewed by Audit and where required have been subject to legal review. All feedback has been incorporated into the versions below:

Supporting information	Council Workshop	Comments
Assumptions	12 July 2023	This is key underlining information that has informed the development of the LTP. The Assumptions were reviewed and updated following central government changes in October 2023. Assumptions have been reviewed by Audit and feedback incorporated.
Growth and Demand Report	12 July 2023	Reviewed by Audit. No further amendments made since the report was presented to Council.
Significance and Engagement Policy	06 December 2023	Legal review completed. No material amendments made since the report was presented to Council.
Development Contributions Policy	06 December 2023	Legal review completed. Financials updated
Rates remission Policy	06 December 2023	Legal review completed. Delegated Authority changed to align with new organisational structure. No material amendments made since the report was presented to Council.
Rating of Māori Freehold land Policy	06 December 2023	Legal review completed and policy re-written to better align with LGA requirements.

Supporting information	Council Workshop	Comments
Treasury Risk and Liability Management and Investment Policies	6 December 2023	This policy was presented at the Audit & Risk Committee on 06 December. Proposed changes were endorsed by the Committee with a recommendation that this policy is adopted as part of the LTP process.

In the table above there are five draft policies. The LGA requires these particular policies to be consulted on concurrent with the Long-Term Plan 2024-2034. This is why the drafts have been included for Adoption at this point in the LTP process. The Treasury Risk and Liability Management and Investment Policies requires adoption but is not required to be consulted on.

iii. Publicly available information

Not appended to this report, the following plans and strategies have been prepared in support of the consultation document and will be publicly available during consultation.

- Draft Infrastructure Policy
- Draft Finance Policy
- Asset Management Policy
- Asset/Activity Management Plans
- Climate Change Report
- Pre-engagement Research
- Lump sum policy (no changes proposed from previous LTP)
- Revenue and Financing Policy (no changes proposed from previous LTP)
- Rates Postponement Policy (no changes proposed from previous TP)
- Māori contribution to Council decision-making processes Policy
- Climate Change Policy
- Draft well-beings
- Additional information will be added to the website as supporting information for the big decisions

Canterbury CCRA Report	Community Centres, Halls and Libraries Networks Plan
Climate Change Declaration	Lincoln Town Centre Plan
Carbon Assessment Report	Leeston Reserve Master Plan
Climate Change Policy	Long Term Plan 2021 – 31
Infrastructure Strategy 2021-51	Long Term Plan 2015 – 25
Selwyn 2031 – District Development Strategy	

b) Community Consultation

Council has proposed an extensive consultation and engagement program with the residents of Selwyn. This programme was presented to the Council during a workshop held on March 13, 2024. The program aims to foster meaningful dialogue and gather valuable insights from the community.

Key milestone	Planned Date
Adoption of Consultation Document	27 March 2024
Consulting with the Community	02 April 2024 – 02 May 2024
Hearing's agenda published and booklet distributed	06 May 2024
Hearings	10, 13, 14 May 2024
Deliberations booklet and agenda published	17 May 2024
Deliberations	22, 23, 24 May 2024
Integrate any changes into the LTP	27 May 2024 - 02 June 2024
LTP Audit	04 June 2024 – 25 June 2024
Adopt LTP	26 June 2024

5. OPTIONS

The Council has three options available to it:

Option 1 – adopt the consultation document and supporting information, resolve to note the plans and strategies that will be publicly available during consultation as outlined in this report and resolve to proceed to community consultation for the period 02 April 2024 to 02 May 2024.

Option 2 – adopt the consultation document and supporting information, resolve to note the plans and strategies that will be publicly available during consultation as outlined in this report and resolve to proceed to community consultation for the period 02 April 2024 to 02 May 2024, but with changes.

Option 3 – decline to adopt the consultation document and supporting information, decline to resolve to note the plans and strategies that will be publicly available during consultation as outlined in this report and decline to proceed to community consultation for the period 02 April 2024 to 02 May 2024.

Option 1 is recommended.

The Council has developed the attached Consultation Document following extensive discussion of the issues and opportunities facing the district over the next 10 years, alongside analysis of forecast growth, demand for services, national policy implications, strategic directions and other matters. For the major proposals set out for consultation in the document, a range of options are provided to address the issues raised, and these will be available for the public to submit and comment on through the consultation process. The Council considers that the proposals, projects and budgets set out in the Consultation Document represent the most effective ways to meet the district's needs while keeping costs at a reasonable level and still providing for growth. Adoption of the Consultation document and supporting information and proceeding to consultation is the recommended option.

Options 2 and 3 are not recommended as it would trigger a requirement for additional work by staff to recalculate the impact of any changes on work programmes, budgets and community outcomes. The resulting delays elevates the risk of Council failing to meet its statutory deadlines under the Act and the ability to strike rates in a timely manner. Delays will also impact Audit NZ ability to Audit the draft LTP within the required timeframes.

6. VIEWS OF THOSE AFFECTED / CONSULTATION

As provided in the Act, the Consultation Document will provide the basis for the Council to seek the views of Selwyn residents and stakeholders over its proposed programme and activities for the period 2024-2034.

(a) Māori and Treaty implications

It is anticipated that Māori will have a particular interest in certain aspects and proposals in the Long-Term Plan, for example, those related to Water Quality, Te Waihora Restoration, Māori land Rates Remission Policy and Māori contribution to Council decision-making processes Policy; .

Three Hui have been held with our partner Te Taumutu Rūnanga prior to consultation opening on their priorities for this Long Term Plan and how we give effect to our treaty based future. Key themes from the Hui include longer term aspirations associated with the Restoration of Te Waihora, Water Quality, Live and Work at Home and Economic Development and growing the Māori historical connection by telling the story of the land and people.

(b) Climate change considerations

*The decisions and matters of this report are assessed to have **medium** climate change implications.*

For further information on the likely impact of climate change in the Selwyn district refer to Council's Climate Change Policy. Further information can also be found on the Ministry for the Environment website.

7. FUNDING IMPLICATIONS

The Consultation Document and supporting information includes the Council's prospective financial forecasts and proposed rates for 2024-34.

8. PROPOSAL

That Council supports the recommendations in this report.



Jennie Nicholson
HEAD OF PROGRAMME AND PERFORMANCE

Endorsed For Agenda



Tim Harris
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ENABLING SERVICES