

9 April 2018

Chief Executive
South Wairarapa District Council
PO Box 6
Martinborough 5741

Regarding: Draft Long Term Plan

Tēnā koe

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a written submission on the South Wairarapa District Council Draft Long Term Plan 2018 -2028.

Council and Regional Public Health have a common agenda – working with communities where they live, work and play to protect and improve their quality of life. Regional Public Health (RPH) wants to support Council with public health knowledge and skills where appropriate. By working together we can be more efficient, reduce the burden of engagement on our communities and be more effective in achieving our common goal. A collaborative approach will also facilitate smarter use of each agency's finite resources.

This submission provides a public health perspective and information for Council to consider in their planning decisions. South Wairarapa District Council's (SWDC) policy and planning are an integral part to the health and wellbeing of our communities.

We are happy to provide further advice or clarification on any of the points raised in our written submission. We request to be heard in support of our written submission. The contact point for this submission is:

Kiri Waldegrave, Senior Public Health Advisor
kiri.waldegrave@huttvalleydhb.org.nz, 04 570 9130

Kind regards



Dr Stephen Palmer
Medical Officer of Health



Peter Gush
Service Manager

How this document is structured:

- A. An overview of Regional Public Health
- B. General comments on the Long Term Plan (LTP)
- C. The three waters
- D. Responses to your specific questions

A. WHO WE ARE – Regional Public Health

Regional Public Health (RPH) serves the greater Wellington region, through its three district health boards (DHBs): Capital & Coast, Hutt Valley and Wairarapa and is based at the Hutt Valley District Health Board, and RPH is at three bases – Porirua, Hutt Valley DHB and Masterton.

Our business is public health action – working to improve the health and wellbeing of our population and to reduce health disparities. We work with others to promote and protect good health, prevent disease, and improve quality of life across the population, with a particular focus on children, Māori and working with primary care organisations. We are funded mainly by the Ministry of Health and we also have contracts with the District Health Boards and other agencies to deliver specific services. We have 130 staff with a diverse range of occupations, including medical officers of health, public health advisors, health protection officers, public health nurses, analysts and evaluators.

B. GENERAL COMMENTS ON YOUR LONG TERM PLAN

RPH respects and acknowledges that SWDC decisions have a significant impact on health. We see this through appropriate management of infrastructure (e.g. water and sewage) and creating environments that support wellbeing through reducing the exposure to tobacco, facilitating access to healthy food and promoting urban design that encourages physical activity. This is the basis for making a submission on your Long Term Plan (LTP).

In light of the 2016 Kaikoura earthquake¹ and an increase in adverse weather events² RPH commends SWDC on their approach to assessing and investing in key infrastructure that will protect the health and wellbeing of our communities in an adverse event.

Council and RPH have important roles to play readying and responding to adverse events in our region. For RPH that means maintaining civil defence and public health emergency planning and response capacity, and ensuring there are appropriate numbers of staff trained in emergency management. For council that could mean readying similar response mechanisms as well as protecting core infrastructure such as water supply and public transport from the effects of emergency events, and making sure they are in a position to recover.

¹ The risk for a significant earthquake affecting the Wellington region has increased following the 2016 Kaikoura earthquake. A significant earthquake would affect infrastructure and key transport routes

² Many of New Zealand's towns and cities are affected by flooding from rivers, lakes, overland flow, the sea and in some cases, a combination of all of these. Regular flooding has a toll on communities, it can move people out of their homes and make it difficult to move around and get to work. This impacts on the economy and an individual's social connectedness.

It is important that we continue to work together in building resilient infrastructure and communities. Through this collaborative emergency planning and response, the impact of emergency events on vulnerable communities (particularly Māori) will be minimised. We will also be able to grow each other's knowledge and skills.

Our organizations are already working together on issues around disease surveillance, drinking water, wastewater and stormwater. We look forward to continued and enhanced collaboration. We also have staff who work with other agencies in emergency preparedness and management and are willing to assist SWDC on request.

C. THE THREE WATERS

The LTP process provides an opportunity to document the council's pathway to addressing the management of drinking water, wastewater and stormwater ('the three waters') infrastructure as a critical factor in building long-term resilience and emergency management. RPH acknowledges that there are significant challenges and drivers around actions to be taken in this area. These include:

- the development of infrastructure to keep pace and meet the need for new urban development;
- the challenge of increasing frequency of severe weather events (e.g. leading to flooding) and other natural disasters (e.g. earthquakes) which determine how well the infrastructure can perform;
- the impacts of recommendations emerging from Department of Internal Affairs three waters infrastructure review from the Havelock North Drinking Water Campylobacter Outbreak Inquiry Report;
- meeting the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management targets;
- the current review of the Greater Wellington Proposed Natural Resource Plan and associated new requirements for monitoring and management of stormwater and wastewater discharges; and
- progressive implementation of the catchment specific whitua committees to determine local water quality and quantity parameters.

The response to such large challenges requires a strong focus on collaboration between multiple agencies with a willingness to share expertise and resource across traditional council boundaries. It also requires consideration of models of shared resources and asset management to achieve economies of scale and equitable access to the limited technical expertise at the regional and national levels.

One such collaborative approach that has resulted from the Havelock North Inquiry is the regional drinking water joint working group. This group is in the process of being established for the greater Wellington region but requires the mandate and support from all councils to achieve the agreed aim of "safeguarding the Wellington region's drinking water".

A significant challenge is the management of water demand while maintaining water quality. Water demand is an issue for the whole region and not only in areas that have had to implement or explore a more urgent response.

Due to the complexity and inter-relatedness of managing all three waters infrastructure and the impact that this infrastructure has on the built environment (e.g. location of urban growth; how we use the environment for recreation and activity) we recommend a spatial planning approach. Such an approach would see the use of citizen panels, and other forms of face to face community consultation, that captures the interactions and supports coordinated decision making for the built environment.

The LTP consultation process also provides another opportunity to engage the community in awareness of the challenges around the three waters management and being part of finding the best way forward. Often this infrastructure is hidden and not well understood compared with other infrastructure such as roads.

Raising the profile of this critical part of a safe and healthy urban environment will facilitate community “buy-in” for the hard decisions that need to be made around how to distribute funding for maintenance, improvement and capacity building.

Additionally there are actions the community can take to support additional planning, performance and resourcing. It is important to have ongoing initiatives which increase the community’s understanding and engagement with the hidden infrastructure and the values they attach to the impact on their environment.

A collaborative and coordinated regional approach would strengthen this awareness raising, including linking to current actions that are associated with specific programmes (e.g. enviroschools) or legislative requirements (e.g. resource consent requirements including public engagement for managing specific discharges).

D. IN RESPONSE TO YOUR SPECIFIC QUESTIONS

Future Growth and Development

Option One: Do you support Council’s initiative to prepare a spatial plan for the South Wairarapa as outlined on page 4 of the Consultation Document? Cost: \$300,000 over 10 years. Impact on rates: 0.23% per annum increase; or

Option Two: Continue to allow growth in an unstructured way. This option would have no immediate impact on rates, but could result in higher rates in the future due to less efficient use of Council resources than could be achieved with planned development.

Select your preferred option:



Option One



Option Two

If you have any views on this project please comment below:

We support the development of a spatial plan (Option one). The environment we live in has a huge impact on the health of a community (option one). The World Health Organisation estimates 23% of all global deaths are due to modifiable environmental factors (15 March 2016,

<http://www.who.int/mediacentre/news/releases/2016/deaths-attributable-to-unhealthy-environments/en/>).

In other words nearly 1 in 4 deaths across the globe are due to environmental factors such as air, water and soil pollution, chemical exposures, climate change and ultra violet radiation. These factors contribute to more than 100 diseases and injuries

(<http://www.who.int/features/factfiles/environmental-disease-burden/en/>)

The considerate design of spaces and place can help to promote good health.

Youth Training and Development

Option One: Do you support Council's initiative to provide grants to support youth training and development and to provide recreational activities as outlined on page 5 of the Consultation Document? Cost: \$75,000 per annum. Impact on rates: 0.57% per annum increase; or

Option Two: Status quo with no impact on rates.

Select your preferred option:

Option One

Option Two

If you have any views on this project please comment below:

We support investment in youth training and development (Option one).

Promoting and Enhancing our District

Option One: Do you support Council's initiative to promote and enhance our district as outlined on page 5 of the Consultation Document? Cost: 300,000 over 10 years. Impact on rates: 0.23% per annum increase; or

Option Two: Status quo with no impact on rates; or

Option Three: Proceed with annual expenditure at a level other than that proposed.

Select your preferred option:

Option One

Option Two

Option Three

If you have any views on this project please comment below:

Community health and wellbeing is closely linked to a vibrant and successful local economy.

Infrastructure for Visitors

Option One: Do you support Council's initiative to provide more infrastructure for visitors (e.g. more public toilets, drinking fountains, motor caravan dumping stations, better rubbish and recycling

facilities) as outlined on page 5 of the Consultation Document? Cost: \$50,000 per annum for 5 years. Impact on rates: 0.006% per annum increase; or

Option Two: Status quo with no impact on rates.

Select your preferred option:

- Option One
- Option Two

If you have any views on this project please comment below:

We support investment in infrastructure (Option one). Greater availability of public toilets, public drinking water sites and improved provisions for waste management and recycling will benefit both visitors and residents. It will be important to ensure that these facilities are well managed and that public drinking water complies with the NZ Drinking Water Standards.

In addition, we are pleased to see planning for residual disinfection for Martinborough water supply is included in your Draft Infrastructure Strategy. This particular response will support improved management of any potential public health risk for this supply and support improved compliance with the NZ Drinking Water Standards.

Sports Coordination

Option One: Do you support central coordination of sport across the district as outlined on page 5 of the Consultation Document? Estimated cost of \$50,000 per annum (a further 0.38% per annum rates increase); or

Option Two: Status quo with no impact on rates.

Select your preferred option:

- Option One
- Option Two

If you have any views on this project please comment below:

No comment on any preferred option. However, we support your position that sports play an important role in communities providing social contact and healthier lifestyles³.

Reducing Waste Going to Landfills

Council is considering the following changes, indicate which of the following you would support (costs not included in LTP budgets).

a. Do you support provision of kerbside food waste collections?

- Yes
- No

³ South Wairarapa District Council Long Term Plan 2018-2028 p.5)

This service is estimated to cost \$73,000 per annum (a further 0.55% per annum rates increase). See page 6 of the Consultation Document for more detail.

We would also encourage SWDC to take into account that many households may have their own compost systems that are working well.

b. Do you support provision of 240 litre wheelie bins for recycling?:

- Yes
 No

This service is estimated to cost \$32,000 per annum (a further 0.24% per annum rates increase). See page 6 of the Consultation Document for more detail.

c. Do you support provision of an e-waste service at transfer stations or an advertised collection service scheduled throughout the year?:

- Yes
 No

This service is estimated to cost \$7,000 per annum (a further 0.05% per annum rates increase). See page 6 of the Consultation Document for more detail.

d. Do you support provision of a recycling/recovery centre at a transfer station?:

- Yes
 No

This service is estimated to cost \$14,000 per annum (a further 0.11% per annum rates increase). See page 6 of the Consultation Document for more detail.

We generally support this idea and suggest partnership with charities could be mutually beneficial.

These ideas are not mutually exclusive, you can support more than one. These ideas are not included in the current rates increase of 5.99% in year one. If you have any views on these ideas please comment below:

We support SWDC in exploring options about how best to meet your requirements under the Waste Management and Minimisation Act. We would encourage SWDC to link these activities to the regional plan and current review and consider whether there are any economies of scale and efficiencies that can be gained from working with neighbouring councils.

Water Conservation

Council is considering ways to conserve water.

Option One: *Do you support undertaking a feasibility study to investigate ways to reduce water usage or increase water storage? The study is estimated to cost \$50,000 (a further 0.38% per annum*

rates increase for the 2018/19 year only). See page 6 of the Consultation Document for more detail;
or

Option Two: Do you support continuation of Council's current approach to water conservation i.e. encouraging users to reduce their water usage as outlined on page 6 of the Consultation Document?;
or

Option Three: What other options would you like Council to investigate to conserve water in our district?

Select your preferred option:

- Option One
- Option Two
- Option Three

If you have any views on these ideas please comment below:

We support the implementation of additional strategies to conserve water however, in view of the fact that SWDC already has metering in place continued education and encouragement may be sufficient (Option two).

Fees and Charges

Do you have any comments about the proposed changes to fees and charges as outlined on page 14?

No comment.

Other Feedback

Council would like to hear any other feedback you have in relation to the content of the Consultation Document or any of the LTP supporting information or anything you think needs to be included that is not.

Please provide any other comments below:

We commend and support SWDC's approach toward bilingual signage. Ka mau te wehi! How fantastic!

We congratulate SWDC on progress towards and commitment to a long term plan of discharging treated wastewater to land, rather than discharging to water.

We note that you acknowledge possible changes to drinking water regulation following the Havelock North enquiry; however capital spending on the drinking water supplies is not scheduled to increase until 2028. We would encourage the Council to ensure that adequate resources are available to achieve and maintain full compliance with the NZ Drinking Water Standards.

Investment to make Greytown Memorial Park drinking water supply fully compliant with the NZ drinking water standards would also improve resilience and help meet the additional demand of the growing community.

We note that a council with a small rating base such as SWDC often needs to rely on the use of contracted services. This approach can be less efficient and sustainable than regional collaborative approaches. As we noted in our general comments we want to encourage increased collaboration and resource (expertise and asset) sharing between the greater Wellington region's councils.

We note that in your consultation document a lot of ground work was undertaken to shape the direction of the Long Term Plan. RPH is always keen to participate in these early direction setting discussions. We understand that this is a significant time of influence. Please add us to your database of community and agency consultation stakeholders.

RPH offers its support, skills and knowledge in the areas of emergency management, three waters, housing quality, public and active transport, community development and empowerment, and healthy food environments to ensure the people in the South Wairarapa District are thriving.