

# Our Community Our Future

2009-2019 Long-Term Council Community Plan  
Volume One





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## foreword

The Local Government Act requires Council to prepare a ten year program outlining the projected cost of all services, capital improvements we propose to undertake, and any other matters of significance that we are aware of, over the next ten years.

This Plan must be reviewed every three years and this is the first three year review.

This review has resulted in an average general rate increase of approximately 2% and an overall average rate increase of approximately 4% for the 2009/10 year but will vary between individual properties. In addition, all properties serviced by Council; water, wastewater, stormwater and refuse collection will have the fourth programmed increase of \$82.

In preparing for this plan in 2008 we circulated a document called 'Our Community Our Future: Decisions for the future of Matamata-Piako'

In this we raised a number of issues and sought feed back from the community. The response we received was very encouraging and these responses have been included in Council's deliberations. Council is also aware of the slowing economy, and the need to control any rate increase to the bare minimum. We are also aware that growth and development within the district is slowing and additional rate income from this growth would also reduce.

The following are matters of specific interest in this plan:

### New Capital Work

The only new capital works for the coming 12 months is in the area of roading, water and wastewater. This work must be done in order to comply with our resource consents and/or where work is already committed. There are no other new major projects programmed for the 2009/10 year or for the two years beyond that.

Some projects beyond the next three years requiring new capital have been identified in years four to ten but these are indications only and will be reviewed at the 2012 formal review.

### Financial

Council will continue to fund its activities as it currently does, that is separate rates for water, wastewater, refuse collection and a portion of stormwater services.

The general rate will continue to be collected by a uniform dollar charge per property regardless of property value (UAGC), as well as a charge based on the individual ratable value of each property.

Fees from user charges will continue in the current format.

One major change is that Council will be returning its overseas investment (generally referred to as the PNZ fund) back to New Zealand. This investment is proposed to be used by Council to finance its capital expenditure in the future, rather than financing through the banks.

The timing of this return will take place on our consultant's advice as to currency and market conditions.

### Depreciation

We are required to fund depreciation on all Council owned assets. The value of these assets are regularly reviewed and the 2009/10 year reflects the new valuations.

### Development Contributions

When a new property development takes place within our district, we require the developer to contribute toward existing services that will be affected by the development like water and wastewater. Some changes have been made to the calculations for this levy and these are detailed in this plan.

## foreword

### Submissions received

Council thanks the community for the submissions received to the plan. After hearing and deliberating on these Council has agreed to assist in the following projects through its Community Purposes Development Fund which will not have an impact on rates.

- Morrinsville skatepark grant of \$75,000
- Morrinsville velodrome loan of \$50,000
- Morrinsville cultural and heritage centre dollar for dollar grant of up to \$400,000
- Hamilton airport and regional tourism \$40,000 and \$72,000 for two years

### Conclusion

Council has endeavoured to balance the needs and wants of the community against the tight economic conditions of today. All budgets have been looked at and in some cases work has been deferred, pending an upturn in the economy.

Our focus for the next three years is on essential services (roading, water, wastewater and refuse collection (waste management)) and simply maintaining our current levels of service in other areas.



Hugh Vercoe Q.S.M., E.D., J.P.  
Mayor



Don McLeod  
Chief Executive

## our council

### Elected representatives

**Mayor**  
Mr GWH Vercoe (Hugh)

Mrs J Barnes (Jan)  
Matamata

Mrs S D Gillard (Shirley)  
Te Aroha

Mrs C L Greenville (Carole)  
Morrinsville

Mr M L Gribble (Mike)  
Morrinsville

Mr J W Harris (John)  
Te Aroha

Mr P M Jager (Peter)  
Te Aroha

Mr T J M Johnston (Tim)  
Morrinsville

Mr R J McGrail (Bob)  
(Deputy Mayor)  
Matamata

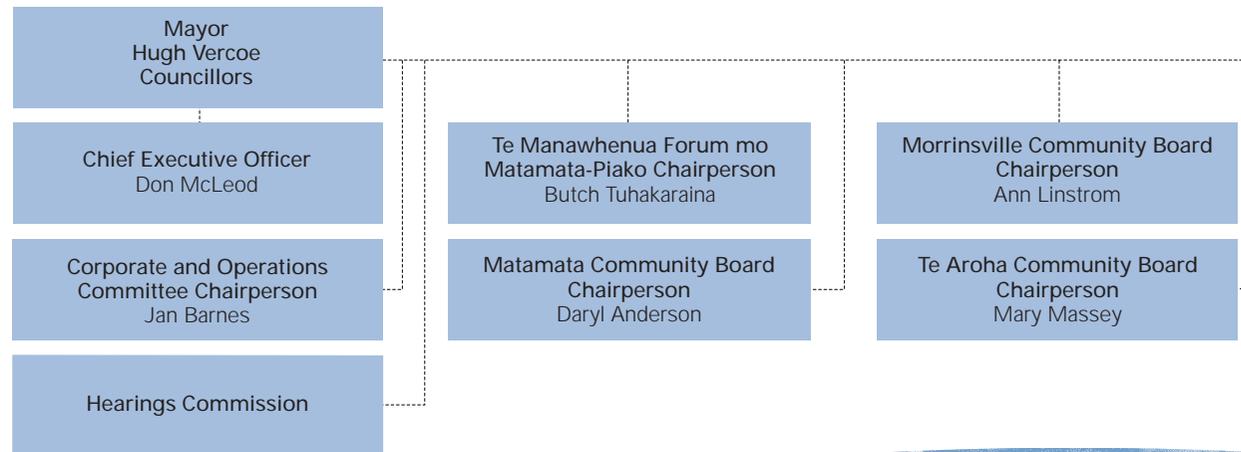
Mr M P Steffert (Maurice)  
Morrinsville

Mr G Stanley (Garry)  
Matamata

Mrs L Tisch (Leonie)  
Matamata

### Governance structure

- Council
- Corporate and Operations Committee
- Te Manawhenua Forum mo Matamata-Piako
- Hearings Commission
- Matamata Community Board
- Morrinsville Community Board
- Te Aroha Community Board



## our council

### Mayor and councillors

The Mayor and Councillors are elected by the community to represent and make decisions for the wellbeing of the Matamata-Piako District. The Council is made up of the Mayor and eleven Councillors.

To elect Councillors, the district is divided into three wards, Matamata, Morrinsville, and Te Aroha, and voters in each of those wards elect their representatives. The Mayor is elected by the district as a whole.

Council's activities and functions are governed by various Committees of Council.

### The Corporate and Operations Committee

This committee consists of the Mayor and all eleven Councillors. Council has delegated all of its responsibilities, duties and powers to the Corporate and Operations Committee except for those that it cannot delegate under the Local Government Act 2002, such as adopting an annual plan or annual report.

### The Hearings Commission

The Hearings Commission hears and determines applications for consents that may have a negative effect on the environment under the Resource Management Act 1991.

### Te Manawhenua Forum mo Matamata-Piako

Matamata-Piako District Council supports the development of Maori capacity to contribute to the decision-making process through the Te Manawhenua Forum mo Matamata-Piako.

Through discussions with iwi nominated representatives, the Te Manawhenua Forum mo Matamata-Piako was formed as a standing committee of Council.

The purpose of the forum is to facilitate tangata whenua contribution to Council's decision-making. The forum considers any matter to promote the social, economic, environmental and cultural wellbeing of the Maori communities for today and for the future, taking a sustainable approach. The forum has input into policy development such as the Long-Term Council Community Plan (LTCCP), District Plan and other special projects.

The forum is made up of representatives from: Council, Ngati Haua, Ngati Tumutumu, Ngati Raukawa, Ngati Maru, Ngati Whanaunga and Ngati Paoa, with Ngati Tamatera having the ability to join the forum. Meetings occur four times a year.

### Community Boards

There are three Community Boards within the district representing the three wards, and each have four members. Community Boards represent and act as advocates for the interests of their community and act as a channel of communication between the community and Council.

**Report to the readers of Matamata-Piako District Council's  
Long-Term Council Community Plan for the ten years commencing 1 July 2009**

The Auditor-General is the auditor of Matamata-Piako District Council (the District Council). The Auditor-General has appointed me, F Caetano, using the staff and resources of Audit New Zealand, to report on the Long-Term Council Community Plan (LTCCP), on his behalf.

The Auditor-General is required by section 94(1) of the Local Government Act 2002 (the Act) to report on:

- the extent to which the LTCCP complies with the requirements of the Act;
- the quality of information and assumptions underlying the forecast information provided in the LTCCP; and
- the extent to which the forecast information and performance measures will provide an appropriate framework for the meaningful assessment of the actual levels of service provision.

It is not our responsibility to express an opinion on the merits of any policy content within the LTCCP.

**Opinion**

**Overall Opinion**

In our opinion, the LTCCP of the District Council incorporating volumes one and two dated 24 June 2009, provides a reasonable basis for long-term integrated decision-making by the District Council and for participation in decision-making by the public and subsequent accountability to the community about the activities of the District Council.

In forming our overall opinion, we considered the specific matters outlined in section 94(1) of the Act which we report on as follows.

**Opinion on Specific Matters Required by the Act**

In our view :

- the District Council has complied with the requirements of the Act in all material respects demonstrating good practice for a council of its size and scale within the context of its environment;
- the underlying information and assumptions used to prepare the LTCCP provide a reasonable and supportable basis for the preparation of the forecast information; and
- the extent to which the forecast information and performance measures within the LTCCP provide an appropriate framework for the meaningful assessment of the actual levels of service provision, reflects good practice for a council of its size and scale within the context of its environment.

## audit opinion

Actual results are likely to be different from the forecast information since anticipated events frequently do not occur as expected and the variation may be material. Accordingly, we express no opinion as to whether the forecasts will be achieved.

Our report was completed on 24 June 2009, and is the date at which our opinion is expressed.

The basis of the opinion is explained below. In addition, we outline the responsibilities of the District Council and the Auditor, and explain our independence.

### Basis of Opinion

We carried out the audit in accordance with the International Standard on Assurance Engagements 3000: Assurance Engagements Other Than Audits or Reviews of Historical Financial Information and the Auditor-General's Auditing Standards, which incorporate the New Zealand Auditing Standards. We have examined the forecast financial information in accordance with the International Standard on Assurance Engagements 3400: The Examination of Prospective Financial Information.

We planned and performed our audit to obtain all the information and explanations we considered necessary to obtain reasonable assurance that the LTCCP does not contain material misstatements. If we had found material misstatements that were not corrected, we would have referred to them in our opinion.

Our audit procedures included assessing whether:

- the LTCCP provides the community with sufficient and balanced information about the strategic and other key issues, choices and implications it faces to provide an opportunity for participation by the public in decision-making processes;
- the District Council's financial strategy, supported by financial policies as included in the LTCCP is financially prudent, and has been clearly communicated to the community in the LTCCP;
- the presentation of the LTCCP complies with the legislative requirements of the Act;
- the decision-making and consultation processes underlying the development of the LTCCP are compliant with the decision-making and consultation requirements of the Act;
- the information in the LTCCP is based on materially complete and reliable asset or activity management information;
- the agreed levels of service are fairly reflected throughout the LTCCP;
- the key plans and policies adopted by the District Council have been consistently applied in the development of the forecast information;
- the assumptions set out within the LTCCP are based on best information currently available to the District Council and provide a reasonable and supportable basis for the preparation of the forecast information;
- the forecast information has been properly prepared on the basis of the underlying information and the assumptions adopted and the financial information complies with generally accepted accounting practice in New Zealand;
- the rationale for the activities is clearly presented;
- the levels of service and performance measures are reasonable estimates and reflect the key aspects of the District Council's service delivery and performance; and
- the relationship of the levels of service, performance measures and forecast financial information has been adequately explained within the LTCCP.

## audit opinion

We do not guarantee complete accuracy of the information in the LTCCP. Our procedures included examining on a test basis, evidence supporting assumptions, amounts and other disclosures in the LTCCP and determining compliance with the requirements of the Act. We evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information. We obtained all the information and explanations we required to support our opinion above.

### Responsibilities of the Council and the Auditor

The District Council is responsible for preparing an LTCCP under the Act, by applying the District Council's assumptions and presenting the financial information in accordance with generally accepted accounting practice in New Zealand. The District Council's responsibilities arise from section 93 of the Act. We are responsible for expressing an independent opinion on the LTCCP and reporting that opinion to you. This responsibility arises from section 15 of the Public Audit Act 2001 and section 94(1) of the Act.

### Independence

When reporting on the LTCCP we followed the independence requirements of the Auditor-General, which incorporate the independence requirements of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of New Zealand.

Other than this report and in conducting the audit of the Statement of Proposal for adoption of the LTCCP and the annual audit, we have no relationship with or interests in the District Council.



F Caetano  
Audit New Zealand  
On behalf of the Auditor-General  
Auckland, New Zealand

## introduction

### What is the Our Community Our Future plan?

Our Community Our Future (or Long-Term Council Community Plan - LTCCP), sets the direction for the Council over the next ten years. It sets out key aims, objectives and priorities for the Matamata-Piako District as the Council sees them, allowing the Council to look ahead and plan over a ten year period.

The plan informs the community how Council is working to align it's activities with what the district needs, along with financing these activities and prioritising new projects.

This plan:

- Describes the type of district our communities have told us they'd like - our community outcomes
- Outlines Council's contribution in working towards achieving the community outcomes
- Identifies the key projects to take place over the next ten years
- Provides an overview of each activity the Council will carry out and the services it will provide for the next ten years
- Determines how much the business of the Council will cost, and how it will be funded

### Why produce a ten year plan?

In carrying out their business, Councils are required to do a number of things under various legislation. These include:

- Taking a sustainable development approach and promoting community wellbeing
- Carry out their business in a clear, transparent and accountable manner
- Operate in an efficient and effective manner, using sound business practice
- Take into account and consider community views by offering clear information and the opportunity to present views
- Provide opportunities for Maori to contribute to decision-making
- Collaborate and co-operate with other agencies and local Councils to achieve desired outcomes

To help Councils do this, the Local Government Act 2002 requires an LTCCP to be prepared every three years.

### The planning cycle



**Community outcomes:** Every six years the Council is required to facilitate a process for identifying community outcomes. These determine what the community considers important for the future of the district.

**Our Community Our Future:** Community outcomes form the basis on which the LTCCP is developed. The LTCCP sets the direction for the Council over the next ten years.

As well as the LTCCP, the Council is also required to produce an Annual Report and produce and consult on an Annual Plan.

**Annual Plan:** This must be produced in each of the two years that a LTCCP is not produced. The Annual Plan highlights any changes or variances from the LTCCP for the coming year.

**Annual Report:** This must be produced each year and checks the Council's progress, letting the community know whether the Council did what it said it would, and check financial performance against the budget.

## introduction

Community outcomes provide an overall sense of direction for Council activities and the LTCCP. Council's activities are managed by activity plans (the overarching activity documents) which set out the activities performance management and feeds into the LTCCP. Other Council planning documents, such as the District Plan, Bylaws, and strategies like the Active and Leisure Strategy are driven by activity plans and the LTCCP.

Major changes from the 2006 LTCCP relate to:

- Improved linkage of levels of service to performance measures
- Withdrawal of corporate infrastructure as a group of activities and the Morrinsville Art Gallery

Other than these issues all other issues are similar with the planning projects identified for the ten year period:

- Pool refurbishments at Matamata and Morrinsville
- Matamata bypass
- Matamata library upgrade

See page 21 for key projects.

## How to use this plan

The plan is made up of two volumes.

### Volume One - Community outcomes and Council activities

- Audit Opinion - As a requirement of the Local Government Act 2002 this plan has been audited by Audit New Zealand
- Community outcomes and community wellbeing and how these will be measured
- Information on Council's activities including what each activity does, what service it provides and how this will be measured
- Key projects
- What's new

### Volume Two - Policies and statements

- Financial statements
- Council's policies that guide the activities set out in Volume One
- Council Controlled Organisations