WHERE'S IT @ RANGITĪKEI

LONG TERM PLAN 2024-34

RESPONSE TO SUBMISSIONS

RANGITĪKEI DISTRICT COUNCIL

Tirohanga Whakamua - Look to the future

Contents

Key Choice 1: Marton Pool

Background

The Marton pool is currently managed and maintained by a Council Contractor and is only open on a seasonal basis. The pool is open from late September/early October until April of the following year, aligning with the school holidays.

The Marton Swim Centre includes an indoor, 50m sized heated pool, of which there are only a few of in New Zealand, along with a learner/toddler pool.

The 2021-2031 Long Term Plan included $222,000 from the 2024-2025 financial year to keep the pool open year-round. These costs have increased by an estimated $135,000, costing a total of $357,000 per year.

At this stage opening the Taihape and Hunterville pools all year is not being considered.

Two options were provided, submitters were also able to select 'something else.'

Option 1 - The Marton pool would remain only open on a seasonal basis (preferred option)

This means that the $222,000 budgeted for the previous LTP has been removed from the draft 2024-34 Long Term Plan and no increase allowed for year-round opening in the 2024/2025 year, or future years.

Impact on rates: Nil

Impact on debt: Nil

Impact on levels of service: There will be no change from the current level of service, the increase in level of service outlined in the 2021-31 long term plan will not occur.

Option 2 - From 2024/25 the Marton Pool would open all year round

This means the $222,000 budgeted for in the previous LTP would be included from 2024/25; and an additional $135,000 would be added to the budget from 2024/25 – bringing a total of $357,000 annual increase.

Impact on rates: 1.2%, total of $357,000. This included the $222,000 budgeted in the 2021-31 Long Term Plan, and an additional $135,000.

Impact on debt: Nil

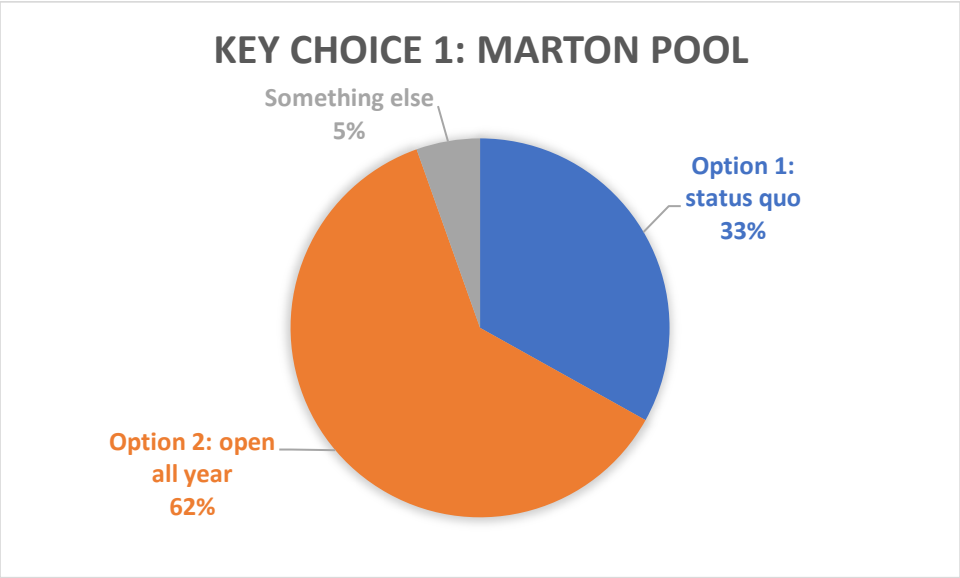
Impact on levels of service: There will be an increase from the current level of service, to the level of service indicated in the 2021-31 Long Term Plan.

Results

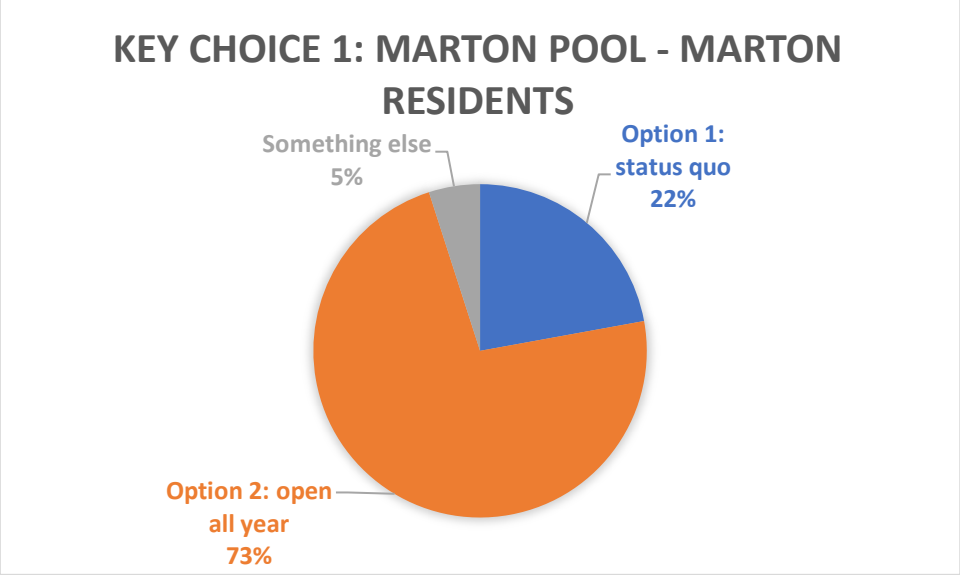
Of the 454 submitters to the Long Term Plan, 423 submitters submitted on key choice 1: Marton Pool.

The graph below shows the preferred option indicated by submitters. Thirty three percent (33%) (140 submitters) choose Councils preferred option, Option 1: *Marton pool will only remain open in a seasonal basis*. Sixty two percent (62%) (260 submitters) identified that they prefer Option 2: *from*

2024/25 the Marton pool would open all year round. A further five percent (5%) (23 submitters) have been categorised as something else.



The graph shows the preferred option indicated by submitters who identified that they live in Marton. Of the submitters who responded to Key Choice 1, 262 of them indicated that they live in Marton. Of these submitters twenty two percent (22%) (58 submitters) identified Option 1 as their preferred option. Seventy three percent (73%) (191 submitters) identified Option 2 as their preferred option, and five percent (5%) (13 submitters) have been categorised as something else.



The submitters that have been included in something else hold a range of views. A number of these submitters are concerned that the number of users will not validate the cost of keeping the pool open. Submitters suggest a range of options including other ways to finance the pool, increase use of the pool, and trials to evaluate the use of the pool.

Option 1: The Marton pool would remain only open on a seasonal basis

Submitters and submission numbers

Kim (#040), Royna Fifield (#060), Sarah Hill (#064), Nadine (#092), Praveen Singam (#096), Sarah Hale (#100), Taite Pohatu-Campbell (#102), Barbara Smissen (#120), David Smissen (#131), Debra Snaith (#132), Gemma Donghi (#138), J (#143), Kevin Whelan (#153), Marian Anderson (#161), Mitchell Corbett (#163), Pamela (#167), Sarah McVerry (#177), Stevie (#181), Taisha George (#183), Tim Adam (#186), Amanda Win (#191), Anne McAleece (#193), Brenda Devane (#198), Charlotte (#199), Charlotte Phillips – Piano with Charlotte (#200), Christin Calkin (#201), Damian Turner-Steele (#202), Danelle Whakatihi (#203), Diane (#204), Erin Woods (#208), Gaylene Avery (#209), Halie Stowers - Te Rūnanga o Nga Wairiki Ngati Apa (#211), Isaac Grant (#215), Jade Washer (#216), Jayme Thorby (#218), Jeremy Day (#220), Joanne Simpson (#222), Jodie (#223), Kathleen Te Momo-Smith (#229), Katrina O'Brien (#230), Khan Coleman (#232), Kira Swainson (#235), Kyla Ormsby (#236), Manaia White (#244), Monique (#249), Monique Keenan (#250), Monique Sole (#251), Natasha Dmith (#252), Ngaire Wishnowsky (#253), Nikita Tweeddale (#254), Paul & Brenda Robinson (#256), Rachel Parker (#258), Rebecca (#259), Richard Wishnowsky (#261), Sale Stowers – Farmlands Food (#263), Sherilyn Tasker (#265), Sonya (#267), Susan Andrews (#270), Teresa Stoltz (#271), Theresa Downea (#272), Tim Wilson (#274), Trudy Shepherd (#277), Azaliah Patrina (#279), Chanelle Theobald (#280), Cian O'Gorman (#281), David McMillan (#282), Jolanda Duxfield (#284), Ken Bellamy (#287), Paul Sharland (#291), Steve (#292), Andy Law (#295), Raewyn Hughes (#300), Dee Donald & James Donald (#302), Paul Hughes (#304), Neill Gordon (#306), Gilby Kawana (#309), Justin Adams (#312), Mel Pera (#314), Nicola Rowe (#315), Rosie Gilbert (#318), Melanie Walshe (#323), Ian Rae – Taihape Community Trust Board (#332), Maria Paul (#334), Pikiteora Tamou (#335), Irene (#336), Lee Gardiner (#337), Janice Tanerau (#338), Grace Taiaroa (#339), Josephine Hotu (#340), Rawinia Taiaroa (#341), Kahui Hurinui (#342), Sandra P Fonotoe (#343), Mary Nepia Tunga (#344), Rangimarie Tamou (#345), Marama Hemi (#346), Griffin (#348), Christine Gregory (#349), Andrew Nicholls (#350), Rebecca Wilkinson (#353), Richard Pugh (#354), Colleen Fenemor (#355), Nigel Belsham (#357), Craig Donovan (#358), Ken Donovan (#360), Karandeep Singh – Cooks Bar (#362), Jasleen Saluja – Cooks Bar (#364), John Coley (#365), John Coley (#365), Allan Cant (#370), H L Anderson (#371), Alan Bates (#374), Amanda Jane Emery (#375), Amy Ball (#376), Andrew Haworth (#377), De Anna Green (#386), Deb Haworth (#387), Gabriel McCartin (#389), Grant O'Shanassy (#390), John Vickers (#393), Kimiora King (#397), Lyn Turner (#398), Rahera Ingle (#407), Shirley R Russell (#412), Susannah Revell (#414), Charlotte Oswald (#419), Genevieve Nicholls (#420), Piki Te Ora Hiroa - Mokai Patea Services (#421), Alison Tilley (#422), P Allan (#423), Raewyn Timms (#424), Tim Matthews (#425), Antonia Metz (#426), Federated Farmers (#429), Regan Laing (#435), Phil Shaw (#438), Bruce Dear (#444), James Kilmister (#446), No name (#448) David Monteith (#449), Ian Benson (#453).

Summary of Submissions

Swimming lessons

Submitter #211 would be more likely to support the pool being open all year if swim magic swimming lessons were held in Marton. The submitter states that the current swimming lessons held in Marton are not run in the same way as swim magic lessons. If lessons continue to be run the way as they are now the submitters family will not get use out of the pool so would prefer to keep rates down.

Submitter #229 states that the 2023/24 year is the first time they did not enrol their children in lessons.

Officer Analysis
Officers acknowledge the submitters comments regarding swimming lessons noting, that SwimMagic is New Zealand's largest Swim School provider – based out of 12 of NZs aquatic facilities. This programme has been available at the Marton pool this past season and will continue to be offered if the pool is open seasonally or all year.

Financial

Submitter #229 believes that their rates that go towards the pool should be transferred to Horowhenua as they use the Foxton pool.

Submitters #295, #444 state that we can't afford it.

Submitter #323 considers the money should be spent on improving the town centre rather than the pool which is used by less people.

Officer Analysis
Officers acknowledge the submitters comments regarding affordability and note that as part of the Long Term Plan 2024-34, Council has asked the community for feedback on three key choices, one of which is the Marton Pool. Council will make a decision on each key choice after receiving the feedback from submissions and hearings over the course of the Long Term Plan consultation.

In response to submitter #229, Officers note that Foxton Swim Centre is operated by Horowhenua District Council, and Horowhenua Ratepayers pay for the public good portion of the operating cost of the pool. All Rangitīkei ratepayers pay towards the pools in the district whether or not they use it to contribute to the public good benefit for having the pools available.

Cost to ratepayers

Submitter #092 states that the additional cost to ratepayers is too high for such a poorly run business.

Submitter #040 does not wish to pay for the pool with the condition it is currently in.

Submitter #138 believes it would be a good idea if people utilised the pool, but states that rates are horrendously expensive already. The submitter states that the rates rise before adding the pool will be crippling enough for most ratepayers.

Submitter #161 believes that it is unfair to ask the entire community to take a 1.2% rates increase for a small group of people who want the pool open year round. The submitter would rather the money go to other more important community projects.

Submitter #220, does not believe that the use the pool gets justifies the cost especially during the cost of living crisis.

Submitter #223 does not think the pool gets used enough in summer, let alone what it would be used like in winter, and states that it would be a waste of money.

Submitter #250 does not think it is fair that many ratepayers will not use the pool but will have to pay for it.

Submitter #284 suggests that all pools should be open all year or stay as it is to make it fair for the ratepayers for the whole district, or all should all should keep their current hours.

Submitters #318, #376, #424 suggests the cost is too high.

Submitter #448 identifies the rates increase as a concern during a time when people are struggling.

Submitter #424 believes that the cost is too high for ratepayers that do not live in Marton.

Submitter #302 considers the Marton pool staying open all year doesn't impact them, and they can't afford it. They also note their support for an extension to the Taihape pool.

Officer Analysis
Officers acknowledge submitters concerns regarding affordability for ratepayers. At this stage, changes to the operating seasons of other pools are not being considered. Council could consider opening other pools in the district year round in the future if the community sought it. However, rates would have to increase significantly more than 1.2% to cover the costs of opening all pools year round. All pools will also require significant capital works to bring them up to a standard to that which will allow them to operate all year. An extension to the Taihape Swim Centre season has not been considered at this stage, due to lack of air space heating etc and entries are known to drop off as cooler weather sets in.

Charges for entry

Submitter #250 states that if the pool is kept open it should not be paid for through rates, fees should be higher.

Submitter #287 would only support the all-year opening if users are prepared to fund the total expenses and notes that a bond of $15,000 should be provided.

Submitter #349 suggests that the people who want the pool to open all year pay a $500 membership fee per year.

Submitter #398 suggests that it could be user pays rather than rate payer funded.

Officer Analysis
In 2020 it was determined, that at that time, the actual entry fee to cover costs would be approximately $24 per visit. As with all Council facilities, fees for the swim centres are subsidised by rates rather than being fully user-pays, due to the public good element of having the facility available for the community to use. It would also be unaffordable for most users if the entry fee covered the full cost of operating the pool, which would likely result in significantly less use.

Contractor costs

Submitter #201 asks if CLM can contribute financially to keep it open if they want the pool open all year and would profit from the fees charged.

Submitter #312 requests Council review the subsidy provided by the ratepayer to CLM.

Submitter #143 asks that Council provides more financial information on the cost of running the pool, including how much of the rates is used to pay the contractors.

Officer Analysis
CLM is responsible for all operating costs, including chemicals, energy, and water charges along with maintenance costs.

Income received from swim lessons reduces the current contractor costs. CLM and Council are working together to explore options to improve efficiencies wherever possible.

Cost of operating the pool

Submitter #357 believes that without investment the pool will be very expensive to operate.

Submitter #446 notes the cost to run the service for four months. This submitter suggests the number of people using it in that time should be established before the money is spent.

Submitter #425 states that the charges for using the pool does not cover the cost of providing the facility.

Officer Analysis
Improvements to the building and plant assets would potentially reduce operating costs.

The pool is currently open from the end of September/early October, through to April. If the pool is open year-round it will be open for an additional 5 to 6 months of the year. Data collected in 2020 suggest entries for the year-round opening would be an additional 10,000 people and that these would mostly be existing users.

In 2020, the cost of the entry fee was estimated to be $24 if the full cost of operating the pool was to be covered by entry fees alone. Many people would likely not be able to afford to use the pool if the entry fee was that high.

Non-essential spending

Submitter #220 believes that it is not essential during the cost of living crisis.

Submitter #426 considers that under the current economic climate, it is unnecessary.

Submitter #376 states that it is unnecessary spending.

Submitter #365 states that Council should live within our means like the rest of the community.

Submitter #348 states that we are in a recession.

Submitter #420 states council should be careful with spending in the current economic climate and that it is a luxury, not an essential.

Submitter #429 states that Council needs to limit expenses for the foreseeable future.

Officer Analysis
Council officers acknowledge the comments of submitters and note that all ratepayers have different priorities.

Current attendance numbers

Submitters #092, #167, #291, #204, #349, #350, #358, #375 do not believe the pool is not used enough to open it all year.

Submitter #208 does not wish to subsidise the pool if less than half of Marton does not regularly use the pool.

Submitter #229 states that they have been using the pool since 2013, and loved to use the pool as not many people use it.

Submitter #229 asks if the number of users over the last 11 years prove that it should be opened all year.

Submitter #314 suggests that until there are consistent numbers to warrant all year maintenance and investment from the community itself, the status quo is better.

Submitter #315 does not use the pool.

Submitter #398 is concerned that many people want the pool to remain open but would not use it.

Submitter #398 does not use the pool, mainly due to the chlorine smell.

Submitter #375 states that the pool always seems to be quiet.

Submitter #370 asks how many use the pool currently and suggests a questionnaire would indicate usage. The submitter suggests that if at least 150 use the pool a day it would cover the cost of a lifeguard. The submitter suggests reconsidering the time it is open.

Officer Analysis

Below is a table of pool entries for the 2022/23 and 2023/24 seasons:

Month	**2022/23 Actual**	**Month**	**2023/24 Actual**
October	2,653	October	1,540
November	4,041	November	1,750
December	2,904	December	2,077
January	2,844	January	2,255
February	3,429	February	1,263
March	3,142	March	1,194
April	1,889	April	908
Total	20,902	**Total**	10,987

School use of the pool

Submitter #220 states that rural schools have pools for lessons and do not hold lessons all year, therefore use of the pool will likely not increase significantly.

Submitter #375 states that a number of schools have pools.

Submitter #398 notes that schools would benefit if the pool did remain open.

Officer Analysis

It is noted that a few rural schools have their own pool. However, there are a number of schools that do not have access to a pool other than the Marton pool. Officers note that swimming lessons would be offered year round, and schools will have the opportunity to use the pool to continue lessons all year as well. This will benefit the children as those who swim year round learn much quicker than

those with limited opportunities. There is an expectation that numbers may drop through the winter months. Some local schools have confirmed that they would use the pool over the winter months.

Other pools

Submitters #220, #267 state that there are other options to swim in the area.

Submitter #304 suggests it is not far to drive to Feilding and notes people in Taihape have to drive to Waiouru.

Submitter #448 suggests people could travel to Feilding from Hunterville which is similar to the distance to Marton.

Submitters #252, #284, #300, #318 point out that there are other pools available to travel to. The submitters highlight the pools in Feilding, Palmerston North, and Whanganui.

Submitter #375 thinks that it is a shame that it is not a friendly place, and notes that other pools out of town have a better atmosphere for children.

Submitter #425 suggests that it is more practical to hire a minibus to take people to Feilding or Whanganui three times a week during the off season.

Officer Analysis

Officers acknowledge the submitters feedback in regard to other swimming options but note that these options are not within the district. While Council could consider providing transport to swim centres outside the district, this is not considered practical because of the different times of the day users wish to use swim centres. Horizons Regional Council are presently reviewing their bus services and in future their timetable may allow for public transport to access other towns swim centres.

Facility drawbacks

Submitter #177 uses the pool regularly when it is open and has noticed that in spring and autumn the facility is cold and full of condensation which means less people use it in these seasons. The submitter also identifies that there is no heating for staff or in the changing rooms. The submitter does not support keeping it open as they do not believe Council has allocated enough funding to improve the facility to a standard that would allow it to operate during winter.

Submitter #216 would not take their children swimming in winter as it would be too cold, so they would prefer it stayed seasonal to save money.

Submitter #220 does not believe the Olympic sized pool is fit for purpose, based on the numbers, age groups who use the pool being babies and seniors, and the activities offered by the pool.

Submitters #229, #279 states that the pool is too cold.

Submitter #244 does not use the pool as it needs upgraded due to looking old and dirty.

Submitter #265 notes that the outside of the building is not inviting.

Officer Analysis

Further analysis needs to be done on the building and plant infrastructure to look at ways to improve the environment and reduce operating costs. It may be possible to seek external funding for these works. Council is in the process of assessing the condition of all Marton Pool assets and will use this

information to create an asset renewal programme that could potentially reduce operating costs in the future.

Activities

Submitter #204 shares that there is nothing for teenagers to do at the pool as they are not interested in swimming lengths.

Submitter #223 states that the pool is not exciting for children as they are only able to swim within a few of the lanes most of the time.

Submitter #229 asks if a spa pool has been considered. The submitter likes the spa pool at Foxton pool.

Submitter #229 states that their grandchildren find the pool too boring, and they prefer driving to Foxton pools. The submitter also states that the staff at Foxton pool are more approachable than the staff at Marton pool.

Submitter #265 would support it more if more services such as classes were offered.

Submitter #375 likes the fun events for kids and youth such as music, blow ups, and back to school events.

Submitter #375 states that older people were interested in aerobics again, but it did not happen.

Officer Analysis

Officers acknowledge the submitters comments regarding the lack of pool activities that are provided. Unfortunately, CLM did not have an Aqua Aerobics instructor this past season. Noting that this activity is very popular, CLM will endeavour to engage an instructor with the aim of running classes. Current activities provided include Wave Raves, Aqua Aerobics, birthday parties and Green Prescription. CLM are looking at implementing Flippaball for school age children and teenagers, water aerobics for high school students, manu competitions and inflatable days.

Comments in support of option 1

Submitter #261 states that this is a low priority.

Submitters #362, #364 would like it to open on a seasonal basis.

Submitter #412 would like Council to focus on the status quo, and note that they like the pros listed.

Officer analysis

Council officers note the submitters support for the pool to remain open on a seasonal basis.

Comments in support of the pool opening all year

Submitter #229 states that they would love the pool to be open throughout the year.

Officer analysis

Council officers note the submitters support for the pool to be open year-round. It is noted this submitter indicated Option 1 as a preferred option which may have been an error.

Other community pools

Submitter #358 states that other towns will also want their towns pool to stay open.

Submitter #251 asks why Marton should be the only pool that is open all year. The submitter states that Taihape residents have been asking for the Taihape pool to be open all year to be told it will only be seasonal.

Officer analysis

As noted previously, Taihape Swim Centre does not have any space heating and entry numbers drop off as the weather cools down.

Pool staff

Submitters #426, #449 suggest that pool staff are redeployed into other positions during winter months, if that is not possible Council could utilise university students during the summer months.

Submitter #426 states that summer staff could be under the jurisdiction of one permanent pool manager.

Officer analysis

Officers acknowledge the submitters suggestions noting that staff employment and redeployment is CLMs responsibility.

Other comments

Submitter #40 states that the pool is not accessible to our communities' kids.

Submitter #323 suggests there should be an effort by those wanting to open the pool all year to attract multiple user groups from outside of the district. The submitter suggests it needs to be attractive for training.

Submitter #229 states that the staff rush to put the pool covers on when the toddler pool is empty.

Submitter #229 states that there were many days they travelled to Marton to find the toddler pool was contaminated and had to go home and their kids were scared off.

Submitter #375 notes that the paint job inside is awesome.

Submitter #375 asks if other towns would use the pool due to the size of it.

Submitter #281 states they don't care.

Submitter #453 states they do not swim.

Submitter #407 notes that it does not apply to them as they do not live in Marton.

Submitter #371 suggests that a trial run for an extended short period over winter could be run to gauge the likely support in relation to the cost.

Officer analysis

Council officers note that CLM's focus is to have the pool as inclusive and accessible as possible to all members of the community so that no one misses out.

Opening the pool for a trial run over the winter months is not an option due to the capital expenditure required to get the pools up to a standard to operate year round.

In response to submitter #229 - pool covers are put on to help maintain the heated water temperature; unfortunately, contaminations do happen in the toddler pool, but CLM do try to get the pool operational again as soon as possible.

Officers acknowledge that not all ratepayers use the pool.

If the pool remains open all year, it will be communicated to the community to encourage use of the pool during winter months.

Option 2: From 2024/25 the Marton pool would open all year round

Submitters and submission numbers

Fay Cunningham (#001), Aleesha McCall (#002), Aimee Kohi (#003), Allisha (#004), Allyson Tweed (#005), Amanda (#006), Anna Kiel (#007), Ben (#008), Brenda (#009), Carol Downs (#010), Celeste (#011), Chayne (#012), Christine (#013), Claire Pettigrew (#014), Dale Buckendahl (#015), Erin Wigglesworth (#016), Gareth Wick (#017), Hayley Grant (#018), Hayley Natusch (#019), Heather Cummerfield (#020), Jackie Pawson (#021), Jacqueline Cootes (#022), Jacqui D (#023), Jake Anderson (#024), Jamie (#025), Jane (#026), Janine Precey (#027), Jean Fuldseth (#028), Jeanette Preston - Fowlie (#029), Jiselle Rider (#030), Jody Winder (#031), Justine Aston-Dyson (#032), Kaitlyn Whitford (#033), Karen Addenbrooke (#034), Kate (#035), Katherine Smyth (#036), Katie Annear (#037), Katie Deere (#38), Kelsi (#039), Kimberley Huxley (#041), Kira Swainson (#042), Kristina Dykes (#043), Laura Sisson (#044), Lisa (#045), Mary-Jo (#046), Melissa Welch (#047), Michelle Rayner (#048), Nancy (#049), Natasha Mills (#050), Nicola Silvester (#051), Nicole Martin (#052), Nova Martin (#053), Paul Brady (#054), Penny McDonald (#055), Raylee Laskey (#056), Rebecca Dalziell (#057), Rebecca Edwards (#058), Rene Johnson (#059), Sabiane Gibbins (#061), Samantha (#062), Sarah Clare (#063), Scott Oliver (#065), Simpson (#066), Susan Gibbons (#067), Susan O'Regan (#068), Teesha (#069), Tony Maas (#070), Wendy Hawkins (#071), Zoe Anderson (#072), Akita (#073), Alex McLean(#074), Amaia Maraku (#075), Amy Giddins (#076), Huntly School - Andrew Reynolds-Rowe (#077), Whisker Farming – Annabel Whisker (#078), Carlo Maraku (#079), Catherine Rebecca & Rabindra Manuel (#080), Christine McNamara (#081), Del Bettridge (#082), Denise Nelson(#083), Faith (#084), Frances Millar (#085), Georgia Maraku (#086), Moore Shearing Ltd - Jacob Moore (#087), Kym Skerman (#088), Martin Southall (#089), Melina (#090), Michelle Maraku (#091), Nerolie Goddard (#093), P Gillard (#094), Pauline Boyle (#095), Rachael (#097), Raureti Maraku (#098), Sam Scott (#99), Tawera Maraku (#103), Tyson (#104), Vicky Paddock (#105), Claire Drummind (#107), Harmony (#108), Kelly George (#109), Nia Carter (#110), Patricia Burt (#111), Renee Trillo (#112), Alana (#113), Ann Malcolm (#114), Anna (#115), Anna McLean (#116), Any Zimmerman (#118), Ash Eden (#119), Cam Gillespie (#122), Cam Torrie (#123), Cathie Prior (#124), Charlotte Rattenbury (#125), Chelsea Boyce (#126), Chloe Gaskin (#127), Christine McNicol (#128), Dana (#130), Donna Hicks (#133), Elizabeth (#134), Elle (#135), Frances Arapere (#136), Gail Reid (#137), Grant Scoones (#139), Hayley Wanden (#140), Henrietta Rowe (#141), Hinemata Dais (#142), Jan Peacock (#144), Jax #145), Jess McIlroy (#146), Jessica (#147), Jill King (#148), Julie McCormick (#149), Kate (#150), Katrina (#151), Kaysh Davies (#152), Kopere Downs (#154), Kylie Reynolds-Rowe (#155), Lachlan (#156), Leigh Grootegoed (#157), Libby Mcnaught -Kennedy (#158), Lisa (#159), Michi Shaw (#162), Molly (#164), Montana (#165), N/a (#166), Rach (#168), Rachel Worrall (#169), Rebecca (#170), Robert Kernohan

(#171), Rosemary Mead-White (#172), Sandy O'Brien (#174), Sarah (#175), Sarah Hasler (#176), Sean Willis (#178), Shane Sorensen (#179), Sonya (#180), Sue Foley (#182), Tayla (#184), Tessa Nitschke (#185), Tracey Hammond (#187), Aimee Faulkner (#188), Alessandra McKain (#189), Amanda (#192), Ashleigh De'Adman (#194), Barbara Brewin (#195), Barbara Jury (#196), Beverley Toulmin (#197), Elizabeth (#205), Emily Vickers (#206), Emma Watson (#207), Grant Scoones (#210), Hannah (#212), Ingrid McDonald (#214), Jason Groube (#217), Jeena (#219), Joanne Rosacker (#221), Joshua Harris (#224), Julie Bell (#225), Kate (#227), Kate Nitschke (#228), Kayleigh (#231), Kinsley (#234), Kylee Thomas (#237), Kylie Stewart (#238), Larissa Mackereth (#239), Libby Rayner (#240), Linda Hale (#241), Lizzie (#242), Lucy Skou (#243), Marcel Stiefel (#245), Mark Roche (#246), Michael de Laborde (#247), Pam Remnant (#255), Rebecca Sorensen (#260), Ruby Ralph (#262), Simone Johnston (#266), Stephanie Collis (#268), Tiffany (#273), Tracey (#275), Tracey Toulmin (#276), Vicky Power (#278), Katie Noble (#286), Mathew Noble (#289), Natasha Walker (#290), Chrissi Mullin (#293), Jade Gray (#294), Josh Miller (#298), Leah Gray (#299), Jo Rangooni (#303), Kim Savage (#308), Fiona Moorhouse (#310), Jane Abel (#311), Kingsley Moorhouse (313), Rachel Morrison (#316), Randall Moorhouse (#317), Sonia Maraku (#319), Tania King – Sport Whanganui (#320), Delwyn McGinity (#321), Christine Regan (#322), Michael Voss (#324), Alison Brady (#325), Anne Dry (#326), Karen Kennedy (#327), Maree Sheehan (#328), Mark Richardson (#329), Paul Ngatai (#351), Helen Allpress (#352), Carmen Wihongi (#359), Jenny Greener (#361), Geoff Duncan (#363), no details provided (#366), Daniel Osthuizen (#367), Geoff Duncan (#369), Adejah Wharemate (#372), Adrian Tofts (#373), Bethany Erin Sellwood (#380), Brierly Chase (#381), Carol Coleman (#383), Charissa Lawlor (#384), Coralie Harvey (#385), Dell Pugmire (#388), James F Russell (#391), Joe Deere (#392), Joyce Sisley (#394), June Jackson (#395), Kevin Cooper (#396), Mark Mpower (#399), Misty (#401), Nicole Greensides (#403), Penny Daddy (#404), Peter Kipling-Arthur – Taihape Community Board (#405), R J Sisley (#406), Rod & Anna Hardy (#410), Stephanie Marsh (#413), Zlata Shapran - Nga Tawa Student Council (#415), Lynne Sheridan (#431), MFelicity Wallace, Interested Residents of Marton and Rangitīkei (#433), Simon Wall, Apollo Projects (#436), Paula Skou, Country Chic Reloved Boutique (#437), Kylie Toka (#445), Roxanne Philips (#447), Deb Byers - Active Wellbeing Manager, Sport Whanganui (#451).

Summary of Submissions

Access to lessons

Submitter #278 supports all year opening as young people need access for swimming lessons.

Submitters #009, #014, #053, #111, #162, #187, #189, #240, #268, #311, #372, #384, #410 think it would be good to have access to swimming lessons all year.

Submitter #052 states that their children can do swimming lessons all year round.

Submitter #043 asks if swimming lessons will be held for children all year?

Submitter #207 would like more swimming lesson options with disability inclusion. Thes submitter notes that they have enquired about one on one lessons for their child with autism who would not cope in a group class, and either do not get a response or are told there is no availability.

Submitter #286 supports the facility being open all year round for swimming lessons.

Submitter #290 notes the opportunity for greater access to swimming lesson all year round.

Submitter #078 states that coaches need to be available for children to have lessons, and that it is a shame lessons have not been available this past summer.

Submitter #313 wants to continue swimming lessons in the winter and go to the pool all the time.

Officer analysis
Council officers acknowledge the submitters support for year-round swimming lessons, noting that the SwimMagic programme was available this season at the Marton pool. Swimming lessons would be offered all year if the pool was to be open year-round.

Council will suggest that CLM consider one on one swimming lessons for disability inclusion.

Learning to swim

Submitters #171, #310, #317 believes that closing the pool for 6 months makes it harder for people to learn how to swim.

Submitters #014, #145, #267 state that children currently loose swimming skills over the winter break.

Submitter #380 believes it would give inexperienced beginner swimmers the best chance to improve their skills and avoid future tragedies.

Submitter #415 states that it would be good for people to be able to practice swimming all year, as it is a skill that required practice.

Submitter #137, as an older resident would appreciate support with swimming other than just lessons as they are outside their financial resources.

Officer analysis
Council officers note the submitters comments and acknowledge that children are more likely to learn quicker and maintain skills when they are able to attend lessons more frequently.

CLM operate the pool, and therefore decide what type of lessons and other support is available at the pool. Officers could suggest that CLM consider offering other types of support to swimmers.

School lessons and school pools

Submitters #085 and #228 suggest that it would enable schools to run swimming lessons for longer.

Submitter #066 says that their children are at schools that do not have pools.

Submitter #239 runs a school programme which supports students swimming and would love to have access to the pool to keep the programme running.

Submitter #240 notes that keeping the pool open will support schools with their water safety programmes.

Submitter #294 supports all year opening, noting the opportunity for schools to access the pool and for children's lessons.

Submitter #410 notes that a school pool was dismantled a few years ago which was devastating for the community who supported it.

Officer analysis
Council Officers acknowledge the submitters feedback in regard to the continuation of water safety programmes if the pool was to remain open year-round.

Water safety

Submitters #003, #104, #111, #367 state that learning about water safety is essential for our Tamariki.

Submitter #039 would like to take their kids swimming during winter to continue to teach them water safety.

Submitters #066 and #088 say it is frightening how many children do not know how to swim.

Submitters #111, #372, #380 and #415 state that New Zealand has high drowning rates.

Submitter #027 believes it is important for children to have access to lessons in winter so they have the skills for swimming during summer.

Submitter #404 states that all children need to learn how to swim as New Zealand is surrounded by water.

Submitter #433 raises concern about the decline in swimming skills of school age children, and considers all year opening will support local schools.

Submitter #384 states promote water safety and notes there are many drownings in New Zealand.

Officer analysis

Officers acknowledge the comments from submitters in regard to the importance of teaching our Tamariki water safety skills.

Out of district lessons

Submitter #090 says that it is a great asset to be able to take their children to the pool to be able to practice swimming. The submitter does not take their children swimming in the winter months as it is a hassle to go to a pool outside the district.

Submitter #109 believes that keeping the pool open all year is a good idea if lessons are provided all year, so they do not need to take their children out of the district for lessons in winter.

Submitters #118, #367, #447 travel from Whanganui to bring their child to Marton for swimming lessons.

Submitters #027, #042, take their children out of town for lessons in winter.

Submitter #185 is considering taking their children out of town for swimming lessons if lessons are not offered all year.

Submitter #047 states that they struggle to get their child in lesson in Feilding during winter as spots are limited.

Submitter #228 states that it will mean we will not risk losing children to Whanganui and Feilding pools.

Submitter #238 states that currently a lot of children are going out of town to maintain sessions with swim coaches.

Submitter #238 notes that Makino pools runs well and has great systems to track children's progress online. The submitter notes that the teaches are high quality and the price is the same.

Submitter #447 notes a lack of availability of lessons in Whanganui.

Officer analysis
Officers acknowledge submitters comments that there will be no need for children to go out of town for swimming lessons if these were offered all year round, and that children swimming year-round typically learn much quicker that those with limited opportunities.

Encouraging exercise

Submitters #078, #88 and #214 suggest that winter is a good time for children to take swimming lessons as they are involved in less sports.

Submitters #057, #076, #149, #238 and #311 would like to have the pool as an option for fitness in winter when the weather is not good.

Submitters #149 and #175 use the pool less in summer than they would in winter as they can exercise outside in summer.

Submitters #078 and #088 state that most people prefer to exercise indoors during winter, so opening the pool in winter will allow the community to stay fit and healthy over winter.

Submitters #078 and #214 suggest that children are involved in less sports over winter so it is a good time for schools to run swimming lessons.

Submitter #078 believes that it would be safer for older people to use the pool rather than get cold and wet outside.

Submitters #107, and #404 state that the pool is needed in winter for health, exercise and rehabilitation.

Submitter #240 states that the pool is needed in winter for training and rehabilitation.

Submitter #126 believes that more people will choose to swim as their preferred exercise if they know the pool will not close over winter.

Submitters #174 and #410 like to go to the pool for exercise.

Submitter #145 states that the pool is a vital resource for fitness for children.

Submitter #228 says that keeping the pool open all year will allow people to continue their exercise programme through winter.

Submitter #372 states that it will encourage regular physical activity and support overall wellbeing.

Officer analysis
Council officers acknowledge the submitters comments that keeping the pool open year round will enable it to be used as a form of exercise.

Supporting health

Submitter #013 states that keeping the pool open would be good for Green Prescription Candidates.

Submitters #013, and #182 state that keeping the pool open will help promote healthy lifestyles.

Submitter #033 states that it would be good to swim for health issues.

Submitter #015 teaches Hydrotherapy in Whanganui and thinks it would be great for the people in Marton to have a group like this operate year round.

Submitter #112 shares that the pool is a good option for pregnant woman to stay active.

Submitter #176 would like the pool to remain open to help older residents remain mobile.

Submitter #361 states that many people referred to fit for surgery cannot afford to travel to Whanganui or Palmerston North pools.

Submitter #294 notes health and fitness benefits of the pool being open all year.

Submitter #303 identifies health benefits to people of all ages from regular swimming, such as mobility for the elderly, swimming sports, school use, social connection.

Submitter #310 notes the benefits to health and fitness, physio, recovery.

Officer analysis
Council officers acknowledge the comments of submitters promoting the health & wellbeing benefits if the pool was to be open year-round.

Wellbeing and mental health

Submitters #030 believes that it is important for the wellbeing of the community, both young and old.

Submitter #087 believes that the pool is a good place for exercise and recreation with children benefiting mental fitness and Hauora, particularly in winter.

Submitter #171 states that the pool is a place of social recreation that supports health and wellbeing.

Submitter #116 shares that the pool is good for keeping people active and supports mental health.

Submitter #293 considers winter swimming to be a benefit to health/wellbeing.

Submitter #320 states that many people would make use of the pool, making a meaningful impact on physical, mental and social wellbeing.

Submitter #325 states it would be great to have the service available all year and that it supports the health and welfare of the community.

Submitter #410 states that as a health professional they see enormous benefit for marketing the pool as a health improvement tool.

Submitter #404 notes that swimming is a non-weight bearing exercise, which is good for people who are overweight.

Submitter #451, the Sport Whanganui Active Wellbeing Manager provided commentary around the use of the Marton and Taihape pools for as part of health programmes they deliver associated with GP referrals.

Submitter #436 notes the positive water safety, health and wellbeing effects associated with swimming pool projects throughout New Zealand.

Submitter #320 notes that research has found for every dollar invested in increasing physical activity, $2.12 worth of social benefit is generated. This submitter also identifies that a Royal Lifesaving Australia study found a social benefit of $2.18 for every dollar spent operating aquatic facilities in regional Australia.

Officer analysis
Council officers acknowledge the comments of submitters promoting the wellbeing and mental health benefits if the pool was to open year-round.

Training

Submitter #077 shares that it would provide an opportunity for those with specific training needs to work towards their goals all year.

Submitter #077 believes that it would provide an opportunity for sports teams to use the pool for active recovery sessions.

Submitter #404 believes it will allow students to develop fitness to compete in their chosen field at a national level, otherwise they have to drop it as a sport.

Submitter #380 supports the pool staying open so competitive swimmers can continue training year-round and focus on skills during the off season.

Officer analysis
Council officers acknowledge the comments from submitters noting the benefits for training if the pool was open year-round.

Exercise programmes

Submitter #227 requests that a person is employed to hold aqua aerobics classes all year. The submitter states that having a person employed rather than volunteering would secure classes being held which means that people will use the service.

Submitter #240 notes that it would allow aqua fit programmes in the community, as closing the pool in winter makes it difficult for people to maintain progress.

Submitter #278 notes the health benefits, such as for aqua aerobics.

Officer analysis
Council officers acknowledge the comments from submitters noting the benefits of year-round exercise classes.

Difficulty traveling out of district

Submitter #107 shares that traveling out of the district is difficult, costly and time consuming.

Submitter #112 shares that the pool is a great activity for mums and bubs, but travelling out of district with a baby can be difficult.

Submitter #110 is required to swim due to health reasons, and traveling out of town is financially difficult as they are on the pension.

Submitter #149 cannot afford to drive to Feilding in winter, and would prefer to support local anyway.

Submitter #384 believes that it will be beneficial for many families who may not be able to travel out of the district.

Submitter #006 states that it will save the community money as they will not have to travel out of town.

Submitter #044 states that they have stopped taking their child to swimming lessons in Taihape as the pool is too cold and they gets a cough every time they go swimming. Keeping the pool open in Marton would mean they have another option in the district, and it would save them petrol money and travel time as they will not have to go to Feilding.

Officer analysis
Council officers acknowledge submitters comments that travelling out of town for swimming activities can be difficult and costly, and that there will be no need for out of town travel if the swim centre was open year-round.

Traveling out of district

Submitter #001 says that it is a pity they cannot use the local pools, and that they end up giving money to other councils.

Submitter #003 believes that Marton is a large enough community that residents should not have to travel outside the district for swimming in cooler months.

Submitters #010, #042, #067, #073, #083, #128, #174 would like the pool to stay open all year so they do not have to travel out of the district to swim.

Submitter #143 states that many residents currently travel out of the district to continue water fitness.

Submitter #081 shares that a lot of elderly use the pool, and would no longer have to travel to Feilding in winter.

Submitter #122 swims most days after working in Marton before heading home to Palmerston North as the pool in Palmerston North is usually busy or closed by the time they are able to swim in Palmerston North.

Submitter #148 is a Whanganui and Horizons ratepayer and travels to use the Marton pool most weekends. The submitter believes that the Marton pool is a better environment for their family with four grandchildren, two of which have special needs.

Submitter #162 shares that they are moving to Santoft, which does not have many activities to do in winter with the closest pool being in Whanganui.

Submitter #286 notes that they have to drive outside of the district for swimming lessons in winter.

Submitter #293 states that people from out of town note how good the facility is and states it is one of few attractions in Marton.

Submitter #311 notes that if would be good to not have to travel out of town.

Officer analysis
Officers acknowledge submitters comments that travelling out of town for swimming activities can be time consuming and costly, and that there would be no need for children to go out of town for swimming lessons as these would be offered all year-round.

Pool Staff

Submitter #126 suggests that if a lifeguard can watch 50 people, the capacity of the pool should be limited to 50 people. The submitter states that any tutors need to be able to be trained lifeguards for their own services.

Submitter #139 states that Council is not bound to use contractors to manage the pool and could take over the employment of staff.

Submitter #174 shares that the people and staff are friendly.

Submitter #185 states that the pool only attracts seasonal swim teachers rather than employing quality permanent swim teachers.

Submitter #228 requests that Council encourages the development of customer service for staff at the Marton pool.

Submitter #238 states that it is currently hard to find staff and it cannot draw good staff with the current setup.

Submitter #311 notes the need for a high-quality swim coach.

Submitter #384 notes that lifeguard qualifications only last 2 years and Hunterville lifeguards only have 6 months of actual employment.

Submitter #240 hopes that opening the pool all year will secure quality staff and swim coaches.

Submitter #066 believes that it would be hugely beneficial to the district and attract professionals to provide lessons and access to the pool.

Officer analysis
With regard to submission #139, in 2012/13 the operation of the Marton Swim Centre was taken in-house, with Officers managing and operating the swim centre. It became evident that this form of management delivery was not sustainable. Staffing levels were difficult to maintain, and Council did not (and still does not) have any staff with the required level of technical skill and management experience for a swim centre.

Officers acknowledge that opening year-round would have benefits for staff recruitment, particularly in attracting and retaining high quality staff if permanent contracts could be offered.

Council will pass on the feedback on the operation of the pool to CLM.

Any limitations to the number of people able to use the pool at one time would be decided and enforced by CLM.

Employment opportunities

Submitters #003 and #116 point out that hiring pool staff can be challenging, and opening the pool year-round may be more appealing and make it easier to retain staff.

Submitter #077 recognises the employment opportunity and job security keeping the pool open all year will provide for those who work at the pool.

Submitters #078, #139, #404, #310, #317 state that it would offer jobs all year.

Submitters #171 and #268 state that it would provide jobs for the community.

Submitter #238 believes that the staff are currently just going through the motions, and that schools are finding it hard to work with the current setup.

Submitters #326 and #433 consider it would make it easier to recruit staff.

Submitter #384 states that it could provide Hunterville lifeguards year-round employment.

Officer analysis

Officers note opening year-round would offer employment opportunities as it would potentially offer permanent positions that attract and retain quality staff.

Increasing use of the pool

Submitter #018 would like to see the pool better utilised if it is open all year. The submitter suggests school and adult water polo leagues, and rotating short term leases of blow up obstacle courses for entertainment and continues interest in using the pool.

Submitter #144 states that the pool does not attract people to use the facility apart from the occasional wave rave for children.

Submitter #144 suggests that people could be attracted by beginning aquarobics classes all year, projecting aqua fitness videos if no instructor is hired, senior mornings, after school swimming club, water polo, one free swim for ratepayers to encourage people to try the pool, adding a coffee machine and water dispenser. The submitter believes that it may take a while for these activities to continuously draw people in, but they will gain momentum.

Submitter # 144 suggests that picnic tables and umbrellas could be added to the outdoor area to encourage people to spend more time at the pool in summer.

Submitter #214 believes that many people from out of the district would use the pool in winter months, especially during the holidays for swim camps.

Submitter #238 would like to see the staff organise triathlons and other activities.

Submitter #278 considers the Olympic size pool to be an asset that is not being used and could help the Rangitīkei become a hub for sports.

Submitter #361 suggests that it can be marketed to encourage aquatic teams to use the facility.

Submitter #311 suggests school holiday programmes for kids.

Submitter #320, Sport Whanganui stated they are happy to advise on activation opportunities that could support usage through the winter.

Submitter #310 notes that there are no indoor facilities open to the public so having the pool open year round would support activities such as kids birthday parties and family gatherings.

Submitter #142 believes that having the pool open all year will increase the use of it.

Submitter #083 states that Council needs to implement innovative ideas to encourage increased use.

Submitter #136 suggests adding a spa would encourage more people to use the pool facilities.

Submitter #137 believes that strategies would need to be put in place to increase the use of the pool given the cost of keeping it open. Suggestions include local schools, canoe polo, life saving sessions, swimming lessons.

Submitter #136 suggests that Council explores the addition of additional activities during the year.

Submitter #228 believes that it would make Marton an attractive option for holding triathlon events.

Submitter #110 states that there have been clubs interested in hiring the pool as it is the only 50m covered pool between Wellington and Hamilton. The hiring of the pool would cover the costs of opening the pool in winter.

Submitter #047 suggests that lifesaving programs could be run.

Submitter #317 note there is nowhere to go indoors in the winter. The submitter supports the opening for kids birthday parties and family gatherings.

Submitter #088 states that swim groups travel to Hawkes Bay and Wellington for swim training camps during winter. The submitter suggests that we could offer those camps in Marton.

Submitter #396 suggests that the Olympic sized pool should be taken advantage of. The submitter suggests two lanes are used for serious swimmers while the remaining area could be used for permanent floating recreational obstacles which would be a draw card for Tamariki on the weekends.

Officer Analysis
Officers note the additional activities suggested by submitters that may increase pool usage. A number of these are being considered by CLM.

Current activities provided include Wave Raves, Aqua Aerobics, birthday parties and Green Prescription. Contractors are looking at implementing Flippaball for school age children and teenagers, water aerobics for high school students, manu competitions and inflatable days.

Consideration can be given to installing picnic tables and umbrellas to the outdoor space.

Support to keep the pool open

Submitter #003 states that the community is lucky to have this facility, and that we should use it.

Submitters #072, #085, #108, #168, #273, #413 would like the pool open during winter to have an indoor activity during winter.

Submitter #154 hopes that the pool is utilised to its full potential, that's what you are getting paid for. The submitter supports keeping it open all year if lessons, the elderly, and schools will see it get used more.

Submitter #262 uses Taihape pool in summer but may use Marton pool in winter if it is open.

Submitter #321 likes the idea of being able to use the pool all year round if they choose.

Submitter #328 states that they would get into swimming again if the pool was open all year.

Submitter #445 states that it is hard to get back into the habit of swimming when it reopens.

Submitter #433 considers that year round operation would encourage more regular use.

Submitter #006, #017 believes that keeping the pool open will benefit many people and groups.

Submitter #011 shares that the enjoy the pool.

Submitter #139 believes that having the pool open year round makes more sense than saving a few dollars.

Submitter #214 asks that keeping the pool open all year is made a priority for Council.

Submitter #224 was surprised that the pool was not open all year when they moved here.

Submitter #319 suggests all year access would be appreciated by all.

Submitter #410 states that the Marton pool is the jewel in the Rangitīkei crown and as such it should be open all year.

Submitter #433 considers that ongoing maintenance and investment in the Marton pool as an existing asset, is a positive use of ratepayer funds.

Submitter #367 states that it makes sense to have this amazing resource operating all year.

Submitter #114 believes that it makes sense that an indoor heated pool is open all year, especially in the winter months.

Submitter #110 states that the community fundraised to cover the pool for the purpose of keeping it open all year.

Submitter #065 would like to use the pool early weekday mornings.

Submitter #068 uses the pool regularly so would like to be able to use it all year.

Submitter #133 remembers in her childhood the pool was uncovered and was always busy in summer and noticed that the numbers dropped once it was covered. The submitter asked why cover the pool if it is not used all year.

Submitter #003 states that squads and recreation swimming should be available all year.

Submitter #135 believes that the rates increase will be worthwhile to have this asset available all year, and it will bring income to the town.

Submitter #383 states that it will be well patronized by the Nga Tawa community.

Submitter #385 notes that it is a fantastic facility that will open opportunities for groups all year.

Submitter #405 would like at least one pool open in the region would be good, and notes that people in Taihape have to look at arranging use of the Waiouru pools.

Submitter #415 shares that many Nga Tawa boarding students use the pool on weekends.

Submitter #162 would like to be able to go to the pool in the weekend during winter.

Submitter #206, #212 would use the pool in winter if it was open.

Submitter #326 considers it would be of benefit to Marton and the surrounding community.

Officer analysis
Council Officers acknowledge the comments from submitters making note of their support for year-round opening of the Marton pool.

Improvements for the facility

Submitter #221 suggests that the ceiling is insulated to be more economic.

Submitter #171 would like Council to invest in community spaces such as the pool, and should be considered as part of long term strategies, including to expand and update the facility. The submitter highlights that other councils have been forced to close their pools due to a lack of investment over time leading to extreme costs to maintain them.

Submitter #041 suggests that the pool should be warmer, and asks to make the little pools warmer in winter.

Officer analysis
As stated above, further analysis needs to be done on the building and plant infrastructure to look at ways to improve the environment and reduce operating costs.

Positives about the facility

Submitter #286 considers the pool to be a fantastic activity for families and the 50m pool is a great asset for the community.

Submitter #174 states that the size of the pool is fantastic for walking, swimming, and other water activities.

Submitter #144 believes that this facility is a big bonus for Marton.

Submitter #433 states that the Marton pool is a significant asset for the Rangitīkei and the wider West Coast North Island area.

Submitter #384 notes that it is the only 50m pool in the area, with the closest being Wellington. The submitter believes this should be better promoted.

Submitters #043, #047, #124 believes that it is a great facility.

Submitters #047, #088, #116, #135, #219, #238, #293 believe that having a 50m pool is an asset to our community.

Officer analysis
Council Officers acknowledge the comments from submitters making note of their support for year-round opening of the Marton pool.

Activity for the community

Submitter #289 notes that the community needs more activities year round for young families and children. This submitter notes that Marton is lucky to have a 50m pool.

Submitter #290 notes it is good to give kids another option of things to do locally.

Submitter #077, #176 believes that it would be a good activity for our Tamariki on a cold winter day.

Submitter #078 believes that Bulls youth could use the pool for training, lessons and fun.

Submitter #180 would like something for adults and children to do in winter as they do not hibernate.

Submitter #185 shares that swimming is a good wet weather activity.

Officer analysis
Council Officers acknowledge the comments from submitters making note of their support for year-round opening of the Marton pool.

Schools, community groups and swim clubs

Submitter #329 believes that the pool will be better utilized by local schools and outside clubs if it remains open.

Submitter #372 advocates for keeping the pool open on behalf of the competitive swimming squad at Nga Tawa. The submitter notes that the Olympic sized pool greatly benefits the team. The pool also provides a training location for Nga Tawa triathletes and a welcoming place for less confident students to learn to swim. The submitter also notes that the pool is a valuable resource for boarders who use it in the weekend.

Submitter #403 states that it will be useful for schools.

Submitter #116 believes that clubs and schools will benefit from having the pool open all year.

Submitter #228 states that it will allow swim squads to continue through winter.

Submitter #373 states that it would be beneficial to Nga Tawa School and would allow students to use it during the week and would not have to travel to Palmerston North for school activities.

Submitter #415 states that Nga Tawa make good use of the pool for swimming sport and the schools competitive swimmers.

Officer analysis
Council officers acknowledge the comments from submitters making note of their support that year round opening of the pool will be beneficial for competitive swimmers, and that there will be no need for squads to travel out of town.

Economic development

Submitter #011 believes keeping the pool open will bring people to the community rather than taking people away.

Submitter #054 believes that there needs to be more options in town otherwise people will go out of town which is not good for growth.

Submitter #275 considers that having the pool open all year round will create jobs and attract people to Marton, having a broader impact on local business.

Submitter #276 considers that it is an unutilised facility that could bring sports people to town all year which will have a positive impact on local businesses e.g. cafes, accommodation.

Submitter #298 suggests that having a sought after pool will bring business to the wider town and bring in people from outside of town. The submitter also states that it will provide full time work for local trained life guards all year round.

Submitter #310 believes that having the pool open will encourage rural people to visit the pool and stop in town to shop.

Submitter #311 identifies the opportunity of people from out of town to come to Marton. This submitter identifies the potential for increased marketing and extra money that could be brought into Marton.

Submitter #437 is supportive of all year opening as the population is increasing and having facilities in town makes the area more appealing for people to move to.

Submitter #433 considers that it will encourage clubs and schools to use the facilities and encourage more visitors to Marton.

Submitters #088, #116, #214 believe that this would bring in more income for businesses as it would bring people into town.

Submitter #124 travels into the district for the pool as Marton is closer. The submitter supports other Marton businesses when traveling to use the pool.

Submitters #088 and #214 suggest that swim camps could use the school boarding houses for accommodation, which would bring in income for schools.

Officer analysis
Council officers acknowledge the comments from submitters highlighting the benefits for the local businesses and economic wellbeing of the community if the pool was to open year-round.

Other revenue and funding

Submitter #126 suggests that Council looks for sponsors and businesses happy to pay $500 for a large sign, and $1000 for a huge sign on the wall per year.

Submitters #095 and #139 state that schools and camps would be able to use the pool year-round which would bring in revenue for the pool.

Submitter #126 asks is the pool making the money from lessons or is this just a small fee charged for use? Parents pay decent money for lessons if the council isn't facilitating thee themselves do the math and check enough is being charged. Even school lessons.

Submitter #410 assumes that Dudding Trust has been approached in respect of local funding.

Submitter #311 suggests council explore lotteries grant to help with updating the heating and equipment.

Officer analysis
In response to submitter #126, Officers note that in 2020 it was determined the actual entry fee would need to be approximately $24 per visit to cover the operating costs, therefore entries are

subsidised by rates. Lesson held for children, and for schools need to be priced at a reasonable level to enable opportunity for all students to participate.

In response to submitters #126, 410 and 311, Council and CLM could explore external funding options and could consider local sponsorship for signage.

Rates and entry charges

Submitter #044 suggests increasing the entry fees some and increasing rates some so users pay for some of it.

Submitter #231 suggests looking at increasing pool fees instead of putting up rates so much.

Submitters #074, #225 would accept a rates increase to have the pool open all year.

Submitter #126 believes that Council needs to charge properly for entry to the pool. The submitters states that they took their 4 year old and it was free as they were supervising a toddler.

Submitter #146 states that the rates increase would be approximately $40 per household per year. The submitter believes that this is insignificant due to the benefits the region would receive.

Submitter #217 suggests that season passes could be introduced to provide more certainty of income. The pass could offer unlimited entry over the year for a fixed price.

Submitter #172 suggests that revenue may offset some of the cost.

Submitter #192 would happily pay more in winter to swim.

Submitter #126 suggests offering a new option for a gym membership that includes pool entry.

Officer analysis

In response to submitter #126, following consideration of written and oral submissions to the 2015-25 Long Term Plan, Council agreed to waive pool entry fees for a pre-school child along with one accompanying adult with the intention of encouraging water skills and confidence.

In response to submitter #146, Officers note that, an additional 1.2% rate increase is significant to a number of people on a fixed income.

In response to submitter #126 Officers note that gym memberships currently can include pool entry.

Additional revenue from entry fees will not offset the cost to Council, as the entry fees are retained by CLM as they pay maintenance, and energy costs etc incurred from operating the pool.

Cost of operating the pool

Submitter #126 asks for Council to breakdown the $357,000 to help ratepayers understand as it seems excessive.

Submitter #126 suggests that an ‘off season’ committee is formed to find ways to run more affordably.

Submitter #146 suggests that Council trials it for a year to determine if the use of the pool makes it worthwhile.

Submitter #231 asks why it costs so much to keep the pool open all year.

Submitter #268 believes that it will save on costs in the long run.

Submitter #369 only supports extending the opening hours if the use of the pool warrants it financially.

Submitter #083 suggests that Council considered reduced hours and days during winter if it would reduce the cost of keeping it open all year.

Officer analysis
In response to submitter #126 Council Officers advise that the additional contractor fee of $357,000 would contribute to covering their costs e.g., salaries, recruitment, and health & safety costs, chemical, water, gas, and electricity costs, and compliance with statutory maintenance regulations for all equipment etc.

Council Officers acknowledge the comments from submitters regarding the suggestion that the pool be opened year-round on a trial basis or that the hours and days in winter be reduced. Officers note that a trial period would not be viable due to the outlay required. While consideration could be given to reducing the operating hours throughout the winter months, although this would provide a saving in wage costs this would not have a significant impact on reducing costs as these are primarily driven through energy costs associated with maintaining heating and water temperatures, and the need to maintain water treatment etc.

Other Comments

Submitter #245 states that closing the pool in summer makes more sense than closing it during winter.

Submitter #410 states that the Rangitikei deserves a broad marketing approach with the pool being an overwhelming drawcard.

Submitter #327 choose option 2 due to low attendance numbers.

Submitter #384 note the CLM have done a great job managing the Taihape and Marton pools over summer and acknowledge the support CLM offered for Hunterville and what they have tried to achieve within the season.

Submitters #396, #363, #445 suggest that Council trials it.

Submitter #431 suggests a trial for three years which will produce the data to make an evidence-based decision.

Submitter #384 believes that it is unfortunate that rates need to increase so much to provide for things such as the main street upgrade but the pool as a community asset is preferred by Council to close over winter.

Submitter #238 states that the current setup of the operation of the pool is not working and that it is very frustrating.

Submitter #078 states that there is a lot of talk about the standard.

Submitter #028 suggests that the pool could close earlier in winter months.

Officer analysis
Council Officers acknowledge the comments from submitters regarding the suggestion that the pool be opened year-round on a trial basis or that the hours and days in winter be reduced. Officers note that a trial period would not be viable due to the outlay required. While consideration could be given to reducing the operating hours throughout the winter months, although this would provide a saving in wage costs this would not have a significant impact on reducing costs as these are primarily driven through energy costs associated with maintaining heating and water temperatures, and the need to maintain water treatment etc.

Other or did not specify

Submitters and submission numbers

Annette Brown (#117), Becky Willis (#121), Corey (#129), Ruth Mackintosh (#173), Helen Clare (#213), Kelly (#233), Michelle Donovan (#248), Paul Jacobs (#257), Sarah (#264), Steven Charles Smith (#269), Ryan Wilkinson (#296), Mark Wilkinson (#297), Keith McCallum (#307), Raewyn Turner (#330), Richard Cash (#331), W Plank (#356), Angela McIntyre (#378), Sandra Field (#411), Gregory Smith (#416), Carolyn Bates - Marton Community Committee (#427), Carolyn Bates (#428), Gretta Mills (#430), Len Robinson (#434), Peter McDonnell (#442).

Summary of Submissions

Current use of the pool

Submitter #330 would like Council to first find out if the use will make it worth opening all year.

Submitter #269 does not think enough people use the pool and the pool seems to be overstaffed.

Submitter #213 has used the pool in summer when only 1 or 2 others are using it.

Submitter #430 provides a number of questions in their submission regarding the detail of the proposed extension, including the number of users and operational costs. They calculate that the cost per person for use of the pool per day is $18 over summer and $36 per person per day in winter. The submitter suggests a cost benefit analysis, using accurate statistics should be done before a decision is made on extending the pool hours.

Submitter #248 asks if Council has looked at the usage per population size of each pool or has Marton been chosen as per normal.

Submitter #233 states that not everyone uses the pool during the current opening times, and keeping the pool open all year will only suit a minority.

Officer analysis
Council Officers note the submitters comments. Officers note the CLM are responsible for hiring, rostering, and paying staff at the pool.

In response to submitter #430, Officers note that in 2020 it was estimated that the entry fees would likely need to be approximately $24 per visit to cover the operating costs, therefore entries are subsidised by rates.

Improvements to the facility

Submitter #269 requests a spa or sauna room as there are not may facilities at the pool.

Submitter #296 suggests the pool is upgraded to have a fun area with a dunk bucket and slide and water guns.

Submitter #297 suggests improvements to the pool such as a splash pad, dunk bucket, outside BBQ area.

Submitter #411 requests a hot pool.

Submitter #331 requests bar heaters in the changing rooms and investigation into using the existing venting system to provide extra warmth. The submitter believes that the existing breeze block construction is not conducive to a warm building.

Submitter #428 suggests an access ramp is installed to be used independently by many swimmers.

Submitter #264 requests the cost of getting the pool up to standards to enable it to be open all year compared to the cost of building a new pool elsewhere.

Submitter #173 will not support heating the pool year round until the roof is fixed so the pool can be heated efficiently.

Officer analysis

As above, further analysis would need to be done on the building and plant infrastructure to look at ways to improve the environment and reduce operating costs.

Consideration is presently being given to an exterior splash pad and a pool hoist to improve access along with opportunities for external funding/sponsorship.

Trial opening during winter

Submitter #121 supports option 2, but on a year's trial to determine if the use justifies the cost.

Submitter #428 believes that any decision to utilise the pool for the entire year should be done on a trial period, such as until the next long term plan.

Submitter #442 suggests a trial of 1 – 2 years to check use.

Submitter #257 suggests that it is open all year for one year as a trial to see how many people use it.

Officer analysis

Council Officers acknowledge the comments from submitters regarding the suggestion that the pool be opened year-round on a trial basis. Officers note that a trial period would not be viable due to the outlay required.

Revenue from entry fees

Submitter #356 asks what cost benefit analysis has been done to see what the increase in revenue would be to offset some of the cost.

Submitter #307 noted there was no allowance in the summary for revenue to be collected from the increased hours.

Officer analysis
Increased revenue through entry fees does not off-set Contractor Management costs to Council as these are retained by the contractor to help reduce the contractor management fee.

Increasing usage of the pool

Submitter #213 suggests the pool is advertised nationwide, increasing revenue from swim clubs paying to use the facility.

Submitter #307 suggested working with local schools and the Ministry of Education to provide pool time for students to learn to swim and funding from the Ministry for those schools that do not have their own pools.

Submitter #331 would like competitive events such as water polo and net ball to be held at the pool.

Submitter #331 suggests that the pool should be advertised with the opening times, cost of entry, water temperature, and notification of special events such as blow up play things.

Submitter #264 requests a plan to make the most of having a 50m pool in the district.

Submitter #121 states that opening the pool all year would allow schools to use the pool year round, and lessons will be able to continue through winter.

Officer analysis
Council Officers note the submitters suggestions to promote and increase the pool usage.

Other ways to fund the pool remaining open

Submitter #307 suggested a joint funding application between the schools and Council to the Lotteries Commission.

Submitter #427 states that the pool should be open all year, but prices should be increased to cover the increase in costs.

Submitter #117 suggests that the entry price and charge for events are increased so ratepayers are not covering the full cost of keeping it open all winter.

Submitter #117 suggests that opening hours are reduced in winter to reduce the costs.

Officer analysis
Council officers acknowledge the submitters suggestion regarding a joint funding application between the schools and Council, noting that CLM and Council are currently exploring all funding opportunities.

Contractors could consider reducing the operating hours throughout the winter months, however although this would provide a saving in wage costs it would not have a significant impact on the overall cost as this is driven mainly through utility heating and water treatment.

In response to submitters #427 and #117, CLM may determine the level of admission fees provided that the maximum increase is not more than the CPI rate during the contract term – the fees are approved by Council who may also take into account the charge for similar local authority facilities elsewhere in New Zealand when considering a review of charges.

Support to open the pool all year

Submitter #264 would like to be able to swim all year.

Submitter #269 would support the pool staying open all year if lessons were free for people under 16.

Officer analysis

Submitters comments are noted**.**

In support of keeping the pool seasonal

Submitter #378 says to keep it as it as.

Submitter #428 does not believe the pool should be open all year based on the need to close the pool for annual maintenance, and asked how this will be completed if the pool was open all year.

Officer analysis

The Swim Centre would still need to be closed for maintenance from time-to-time e.g., to paint the pools. The length of time the pools would be required to be closed would depend on the maintenance required but it would be planned to enable all maintenance to be done at one time. It may be necessary to close the swim centre for two weeks, for example. This would be planned and communicated well in advance.

Other Comments

Submitter #213 is not 100% on board.

Submitter #233 states that it does not need to change.

Submitter #269 notes that the staff do not come across as friendly.

Submitter #331 accepts that Marton likely does not have the population base to support opening all year, but the submitter suggests that the opening season is extended as autumn seemingly extends through June and beyond.

Submitter #378 states that roading infrastructure should take priority.

Submitter #416 would prefer that the pool was kept open with the contract renegotiated. The submitter would like Council to use their own staff again as the pool would provide permanent employment.

Submitter #434 noted they have no comment as they have not used pools and is concerned about having to pay for it even though they are rural.

Submitter #269 notes that it is not advertised that the pool is free for children under 5.

Submitter #129 does not live in Marton and does not use the pool so does not feel best placed to comment.

Submitter #121 believes that the pool is a fantastic facility.

Submitter #269 states that the toilets often smell, and the seats are wet.

Officer analysis
Submitters comments are noted.

Summary of officer analysis

Council consulted on a proposal to continue to operate the Marton pool seasonally, after previously giving consideration to open the pool year round beginning in the 2024/25 financial year. There were 423 submitters who submitted on Key Choice 1. Thirty three percent (33%) of submitters who submitted on this key choice choose Councils preferred option (Option 1) as their preferred option. This compared to sixty two percent (62%) of submitters who identified Option 2 as their preferred option. When only the submitters who identified that they live in Marton are considered, twenty two percent (22%) prefer Option 1, while seventy three percent (73%) choose Option 2.

Key themes from submitters that provided comments in regard to Option 1 include concerns about the cost, concerns about the level of use of the pool, concern that the facility is not suitable to be open all year, and comments that there are other pools outside the district that remain open.

Key themes from submitters that provided comments in regard to Option 2 include support for children to have access to swimming lessons all year and the ability to learn water safety, support to enable training for sports, support to allow the use of the pool for exercise to promote physical and mental health, comments that traveling to other pools is difficult for many people, and ideas to increase use of the pool.

Key themes from submitters who have been categorised as something else include suggestions for trialling year-round opening, other ways to fund year round opening, concerns about the level of use, and suggestions to increase the use of the pool.

Recommendation

EITHER

That Council maintains the removal of $222,000 from year 1 onwards in the 2024-34 Long Term Plan associated with Key Choice 1, Option 1 - The Marton pool would remain only open on a seasonal basis.

OR

That Council includes $357,000 from Year 1 of the 2024-2034 Long Term Plan to implement Key Choice 1, Option 2 Marton pool - from 2024/25 the Marton Pool would open all year round.

Key Choice 2 – Kerbside Collection

Background

In 2023 the Ministry for the Environment (MfE) released Te Rautaki Para - Waste Strategy. The strategy provides direction for New Zealand waste systems from now to 2050. Work has been started to repeal and replace the Waste Minimisation Act 2008 and the Litter Act 1979. It is uncertain whether this will progress under the new government. If new legislation was adopted, it is expected to support the delivery of significant initiatives including Te Rautaki Para - Waste Strategy and actions relating to waste in the Emissions Reduction Plan.

At the beginning of 2023 MfE announced a move to standardise kerbside recycling across the country. This announcement included:

- A requirement for food scrap collections to be available to households in all urban areas by 2030.
- A standardised set out of recyclable materials would be collected from households in urban areas by February 2024.
- Minimum standards for diverting waste from landfill that will apply to councils, with reporting requirements for private waste companies.
- A requirement for businesses to separate food scraps from general waste by 2030.

Council must meet the requirements laid out by the Ministry relating to kerbside standardisation. Based on current information, the key implications for Rangitīkei are expected to be:

- All urban areas >1,000 residents must have a council run recycling collection (by 2027).
- All urban areas >1,000 residents must have a food, or food and garden collection (by 2030).

Urban areas with >1,000 residents in the Rangitīkei include Marton, Bulls and Taihape, however collection has been proposed for Hunterville and Mangaweka as well as the towns are in between the larger centres.

Option 1 - Roll out a three bin kerbside collection services in one go starting January 2027 (preferred option)

Provide a Council-run collection to the urban households in Bulls, Marton, Hunterville, Mangaweka and Taihape with three bins for: organic waste, general waste, and recycling.

Impact on rates: 1.7% increase in 2026/27

1.5% increase in 2027/28

Impact on debt: Increase $1.5million

Impact on levels of service: Increased.

The impact on rates will only apply to ratepayers receiving kerbside collection services. The proposed kerbside collection services would replace the requirement for residents to have their own privately contracted kerbside collection services, which may result in a decrease in costs for some ratepayers.

Option 2 - Stagger the provision of a recycling bin (issued in January 2027) and an organic waste bin (issued in January 2030). Residents would need a separate contract for disposing of their general waste.

Provide a Council-run collection to the urban households in Bulls, Marton, Hunterville, Mangaweka and Taihape where one bin is issued from 1 January 2027 for recycling and a second bin is provided for organic waste (food and garden waste) from 1 January 2030. Residents will need to have a separate contract for general waste disposal.

Impact on rates: 0.8% increase in 2026/27

0.7% increase in 2027/28

0.7% increase in 2029/30

0.6% increase in 2030/31

Impact on debt: Increase $1 million

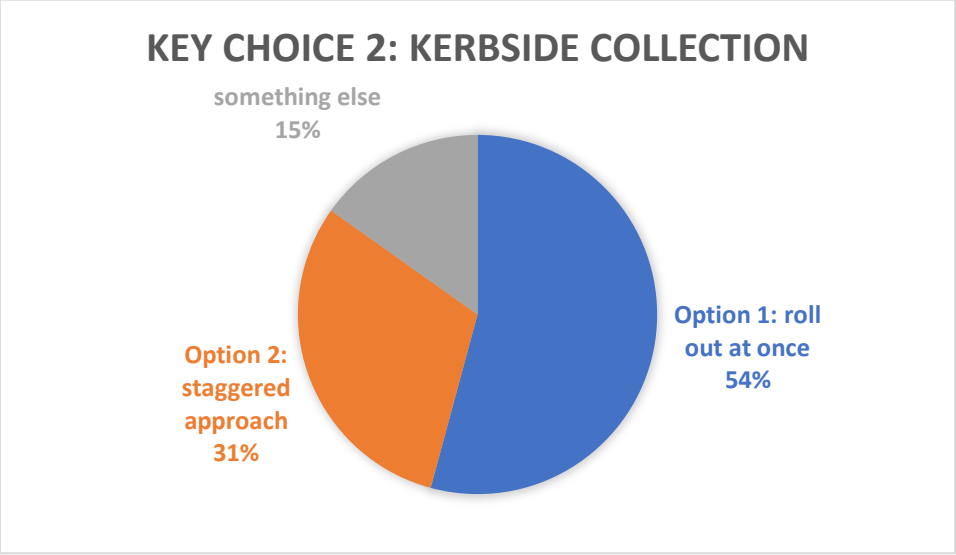
Impact on levels of service: Increased.

Results

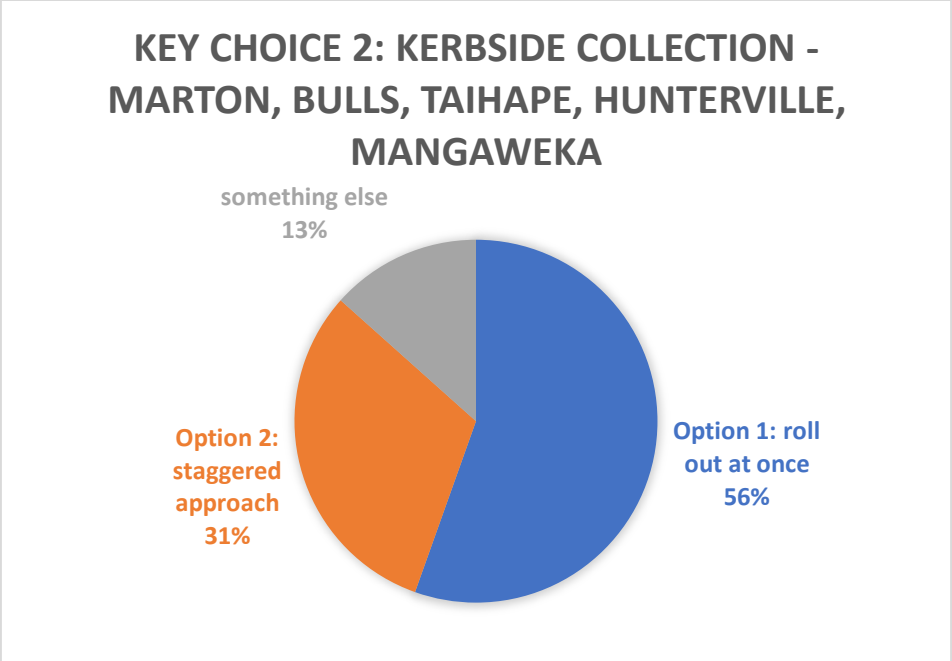
Of the 454 submitters to the long term plan, 369 submitted on Key Choice 2: Kerbside Collection.

The graph below shows the preferred options indicated by submitters. Fifty four (54%) of all submitters who submitted on Key Choice 2 (200 submitters) preferred Option 1: we roll out three bin kerbside collection services in one go starting January 2027. This is compared to thirty one (31%) (113 submitters) who preferred Option 2: we stagger the provision of a recycling bin (issued in January 2027) and an organic waste bin (issued in January 2030). The remaining 15% (56 submitters) preferred something else.

The submitters who preferred something else held a range of views, with many of them identifying other options. Some of the submitters identified options for rural ratepayers, and other ways to implement kerbside collection. Other submitters raised concerns about the cost and the recycling process.



The graph below shows the preferred options indicated by submitters who identified that they live in a town that is proposed to receive kerbside collection; Marton, Bulls, Taihape, Hunterville, and Mangaweka. Of these submitters 56% (178 submitters) supported Option 1, 31% (100 submitters) supported Option 2, and the remaining 13% (43 submitters) supported something else.



Option 1: Roll out three bin kerbside collection services in one go starting January 2027

Submitters and submission numbers

Allisha (#004), Brenda (#009), Christine (#013), Erin Wigglesworth (#016), Gareth Wick (#017), Jackie Pawson (#021), Jacqueline Cootes (#022), Jacqui D (#023), Jake Anderson (#024), Jeanette Preston-Fowlie (#029), Kaitlyn Whitford (#033), Kate (#035, Katie Annear (#037), Katie Deere (#38), Kelsi (#039), Kim (#040), Kimberley Huxley (#041), Mary-Jo (#046), Nancy (#049), Natasha Mills (#050), Nicole Martin (#052), Nova Martin (#053), Paul Brady (#054), Penny McDonald (#055), Rebecca Dalziell (#057), Rene Johnson (#059), Royna Fifield (#060), Sarah Clare (#063), Sarah Hill (#064), Susan O'Regan (#068), Tony Maas (#070), Alex McLean(#074), Amaia Maraku (#075), Huntly School - Andrew Reynolds-Rowe (#077), Carlo Maraku (#079), Catherine Rebecca & Rabindra Manuel (#080), Christine McNamara (#081), Faith (#084), Frances Millar (#085), Georgia Maraku (#086), Moore Shearing Ltd - Jacob Moore (#087), Melina (#090), Michelle Maraku (#091), Nerolie Goddard (#093), Pauline Boyle (#095), Praveen Singam (#096), Raureti Maraku (#098), Sam Scott (#99), Sarah Hale (#100), Taite Pohatu-Campbell (#102), Tawera Maraku (#103), Tyson (#104), Alana (#113), Anna (#115), Any Zimmerman (#118), Barbara Smissen (#120), Becky Willis (#221), Cam Torrie (#123), Chloe Gaskin (#127), Corey (#129), Dana (#130), David Smissen (#131), Debra Snaith (#132), Henrietta Rowe (#141), Jan Peacock (#144), Jax (#145), Julie McCormick (#149), Kate (#150), Kaysh Davies (#152), Kopere Downs (#154), Libby Mcnaught -Kennedy (#158), Lisa (#159), Lloryian Nordell (#160), Mitchell Corbett (#163), Molly (#164), Rach (#168), Rachel Worrall (#169), Rebecca (#170), Shane Sorensen (#179), Stevie (#181), Sue Foley (#182), Taisha George (#183), Tim Adam (#186), Tracey Hammond (#187),

Alessandra McKain (#189), Alison Ann Fargher (#190), Amanda Win (#191), Amanda (#192) Anne McAleece (#193), Ashleigh De'Adman (#194), Brenda Devane (#198), Charlotte (#199), Danelle Whakatihi (#203), Emily Vickers (#206), Gaylene Avery (#209), Halie Stowers - Te Rūnanga o Nga Wairiki Ngati Apa (#211), Hannah (#212), Isaac Grant (#215), Jade Washer (#216), Jason Groube (#217), Jayme Thorby (#218), Jeena (#219), Julie Bell (#225), Karen Rose (#226), Kate (#227), Kate Nitschke (#228), Kelly (#233), Kinsley (#234), Kylee Thomas (#237), Libby Rayner (#240), Lizzie (#242), Manaia White (#244), Michael de Laborde (#247), Natasha Dmith (#252), Ngaire Wishnowsky (#253), Pam Remnant (#255), Paul Jacobs (#257), Richard Wishnowsky (#261), Sale Stowers – Farmlands Food (#263), Sarah (#264), Sherilyn Tasker (#265), Simone Johnston (#266), Sonya (#267), Stephanie Collis (#268), Theresa Downea (#272), Tim Wilson (#274), Jacob Hughes (#283), Katie Noble (#286), Mathew Noble (#289), Natasha Walker (#290), Paul Sharland (#291), Jade Gray (#294), Ryan Wilkinson (#296), Mark Wilkinson (#297), Josh Miller (#298), Leah Gray (#299), Jo Rangooni (#303), Neill Gordon (#306), Kim Savage (#308), Justin Adams (#312), Kingsley Moorhouse (#313) Nicola Rowe (#315), Rachel Morrison (#316), Delwyn McGinity (#321), Christine Regan (#322), Michael Voss (#324), Anne Dry (#326), Maria Paul (#334), Pikiteora Tamou (#335), Irene (#336), Lee Gardiner (#337), Janice Tanerau (#338), Grace Taiaroa (#339), Josephine Hotu (#340), Rawinia Taiaroa (#341), Sandra P Fonotoe (#343), Mary Nepia Tunga (#344), Rangimarie Tamou (#345), Marama Hemi (#346), Christine Gregory (#349), Rebecca Wilkinson (#353), Richard Pugh (#354), Nigel Belsham (#357), Ken Donovan (#360), Karandeep Singh – Cooks Bar (#362), Lyn Duncan (#363), Jaseleen Saluja – Cooks Bar (#364), Geoff Duncan (#369), H L Anderson (#371), Adejah Wharemate (#372), Adrian Tofts (#373), Amanda Jane Emery (#375), Amy Ball (#376), Brierly Chase (#381), Coralie Harvey (#385), De Anna Green (#386), Gabriel McCartin (#389), Grant O'Shanassy (#390), Joyce Sisley (#394), June Jackson (#395), Kimiora King (#397), Lyn Turner (#398), Mark Mpower (#399), Misty (#401), Nicole Greensides (#403), Peter Kipling-Arthur – Taihape Community Board (#405), R J Sisley (#406), Rahera Ingle (#407), Shirley R Russell (#412), Susannah Revell (#414), Charlotte Oswald (#419), Piki Te Ora Hiroa - Mokai Patea Services (#421), Alison Tilley (#422), Carolyn Bates - Marton Community Committee (#427), Paula Skou, Country Chic Reloved Boutique (#437), Peter McDonnell (#442), Bruce Dear (#444), Kylie Toka (#445), Jame Kilmister (#446), No name (#448).

Summary of Submissions

Support for option 1

Submitter #099 would prefer that council rolls the service all out at once.

Submitter #261 states do it once, do it right.

Submitter #427 believes that it is more practical to only have one change.

Submitter #286 notes that it must be done either way and might as well do it all at the same time and save on administration costs.

Submitter #291 notes that it is going to happen so might as well get it underway. This submitter considers it works in other districts so can’t see why it wouldn’t work for the Rangitīkei.

Submitter #298 suggests implementing at once to help to understand the new requirements easier.

Submitter #375 believes that Council should implement it all at once due to poor communication which will confuse people.

Officer analysis
Submitter comments in support of proposed option 1 are acknowledged. Officers note there will be an extensive communications plan developed for the rollout of the service as well as the need for good communication around how to use the bins.

Support for kerbside collection

Submitters #192, #253, #252 support kerbside collection.

Submitter #040 askes if there is a reason not to?

Submitter #129 is surprised the district does not offer it already.

Submitter #013 believes that introducing a food scrap bin will stop animals and the wind attacking the rubbish left on the kerbside.

Submitter #218 is a big advocate for kerbside collection.

Submitter #252 notes that they recently moved from Auckland and think that the ability to recycle alone will add value. Submitter #252 believe that food scrap collection would be a bonus and would reduce their waste a lot from their experience in Auckland.

Submitter #364 states that it is more suitable for the community.

Submitter #313 wants it to be easy for people to do their recycling.

Submitter #326 notes a bin works well in the Hutt Valley where they live.

Submitter #398 states that many people struggle to get to the transfer stations and note the limited hours. The submitter believes that it is unfortunate that recycling isn't more readily available now.

Submitter #448 notes support for recycling options being available for Hunterville.

Officer analysis
The comments in support of kerbside collections are acknowledged.

Implementation timeframes

Submitters #052, #057, #186, #219, #226, #233, #255, #375, and #385 would prefer that kerbside collection is implemented earlier.

Submitter #187 believes that Council should have started kerbside collection years ago.

Submitter #357 believes that Council is dragging the chain by not starting sooner as the district is one of the last districts to not have kerbside collection.

Submitter #233 asks why it will take 3 years to implement.

Submitter #405 believes that as it is a central government directive the sooner the district commits to the system the better, especially as the current recycling stations are staying open.

Officer analysis
In response to submitter #187, kerbside collection was considered by Council in 2019 and was not implemented at the time.

The implementation timeframe has been proposed to align with legislative requirements. Completing the implementation over two financial years allows for sufficient timeframes for Council to consider options and make decisions regarding a range of items such as the most appropriate infrastructure to use (wheelie bins, crates, bags), the tender process and establishment of a contractor.

Implementation recommendations

Submitter #013 would like Council to also introduce bin clips to stop rubbish being strewn everywhere if the bins are blown over by the wind.

Submitter #349 asks if the additional bins will be placed in public places to separate recycling.

Submitters #344, #334 and #335 request that Council considers including Ratana. Submitters #340, #335 states that if Ratana is included they will need to be educated about recycling.

Submitter #303 asks if it could be collected fortnightly rather than weekly.

Submitter #303 suggests that ratepayers should be educated on packaging when purchasing products.

Submitter #427 believes that education will be required on recycling.

Submitter #405 notes that people in Taihape are concerned about using bins on hills, but the submitter notes that the three bin system is used in other small towns such as Thames.

Officer analysis

Submitter comments regarding implementation are acknowledged. The suggestion of bin clips, the frequency of collection and all other infrastructure choices will be considered in more detail once the project commences.

There are currently no plans for recycling bins in public places. Council focused this Long Term Plan on reducing costs wherever possible and the implementation of recycling in public spaces would create additional costs.

Ratana will be included in all considerations to determine total service provision costs. The cost of providing the service to any of our town in the district will assist in the final decision making regarding inclusion.

Council does not have a role for public education around packaging of products. Education will be provided on how to recycle and what products can be recycled when a kerbside service is implemented.

Rural services

Submitter #070, #264 asks what Council offers to rural residents.

Submitter #070 states that rural properties need to have an equivalent option. The submitter suggests local drop bins staggered around the district.

Submitter #121 asks that Council does not forget about rural residents, who also pay significant rates.

Submitter #121 acknowledges that kerbside collection is difficult in rural areas, but suggests Council considers better and properly maintained collection points, large capacity transfer stations, and longer opening hours.

Submitter #149 states that they do not get rubbish collection anyway.

Submitter #446 state that it does not affect them.

Submitters #264 and #274 do not want to pay for the service that they do not receive.

Submitter #321 noted it doesn't impact them but following discussions with others Option 1 is preferred.

Officer analysis
Rural residents will not be considered for the service due to the size of the district and the dispersed nature of the distribution of rural customers. Officers acknowledge that rural residents do not receive rubbish collection services and note that they will not be paying for kerbside collection. Only residents that receive the service will pay for it.

There are currently no plans for collection points around the district or the extension of opening hours at transfer stations. At this stage Officers have not received a high number of requests to warrant further consideration of these options.

Environmental benefits

Submitter #068 says that anything Council can do to reduce rubbish that goes to landfill is excellent.

Submitter #189 believes that kerbside recycling would provide a greener approach to waste.

Submitter #253 is supportive of trying to reduce the amount of waste that gets produced.

Submitter #364 states that it would be good for the environment.

Submitter #303 states that we need to consider the environmental impact of our rubbish.

Officer analysis
The comments in support of kerbside collections are acknowledged. The environmental benefits associated with increased recycling, including the collection of food scraps are they key driver behind the requirement from the Government for councils to provide kerbside services.

Financial

Submitters #192, #219 are happy to pay to have this service.

Submitter #444 states it will never be cheaper.

Submitter #261 states that option 2 would increase costs for public consultation.

Submitter #267 states that it is a good idea but would rather take their recycling to the transfer station if their rates are going to increase this much.

Submitter #315 notes they pay for a bin and take their recycling and would prefer the status quo if it means no rates increase.

Submitter #129 states that other regions already have kerbside collection and lower rates.

Submitter #422 states that Council should inform residents of the costs first.

Officer analysis

Comments from submitters regarding the cost of the service and willingness to pay are acknowledged. Affordability of the new service will be a priority factor for Council decisions as the work progresses. Depending on the options identified for how the service will be provided, what infrastructure will be required, and the cost of the services might require future consultation.

The comments from submitters #267 and #315 are acknowledged. It is noted that these submitters selection Option 1. Council does not have a choice at this stage to stay with the status quo as kerbside recycling and food scraps collections are required to be rolled out by 2027 and 2030 respectively for urban areas over 1000 residents.

Other comments

Submitter #375 would like improvements before kerbside collection begins such as longer hours at the recycling centre. The submitter suggests 27/7 for recycling drop off to encourage use.

Submitter #375 misses the pickup service that 'Jake' provided.

Submitter #375 hopes that Council respects and honours the local services that the community pays for now such as Rangitīkei Wheelie Bins.

Submitter #375 requests that Council improves communication on the available services. The submitter notes that there was no information on Council's website about the changes to recycling and considers that signage at the centre is useless. The submitter would like better communication on Facebook before public holidays confirming the hours transfer stations will be open.

Submitter #303 has noticed significant difference in rubbish at the gate on our area.

Submitter #442 suggests Council considers setting up a site to process waste into sellable product.

Submitter #427, the Marton Community Committee is happy to work with Council on what is already in place and suggest that clear signage is required to identify that the red rubbish bags are from a private company, not Council.

Officer analysis

In response to submitter #375, Officers will consider the implications of extending the opening hours for recycling drop off at the Marton Transfer Station, and will present the findings to a future Assets and Infrastructure Committee meeting for the committee to consider.

The kerbside services will be provided by a contractor that will be selected through an open tender process. Local suppliers will be encouraged to submit a proposal through the tender process.

Officers note the feedback regarding communication of the transfer station hours. These are available throughout the year on Council's website, with a facebook post usually made the week prior to usual hours changing (e.g. a public holiday closure).

Education will be provided when a new service is implemented. This will include differentiating the service from others that may be operating.

Option 2: We stagger the provision of a recycling bin (issued in January 2027) and an organic waste bin (issued in January 2030)

Submitters and submission numbers

Aimee Kohi (#003), Allyson Tweed (#005), Amanda (#006), Celeste (#011), Chayne (#012), Claire Pettigrew (#014), Heather Cummerfield (#020), Jamie (#025), Janine Precey (#027), Jiselle Rider (#030), Justine Aston-Dyson (#032), Karen Addenbrooke (#034),), Katherine Smyth (#036), Kira Swainson (#042), Michelle Rayner (#048), Nicola Silvester (#051), Sabiane Gibbins (#061), Scott Oliver (#065), Susan Gibbons (#067), Wendy Hawkins (#071), Zoe Anderson (#072), Akita (#073), Amy Giddins (#076), Whisker Farming - Annabel Whisker (#078), Del Bettridge (#082), Denise Nelson(#083), Kym Skerman (#088), Nadine (#092), Rachael (#097), Kelly George (#109), Nia Carter (#110), Patricia Burt (#111), Annette Brown (#117), Ash Eden (#119), Cam Gillespie (#122), Charlotte Rattenbury (#125), Christine McNicol (#128), Donna Hicks (#133), Hayley Wanden (#140), Hinemata Dais (#142), J (#143), Kevin Whelan (#153), Lachlan (#156), Leigh Grootegoed (#157), Marian Anderson (#161), Michi Shaw (#162), Montana (#165), N/a (#166), Robert Kernohan (#171), Rosemary Mead-White (#172), Sarah Hasler (#176), Sarah McVerry (#177), Sean Willis (#178), Tayla (#184), Tessa Nitschke (#185), Aimee Faulkner (#188), Barbara Brewin (#195), Barbara Jury (#196), Beverley Toulmin (#197), Christin Calkin (#201), Elizabeth (#205), Helen Clare (#213), Joanne Simpson (#222), Jodie (#223), Kathleen Te Momo-Smith (#229), Khan Coleman (#232), Kira Swainson (#235), Paul & Brenda Robinson (#256), Rachel Parker (#258), Rebecca (#259), Rebecca Sorensen (#260), Ruby Ralph (#262), Steven Charles Smith (#269), Teresa Stoltz (#271), Tracey (#275), Vicky Power (#278), Chanelle Theobald (#280), Jolanda Duxfield (#284), Ken Bellamy (#287), Steve (#292), Chrissi Mullin (#293), Andy Law (#295), Fiona Moorhouse (#310), Jane Abel (#311), Randall Moorhouse (#317), Melanie Walshe (#323), Alison Brady (#325), Karen Kennedy (#327), Raewyn Turner (#330), Ian Rae - Taihape Community Trust Board (#332), Ian Rae (#333), Kahui Hurinui (#342), Griffin (#348), Andrew Nicholls (#350), Helen Allpress (#352), W Plank (#356), Craig Donovan (#358), Carmen Wihongi (#359), Andrew Haworth (#377), Bethany Erin Sellwood - Head of sport Nga Tawa Diocesan School (#380), Charissa Lawlor (#384), Deb Haworth (#387), Joe Deere (#392), Sandra Field (#411), Genevieve Nicholls (#420), P Allan (#423), Raewyn Timms (#424), Felicity Wallace - Interested Residents of Marton and Rangitīkei (#433), Regan Laing (#435), Phil Shaw (#438), Roxanne Phillips (#447), Rodger Rangi (#450), Ian Benson (#453).

Summary of Submissions

Financial

Submitters #284, #311, #330, #384 prefers this option to reduce the immediate rates increase. Submitters #026, #153, #420 wish to stagger the implementation of the services due to the cost.

Submitter #109 selected option 2 but would prefer to not have kerbside collection. The submitter recognises the service is nice to have but does not believe the rates increase is worth it.

Submitter #348 states that we are in a recession.

Submitter #411 states that a staggered approach should reflect a staggered price.

Submitter #384 notes that this option means less debt for Council.

Submitter #424 notes that this is a cheaper option.

Submitter #450 considers all users should pay the full cost.

Officer analysis
Comments from submitters regarding the financial implications are acknowledged.

Option 2 covers only kerbside recycling and food scrap collection and residents would need to continue with their current general rubbish collection approach.

All Councils are currently required by Government to implement kerbside recyclables collection by 1 January 2027 and food scraps collection by 1 January 2030. Not considering either option 1 or 2 is not available to Council.

Implementation timeframe

Submitters #229, #232 and #271 would like it implemented earlier.

Submitter #269 asks when it is happening.

Submitter #325 prefers the staggered implementation but would like it to happen earlier. This submitter suggests this will give time for people to get used to how each option works.

Submitters #153 believes that staggering the bins would enable people to get used to the times for putting out each bin.

Submitter #384 believes that staggering the implementation would allow the community to adjust and come to terms with the process, including the timing for putting out each bin.

Submitter #358 supports this option as it will give users time to adjust.

Submitter #293 suggests rolling out one at a time so that there is no excuse to get recycling wrong.

Submitter #384 is open to seeing it rolled out at once in 2027.

Submitter #278 considers recycling is important for long term sustainability and is in support of implementing recycling as soon as possible.

Officer analysis
The implementation timeframe has been proposed to align with legislative requirements. Completing the implementation over two financial years allows for sufficient timeframes for Council to consider options and make decisions regarding a range of items such as the most appropriate infrastructure to use (wheelie bins, crates, bags), the tender process and establishment of a contractor.

Implementation methods

Submitter #034 requests that Council make kerbside collection optional. The submitter is currently responsible for their rubbish and recycling as does not want the additional cost added to their rates.

Submitter #423 believes that households should be able to opt in or out of having recycling bins.

Submitter #423 states that an organic bin is a good idea for households that do not have a compost bins, and households should be able to opt in or out of having an organic waste bin.

Submitter #195 asks how seniors would manage to take bins to the kerbside? The submitter states that they would find it difficult due to bad joints. The submitter suggests exemption certificates could be applied for, to have bin men collect the bins.

Submitter #411 states that some households do not need a bigger bin and some only need bags.

Submitter #423 would prefer that landfill waste collections stays fortnightly.

Officer analysis
The proposed service would be mandatory. Council will be required to provide the service to all urban households in towns with over 1,000 residents. For the Rangitīkei this includes Marton, Bulls and Taihape. The proposed options also include Hunterville and Mangaweka as the trucks providing the service will need to travel through these towns. Ratana will be included in all investigations to determine the costs of the service. The inclusion or exclusion of any of the town with a population of less than 1000 residents will be subject to future Council decisions. Opting out of the service is not option due to the mandatory requirement from Government.

The decision regarding bins or crates and the frequency of the service will be completed through the procurement process. This process will also consider any measures that should be put in place for particular demographics.

Education on recycling

Submitter #030 suggests that Council educates people in how to use the bins.

Submitter #110 shares that council needs to provide clear communication regarding the requirements for the community.

Submitter #271 requests clear information about what can be recycled.

Submitter #327 states that a huge education programme will be required. The submitter suggests education in schools each term with incentives for completion of the course.

Officer analysis
Education will be provided on how to recycle and what products can be recycled when a kerbside service is implemented. This will most likely cover many formats including Council's website, facebook, newspapers and flyers delivered to every household receiving the service.

Officers note the requests for further education in schools regarding recycling.

Other options for recycling

Submitter #011 does not see the point in implementing kerbside collection. This submitter suggests that the transfer station could just open for longer.

Submitter #172 likes the idea of bins but is happy to leave rubbish bags on the kerb and take their recycling and green waste to the transfer station.

Submitter #423 believes Council should do more to promote households to recycle at local transfer stations.

Submitter #424 suggests that recycling bins are placed around town, the submitter suggests one down Wilson Park as some people cannot access the transfer station.

Officer analysis
Kerbside recycling and food scraps collection is being required as part of Te Rataki Para, Waste Strategy development through Government. The rationale behind kerbside recycling and food scraps collection is to support the move to a circular management of waste materials. Increasing recycling and food scraps collection will reduce the volume of material going to landfill.

Free recycling for a range of materials is available in six locations throughout the District. There are currently no plans for an extension of opening hours at transfer stations.

Rural services

Submitters #088, #142 states that this is not applicable to rural residents.

A range of suggestions for a rural rubbish service were provided:

- Submitter #287 suggests rural ratepayers should get coupons that entitle a credit of 40 bags over 12 months.
- Submitter #078 requests that Council puts in place a service for rural communities for recycling or compost.
- Submitters #310, #317 suggest that basic rubbish collection is provided for rural residents. These submitters do not want to have to pay for the service as it will not benefit them.
- Submitter #018 suggests that rural ratepayers receive a reduction in rates or at least 52 free rubbish bags a year. This submitter suggests there is a basis towards urban ratepayers who pay less rates.
- Submitter #173 lives rurally and would like rubbish and recycling services as well.

Submitter #083 lives just out of town so is wondering if kerbside collection will be extended to a certain distance out of town.

Submitter #185 suggests council provides recycling bins only to urban areas. The submitter does not want to pay for urban ratepayers to receive free rubbish and green waste collection as a rural ratepayer. The submitter wants Council to think of the large rural population in this district.

Submitter #311 notes they do not live in town so will not have access to the service but will have to pay for it.

Submitter #358 asks that the transfer stations in towns such as Taihape are open 24 hours for recycling as the opening times often do not suit rural residents.

Officer analysis
Officers note that the service is not proposed for rural residents. Rural residents will not be required to pay for the service. Urban households receiving the service will pay for the service through appropriate rating mechanisms such as a targeted rate.

There are currently no plans to implement rubbish or recycling services for rural residents. Due to travel distances and the sparseness of the rural environment, the providing of a kerbside rubbish and recycling service is not viable for rural residents. The district has six waste transfer stations where any resident can undertake general recycling (free) and dispose of their rubbish.

Support for kerbside recycling

Submitter #433 supports the continual improvement in kerbside rubbish collection.

Submitter #284 considers a recycling bin would be helpful.

Submitter #083 states that it is important the Council gets the community on board with recycling.

Submitter #292 notes that this would be an improvement. The submitter notes that while they are happy to purchase red bags and take recycling to the transfer station, not everyone is able to.

Officer analysis

The comments in support of kerbside collections are acknowledged.

Other comments

Submitter #083 shares that recently there have been queues of cars at the transfer station waiting to access the recycling bins.

Submitter #278 considers organic waste bins are less important due to the ability of households to compost and that it breaks down in landfill so does not need to be recycled.

Submitter #284 notes it is easy to compost.

Submitter #311 suggest people compost their own organic waste.

Submitter #358 does not believe that the topography in Taihape will suit three bins.

Submitter #384 notes that Feilding does it well.

Submitter #453 states that they do their own.

Submitter #384 believes this is a smarter choice considering something needs to happen.

Submitter #327 choose Option 2 so Council can see how the services are operating in other regions.

Officer analysis

Officers acknowledge the comment regarding lines at the transfer stations, it is a great sign of how committed the community is regarding recycling. Once kerbside recycling is implemented the demand on the transfer stations will be reduced.

Residents will still be able to choose to do their own composting.

Other or did not specify

Submitters and submission numbers

Fay Cunningham (#001), Ben (#008), Hayley Grant (#018), Jean Fuldseth (#028), Kristina Dykes (#043), Lisa (#045), Melissa Welch (#047), Anna McLean (#116), Gail Reid (#137), Grant Scoones (#139), Jess McIlroy (#146), Pamela (#167), Ruth Mackintosh (#173), Sonya (#180), Charlotte Phillips – Piano with Charlotte (#200), Damian Turner-Steele (#202), Diane (#204), Emma Watson (#207), Erin Woods (#208), Jeremy Day (#220), Joshua Harris (#224), Katrina O'Brien (#230), Kyla Ormsby (#236), Linda Hale (#241), Marcel Stiefel (#245), Monique Sole (#251), Nikita Tweeddale (#254), Susan Andrews

(#270), Trudy Shepherd (#277), Azaliah Patrina (#279), Cian O'Gorman (#281), David McMillan (#282), Raewyn Hughes (#300), Scott Parkes (#301), Dee Donald & James Donald (#302), Paul Hughes (#304), Mel Pera (#314), Rosie Gilbert (#318), Sonia Maraku (#319), Maree Sheehan (#328), Colleen Fenemor (#355), no details provided (#366), Allan Cant (#370), Alan Bates (#374), Angela McIntyre (#378), Dell Pugmire (#388), Gregory Smith (#416), Tim Matthews (#425), Antonia Metz (#426), Carolyn Bates (#428), Gretta Mills (#430), Lynne Sheridan (#431), Len Robinson (#434), John Abraham (#439), Willy Abraham (#443), David Monteith (#449).

Summary of Submissions

Rural services

Submitters #043, #047, #254, #270, #314, #318 state that this does not affect them.

Submitter #301 notes they do not get rubbish collection.

Submitter #001 does not want to subsidise town folk and not get their rubbish collected. This submitter believes that if it is good enough for rural ratepayers to deal with their rubbish, it is good enough for all ratepayers. All ratepayers should receive the same service.

Submitter #167 states that they understand that it was profit making to drop the service previously included in rates charges, because for certain though service reduce but rates never seem to decrease.

Submitter #245 states that rural ratepayers pay full rates but do not get their rubbish collected so they should not have to pay at the transfer station. The submitter requests that Council produces a card, so staff know not to ask rural residents to pay twice.

Submitter #366 states that it is a waste of money and does not want to pay for it and not receive the service.

Submitter #300 suggests it stays as it is and notes that there are no rural rubbish collection services. This submitter suggests free rubbish dumping for those without any collection.

Submitter #302 notes they do not use the service, but would be good for the town to use, but consider it should be a fully user pays system.

Officer analysis

Officers acknowledge that the kerbside rubbish and recycling services will only be available to urban households in the towns of Marton, Bulls, Taihape, Hunterville, Mangaweka and potentially Ratana.

Rural residents will not contribute to the cost of implementing kerbside collection. However rural residents will continue to pay for the provision of waste transfer stations across the district. This service is accessible to all residents, including rural residents.

Implementation timeframe

Submitters #045, 167 would like kerbside collection rolled out by the end of 2025.

Submitters #207 supports option 1 but would like it rolled out immediately.

Submitter #224 would like kerbside collection implemented as soon as reasonably feasible.

Submitter #279 thinks that kerbside collection is needed now.

Officer analysis
The implementation timeframe has been proposed to align with legislative requirements. Completing the implementation over two financial years allows for sufficient timeframes for Council to consider options and make decisions regarding a range of items such as the most appropriate infrastructure to use (wheelie bins, crates, bags), the tender process and establishment of a contractor.

Support for kerbside collection

Submitter #028 believes that kerbside recycling is a good idea as there are people who cannot take their own recycling to the transfer stations.

Submitter #045 says that kerbside collection is needed as people throw it all in the rubbish, so they do not have to take it to the transfer station.

Submitter #045 believes that it will be easier for the elderly who do not go to the transfer stations.

Submitter #146 supports all three bins being introduced from 2027.

Officer analysis
Officers note the support for kerbside collection.

Submissions not in support of kerbside collection

Submitters #139, #200, #370, and #378 would prefer that the current level of service remains.

Submitters #001 and #008 do not want Council to roll out kerbside collection.

Submitter #355 states that Mangaweka does not need kerbside collection as there is a local transfer station.

Submitter #374 does not see a need for kerbside recycling.

Submitter #200 believes that it is more important to invest in the town centre than kerbside recycling as Marton residents are used to using the transfer station.

Submitter #208 asks why we suddenly need to introduce kerbside collection when the town has managed without it for so long.

Submitter #230 believes that everyone has access to the transfer stations so the recycling and food and garden waste can be dropped off at the transfer station.

Submitter #230 believes that some people are not worried about recycling and collecting food and garden waste and will not use it even if it is on their doorstep.

Submitter #425 believes that the district can come up with an alternative that achieves that same result for a smaller cost.

Submitter #425 states that most people can access cars to purchase groceries and other local goods, and where products are delivered the resulting waste could be “back-loaded” to where they originated from, which might also help retailers to minimise waste in the first place. There will be situations, usually nearer the centre of towns, where transport assistance is needed, but a controlled skip-bin arrangement might suit within walking distance of most users.

Submitter #426 states that ratepayers such as themselves do not throw away food scraps as they have compost bins, chooks, and dogs.

Submitter #434 does not support the introduction of a kerbside collection service. This submitter notes that there a private organisation doing a good job. This submitter questions whether source separation is easy and notes that focus should be on reducing food waste and individual responsibility. The submitter provides positive comments about the service in Whanganui.

Officer analysis

Officers acknowledge the comments in opposition to kerbside recycling. Council is required to implement kerbside recycling for urban towns with over 1,000 residents. This includes Marton, Taihape and Bulls. Council has proposed to extend the service to include Mangaweka, Hunterville and possibly Ratana as they will be on the waste collection route. The ability to use the transfer stations will remain for all residents.

Recycling and waste processes

Submitter #116 questions where the recycling ends up, suggesting all recycling goes to the Bonny Glen landfill. The submitter states that Council needs to address recycling at the transfer station before thinking about three bin kerbside collection.

Submitter #202 does not see any benefit to implementing kerbside collection due to the cost of implementation and the cost and CO2 emissions resulting from transporting recycling out of the district. The submitter does not believe it would provide any benefit to the district or country as a whole. The submitter labels it as a feel good exercise. The submitter notes that real change can only be made through central government actions such as making manufacturers responsible for their products and banning unnecessary plastic packaging.

Submitter #220 asks how much food scraps Council is anticipating collecting. The submitter states that homes with waste disposals significantly reduce the quantity of food scraps that go into waste.

Submitter #430 raises concerns about the operation of the Bonny Glen landfill.

Submitter #220 asks if Council is only collecting a 'standardised' set of recyclables, do the remaining recyclables go to the landfill or will the community still be expected to take them to the refuse station?

Officer analysis

Council can confirm that recycling is not sent to the Bonny Glen landfill. Recycling is sent to a processing facility in the Manawatū District, which is then sent on to other facilities that specialise in each material.

Officers are conducting a feasibility study which will provide information on how much waste is expected to be diverted from landfill. Council will be collecting a standardised set of recyclables set out by the Ministry for the Environment. Items that do not fit the criteria should be placed in general waste. If Option 1 is progressed a kerbside collection will be provided for general waste. If Option 2 is progressed residents will need to use their current general waste disposal method.

Council is required to implement the kerbside service which aims to increase the circular waste economy and reduce waste to landfill. The Ministry for the Environment was the agency that assessed and determined that the required approach is the best way of achieving national waste goals.

The Bonny Glen landfill is managed by a private operator who manage the landfill in accordance with their resource consents.

Implementation suggestions for kerbside collection

Submitter #137 suggests that Council introduces recycling bins in 2027 but does not introduce a general waste bin until 2030. The submitter shares that they have little general waste so would only need to put out a bin once a month. The submitter shared that in Hastings they received a discount on their rates per year and asks if Council could implement something similar. The submitter states that this would provide an incentive for others to reduce their waste.

Submitter #146 requests that Ratana, Turakina, and Koitiata also receive kerbside collection.

Submitter #319 notes that it would be good to have this option for Rātana Pa.

Submitter #173 suggests that people will put rubbish in their recycling bin if rubbish collection is not rolled out at the same time.

Submitter #173 would like Council to wait to implement green waste collection until it is mandated as they may be more composters by then.

Submitter #180 would prefer bags rather than bins.

Submitter #180 states that people need to be responsible and not put it out two days early.

Submitter #207 notes that household size should be considered, a single elderly person needs a smaller bin than a family of 5 or more.

Submitter #282 prefers that Council uses crates for recycling rather than bins and provides an example from Wales.

Submitter #304 considers a three bin collection is too complicated and adds cost. This submitter suggests food scraps should be double wrapped and included in the main bin, and that recycling bin needs to actually be recycled before the cost can be justified.

Submitter #370 would like private companies to be encouraged to collect glass and can recycling and green waste.

Submitter #428 is concerned about the lack of detail about the size of the containers and wheelie bins.

Submitter #443 is a local contractor in the waste sector, Rangitīkei Wheelie Bins. They provided information on the status quo, MfE guidelines and potential future initiatives.

Officer analysis

Council is required by Government to implement a kerbside recycling service by 2027 and kerbside food scraps collection by 2030 for urban areas where there are more than 1,000 residents. This requirement includes Marton, Taihape and Bulls. However, Council has proposed to extend the service to residents in Hunterville, Mangaweka and potentially Ratana as these towns are on the service route. Government requirements do not extend to green waste collection and Council is not proposing to implement a green waste collection service which will remain available at all waste transfer stations.

Option 2 of the consultation was the option that provided the minimum standard and timing Council is required to implement, which included a staggered implementation.

Council's preferred option, Option 1, included a full service of rubbish, recycling and food scraps collection being rolled out at once. Whichever option is decided, Council will provide education on the service when it is rolled out.

No decisions have been made around the format of collection e.g. crates versus bins. These options will be considered during the procurement process which will consider all options. Standard sized bins are planned to be implemented to provide for ease of implementation. The service provider will be determined through a tender process to the open market. Officers will inform submitter #443 when the tender is open.

There are currently no plans to implement a discount on rates for low waste producers.

Ratana will be included in all initial investigations to determine the cost of the service. Once all information has been gathered, final decisions will be made regarding the inclusion of Ratana. Koitiata and Scott's Ferry will not be considered due to the small number of residents and the travel distance to reach these communities.

Financial

Submitter #220 does not want to pay extra for a service that is already mostly free. The submitter asks if ratepayers are expected to pay the current expense plus the additional costs for collection.

Submitter #220 states that Bulls, Hunterville, Mangaweka, Marton, Rātana and Taihape are not big towns. The submitter does not think the extra cost to replace a 1-5 minute drive is justifiable in a cost of living crisis.

Submitter #230 does not think it will be fully utilised so it will be a waste of taxpayers money.

Submitter #251 supports an option similar to option 2 but Council should pay for it.

Submitter #251 is a disabled beneficiary who cares for a disabled person and does not think they should have to pay extra to have these bins picked up. The submitter says that they can barely afford the current pick up costs and having to have someone drive them to the transfer station to dispose of their recycling, along with the cost of disposing of green waste.

Submitter #277 leave it as it is, which is user payers, rates will increase if Council rolls out kerbside collection.

Submitter #388 prefers the current system unless the cost is similar.

Officer analysis

The submitter comments regarding the cost of the service are noted. Implementing kerbside recycling is a mandatory requirement that Council must implement and is not optional. Council delivers services by a range of funding mechanisms such as rates, debt, fees and charges or grants. The proposed kerbside service will be paid for by the households that receive the service.

Option 1 includes kerbside rubbish collection as well as the collection of recyclables and food scraps and may result in cost reductions for households as they will no longer need to pay for their current private solid waste removal services.

Option 2 covers only kerbside recycling and food scrap collection. For Option 2, residents would need to continue their current general rubbish collection approach while paying the additional charged for the kerbside collection of recyclables and food scraps.

The current rate for rubbish and recycling covers the running of the district's waste transfer stations.

Other suggestions for rubbish and recycling

Submitter #208 suggests that council offers a free bag a week that residents can take to the dump to stop fly tipping.

Submitter #241 would prefer that Council focuses on educating and promoting personal responsibility to reduce, renew and compost.

Submitter #370 would prefer that Council promotes the free use of transfer stations to collect recycling, so people are aware. The submitter states that Mangaweka is a great example, and no kerbside collection is needed there.

Submitter #388 suggests people are educated to compost food and organic waste in their own garden.

Submitter #426 suggests that Council provides those who want it, a compost bin and provide a general composting bin for residents who do not have the space for one.

Submitter #426 states that there are options such as Bokashi composting.

Submitter #449 suggests people like themselves in Hunterville do not have food waste as they compost and use other methods. This submitter suggested Council provides compost bins instead.

Submitter #430 suggests banning single use containers in the Rangitīkei and only permit those that can be recycled or returned. The submitter provides examples of the types of containers they suggest banning.

Officer analysis

Proposed Option 1 includes kerbside rubbish collection services which would mean residents would not need to take their rubbish to the waste transfer station. Council has no plans to provide composting bins as a kerbside food waste system is required to be in place by 2030.

Every 5 years Council reviews and creates a new Waste Minimisation Management Plan (WMMP). This plan describes the activities to be used to reduce the volume of waste that ends up on landfill. Education programmes is an important activity in this plan and is included in the RDC WMMP regardless of the outcome of this consultation process.

Officers acknowledge the comments around banning single use plastics and note that this is not being considered at this stage.

Other Comments

Submitters #236, #281 and #328 do not mind what happens.

Submitter #378 states that infrastructure should remain the priority.

Submitter #416 does not believe the Ministry for the Environment is requiring kerbside collection, but rather only recommending it, and suggests that the current government will not make it a requirement.

Submitter #439 asks a range of questions about the options available. This submitter suggests a need to revamp the whole waste system and maximise diversion. The submitter suggests a roll out of

multiple collections by 2027 using a user pays system. This submitter notes their concerns about the management of waste assets.

Submitters #449 and #426 would prefer that Council waits to see what the new government proposes as legislation may be repealed.

Submitter #428 states that kerbside recycling seems sensible for many but has concerns about the organic aspects. The submitter notes that the contents of the container are not likely to be completely removed due to sludge and liquid in the bottom resulting in health hazards for many older people.

Submitter #428 requests that the current providers of the red bags clearly indicate that 'official' is not approved by Council.

Submitter #431 does not support kerbside collection rollout and suggests it should be managed by the current collection providers, raising concerns about the impact on an existing business. The submitter raises concerns about organic collection. The submitter requests kerbside collection is investigated further, and ratepayers are kept informed before a decision is made.

Submitter #430 suggests that wheelie bins encourage waste and provides comment on their household rubbish and recycling practices.

Submitter #430 raises concerns about microplastics and their impact on the environment and human health.

Officer analysis

By 1 January 2027, all district and city councils will have to provide recycling collections to households in urban areas of 1,000 people or more and by 1 January 2030, all district and city councils will have to provide food scraps (or food and garden waste) collections to households in urban areas of 1,000 people or more.

The following tools will be used to give effect to these changes:

- Change 1 and 2 (household recycling and food scraps collections) will be set out in regulations (an order in council) under section 48 of the WMA.
- Change 3 and 4 (standardising materials and the minimum standards for diverting waste from landfill will be set out in performance standards (via a notice in the gazette) under section 49 of the WMA for the implementation of WMMPs.
- Change 5 (reporting requirements) will be set out in regulations (an order in council) under section 86 of the WMA.

Council will also be continuing to implement an extensive programme of infrastructure projects. The implementation of kerbside services will not impact on Council's delivery of other infrastructure.

The provision of kerbside recycling is intended to reduce general waste. Households will be required to clean their bins.

Summary of officer analysis

Council consulted on how to implement kerbside collection to provide this service in a way that will meet the legislative requirements of providing kerbside recycling services by January 2027, and kerbside food scraps collection by January 2030.

396 submitters submitted on this key choice, with 54% of submitters supporting Councils preferred option to roll out three bin kerbside collection services in one go starting January 2027. The submission form requested that submitters provide demographic information to be able to provide more depth to the results. 56% of the 321 submitters who indicated that they live in a town that will receive kerbside collection in the proposal (Marton, Bulls, Taihape, Hunterville, and Mangaweka) support Councils preferred option. This suggests that the level of support for Councils preferred option remains consistent across the district.

The most common comments from submitters who are in support of Option 1 refer to the environmental benefits, convenience, and note their support for kerbside collection beginning earlier than currently planned.

Key themes from submitters who support Option 2 include concerns about the cost, comments that households will need to be educated on the use of the bins, and comments that some households already compost.

Submitters who have been categorised as something else hold a range of views. Key themes from submitters who support something else include support for implementing kerbside collection sooner, concerns about the recycling process, concerns about the cost, support for maintaining the status quo, and suggestion on other ways households can be encouraged to manage waste.

Officers recommend that Council proceeds with Option 1, roll out three bin kerbside collection services in one go starting January 2027.

Recommendations

EITHER

That Council approves the rates increase and impact on debt outlined in Option 1 in the 2024-2034 Long Term Plan to implement Key Choice 2, Option 1 - roll out three bin kerbside collection services in one go starting January 2027.

OR

That Council approves the rates increase and impact on debt outlined in Option 2 to be included in the 2024-2034 Long Term Plan to implement Key Choice 2, Option 2 - stagger the provision of a recycling bin (issued in January 2027) and an organic waste bin (issued in January 2030).

Key Choice 3 – Marton Main Street

Background

Key Choice Three was focused on whether Council should invest in revitalising the main street in Marton. The Consultation Document set out existing initiatives Council is investing in which are proposed to continue and set out a proposal for town centre revitalisation which aims to create transformational change for Marton.

The aim of the project is to support town centre revitalisation by improving the space for the local community, supporting local business development, providing a place where the community chooses to go, and attracting visitors.

Revitalisation would be achieved by beautifying the main street, improving the experience for pedestrians, improving traffic flow, providing more spaces for our community to connect with each other, and greening the area.

Two options were provided, submitters were also able to select 'something else'.

Option 1 – streetscape revitalisation for Marton (preferred option)

Option 1 proposes funding $100,000 in 2024/25 to develop a plan that will visualise the redevelopment. This is when the community will be able to input into the design and see what a new main street could look like. Developing the plan will mean Council will be able to see exactly what changes will be made and gain accurate costs of the redevelopment. The long term plan then proposes including $2 million in 2025/26 to construct the street upgrade.

These capital costs will be met initially through debt, which is consistent with Council's approach for funding projects that have long term benefits. This debt and the interest are then proposed to be repaid on districtwide rates through the Uniform Annual General Charge ("UACG"). This will cost each ratepayer approximately $18 per year. This district-wide system is the same as how Council funds other activities such as the three waters, or the civic centre projects.

Impact on rates: 0.36% of rates from Year 3.
Impact on debt: $2.1 million
Impact on levels of service: Increased

Option 2 – status quo – do not invest in streetscape revitalisation for Marton

Option 2 proposes the status quo, with no additional investment in revitalisation activities for the Marton town centre. The following existing initiatives will continue:

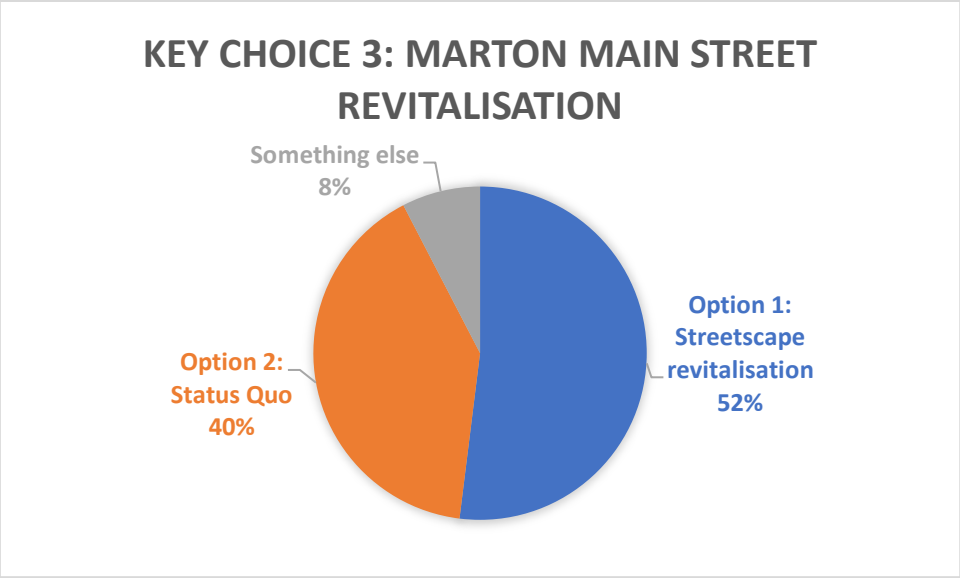
- *Town centre revitalisation projects*: Council was successful in receiving an external grant of $200,000 for town centre revitalisation initiatives across Marton, Taihape and Bulls. A project will be completed for each town over the next three years.
- *Business support*: Council ran earthquake-prone building seminars for building owners in 2023 and are actively supporting business growth.
- *Rates remissions:* Council has a rates remissions policy aimed at supporting building owners to strengthen earthquake-prone buildings and for business expansion.
- *Developing strategy*: Council has invested in town centre plans, and the Community Spatial Plan to guide future development of our town centres.

- *Maintenance:* Council maintains the roads, footpaths, vegetation and open space in our town centres as well as cleaning and waste management.

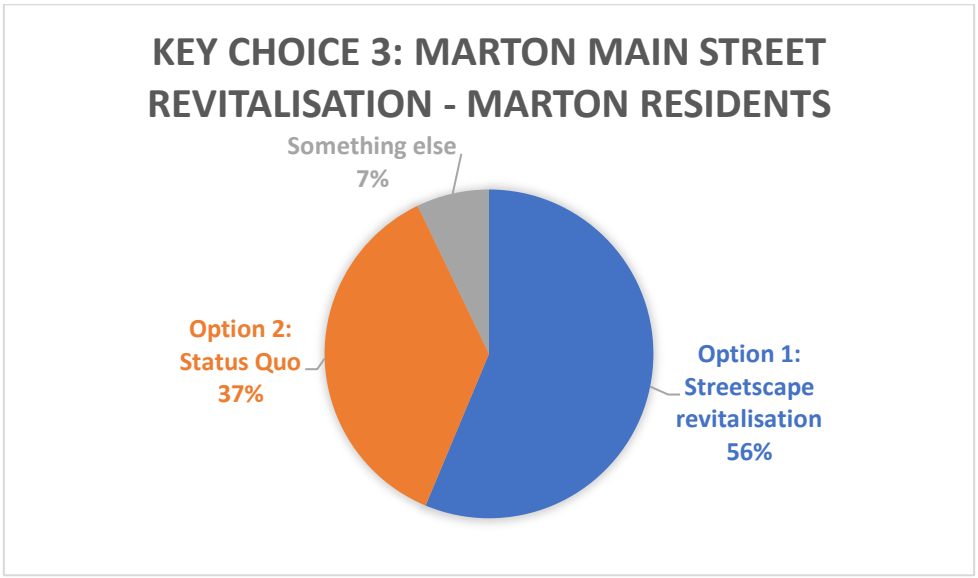
Impact on rates: Nil
Impact on debt: Nil
Impact on levels of service: Unchanged

Results

Of the 454 submitters to the long term plan, 381 submitters selected an option for this key choice. Fifty two percent (52%) of submitters overall who indicated a preference were in support of Option 1, streetscape revitalisation, while forty percent (40%) of these submitters were in support of Option 2, status quo.



The graph below shows that support was slightly higher for town centre revitalisation from Marton residents, with fifty six percent (56%) support for Option 1, town centre revitalisation, and thirty seven percent (37) support for Option 2, status quo. Submitters who chose 'something else' were relatively consistent at 8% and 7%.



Option 1: Streetscape revitalisation for Marton

Submitters and submission numbers

Fay Cunningham (#001), Allisha (#004), Ben (#008), Brenda (#009), Chayne (#012), Gareth Wick (#017), Heather Cummerfield (#020), Jackie Pawson (#021), Jacqui D (#023), Jake Anderson (#024), Jamie (#025), Jane (#026), Jeanette Preston -Fowlie (#029), Kaitlyn Whitford (#033), Karen Addenbrooke (#034), Kate (#035), Katie Deere (#38), Kira Swainson (#042), Kristina Dykes (#043), Lisa (#045), Mary-Jo (#046), Melissa Welch (#047), Michelle Rayner (#048), Nancy (#049), Natasha Mills (#050), Nicola Silvester (#051), Nicole Martin (#052), Nova Martin (#053), Penny McDonald (#055), Rebecca Dalziell (#057), Rebecca Edwards (#058), Rene Johnson (#059), Royna Fifield (#060), Sabiane Gibbins (#061), Sarah Clare (#063), Sarah Hill (#064), Wendy Hawkins (#071), Zoe Anderson (#072), Akita (#073), Alex McLean(#074), Amaia Maraku (#075), Amy giddins (#076), Huntly School - Andrew Reynolds-Rowe (#077), Carlo Maraku (#079), Christine McNamara (#081), Del Bettridge (#082), Faith (#084), Frances Millar (#085), Georgia Maraku (#086), Moore Shearing Ltd - Jacob Moore (#087), Kym Skerman (#088), Melina (#090), Michelle Maraku (#091), Raureti Maraku (#098), Sarah Hale (#100), Sharn Grant (#101), Taite Pohatu-Campbell (#102), Tawera Maraku (#103), Tyson (#104), Patricia Burt (#111), Alana (#113), Anna (#115), Any Zimmerman (#118), Becky Willis (#121), Cam Gillespie (#122), Chloe Gaskin (#127), Debra Snaith (#132), Elizabeth (#134), Frances Arapere (#136), Gail Reid (#137), Grant Scoones (#139), Henrietta Rowe (#141), Hinemata Dais (#142), Jax (#145), Jess McIlroy (#146), Jessica (#147), Julie McCormick (#149), Kaysh Davies (#152), Kylie Reynolds-Rowe (#155), Lachlan (#156), Leigh Grootegoed (#157), Libby Mcnaught -Kennedy (#158), Michi Shaw (#162), Montana (#165), N/a (#166), Rachel Worrall (#169), Rebecca (#170), Rosemary Mead-White (#172), Ruth Mackintosh (#173), Sandy O'Brien (#174), Sean Willis (#178), Sue Foley (#182), Tracey Hammond (#187), Alessandra McKain (#189), Amanda Win (#191), Amanda (#192), Barbara Brewin (#195), Barbara Jury (#196), Charlotte Phillips – Piano with Charlotte (#200), Elizabeth (#205), Emily Vickers (#206), Grant Scoones (#210), Halie Stowers - Te Rūnanga o Nga Wairiki Ngati Apa (#211), Hannah (#212), Helen Clare (#213), Isaac Grant (#215), Jade Washer (#216), Jason Groube (#217), Joanne Rosacker (#221), Joshua Harris (#224), Kate (#227), Kate Nitschke (#228), Kelly (#233), Kyla Ormsby (#236), Larissa Mackereth (#239), Libby Rayner (#240), Lucy Skou (#243), Monique Sole (#251), Ngaire Wishnowsky (#253), Pam Remnant (#255), Paul & Brenda Robinson (#256), Paul Jacobs (#257), Richard Wishnowsky (#261), Sarah (#264), Simone Johnston (#266), Stephanie Collis (#268), Susan Andrews (#270), Teresa Stoltz (#271), Theresa Downea (#272), Trudy Shepherd (#277), Vicky Power (#278), Cian O'Gorman (#281), Kathryn O'Regan (#285), Natasha Walker (#290), Ryan Wilkinson (#296), Mark Wilkinson (#297), Josh Miller (#298), Scott Parkes (#301), Jane Abel (#311), Nicola Rowe (#315), Rachel Morrison (#316), Melanie Walshe (#323), Michael Voss (#324), Alison Brady (#325), Anne Dry (#326), Karen Kennedy (#327), Maree Sheehan (#328),), Ian Rae - Taihape Community Trust Board (#332), Ian Rae (#333), Maria Paul (#334), Pikiteora Tamou (#335), Irene (#336), Lee Gardiner (#337), Janice Tanerau (#338), Grace Taiaroa (#339), Josephine Hotu (#340), Rawinia Taiaroa (#341), Kahui Hurinui (#342), Sandra P Fonotoe (#343), Mary Nepia Tunga (#344), Rangimarie Tamou (#345), Marama Hemi (#346), Paul Ngatai (#351), Helen Allpress (#352), Rebecca Wilkinson (#353), Richard Pugh (#354), W Plank (#356), Nigel Belsham (#357), Carmen Wihongi (#359), Ken Donovan (#360), Karandeep Singh – Cooks Bar (#362), Jasleen Saluja – Cooks Bar (#364), H L Anderson (#371), Adejah Wharemate (#372), Adrian Tofts (#373), Amy Ball (#376), Ben Caldwell (#379), Bethany Erin Sellwood (#380), Brierly Chase (#381), Coralie Harvey (#385), Grant O'Shanassy (#390), Joyce Sisley (#394), June Jackson (#395), Mark Mpower (#399), Misty (#401), Nicole Greensides (#403), Peter Kipling-Arthur – Taihape Community Board (#405), R J Sisley (#406), Rahera Ingle (#407), Richard White (#408), Sandra Field (#411), Nigel Belsham - Business Rangitīkei (#417),

Charlotte Oswald (#419), Piki Te Ora Hiroa - Mokai Patea Services (#421), Raewyn Timms (#424), Paula Skou, Country Chic Reloved Boutique (#437), Phil Shaw (#438), James Kilmister (#446).

Summary of Submissions

Support for upgrading the town centre

Submitters #048, #195, #281, #356 believe that revitalisation is important for Marton. Submitter #281 states revitalisation of the town centre is a must. Submitter #356 believes that revitalisation must occur to prevent stagnation. Submitter #195 would like Broadway to be revitalised and shops encouraged to open. Submitter #255 would like more stores in town as they do not like that they have to travel to cities.

Submitter #182 believes that Marton is looking good, and enhancing the main street would be another positive.

Submitter #253 would like the town centre to be more vibrant.

Submitter #328 states that it would be great for the local business owners who put effort into encouraging customers to enter their shop.

Submitter #043 believes that Marton deserves investment as it is supposed to be the hub of the Rangitikei.

Submitter #419 notes that it benefits the whole community.

Submitter #328 states that it would make the community proud to be members of the community if it is fresh and inviting.

Submitter #379 believes that it will be good for Council to spend the money as it will show that we take pride in our town.

Submitter #417 believes that a thriving town centre is essential to maintain and encourage economic development and community wellbeing.

Submitter #405 recognises the need to revitalise Marton main street, and notes that it is easier than Taihape and Bulls due to it not being on a state highway.

Submitter #364 supports a comprehensive revitalisation plan for Marton focusing on enhancing the streetscape and overall aesthetic appeal of the main street.

Submitter #438 suggests the town is overdue for a makeover.

Submitter #417 notes that leadership form Council will generate buy-in from the community and local businesses.

Submitter #357 believes that Council needs to show some leadership and invest in this part of the district as it has been lacking investment for some time.

Officer Analysis

Council officers acknowledge the comments from submitters making note of their support of the Town Centre upgrade for Marton. There are comments highlight the benefits for the community, businesses, and economic wellbeing of the district. These comments align with those received in the development of the Community Spatial Plan, Pae Tawhiti Rangitīkei Beyond which strongly supported town centre revitalisation as a key priority.

Streetscape design

Submitters #136, #213, #257, #281 suggest that access for cars is removed from the main street. Submitter #281 suggests the section from Guang Dong to the roundabout by the post office for pedestrianisation. Submitter #213 would like traffic diverted so cafes have room to put tables on the street, while Submitter #281 considers that making the area pedestrian only would make the town centre feel more like a location.

Submitters #213 and #411 suggest that the hedges at the corners are removed. Submitter #213 states that they collect rubbish and hide children and mobility scooter uses from traffic. The submitter suggests flower beds such as the ones in Feilding. Submitter #411 suggests replacement with smaller gardens so drivers can see pedestrians and improve safety.

Submitters #362, #364 would like the two roundabouts upgraded to improve traffic flow and enhance aesthetics.

Submitter #411 requests that oversized vehicles are restricted from parking in the high street as it is a safety issue.

Submitter #042 only supports this option if a pedestrian crossing is put in the middle of Broadway, where the benches are.

Submitter #411 would like more seating along the main shopping road for elderly and young families. This submitter would like a seat in his father's name John Wilson, former mayor. The submitter notes that Wilson Place is not named after him.

Submitter #323 suggests the wooden lounge seat and fairy mushrooms are removed and a space is created outside Countdown for the BBQ.

Submitter #136 suggests walking paths, gardens, seats, open air stage, outdoor movie screen, whanau friendly brightly painted buildings, and coloured solar street lights.

Submitter #213 would like the Captain Cook statue moved to Cooks Cottage as people find the statue offensive.

Submitter #221 states that there is nothing wrong with a few picket fences, Arrow Town and Greytown are pleasant places to be.

Submitter #213 proposes that an archway is built across the main street with a town clock hanging off it.

Submitters #362, #364 suggest that adding new lights in the verandas along main street to create a welcoming and safe environment.

Submitter #417 notes that this is a start and hopes that it will be extended to side streets in the future. Submitter #437 a local business owner, suggests including Broadway (from Wards Furniture) to New World, not just between the roundabouts as all businesses need to be included.

Officer Analysis

Council Officers acknowledge there is a lot of interest in the design features of any town centre upgrade in Marton. Should Council proceed with the upgrade project, the ideas we received through this consultation will be incorporated in the design and planning phase of the Town Centre Upgrade project.

Cooks Wall and Village Green

Four submitters provided comments on the Cooks wall:

- Submitter #362 would like the Cooks and village green wall replaced as it presents a negative image for the town centre.
- Submitter #364 suggests that the wall next to Cooks bar and village green presents an opportunity for creative community development. The submitter suggests installing glass doors or windows to add a modern touch.
- Submitter #411 asks that the Cooks wall is fixed to make it more attractive.
- Submitter #213 suggests a false wall is built on the corner of the green space to hide the Cooks wall. The wall could then be used for a mural depicting the town and culture.

Three submitters provided suggestions for the development of the Village Green:

- Submitter #213 suggests the placement of BBQ tables on the green space. Plaques could be placed on the tables representing people such as John Wilson a former Mayor, Paul Melody a Historian or others who have contributed to Marton.
- Submitter #315 suggests a coin BBQ and picnic tables at the grass area by Mad Tom's and a lease for car boot sales each week.
- Submitter #411 would like the green space to have picnic tables and permanent weather round furniture for areas for people to sit and eat and socialize.
- Submitter #411 suggests that food trucks are regularly invited to the green.
- Submitter #411 asks when the town clock will be back. The submitter suggests that it could be placed at the village green, so it is central.
- Submitter #364 states that the village green is underutilised and unattractive and would like picnic tables to encourage community gatherings and enhance the overall appeal.
- Submitter #437 suggests the village green is utilised more.

Officer Analysis

In response to the submitters who made comment regarding the 'Cooks Wall', Council Officers can confirm work is being done to prioritise this work and the intention is to bring a decision paper to Council in 2024 with potential solutions and costs for the wall.

In response to suggestions for the development of the 'Village Green', these features and ideas will be included in the design and planning phase of the Town Centre Upgrade project if it is progressed.

Growth

Submitters #189 and #417 consider it is important that the town centre should be invested in as the population grows. Submitters #270 and #379 believe that the revitalisation will attract people to town. Submitter #298 considers the town is in need of an upgrade and modernisation to attract more people. Submitter #210 believes that the town centre is ripe for development and improvements will benefit residents, visitors and retail.

Five submitters specifically reference the potential to attract new residents:

- Submitter #043 suggests that we should draw more people to Marton so there are more people paying rates.

- Submitter #174 would like Council to make Marton the most sought after town to live in. The submitter believes that if Council brings the town centre back to life, the people will follow.
- Submitter #278 considers there is a need to build the profile of the main street to attract locals.
- Submitter #390 states that we need to keep moving forward to get people to want to come and live in Marton.

Eight submitters identify benefits for supporting Marton attract visitors:

- Submitter #048, #051 believes that Marton has the potential to be a destination boutique town if the money is invested into Marton.
- Submitter #189 believes that it would make the town more desirable for visitors.
- Submitter #221 states that a more pleasing town centre will attract visitors.
- Submitter #142 considers that our annual events bring in visitors from out of the district and the least we could do is leave a lasting impression and show that we are unique.
- Submitter #077 states that Marton is in the middle of nowhere. While being halfway to everywhere. Upgrading the main street would make Marton a place people may consider visiting.
- Submitter #224 states that Marton should be made a place that people want to visit such as Greytown or Hokitika. The submitter notes that these towns are smaller population but has more popularity.
- Submitter #278 considers there is a need to build the profile of the main street to attract visitors.

Submitter #270 would like Marton advertised to state highway travellers and Whanganui and Manawatu visitors.

Five submitters identify benefits for businesses:

- Submitter #189 believes that it would make the town more desirable for businesses.
- Submitter #192 believes that people may want to start selling things in the main street if the street was inviting with shops that look nice.
- Submitter #200 believes that revitalisation is important for existing businesses and will encourage new businesses into town.
- Submitter #278 considers the upgrade is crucial to keeping the street looking and functioning well and to help businesses thrive.
- Submitter #417 is concerned that if the town centre is not revitalized, there will be business loss in Marton, or Rangitīkei altogether as businesses are carefully considering the location of their business. This submitter states that it will support and reward existing businesses, while attracting new businesses.

Officer Analysis

Council officers acknowledge the comments from submitters making note of their support of the Town Centre upgrade for Marton. There are comments that highlight the benefits of this project for the community, businesses, and economic wellbeing of the district.

Current state of the town centre

Submitter #196 believes that something needs to be done with the old empty buildings. The submitter comments that the town has great new subdivisions, but the town centre does not match reflect this, and states that they believe this is why people shop out of town.

Submitter #045 states that it is an eyesore and needs to be upgraded.

Submitter #074 says that the Marton main street is tired, dirty and unappealing so they wholeheartedly agree with the revitalisation.

Submitter #137 states that the town looks tired and lacks appeal, the revitalisation is desperately needed.

Submitter #172 states that they have meet people using the towns facilities who think that Marton is great, but the submitter thinks the town centre is embarrassing.

Submitter #408 has sold commercial properties in Marton and common feedback they receive is that the main street looks tired and neglected, the retail sector does not look overly busy, and that there is a lot of potential in the strong heritage displayed in the building. The submitter notes it is hard to defend when trying to encourage people to invest in the region.

Officer Analysis

Council Officers acknowledge the comments from submitters regarding the look and feel of the Marton town centre. In response to the comments made regarding empty buildings, they are the responsibility of property owners to maintain, and Council has been actively working with property owners to encourage maintenance and improvements to buildings.

Privately owned buildings

Submitter #446 suggests Marton businesses should be consulted to improve the front signage of their buildings.

Submitter #352 states that shop frontages need to be tidied up, and that out of towners have noticed.

Submitter #371 would like owners of empty premises encouraged to keep windows and visible spaces cleaner and tidy. The submitter considers that some are shabby and spoiling it for the majority.

Submitter #364 recommends that all buildings along the main street are painted to give them a fresh and uniform appearance to enhance the overall visual appeal.

Submitter #172 suggests that just a paint job would be great.

Submitter #221 suggests that the streets are made to look clean, and the building painted keeping within the vintage era.

Submitter #296 suggests demolishing the old buildings, make them earthquake-proof and tidy.

Submitter #200 believes that Marton could be a pretty town if the historic buildings were renovated.

Submitter #417 notes that the impact of the vacant buildings needs to be considered.

Submitter #411 suggests that the empty shops could have fake window dressing to look more used and attractive.

Submitter #424 states that there are some amazing historical buildings and notes that in Australia there are places that treasure the architecture and create funky spaces.

Submitter # 221 believes that Marton has some characterful features that should be looked after.

Submitter #233 suggests that the buildings that are not in uses should be demolished. The submitter states that we need shops that people can rent or buy.

Officer Analysis
Privately owned buildings are the responsibility of the property owners. Council is actively working with building owners and businesses in Marton Town Centre to encourage maintenance and improvements to the buildings on Broadway. There has been some good progress made with buildings being painted and others in the planning stage.

Priorities and funding
Submitter #200 believes that upgrading the town centre should be at the top of Councils priorities.

Submitter #270 would like Council to undertake the streetscape revitalisation before implementing kerbside recycling or opening the pool all year.

Submitter #088 would like Marton to be revitalised as long as it is not at the expense of the pool. If it was one or the other, they would support keeping the pool open all year.

Submitter #048 shares their concern that the bulk of the money will be spent in Taihape leaving little for Marton.

Submitter #446 questions who will pay for the project and notes that all ratepayers pay for the plans as this benefits Rangitīkei.

Submitter #311 would want to keep it to a tight budget, so nothing too flash as adds to debt and rates.

Submitter #213 suggests that the green space is used to hold monthly night stalls. Each stall holder could be charged $15 with the money directly paying for the upgrades.

Officer Analysis
Council officers note the comments from submitters regarding the priority be given to this project. Council will determine the outcomes of the key choices in the Long Term Plan after considering feedback from submitters. Regarding the funding of the project, it is anticipated this project will be funded districtwide through the Uniform Annual General Charge which is consistent with other capital projects like Civic Centres.

Upgrading other town centres
Submitter #142 says Marton is a start, and Council should continue with Bulls, Hunterville, Mangaweka and Taihape.

Submitter #419 hopes other towns will be next.

Submitter #333 requests that Council reinstates the $9m for the upgrade of the Taihape Town Centre as on the 2021-2031 LTP as based on the 2017 Town Centre drawings. The submitter notes that the Taihape town centre is looking derelict and missing out from the trade of passing traffic on state highway 1 as well as lacking appeal to local shoppers.

Submitter #327 requests that Hunterville is also invested in. The submitter states that the community is already undertaking beautification projects but requires a small monetary assistance including $1300.00 for Christmas flags that will be maintained by the community, $1300 for Christmas lights to be maintained by the community, $1500 to replace town centre seating to be maintained by the community, and requests the installation of a concrete pad and fence on the council berm for Kiwiburn artwork for an unknown cost that Kiwiburn will maintain. The submitter suggests that Council begin with Hunterville as it is a community that gets the job done with community effort.

Officer Analysis

We know the town centres in Taihape and Bulls are also facing similar challenges in the main streets. In the short term Council will continue to invest in the district-wide initiatives identified above (e.g. rates remission, business support), implement town centre revitalisation projects, and for Taihape, implement the Taihape Town Hall and Library redevelopment. Following the street upgrade for Marton, Council will consider street upgrades for Bulls and Taihape. Bulls and Taihape are more challenging because the main roads are under the control of NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi.

Regarding the Taihape Town Hall, this is an existing project which has its own budget and has previously been confirmed as a project by Council.

In response to submitter #327, Council officers have written separately encouraging the community to apply to the Creative Communities and Community Initiatives FFund.

Other comments

Submitter #277 suggests Council should have put their new offices in the empty buildings on the corner of Broadway and High Street.

Submitter #357 states that business owners feel let down that Council is not investing in the corner buildings, and this investment will restore some faith.

Submitter #047 has recently opened Rangitikei Signs and Designs so would love to be part of making the main street of Marton more visually appealing with signage highlighting features, maps and town information highlighting our history and culture.

Submitter #364 suggests that Council collaborates with Business Rangitikei to leverages resources and expertise.

Submitter #371 would like Council to continue to keep the main street footpath clean and tidy.

Submitter #407 notes that it does not affect them as they do not live in Marton.

Submitter #213 would like the space to be called Tu Tae Nui, meaning a big gathering. The submitter shares that this is the original name for Marton and honours our Iwi.

Submitter #195 suggests that the revitalisation is completed in stages.

Submitter #051 wants to make Marton the new Greytown.

Submitter #261 states that some communities have managed upgrades well, however they are populated with wealthy individuals.

Submitter #408 believes that the Town Centre Plan would be a great foundation to build an initiative for the Marton main street. Submitter #417 references that 2014 town centre plan, and considers no progress has been made on it.

Submitter #408 notes similar projects they have been involved in which should encourage Council to progress with the upgrade. They suggest that an investment in the town centre must occur, it will show leadership which will encourage our community and business to stay and grow.

Submitter #417 states that Marton is a service hub that provides services to suburban and rural residents.

Submitter #187 would like the town centre to showcase some of the things that that go on in Marton, such as country music, Harvest Festival, and wood chopping.

Officer Analysis

In response to submitters #277 and #357, Council has undertaken a thorough and detailed decision making process regarding the future site for Council Administration and Library services in Marton. In December 2023, Council resolved to re-build at the current site of 46 High Street, Marton and in February 2024, resolved to place the Council owned buildings on the corner of High Street and Broadway on the market for sale.

In response to submitter #047, we thank the submitter for showing interest in being involved with the Town Centre upgrade. Council has a procurement policy which it follows when awarding Council services and work.

In response to submitter #364, Council is working in partnership with Business Rangitīkei to deliver strong outcomes for business in the Rangitīkei District.

In response to submitter #371, the outcome of this key choice will not result in a change of service delivery when it comes to keeping the main street footpath clean and tidy.

In response to submitter #407, Council officers would like to point out that residents living outside of Marton may still feel affected by this decision as the costs of the project are anticipated to be $18 per year through their UAGC while also noting any growth in rates generated because of the project will benefit the entire rate payer base in the district.

In response to submitter #213, #195, #051, #261, #408, #417 and #187, Council officers acknowledge all of the feedback and ideas we have received through this consultation will be incorporated in the design and planning phase of the Town Centre Upgrade project. This will include feedback received from the 2023 consultation on the Pae Tawhiti Rangitīkei Beyond, Community Spatial Plan and the 2014 Town Centre Plan. There will be further consultation opportunities throughout the project, if it goes ahead, where we will encourage and welcome feedback.

Option 2: Status quo – do not invest

Submitters and submission numbers

Allyson Tweed (#005), Amanda (#006), Christine (#013), Claire Pettigrew (#014), Erin Wigglesworth (#016), Jacqueline Cootes (#022), Janine Precey (#027), Jean Fuldseth (#028), Justine Aston-Dyson (#032), Katherine Smyth (#036), Katie Annear (#037), Kelsi (#039), Kim (#040), Kimberley Huxley (#041), Scott Oliver (#065), Susan Gibbons (#067), Susan O'Regan (#068), Tony Maas (#070), Catherine Rebecca & Rabindra Manuel (#080), Denise Nelson (#083), Nadine (#092), Nerolie Goddard (#093), Pauline Boyle (#095), Praveen Singam (#096), Rachael (#097), Claire Drummind (#107), Harmony (#108), Kelly George (#109), Nia Carter (#110), Barbara Smissen (#120), Cam Torrie (#123), Charlotte Rattenbury (#125), Christine McNicol (#128), Dana (#130), David Smissen (#131), Donna Hicks (#133), Hayley Wanden (#140), J (#143), Jan Peacock (#144), Kate (#150), Kopere Downs (#154), Lisa (#159), Marian Anderson (#161), Mitchell Corbett (#163), Molly (#164), Pamela (#167), Rach (#168), Robert Kernohan (#171), Shane Sorensen (#179), Stevie (#181), Taisha George (#183), Tessa Nitschke (#185), Tim Adam (#186), Aimee Faulkner (#188), Anne McAleece (#193), Ashleigh De'Adman (#194), Beverley Toulmin (#197), Brenda Devane (#198), Charlotte (#199), Christin Calkin (#201), Danelle Whakatihi (#203), Diane (#204), Emma Watson (#207), Erin Woods (#208), Gaylene Avery (#209), Jayme Thorby (#218), Jeena (#219), Jeremy Day (#220), Joanne Simpson (#222), Jodie (#223), Kathleen Te Momo-Smith (#229), Katrina O'Brien (#230), Khan Coleman (#232), Kinsley (#234), Kira Swainson (#235), Lizzie (#242), Manaia White (#244), Marcel Stiefel (#245), Mark Roche (#246), Michael de Laborde (#247), Monique (#249), Monique Keenan (#250), Natasha Dmith (#252), Rachel Parker (#258), Rebecca (#259), Sale Stowers – Farmlands Food (#263), Sherilyn Tasker (#265), Sonya (#267), Steven Charles Smith (#269), Tiffany (#273), Tim Wilson (#274), Azaliah Patrina (#279), Chanelle Theobald (#280), David McMillan (#282), Jolanda Duxfield (#284), Katie Noble (#286), Ken Bellamy (#287), Mathew Noble (#289), Paul Sharland (#291), Steve (#292), Jade Gray (#294), Andy Law (#295), Leah Gray (#299), Raewyn Hughes (#300), Dee Donald & James Donald (#302), Paul Hughes (#304), Neill Gordon (#306), Gilby Kawana (#309), Kingsley Moorhouse (#313), Mel Pera (#314), Rosie Gilbert (#318), Delwyn McGinity (#321), Griffin (#348), Christine Gregory (#349), Andrew Nicholls (#350), Craig Donovan (#358), Jenny Greener (#361), Lyn Duncan (#363), John Coley (#365), no details provided (#366), Allan Cant (#370), Alan Bates (#374), Amanda Jane Emery (#375), Andrew Haworth (#377), Charissa Lawlor (#384), De Anna Green (#386), Deb Haworth (#387), Dell Pugmire (#388), Gabriel McCartin (#389), James F Russell (#391), Joe Deere (#392), Kimiora King (#397), Lyn Turner (#398), Rod & Anna Hardy (#410), Shirley R Russell (#412), Stephanie Marsh (#413), Susannah Revell (#414), Gregory Smith (#416), Genevieve Nicholls (#420), Alison Tilley (#422), P Allan (#423), Antonia Metz (#426), Carolyn Bates - Marton Community Committee (#427), Federated Farmers (#429), Felicity Wallace, Interested Residents of Marton and Rangitīkei (#433), Len Robinson (#434), Regan Laing (#435), Peter McDonnell (#442), Bruce Dear (#444), Kylie Toka (#445), Roxanne Phillips (#447), David Monteith (#449), Rodger Rangi (#450), Ian Benson (#453)

Summary of Submissions

Upgrade not required

Submitter #095, #252, #318, #321, #426 do not consider an upgrade is needed.

Submitter #185, #197 like the Main Street as it is.

Submitters #027 and #391 believe that Marton looks fine.

Submitters #185, #197, #204 note they like the hanging baskets.

Submitter #041 believes that the gardens are still nice and that it is still a pretty town.

Submitter #294 considers the Marton main street is already a nice place but could open up the landscape so that residents can see the mountain.

Submitter #230 believes that Marton always looks tidy.

Officer Analysis
Council officers acknowledge the comments of submitters that consider the Marton town centre already looks nice with planting and hanging baskets and notes the improvement comments made.

Affordability and funding

Submitters #143, #267, #350, #420 request that Council sticks to the essentials, as times are tough for ratepayers. Submitter #412 states that expenditure on projects such as this should be kept to a minimum.

Submitters #185, #229, #269, #292 consider that it would be a waste of money.

Submitter #300 considers it will not achieve much and will be hugely costly.

Submitter #366 believes that it is a waste of money as many of the buildings are empty, and the old buildings with heritage status cannot be changed.

The following submitters raise concerns about affordability, rates and debt:

- Submitter #358 believes this project should be shelved due to the current climate.
- Submitter #410 states that this is unaffordable in the current economic climate.
- Submitter #220 states that these improvements are a nice to have and is not essential in a cost of living crisis.
- Submitter #068 acknowledges that a facelift would be good, but money needs to be spent carefully at this time where grocery prices are huge.
- Submitter #295 states that we can't afford it.
- Submitter #302 does not want the extra rates.
- Submitter #109 does not use the town centre so does not want their rates increased to pay for it.
- Submitter #291 does not want to see another $2.1 million added to debt and an increase in rates.
- Submitter #348 states that we are in a recession.
- Submitter #304 does not think Council should take on debt to fund the upgrade. The submitter strongly objects.
- Submitter #412 states that we should keep our neighbourhoods neat and tidy without more big debts.
- Submitter #384 believes that $2 million is an excessive amount especially as it does not include the buildings that are in need of attention.
- Submitter #384 believes that it is unfortunate that rates need to increase so much to provide for things such as the main street upgrade but the pool as a community asset is preferred by Council to close over winter.
- Submitter #429 states that it is an unnecessary expense that Council cannot afford.
- Submitter #434 considers investment in town centres is a waste of time and that history supports this consideration. The submitter provides comments regarding business

sustainability and diversity, the need for parking, suggests removing trees, and pedestrian crossings. The submitter suggests demolishing old buildings and construct a supermarket with parking behind (suggesting only facades need to be rebuilt). The submitter supports the Council decision to rebuild at the 46 High Street site, but raises concerns about the cycle lane.

Submitter #167 states that it would have been logical to maintain the street upgrades already put in place. The submitter states that Council has let it all run to ruin so why throw more good money after bad to fix what Council chose to neglect.

Submitter #220 asks that Council provides the detailed business case that shows the return.

Submitter #284 considers $2.1 million is a significant investment for just one town. This submitter suggests a Home Town Takeover where an initiative was done (like an HGTV show) alongside the community and sponsors.

Submitter #450 considers main street businesses should fund the proposal and it is a waste of time without attracting new business tenants.

Submitter #204 does not think that ratepayers should pay to keep the shops looking up to scratch, the building owners should be responsible.

Submitter #429 believes that if the revitalization does go ahead, it should be paid through a targeted rate for commercially zoned properties fronting the main street rather than a general rate. The submitter states that the upgrade would not commercially benefit anyone else, particularly farmers.

Submitter #384 asks if the Marton Community Committee or Marton Development Trust should be coordinating this, the same way that Hunterville does and continues to beautify their community.

Officer Analysis

Council does not anticipate any reduction in services as a result of this Long Term Plan 2024-34 and the decision to proceed or not proceed with Key Choice 3 will not have an impact on existing Council services.

The initial costs of the project are budgeted to be $100,000 which is to be used for design and planning followed by construction and implementation which has a budget of $2m which will be debt funded and has an anticipated cost of $18 per ratepayer property via UAGC.

The project is going to begin with a design and planning phase which will include community and stakeholder engagement which will be used to measure costs against benefits. Stakeholders in the project include (and not limited to) businesses, community groups, and users of the town centre.

The upgrade does not currently include any scope to spend funds on privately owned properties and the maintenance or improvements of these buildings are at the discretion of the property owners. Council is actively working with building owners and businesses in Marton town centre to encourage maintenance and improvements to the buildings on Broadway. There has been some good progress made with buildings being painted and others in the planning stage.

Regarding the funding of the project, it is anticipated this project will be funded districtwide through the Uniform Annual General Charge which is consistent with other capital projects like Civic Centres.

Other priorities

Submitter #083 does not think this should be a priority.

Submitter #013 believes that the money could be better spent elsewhere.

Submitter #286 notes the need to make the town centre welcoming, they consider the town upgrade is a low priority in the current economic climate and suggests higher priorities are paying off debt or investing in infrastructure (e.g. the pool).

Submitter #161 would rather this cosmetic upgrade wait until the more important infrastructure upgrades have been completed. Submitter #349 suggests that money saved by not revitalizing the town centre could be spent on roads. Submitter #245 would like Council to make the water drinkable first.

Submitter #219 would like this money to go towards keeping the pool open all year. Submitter #095 believes it is more sensible to have the pool open all year or kerbside rubbish collection rather than upgrading the main street.

Submitter #040 states that Marton is not worth the investment as it does not attract tourists and is not on the way to anywhere. The submitter suggests that Council should invest in growing communities.

Submitter #294 suggests the money should be invested in town assets and community engagement activities.

Officer Analysis

Officers acknowledge there are various priorities within the community. Council will decide following consideration of submissions which priorities to progress. Council's strategic framework guides this decision-making process. One of the Strategic Priorities for Rangitikei District Council is Town Centre Revitalisation.

Buildings

Submitter #442 asks what has been done to tidy up buildings, before money is spent on roadways.

Submitter #433 would like Council to engage with building owners to assist with strengthening and upgrade work before landscaping is proposed.

Submitter #230 suggests that businesses band together to beautify their shop frontage with a few dollars from Council that they apply for. The submitter does not think a full main street maker is necessary. The submitter comments that people need to take ownership.

Submitter #361 suggests that building owners taking more pride in the appearance of their building will make a huge difference. Submitter #444 considers that shop owners do not show any interest in improving the look of the area so ratepayers should not fund upgrades.

Submitter #427 suggests that it would be helpful to work with existing businesses to encourage improvement to the frontages.

Submitter #410 states the problem is not the layout, but rather the rundown buildings, noting that the one owned by Council is the worst. Submitter #287 does not think the proposal makes sense as there is no design and there are issues with earthquake-prone buildings.

Submitter #363 suggests that businesses paint their shop frontages.

Submitter #445 considers there is no need to spend money on the main street other than to fix up the unused, propped up buildings on the corner. This submitter considers the main street is an attractive part of Marton. The submitter notes the seating and gardens that were introduced and does not consider the investment would make a difference in the ambiance of the township. This submitter suggests Council focus on the village green which has potential to be an attractive community space.

Submitter #265 believes that revitalisation of the buildings is needed rather than upgrading the streetscape.

Submitter #410 states that what Council has done in the past to encourage building owners to upgrade their buildings in the past has obviously not worked and needs a fresh approach.

Submitter #410 would rather Council focus on upgrading the buildings.

Submitter #171 identifies that Marton is under utilised and the buildings are aging. The submitter states that Countdown cannot expand due to arbitrary restrictions placed on the demolition of old buildings. The submitter believes that Council needs to acknowledge that the majority of buildings are too old and decrepit and will never be financially viable to bring up to building code, otherwise the town centre should be moved elsewhere.

Submitter #070 suggests that Council bowls the old buildings first.

Submitter #171 suggests that instead of putting lipstick on a pig, some of the buildings should be demolished to allow the town to rejuvenate itself. The submitter suggests if Council has to it could stipulate that any new buildings must look similar to the heritage building previously on the site.

Officer Analysis

Privately owned buildings are the responsibility of the property owners. Council is actively working with building owners and businesses in the Marton Town Centre to encourage maintenance and improvements to the buildings on Broadway. Council has previously partnered with relevant industry professionals to organise workshops on earthquake prone buildings in Taihape, Bulls and Marton, which were well attended.

Regarding the Council owned buildings on the corner of High Street and Broadway, in February 2024, Council resolved to put the properties on the market as they were deemed surplus to requirements.

Maintenance

Submitter #449 does not consider the town centre needs revitalisation. This submitter considers all that is needed is maintenance of the existing areas, with an occasional revamp.

Submitter #433 considers the main street needs better maintenance and cleaning. Submitter #370 believes that the gardens just need general maintenance. Submitter #398 does not want Marton to end up looking like other towns as it has its own character, and that the streets just need a clean.

Submitter #431 provided commentary on the current state of the Marton town centre and suggests that increase maintenance is needed. Submitter #431 suggests the proposed funding would cover substantial maintenance for the whole district.

Submitter #426 states that the existing gardens should be maintain and occasionally revamped within the parks budget.

Submitter #041 thinks that the only thing that needs done is to paint the new timber on the street.

Submitter #431 raises concern about the lack of commentary regarding town centres in asset management plans and suggests their maintenance should be planned for just like for roading, waters and other assets.

Officer Analysis
Council is not proposing a change in service delivery for the main street of Marton. It is focused on revitalising the Town Centre to encourage business and potentially future development.

The current budgets allow for regular pick up of litter, cleaning of curbs and emptying of rubbish bins. The budget also allows for garden maintenance including weeding, cutting of hedges, mulching and replacement of plants as required. There is also a bi-annual water-blasting of the footpath on Broadway. It is recognised an increase in budgets would have a corresponding increase in maintenance which could lead to improvements to Town Centres on a scale smaller than a transformational upgrade.

Officers also note the wooden support structures attached to the Council owned buildings on Broadway have now been painted.

Village green
Submitter #398 likes the village green but would like it enhanced using trees, picnic tables or seating.

Submitter #398 would like to see monthly markets and food trucks to generate use of the village green.

Submitter #110 states that having a visually pleasing environment with activities in the village green, will encourage more people to come into town.

Submitter #363 would prefer that the green space is improved instead. The submitter suggests a barbeque, toilets and seating is added. The submitter also suggests the stage and the cooks wall is improved.

Submitter #433 suggests Council has an obligation to support the brick party wall between the Village Green and Cooks Building and asks when the work will be completed.

Submitter #426 likes the new green space and feels that it will be a shame to build on this space. The submitter suggests that a few trees and seats could be added for people to eat lunch.

Submitter #449 supports the retention of the green space in town, and does not want buildings on the site, but suggests trees and seats.

Officer Analysis
Council officers acknowledge the submitters comments regarding the village green and any options or ideas for this space will be considered in the design and planning phase should the project proceed.

In response to the submitters who made comment regarding the 'Cooks Wall', Council Officers can confirm work is being done to prioritise this work and the intention is to bring a decision paper to Council in 2024 with potential solutions and costs for each proposal.

Plans and projects

Submitter #431 suggests that an increased evidence base is needed before making substantial streetscape changes for Marton. They recommend that an analysis of all of the town centres throughout the district is undertaken in conjunction with the community committees/boards and the outcome of that process shared with the community before a final decision is made.

Submitter #410 asks if this is a rehash of the 2014 proposal?

Submitter #427 asks why pervious proposals are not further developed and built upon.

Submitter #410 states that Broadway has had a makeover in the past and the wooden decking and seats need maintenance. Council should look after what we have got before starting new projects.

Submitter #375 states that we saw what happened when Council got the consultant from Australia.

Submitter #433 considers the main street upgrade to be “lipstick on a pig” and suggests a long term vision is needed which involves the whole community. The submitter suggests relying on community groups to donate shelters is not a good plan. The submitter does not support engaging consultants prior to community consultation. The submitter suggests Council explore why residents are moving to Marton, why they stay and why they leave.

Submitter #410 states that they cannot be in favour of the revitalisation with only a vague wish list of what the money will be spent on.

Officer Analysis

Council Officers can confirm this project is not a 'rehash' of the 2014 proposal. The 2014 Marton Town Centre Plan focused on identifying key strategies for the town centre. The town centre plan was developed alongside the community (as were the town centre plans across the district). For Marton, the Town Centre Plan includes four key strategies:

1. Make great streets and public places.
2. Adaptive reuse of old buildings.
3. New civic centre as a catalyst.
4. Deliver boutique town.

At the time funding was made available for community-led placemaking projects. However, this funding was reduced over time due to limited uptake. The proposed streetscape upgrade aligns with implementing strategies - 1 ‘Make great streets and public places’ and - 4 ‘deliver boutique town’. The proposed streetscape upgrade will look for opportunities to improve the pedestrian experience, create shared spaces, provide wayfinding landmarks, attract people to visit Marton, enable retailers to better engage with the street, and ensure Marton develops its own boutique style town.

The proposed project also aligns with Pae Tawhiti Rangitīkei Beyond, Community Spatial Plan. Community consultation during the development of this strategy and action plan showed that town centre revitalisation was the top priority for the Marton community.

This project is pitched as ‘transformational change’ to implement existing strategic direction, with a planning and design phase followed by construction phase. The planning and design phase will

explore options for any of the existing features of Marton Town Centre and create the detailed design.

Other towns

Submitter #220 states that this is not essential to anyone outside the Marton township.

Submitter #230 states that Taihape needs more work done on the main street.

Submitter #304 suggests that Bulls and Taihape should be able to claim similar treatment.

Officer Analysis

Council is aware the town centres in Taihape and Bulls are also facing similar challenges. In the short term Council will continue to invest in the district-wide initiatives identified above (e.g. rates remission and business support), implement town centre revitalisation projects, and for Taihape, implement the Taihape Town Hall and Library redevelopment. Following the street upgrade for Marton, Council will consider street upgrades for Bulls and Taihape. Bulls and Taihape are more challenging because the main roads are under the control of NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi.

Further comments

Submitter #291 does not consider the proposed upgrade will not attract people to move and live in Marton. This submitter also notes the other towns need upgrading. The submitter states there is no plan to look at and questions what a plan will cost. Submitter #292 does not consider the revitalisation is likely to increase foot traffic as Marton is not a tourist or service town

Submitter #366 does not want more flower or statues that vandals will wreck.

Submitter #041 states that the Christmas flags are very tired.

Submitter #366 states that there are currently not many parking spaces. Submitter #370 states that the main street is tight enough for parking, and this would not make sense.

Submitter #313 considers Council should make the town centre fun rather than pretty.

Submitters #359, #426, and #449 would like the toilets reopened.

Submitter #208 asks if it is referring to Main Street in the Junction.

Submitter #375 respects the service groups in Marton who do great things for the town that are long term and valid. Also the Marton Development Group.

Submitter #375 state that now you are painting potholes?

Submitter #427 believes this should be readdressed during the next Long Term Plan, once the corner building is sold. This would give Council a better idea of what is appropriate for Broadway.

Submitter #433 raises concerns about the disruption to businesses from upgrading works during a time when these businesses are reliant on foot traffic.

Submitter #433 considers that landscaping would be at risk of damage from building that are not strengthened in the event of an earthquake.

Officer Analysis
In response to submitters #291, #292, #366, #041, #370, and #313, any features or ideas for the town centre upgrade will be generated through the design and planning phase of the project.

In response to submitters #426 and #449, Marton Town Centre has public toilets located at Centennial Park, Marton Park and Te Āhuru Mōwai Playground.

In response to submitter #208, this is referring to the “Main Street" of Marton which is Broadway. Officers note the potential for confusion with the street called Main Street and will note this for future public communications regarding this project.

In response to submitter #375, Council acknowledges the comments of the submitter and often works alongside these groups to support them with delivery of their projects.

In response to submitter #375, Officers confirm Council is not planning on painting potholes as part of the 2024-34 Long Term Plan.

In response to submitter #427, Council has begun the process of selling the properties at the corner of High Street and Broadway. The proposed construction phase of the Marton Town Centre Upgrade is 2025/26 and it is anticipated the buildings on the corner will have been sold before this date.

In response to submitter #443, Council will work with businesses to mitigate any potential impact during construction as part of the design and planning phase. Council is well informed on the earthquake risk to its assets and infrastructure. Regular reviews of insurance cover are conducted to ensure risks are well protected from natural disaster.

Comments - something else, or did not specify

Submitters and submission numbers
Aimee Kohi (#003), Celeste (#011), Hayley Grant (#018), Jiselle Rider (#030), Paul Brady (#054), Sam Scott (#99), Anna McLean (#116), Chelsea Boyce (#126), Corey (#129), Kevin Whelan (#153), Sarah McVerry (#177), Damian Turner-Steele (#202), Linda Hale (#241), Michelle Donovan (#248), Nikita Tweeddale (#254), Ruby Ralph (#262), Chrissi Mullin (#293), Jo Rangooni (#303), Keith McCallum (#307), Fiona Moorhouse (#310), Justin Adams (#312), Randall Moorhouse (#317), Raewyn Turner (#330), Colleen Fenemor (#355), Geoff Duncan (#369), Angela McIntyre (#378), John Vickers (#393), Robin Cameron (#409), Tim Matthews (#425), Carolyn Bates (#428), Gretta Mills (#430), No name (#448).

Summary of submissions
Implementation
Submitter #153 suggests that Council engages a consultant to develop a range of options with cost estimates to consult on along with the status quo during 2025/26.

Submitter #303 notes that all stakeholders including property, businesses, and ratepayers should be included in the planning of parking, traffic flow, and business opportunity as there may be different opinions.

Submitter #018 suggests that Council generously funds Lions and Rotary to engage with the community and comes up with small scale improvements to take away anti-council sentiment and empower the community.

Officer Analysis

In response to submitter #153 and #303, Council officers would be planning on using the $100,000 in 2024/25 to develop the design and plan, which would then be considered by Council before implementation and construction begins. The stakeholders mentioned would be included to capture their thoughts and feedback during the design and planning phase.

Community organisations regularly apply to Council for funding for their projects via the various grants Council sets funds aside for. Council has not received a request from Lions or Rotary to lead town centre revitalisation initiatives. A placemaking fund had previously been available for small scale community-led town centre placemaking projects, however, the fund was reduced over time due to little uptake.

Financial

Submitter #241 requests that revitalising the main street is deferred to the next Long Term plan due to the current tough economic climate.

Submitter #355 asks that Council holds off for the foreseeable future as money should not be spent on non-essentials during the current economic climate.

Submitter #330 supports option one but with a budget of $200,000 divided equally between Marton, Bulls and Taihape.

Submitter #448 suggests the $100,000 for initial plan development to be funded by the Marton Community. The submitter notes that businesses and community groups in Hunterville do it themselves and it should be the same for Marton.

Submitter #409 states that too many people are facing cost of living struggles and do not need rates increases for new and fancy surroundings.

Submitter #254 states that many people would like to upgrade their own homes but can barely afford groceries.

Submitter #409 states let us have quality without big spends on modernising or streetscape revitalisation.

Submitter #425 states that this challenges the Revenue and Financing Policy in terms of beneficiaries and exacerbators and who should pay. The submitter states that this would only work if State Highway 1 was rerouted through Broadway to benefit as Bulls and Taihape does.

Submitter #428 believes that the businesses should contribute to any improvements as more people in town will likely increase spending.

Officer Analysis

In response to submitter #330, there is a $200,000 fund allocated to plans for Marton, Taihape and Bulls which is part of a project to be delivered within the next 2 years. This funding is a grant Council received from the Governments ‘Better Off’ fund. The fund will be used for small placemaking and wayfinding projects.

The submitters comments regarding affordability, project costs, and extra expenses are acknowledged.

In response to submitter #448, Council Officers encourage the various community groups in Hunterville to apply to the Community Initiatives and Creative Communities funds to support their projects.

In response to submitter #448, #425 and #428, it is anticipated this project will be funded districtwide through the Uniform Annual General Charge which is consistent with other capital projects like Civic Centres. Regarding reroutes to state highways, these are managed via Waka Kotahi and not the responsibility of Rangitīkei District Council.

Other priorities for town centre revitalisation

Submitter #177 would prefer that Council establishes an earthquake strengthening fund for building owners to fix their buildings.

Submitter #202 would prefer that Council takes responsibility for the corner building lead by example rather than paint and implement street improvements that do not encourage more businesses into town, and only look good for visitors and newspapers.

Submitter #011 states that there are too many empty shops, and that Council needs to invite more people to Marton.

Submitter #393 would prefer that Council helps people to occupy the buildings. The submitter notes that the use of the town buildings is gradually transforming. The submitter believes that haste may reduce opportunities as change is driven by legislation, but the legislation may change.

Submitter #428 would prefer the money is put towards regular maintenance or on simple things like cleaning windows of unoccupied buildings and tidying up the area between the fence and the wall of Cooks.

Submitter #428 believes other options such as getting businesses to tidy up their building frontages would be better. The submitter references the newly painted old post office, and the painted uprights on the Council owned building.

Submitter #430 considers Council's first priority should be supporting existing main street buildings which have been paying rates. The submitter considers brick buildings with shared walls will require a collective response. The submitter considers that the streetscape will be destroyed if building owners take the option to demolish their buildings and the street will end up with many 'village green' or buildings that are not well designed as replacements. The submitter considers collective action is required. This submitter suggests a three step process – 1. Major clean up including water blasting of windows and buildings; 2. Painting buildings; 3. Focus on earthquake strengthening buildings.

Submitter #011 would like to see the buildings upgraded.

Submitter #116 suggests that a water blast and a coat of paint would make a huge difference.

Submitter #409 only supports maintenance. The submitter believes that the buildings just need cleaning up and not painting.

Submitter #312 suggests an alternative proposal with 35 programmes as an alternative to the Marton Town Centre upgrade. The alternative proposal includes themes of agricultural innovation and productivity, education and workforce development, economic diversification, infrastructure improvement, market access and trade, fiscal and financial incentives, community engagement and

collaboration, sustainability and environmental stewardship, strategic planning and policy alignment, quality of life enhancements.

Submitter #126 suggests that Council makes new laws around landlord obligations around presentation. The submitters suggests that if empty buildings remain empty for a certain period of time, the windows are used for sign writing. These signs would be provided by council to promote the Rangitikei, paid for by the landlord.

Submitter #425 understands that co-funding using encouragement funds from three waters might be available for this purpose, but it would be better used to remove the restrictive aspects if the heritage designations on the properties fronting the same area if Heritage New Zealand is unwilling to put their money where their mouth is. The submitter states that buildings have a useful life no matter how pretty, and that these buildings cannot generate an economic return for their owners particularly where the rentals do not achieve Lambton Quay levels.

Officer Analysis

In response to submitters #177, #428, #430, #011, #116, and #409, comments made about privately owned buildings, they are the responsibility of property owners to maintain, and Council has been actively working with property owners to encourage maintenance and improvements to buildings.

In response to submitter #428 who made comment regarding the 'Cooks Wall', Council Officers can confirm work is being done to prioritise this work and the intention is to bring a decision paper to Council in 2024 with potential solutions and costs for each proposal.

In response to submitter #312, Council officers have begun to review our current Economic Development Strategy and are working on bringing a draft before Council by the end of 2024.

In response to submitter #425, Council applied for, and was successful in receiving funding from the 'Better Off' fund, which is an external grant provided by the Government. There is $200,000 allocated to plans for Marton, Taihape and Bulls which is part of a project to be delivered within the next 2 years. The fund will be used for small placemaking and wayfinding projects.

In response to submitter #126, Council is not able to make a bylaw prescribing how landlords present their properties. Through the Local Government Act 2002, Council can make a bylaw for the purpose of protecting the public from nuisance, public health and safety, or minimising offensive behaviour, Council is not able to adopt a bylaw for the purpose of maintaining aesthetics.

Other priorities for Council funding

Submitter #310 suggests using the money to pay for the pool first.

Submitter #378 believes that other projects such as good infrastructure is key to the region’s viability.

Submitter #030 thinks that drinking water is more important than superficial things like street decor.

Submitter #317 suggests the money is spent on the pool first and to think about the town afterwards.

Submitter #369 believes that the Taihape Town Hall should be prioritised over Marton revitalisation due to the failure of service in Taihape.

Officer Analysis
Council is currently investing $11m into the Marton Water Strategy which has an anticipated completion date of mid-2025.

The Taihape Town Hall is an existing project which has its own budget and is being progressed regardless of the decisions made by Council at this Long Term Plan.

As part of the Long Term Plan 2024-34, Council has asked the community for feedback on three key choices, two of which are the Marton Town Centre Upgrade and the pool opening year round. Council will decide on each key choice after receiving the feedback from submissions and hearings over the course of the Long Term Plan consultation.

Design comments
Submitter #428 does not support the use of historical colours, and would prefer the buildings to be brighter if they were repainted.

Submitter #003 requests the removal of the cook statue.

Submitter #030 asks what the design proposals are and if CCTV will be included to keep the community safe.

Submitter #293 suggests turning the corner into a carpark and have people walk to the town block, while providing for disability parking. This submitter is concerned that it is hard to see past big vehicles.

Submitter #409 states that the building facades are the soul of Marton.

Submitter #116 likes the trees and hanging baskets.

Officer Analysis
Council officers acknowledge there is a lot of interest in the design features of any Town Centre upgrade in Marton regardless of the choice they made regarding Key Choice 3. The ideas received through this consultation will be incorporated in the design and planning phase of the Town Centre Upgrade project should it proceed.

Further comments
Submitter #307 raises concerns that the proposed upgrade lacks focus and a clear plan for the $2.1 million spend. The submitter notes personal experience with an upgrade 20 years ago that went over time and over budget and impacted businesses due to disruption.

Submitter #153 states that the consultation document does not have the information needed to make an informed choice.

Submitter #409 does not like the band stand (new stage) and asks why a decent band rotunda was built or a marquee is not hired when required. The submitter suggests that it is removed, and gardens planted.

Submitter #303 supports Council offering the opportunity to revitalise the main street.

Submitter #129 does not live in Marton so does not feel best placed to comment on this topic.

Submitter #409 questions the need to earthquake strengthen the buildings as their 150 year old house and the building facades of those buildings have not been damaged by past earthquakes. The submitter assumes many are privately owned and Council can come to an arrangement with the owners.

Submitter #330 notes that it is difficult for business owners to make improvements when most buildings need earthquake strengthening so they do not have the money to invest in both.

Submitter #099 thinks that the main street is good as it is.

Submitter #428 ask what happened to regular maintenance to keep things cheerful, and notes that funding does not seem to have been allocated for continued maintenance?

Submitter #428 notes the work in the town centre after the 2014 Town Centre Plan recommendations but highlights that there was no continuation to build on this work and that it has been left to deteriorate.

Submitter #248 asks what about Taihape. The submitter states that it is on the State Highway.

Officer Analysis
In response to submitter #307 and #153, the project is to be split into two phases. The first phase will be design and planning which has a budget of $100,000 followed by construction and implementation phase which has an anticipated budget of $2 million. The objectives of the project are outlined in the Long-Term Plan 2024-34 consultation document. Any impact on business will be mitigated and addressed in the design and planning phase.

In response to submission #409, #303, #099, and #428, ideas and options for the upgrade will be considered as part of the design and planning phase. This will include things people want and will also include things people do not want as part of their Town Centre.

The comments from submitters #303 and #129 are acknowledged.

In response to submitter #248, we know the town centres in Taihape and Bulls are also facing similar challenges in the main streets. In the short term Council will continue to invest in the district-wide initiatives identified above (e.g. rates remission, business support), implement town centre revitalisation projects, and for Taihape, implement the Taihape Town Hall and Library redevelopment. Following the street upgrade for Marton, Council will consider street upgrades for Bulls and Taihape. Bulls and Taihape are more challenging because the main roads are under the control of NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi.

In response to #428, there is no proposed change in service delivery for the regular maintenance of the Marton main street. The 2014 Town Centre Plan for Marton is intended to be incorporated in the design and planning stage while also making note this plan was developed at a time where the local economic outlook for small towns in New Zealand was very different and many of the assumptions made when developing this plan are no longer relevant to the future needs of our town centre.

Summary of officer analysis

Council consulted on a proposal for streetscape revitalisation for the Marton Town Centre. There were 381 submitters that selected an option, with 52% of those submitters choosing Council's preferred option - to implement streetscape revitalisation for Marton. Key themes from those that

provided comments in support of streetscape revitalisation included views generally supporting the proposal, specific streetscape design suggestions, comments about the potential for the proposal to increase growth, the state of buildings in the town centre and the town centre itself, priorities for funding and other town centres. The most common comments from those that provided support for Option 1 were related to the potential benefits for growth including for attracting visitors, businesses, and attracting new residents.

Key themes from submitters that provided comment under Option 2 – status quo, were focused on affordability and funding, maintenance, considering that an upgrade is not needed, buildings, maintenance, the village green, existing plans, other priorities, and other towns. The most common comment raised was concern regarding affordability and funding.

Key themes from those who selected 'something else' included views around implementation, financial concerns, other priorities, and design comments. The most common comments focused on other priorities for town centre revitalisation, which generally focused on improving the buildings.

Officers recommend that Council proceeds with Option 1, streetscape revitalisation for Marton.

Recommendations

EITHER

That Council **approves** the budget of $2.1 million in the 2024-34 Long Term Plan to implement Key Choice 3, Option 1 – Streetscape revitalisation for Marton.

OR

That Council **removes** the budget of $2.1 million in the 2024-34 Long Term Plan associated with Key Choice 3 and does not implement the streetscape revitalisation project for Marton.

Financial Matters

Topic 1	Revenue and Financing Policy
Topic 2	Financial strategy
Topic 3	Other financial matters

Topic 1: Rates Increase

Submitter and Submission numbers

Fay Cunningham (#001), Barry Howe (#106), Erin Woods (#208), Joanne Simpson (#222), Nikita Tweeddale (#254), Sonya (#267), Jolanda Duxfield (#284), Steve (#292), Andy Law (#295), Raewyn Hughes (#300), Jo Rangooni (#303), Andrew Nicholls (#350), John Coley (#365), no details provided (#366), Charissa Lawlor (#384), Gregory Smith (#416), Genevieve Nicholls (#420), Tim Matthews (#425), Antonia Metz (#426), Carolyn Bates - Marton Community Committee (#427), Peter Matich – Federated Farmers (#429), Lynne Sheridan (#431), Regan Laing (#435), David Monteith (#449).

Summary of Submissions

Submitter #001 acknowledges that Rangitīkei has a small ratepayer base but the bill for living out of town is high, especially for not receiving the basic services such as rubbish, water, sewerage, footpaths and more. The submitter suggests that they would be happy to contribute to the greater good to a point but would like to get a little back.

Submitter #106 vigorously objects to the proposed rapacious rates increase of 31% spread over 3 years. The submitter suggests that this is price gouging of a captive market. The submitter states that they have read that administration costs take 75% of ratepayer's dollars. The submitter does not support the $2500 grant that community groups can apply for. The submitter states they do not see any Council activity at Scott's Ferry. The submitter shares that between Council and Horizons, they spend two and a half months of Superannuation on rates every year.

Submitter #208 states that Marton is not desirable enough for them to want to pay higher rates. The submitter believes that the proposed increases would make many residents reconsider owning property in the district.

Submitter #208 believes that the high rates would deter people from moving to Marton.

Submitter #222 believes that if rates keep going up people will buy food and other necessities and stop paying their rates.

Submitter #254 states that people are being pushed to the limits with the cost of living crisis, an increase of 30% is completely unfair. The submitter states that everyone is feeling the pressure and wages are not increasing but living costs are.

Submitter #267 states that it is not reasonable to increase the cost of living for the community for unnecessary spending. The submitter notes that people are already struggling.

Submitter #284 raises concerns about rates affordability, noting insurance and utility costs increasing faster than wages. This submitter does not consider cost increases are sustainable for lower / middle income households.

Submitter #366 state that ratepayers do not feel that they get value for money. The submitter asks that Council looks for ways to reduce spending rather than increasing rates to a point that people cannot afford to live in the district.

Submitter #365 states that Council should not waste the community's money.

Submitter #292 considers the rates rise is too high and questions how Council thinks this if affordable. The submitter raises particular concern about low and medium income ratepayers. The submitter notes this is higher than wage growth. This submitter suggests making savings on staff numbers and not blame costs on Central Government.

Submitter #295 times are tough, save money wherever possible.

Submitter #300 considers for what they pay in rates they get very little as a rural property. They note they often complete works themselves and want to feel as though they are getting something for their rates.

Submitter #350 states that spending should be reined in so rates rises are aligned with CPI adjustments.

Submitter #449 is concerned about the rates increases of over 11% year on year. This submitter requests Council look at spending and focus on essentials only and not nice to have projects (e.g. town centre upgrades and Council offices). This submitter suggests preference should be given to the basics and borrowing as little as possible.

Submitter #384 questions the average rate increase. The submitter notes that the cost of living is skyrocketing, and communities are struggling with the basics. The submitter believes that it is unfortunate that rates need to increase so much to provide for things such as the main street upgrade but the pool as a community asset is preferred by Council to close over winter.

Submitter #384 would like to see Council doing the basics well.

Submitter #303 states that rates affordability is a major issue especially for older woman on their own, those on low wages, those only on pensions, and notes the average income across Rangitīkei ratepayers is low.

Submitter #416 states that the rates increase is ridiculous and suggests that LGNZ requires all councils to engineer the same or similarly high rates increases, due to all councils citing the same reasons for rates increases.

Submitter #416 asks if returning to local resources, rather than relying on contractors would reduce rate increases over the long term.

Submitter #416 states that the services provided are reasonable considering the rating base, but the increase in rates does not provide confidence that ratepayer dollars are spent well.

Submitter #420 does not want Council to increase rates for non-essential items.

Submitter #420 notes that they have had a 30% increase in rates over the last 3 years and are told to expect another 30% rates increase over the next 3 years, which is unsustainable so Council should show restraint and only spend on core essential services.

Submitter #426 states that rates increases year on year over 11% are not acceptable, and that Council needs to look carefully at spending and cut out nice to haves.

Submitter #435 does not consider Council should be funding projects such as the pool, kerbside rubbish collection or the town centre which they consider to be luxuries, when rates increases are over 10%. The submitter suggests Council focus on core business only.

Submitter #427 is concerned about the proposed rates increase and the little obvious effort to show a determination to reduce rates.

Submitter #429 requests that Council reduced expenditure to avoid the need for rates increase higher than inflation (4.7% in January 2024). The submitter notes that the subsequent years are projected to be lower than the first year, however in their experience rates tend to be revised higher.

Submitter #429 notes that rate increase for farmers is between 13% and 35% due to the revaluations, however a farmer income is not expected to increase, and many sheep and beef farmers are expecting income to decrease, which makes rates not sustainable.

Submitter #429 would prefer that Council reduces unnecessary expenditure, rather than choosing in increase rates.

Submitter #429 is concerned that the Reserve Bank will increase the official cash rate if New Zealanders do not curb their spending.

Submitter #431 raises concerns about affordability and requests that the budget is revised. The submitter references and ageing population and high deprivation index and low household earnings to be able to pay for the rates.

Submitter #429 states that 41% of an average farm owners' profit will go towards rates based on the draft long term plan.

Officer Analysis

The nature of these submitters comments is not unexpected. Council recognises that the proposed rate increases are high compared to historic increases, but also recognise that it has a duty to generate sufficient revenue to cover its costs. Recent, and ongoing, cost increases really 'force' such high rate increases – and this is recognised in Councils throughout the country.

Without reducing the level of services provided, and in order to balance its budget, Council is very limited in its ability to restrict future rate increases. Similarly, without reducing the level of services provided, Council has very limited ability to reduce its underlying cost base to any significant extent. In developing the draft Long Term Plan Council considered a range of opportunities for reducing costs.

Submitter #429 noted the specific pressure placed on farmers due to a combination of reduced cash flow and high receent proepoerrty revaluations. Officers note that Council's Rate Remission Policy allows ratepayers to apply for a remission on grounds of financial hardship and other extenuating circumstances.

To give the proposed rate increase some perspective, a rough-average current year level of residential rates is $3,500. Applying the notional increase of 10.9% for 2024/25 this would increase to $3,881. A lower rate increase of, say, 5% would provide a 2024/25 rates cost of $3,675 – a difference of $4 per week.

Officers note one of the submitters opposition to the $2,500 community grants that are available, noting that this is an isolated comment.

In response to comments made by submitter #416, Officers are unaware of any move by LGNZ to regulate the level of annual rates increase each Council can introduce; Council always seeks to obtain best value for money from its procurement (conscious that this is essential for effective management of rate increases).

Submitter #420 refers to non-essential items and Officers note that there is no 'one agreed definition' of what constitues 'essential' (in this context). Councils considers all its services as essential and is unaware of any wasteful and/or unnecessary areas of spending. Not all of Council's services are used by all ratepayers, and neither does Council support this to be the case.

Submitter #427 commented on Council's limit rate increases. Council's Finance Strategy clearly shows its consideration in reducing future rate levels (by adjusting its initial approach to balance the budget in 4 years; extending this period to 5 years).

Topic 2: Financial Strategy

Submitter and Submission numbers

Justin Adams (#312), Gregory Smith (#416), Genevieve Nicholls (#420), Tim Matthews (#425).

Summary of Submissions

Submitter #312 provides comments in support of the financial strategy and notes several factors that could impact on the success of the strategy such as the economic conditions, legislative changes, and market volatility. The submitter recommends Council continues to engage with financial experts, conducts regular reviews and remains flexible in their approach to ensure the strategy remains relevant.

Submitter #416 states that debt should be kept lower than allowed and does not want to see any increase in debt.

Submitter #420 notes that they have heard the five of the biggest councils are trying to push to increase their borrowing caps.

Submitter #425 states that the 10 year projections are alarming as most of Councils cost centres will require more than double the rates or user pays sums in 2023-34 compared to year one of the long term plan.

Officer Analysis

Submitter #312 provided a 9 page analysis of Council's LTP. In their summary the submitter notes, in support of the Financial Startegy:

> '*In conclusion, the Long Term Plan demonstrates a holistic and forward-thinking approach to addressing the needs of a small population, focussing on creating a vibrant and resilient community that can thrive over the next decade and beyond.*'

The suggestions provided by Submitter #312 are all either already in place (either 'in full' or 'via alternative, functional measures').

Submitters #416, #420 and #426 raised concerns regarding Council's level of debt. Council's debt levels – and their cause – are well addressed in Council's Finance Strategy. In times of building 'assets' an increased level of debt is inevitable. Council's Finance Strategy demonstrates how budgeted future debt levels are accommodated by Council's future Debt Ceiling. Generally, debt is

viewed as an appropriate mechanism for Councils to invest in infrastructure. Increased debt does result in increased interest costs that are passed onto future generations; it is the future generations who will benefit from the related expenditure, however.

Topic 3: Other financial matters

Submitter and Submission numbers

Kevin Whelan (#153), Justin Adams (#312), Allan Cant (#370), James F Russell (#391), Felicity Wallace - Interested Residents of Marton and Rangitīkei (#433), Tim Matthews (#425), Antonia Metz (#426), Interested Residents of Marton and Rangitīkei (#433), Federated Farmers (#429).

Summary of Submissions

Submitter #153 asks for a more detailed explanation on how Council spends $2.2 million a year on regulatory services, community leadership and community projects. The submitter assumes that high OPEX costs include running the swimming pools. The submitters asks that further detail is provided in the future for these larger projected costs.

Submitter #312 identifies a range of financial considerations they consider as important to include in the analysis of financial policies and statements. They consider that Council can strengthen financial management practices and decision making by implementing these principles.

Submitter #312 provides comment on perpetual debt theory as an alternative to traditional debt management.

Submitter #370 states that managing debt must be a priority.

Submitter #391 asks how many people live in Ohingaiti but do not pay rates?

Submitter #433 raises concerns about Council running an unbalanced budget for the past 3 years and planned for the next 5 years.

Submitter #425 states that despite three government enquiries in their life, Council is no closer to match spending with ratepayers ability to pay.

Submitter #425 states that the revaluations have caused some properties to see a rates increase of 20-30%, and note that revaluations are causing rates to become less and less correlated with the ratepayers use of services.

Submitter #425 approves of the forestry differential, but notes that the differential is insufficient to remediate or fully acknowledge the damage. The submitter states that the districts roads that provide access to larger forests have not been designed, constructed or upgraded to carry the same loads or volumes of traffic as State Highways. The submitter references the Wairoa differential of 4.0 and the district court justification.

Submitter #425 requests that Council sets a production forest differential at least 4 time to more fairly acknowledge the impacts that forest development and harvesting causes on the roading budget of the Council.

Submitter #426 believes that Council should be concentrating on the basics and borrowing as little as possible.

Submitter #429 requests that Council adopts a maximum of 30% of the total rate revenue allowed to be allocated to the UAGC here rateable properties get a benefit from Council services. The submitter does not think it is fair that owning a farm is a good reason to pay hundreds of dollars towards services such as the library, while urban residents pay tens of dollars.

Submitter #429 believes that if Council does not implement the maximum 30% UAGC charge, Council is actively choosing to disadvantage groups such as the farming community.

Submitter #429 requests that Council fund urban water supply and wastewater disposal services from a targeted rate on urban properties that receive benefits from those services, and not any general rate. The submitter believes it is incorrect that urban water and wastewater has a general distribution benefit, as only those who have a connection benefit.

Submitter #429 requests that Council uses a differential of less than 1.0 for rural farm properties in order to more equitably collect rates from high value rural properties which do not receive a higher rate of service from the general rates collected. The submitter notes that a farmers ability to pay rates in based on their income from production, not their property value. The submitter notes that highly productive land cannot be subdivided, and therefore can only be used for farming, and that property values do not reflect actual wealth, income or benefit from services. The submitter notes that farming is land intensive and are often miles away from any services.

Submitter #429 supports a differential above 1 for any property types that directly benefit or cause more costs than residents and agricultural properties.

Submitter #429 requests a plantation forestry differential of at least 4. The submitter believes that heavy vehicles and logging equipment can do significant damage to a roading network at harvest time.

Submitter #429 notes that there is a rates remission for financial hardship, but it would be more efficient in term of managing Councils time to set a differential.

Officer Analysis

Submitters #425 and #429 requested the Forestry Differential be increased. Council has previously consulted on this topic, specifically justifying the current differential of 2.7. This differential level is planned to be reviewed before the next LTP. An increase of this figure to, say, 4.0, would not have a significant impact on other rate types due to the relatively small size of this targeted rate.

There were also a number of 'isolated' comments regarding various matters regarding Council's rates:

- Some rate increases will be > 20% and less correlated with use-of-service (#425)
- Council's spending does not match ratepayers ability to pay (#425)
- Increase the level of UAGC as the current level disadvantages groups such as the farming community (#429)
- Introduce a differential for non-residential and non-agricultural properties (#429)
- Urban water and wastewater disposal costs be met from a Targeted rate, not from general rate.

A number of these comments were 'more observations' than 'suggestions'. These suggestions may be true (e.g. rates not being a 'fee for service' and property revaluations resulting in some 'higher than average' rate increases) – but are essentially 'the way councils operate'. Amending the level of UAGC and/or any other rate is something that can be considered as part of the next Annual Plan (would require a separate round of consultation) should Council require such a review. Such a

change would be possible and would result in more of the rates burden being shifted to properties with a lower Capital Value.

All ratable properties are required to pay rates, this includes all properties in Ōhingaiti.

Submitter #429 raised a number of suggestions, aimed primarily at reducing the rates burden on rural properties. Council is aware that similar pressure exists on all sectors of its community.

Council's spending reflects the level of services it delivers. Should Council wish to address its current budget deficit by reducing its service levels – this would also require a separate round of consultation.

In response to submitter #153, further detail on the major projects and Funding Impact Statement for each of these groups of activities was provided in the draft Long Term Plan.

Submitter #312 provided a 9 page analsysis of Council's LTP. In their summary the submitter notes:

> '*In conclusion, the Long Term Plan demonstrates a holisitc and forward-thinking approach to addressing the needs of a small population, focussing on creating a vibrant and resilirent community that can thrive over the next decade and beyond.*'

The suggestions provided by Submitter #312 are all either already in place (either 'in full' or 'via alternative, functional measures').

Roading

Topic 4	Footpaths
Topic 5	Waka Kotahi, New Zealand Transport Agency
Topic 6	Rural Roads
Topic 7	Roading Maintenance
Topic 8	Stock effluent disposal
Topic 9	Motorhome parking, Taihape
Topic 10	Otara Road turning bay
Topic 11	Otara Bridge
Topic 12	Performance measure for unsealed roads
Topic 13	Speed limits
Topic 14	Road numbering

Topic 4: Footpaths

Submitter and Submission numbers

Kira Swainson (#042), Christine Regan (#322), Robin Cameron (#409).

Summary of Submissions

Submitter #042 requests a footpath down Nga Tawa Road.

Submitter #409 considers there are a lack of footpaths in many places around Marton, and notes that it is a shortcut that should not have been taken as it makes it hard for people, especially mothers

with strollers. The submitter requests that Council builds missing footpaths and believes that it may make more people take pride in their garden.

Submitter #322 makes a number of requests regarding the area around Bulls Antiques

- Cut back the trees from the corner as the leaves from every day.
- Requests no bikes on this section of footpath.
- Notes that they have seen children about to run onto the road from the lawn.

Officer Analysis
In response to submitter #042, the footpath for Nga Tawa Road was denied funding by Waka Kotahi when it was first presented in the 2021-31 Regional Land Transport Plan (RLTP) due to funding constraints. It will be put forward in the 2024 RLTP review for consideration this year.

In response to submitter #409, footpaths are approved/funded by Waka Kotahi on a case by case basis. Council does not have the funding available to build significant stretches of footpaths in Marton and would need to consider paths in the other towns in the district.

In response to submitter #322, the tree overhanging the fence next to Bulls Antiques belongs to the property owner adjoining. Bicycles on the footpath is a police enforcement matter.

Topic 5: Waka Kotahi, New Zealand Transport Agency

Submitter and Submission numbers
Katrina O'Brien (#230), Peter Kipling-Arthur – Taihape Community Board (#405).

Summary of Submissions
Submitter #230 states that the Zebra crossing in Taihape is dangerous and there are accidents almost every day. The submitter would like this crossing upgraded.

Submitter #230 states that the verges are not mowed, and the fences are not sprayed at the entrance to Taihape.

Submitter #230 states that the give way sign by Gretna corner has not been reinstalled after the January roadworks.

Submitter #405 requests that Council aids the local boards and committees in communicating with Waka Kotahi.

Submitter #405 states that Bulls, Taihape and other smaller settlements need a more rapid and adequate response from Waka Kotahi.

Submitter #405 recognises that the district has been struggling with the cost of roading and persuading Waka Kotahi to invest more efficiently in the state highway network in the region.

Officer Analysis
In response to submitter #230, Council Officers have been in touch with Waka Kotahi regarding the zebra crossing on behalf of the Taihape Community Board. They have received a response that has been shared with the Board. Officers have also been in touch with Waka Kotahi regarding the intersection at the corner of Hautapu St/State Highway 1 (Gretna Corner). Both of these issues reside with Waka Kotahi as they are on the State Highway network.

The entrance to Taihape is the responsibility of Waka Kotahi as it is on the State Highway network. Officers will pass concerns on.

In response to submitter #405, Council has communicated all of Taihape Community Board's known concerns with Waka Kotahi. Staff note the submitter's comments but has no control over the speed and adequacy of their response.

Actions
Officers report the concerns regarding the entrance to Taihape to Waka Kotahi.

Topic 6: Rural roads

Submitter and Submission numbers
Dee Donald & James Donald (#302), Christine Gregory (#349), No Name (#448).

Summary of Submissions
Submitter #349 questions how Gorge Road and Omatane North Road is going to manage when large trucks and trailers will be driving on it when logging begins near their property. The submitter asks who will pay for the maintenance as they do not believe ratepayers should. The submitter states that the logging firm or owners of the trees should have a levy put on by the Council.

Submitter #302 raises concern about the length of time it took to complete repairs on Wairepu East Road after it was damaged badly in February 2023. The submitter notes work did not start until September 2023. This submitter also notes that Watershed Road is easily damaged by rain and suggests forestry trucks should pay for repairs.

Submitter #448 requests work continue on roads around Hunterville impacted by forestry trucks – Poukiore Valley, Turakina Valley, Papanui.

Officer Analysis
Officers note the comments from submitters and note that works will continue on roads impacted by forestry trucks as required. These roads are monitored frequently and repaired when necessary. Council has implemented a differential for the forestry sector on the roading rate which requires properties with plantation forestry to pay a higher rate for roading.

In response to submitter #302, there were a number of roads impacted by substantial damage from Cyclone Gabrielle in 2023 which stretched repair crews and resulted in less timely repairs than usual following damage.

Topic 7: Roading maintenance

Submitter and Submission numbers
Shane Sorensen (#179), Katrina O'Brien (#230), Jo Rangooni (#303), Christine Gregory (#349), Lyn Duncan (#363), Allan Cant (#370), Gregory Smith (#416), Tim Matthews (#425).

Summary of Submissions
Submitter #179 would like Council to upgrade roading.

Submitter #230 notes that water pools in all the manholes when it rains in Taihape.

Submitter #349 would like the water table and culvert heads cleaned out. The submitter states that the water either runs under of over the road and causes dropouts, and every $10 spent on each culvert head would save $1000's on fixing the road.

Submitter #363 requests that gutter and drains are cleaned more regularly to aid in preventing flooding.

Submitter #370 states that roading is a big part of rates and road maintenance must be a priority.

Submitter #303 notes that roading is a major issue with climate change being unpredictable. The submitter suggests that Council should reconsider supporting access to some properties.

Submitter #416 believes that the roading programme is ambitious and that Council needs to renegotiate with the contractors. The submitter believes that the contractors are overcharging and underperforming.

Submitter #425 believes that this year there has been a significant reduction in contractor services, yet the roading rates continue to be significant. The submitter asks if the contractor is being held to the agreed performance standards and seeks assurance that the contractor is not profiting from the rougher roads.

Officer Analysis

The comments from submitters are noted. Roading is Council's largest capital and operational expense. Officers suggest specific requests around access to properties are made in writing so the unique circumstances can be assessed.

In response to submitter #363, Marton's kerbs and channels are swept weekly by contractors, 50% at a time. A cyclic truck does a circuit of the known problematic sump covers when known storm events are approaching.

Officers recommend any specific requests for culverts or water tables to be cleaned are made through Council's request for service system.

Topic 8: Stock Effluent Disposal

Submitter and Submission numbers

Shirley R Russell (#412).

Summary of Submissions

Submitter #412 states that there is a need for more effluent dumping tanks, so it does not come out of the trucks as they travel north up the Makohine and run down into the drains into the stream and then into Rangitīkei River.

Officer Analysis

A request for stock effluent tanks was also made to Council in 2021. At the time Council made a resolutions and recommendation:

> ***Resolved minute number 21/RDC/400001***
>
> *That the Rangitīkei District Council, by way of the Mayor's representation on the Regional Transport Committee, asks for consideration by Waka Kotahi for a stock effluent disposal facility, as per the tabled recommendation from Ryan Thomas and Company, in support of the*

need for a stock effluent disposal facility, noting that there were submissions to this in the Long Term Plan 2021-31.

Recommendation

That the Mayor revisit the request to Waka Kotahi for a stock effluent disposal facility, by way of representation on the Regional Transport Committee as per resolution 21/RDC/400.

If the preferred site is on state highways an application will need to be made to Waka Kotahi for the construction of the facility, as they are responsible for the funding of the construction and the ongoing maintenance costs. Council has no involvement in Stock Effluent Disposal Facilities on State Highways.

If the proposed stock truck effluent site is not on a State Highway, the following will apply - once the preferred site for these stock effluent sites has been selected, agreement would be required from Waka Kotahi and Horizons that the location of the desired stock effluent disposal facility is part of an agreed current regional or national strategy.

Conditions of funding for a new facility are that the construction cost of any new stock effluent disposal facility is eligible for funding assistance, subject to:

- the facility being part of an agreed current regional or national strategy
- the relevant approved organisation agrees to maintain the stock effluent disposal infrastructure, including disposal of any stock effluent
- the facility being situated as close as practicable to the road
- a formal lease, or an agreement to occupy, being signed where the stock effluent disposal facility is not part of the road reserve, giving access to the facility as though it was a road.

Topic 9: Motorhome Parking, Taihape

Submitter and Submission numbers

Phil Shaw (#438).

Summary of Submissions

Submitter #438 suggests there is a need for motorhome parks in central Taihape. The submitter considers the main street is not suitable for motorhome parking and suggests that parking spaces be made available in the 'Outback' area. The submitter suggests the area behind the theatre is converted to parking if it is Council land. The submitter notes that Taihape advertises as motorhome friendly and that the opportunity is lost for both day time and overnight motorhome parking.

Officer Analysis

Taihape provides adequate motorhome parking via Gumtree Motorhome Park & Event Centre on Wren Street. Additional motorhome parking along the Outback is not feasible due to land-use restrictions. Kuku Street is currently available for motorhome parking.

Topic 10: Otara Road turning bay

Submitter and Submission numbers

Angela McIntyre (#378).

Summary of Submissions
Submitter #378 considers that the Otara Road/SH 1 junction is dangerous to all road users, especially those turning right onto Otara Road heading north. This submitter requests that the designated park for police and speed cameras is removed due to safety concerns. They believe that a turning bay will solve the safety issues. Until a turning bay can be installed, the submitter suggests double yellow lines as a short term fix.

Officer Analysis
The comments from the submitter regarding a turning bay for Otara Road are acknowledged. The turning bay requested is on State Highway 1 which is managed by Waka Kotahi. Officers will inform Waka Kotahi of the request.

Action
Officers report the request for a turning bay for Otara Road to Waka Kotahi.

Topic 11: Otara bridge

Submitter and Submission numbers
Angela McIntyre (#378).

Summary of Submissions
Submitter #378 requests that Council obtains a second opinion on the long term viability of the bridge. The submitter notes that swing bridges are designed to move and that the speed bumps and blocks damage the undercarriages of vehicles, are dangerous for bikes, and vehicles under the weight restrictions are not able to use the bridge.

Officer Analysis
The original upgrades to the bridge and the current repairs have been designed and supervised by professional structural engineers. The design and supervision provided by the experts is what has been constructed and there is no reason to believe that this advice has been incorrect in any way.

Topic 12: Performance measure for unsealed roads

Submitter and Submission numbers
Tim Matthews (#425).

Summary of Submissions
Submitter #425 notes that the LTP introduces an unsealed road measure of performance being the volume of metal applied annually with a target of 12,000m^3. The submitter believes that this is meaningless due to factors such as the metal quality, loss of metal due to weather events, and being graded into the water table. The submitter suggests measuring the depth of metal cover or complaints regarding metal cover and traction loss or corrugations due to heavy vehicles.

Officer Analysis
The submitters comments are noted. The performance measure regarding volume of metal being placed on the unsealed roading network per year is an indicator of the level of maintenance undertaken on unsealed roads throughout the District. The comparison of this measure every year will

show the consistency of maintenance of these roads as part of Council's wider roading network. Depth of metal cover would not provide an indication of the extent of metal placed on unsealed roads.

Topic 13: Speed limits

Submitter and Submission numbers

Paula Snowden - Health New Zealand | Te Whatu Ora (#441).

Summary of Submissions

Submitter #441 notes that Council no longer needs a speed reduction plan for schools, but a new rule is to be developed about variable speed limits around schools. This submitter suggested variable signs have a significant cost and should be budgeted for in the LTP.

Officer Analysis

The comments from the submitter are noted. Council ceased work on developing a Speed Management Plan when the Coalition Government announced this requirement would be removed. Several variable signs have already been installed throughout the district and further signs will be installed if required by changes to legislation or due to an identified need.

Topic 14: Road numbering

Submitter and Submission numbers

Kim Savage - Parewahawaha Marae (#308).

Summary of Submissions

Submitter #308 is submitting on behalf of Parewahawaha Marae requesting that the address numbers on Domain Road are reviewed so that they are orderly. The submitter notes google maps is not aligned with the numbers and raises concern about access for emergency services.

Officer Analysis

Officers note the issue raised by the submitter and agree that the numbering along this stretch of road is confusing. Officers welcome the opportunity to work with the submitter (and local residents) in renumbering Domain Road, Bulls. Officers will contact the submitter and residents in the area to progress a renumbering process.

Action

That Officers engage with Submitter #308, Kim Savage, and residents along Domain Road, Bulls to progress the renumbering of this piece of road.

Three Waters

Topic 15	Drinking water
Topic 16	Wastewater
Topic 17	Stormwater
Topic 18	Three waters

Topic 15: Drinking Water

Submitter and Submission numbers

Chayne (#012), Jiselle Rider (#030), Susan Gibbons (#067), Marcel Stiefel (#245), Sarah (#264), Jo Rangooni (#303), Raewyn Turner (#330), Carmen Wihongi (#359), Lynne Sheridan (#431).

Summary of Submissions

Submitters #012 and #067 request Council invests in fixing the Marton water.

Submitter #067 believes that improving the water will encourage more people to move to Marton, improving the economy.

Submitter #030 states that young people are drinking soft drinks and raro because the water tastes so bad which is contributing to the risk of long-term health issues. The submitters suggests that Councillors would better prioritise the water supply infrastructure if they had to drink it.

Submitter #245 would like Council to fix the drinking water before doing other projects.

Submitter #330 notes that the water situation is improving and thanks Council.

Submitter #264 notes that they pay for water that they do not use as a rural ratepayer.

Submitter #303 states that securing water supplies for communities is the prime task for councillors as it is vital for life.

Submitter #431 provides commentary around the age and replacement of water pipes in Marton in the 2021-31 Asset Management Plan and the 2024-34 Asset Management Plan. The submitter specifically requests clarification regarding the programme of works for the renewal of the Tūtaenui trunk main.

Officer Analysis

The comments from submitters are acknowledged.

In response to submitter #245, contractors specialised in waters have been committed to the project and works are underway. The deferral of other projects will not speed up current progress.

In response to submitter #431, the trunk main from the junction of B and C Dam supply lines to the treatment plant is operating well. All the planed renewals of the Tutaenui trunk main that supplies Marton has now been completed. Operators and network maintenance staff are aware of the criticality of this main and regularly inspect and maintain this line as problems occur.

Topic 16: Wastewater

Submitter and Submission numbers

Jo Rangooni (#303), Raewyn Turner (#330), Horizons Regional Council (#418), Greg Carlyon - Tūtaenui Stream Restoration Society (#432).

Summary of Submissions

Submitter #303 states that wastewater disposal is vital to our environment and our lives, and that each councillor needs to know communities have effective wastewater disposal.

Submitter #330 shares their concern that Council does not appear to have purchased land for the Marton to Bulls Pipeline.

Submitter #418, Horizons Regional Council, notes their concern about the wastewater treatment plants operating on existing use rights and regularly breaching the consent conditions.

Submitter #432 notes support for the work Council is doing to remove treated wastewater from the Tūtaenui Stream.

Officer Analysis
The submitters comments are noted.

In response to submitter #330, the public was notified in April 2024 regarding the purchase of land for the Marton to Bulls Pipeline, this may have occurred after this submission was received by Council.

In response to submitter #418, Council is currently in the process of renewal for a number of consents under existing use rights and those with expiry coming up in this calendar year. Plans are also in place to rectify known breaches. We would like to acknowledge the open dialogue and communication currently in place between Horizons and RDC and hope this continues.

Topic 17: Stormwater

Submitter and Submission numbers
Gregory Smith (#416), Lynne Sheridan (#431).

Summary of Submissions
Submitter #416 states that Council needs to investigate stormwater modelling. This submitter highlights concern with flooding from the Tūtaenui Stream due to high influent loading with no mitigation.

Submitter #416 states that stormwater is required for all developments, and detention must be a requirement to all future developments, and where causative of flooding, retrospectively demanded. This submitter states that all new homes should be required to contain their stormwater for a period before slowly releasing it.

Submitter #431 notes three major stormwater projects identified for Marton. The submitter suggests consideration should be given to establishing a wetland/s to slow the flow of water moving through Marton. The submitter considers stormwater to be critical in relation to climate change. The submitter suggests wetlands are carbon sinks and can manage stormwater flows and water quality.

Officer Analysis
The submitters comments are noted.

In response to submitter #416, Council has a stormwater modelling project currently underway. In respect to new developments, stormwater requirements are determined by multiple regulations depending on the type of development (e.g. greenfield, subdivision, etc) and the area the development is proposed to be built upon.

The suggestion of retention and slow release of stormwater in relation to new homes is already being considered for all new developments.

Topic 18: Three Waters

Submitter and Submission numbers
Raewyn Turner (#330), Gregory Smith (#416), Horizons Regional Council (#418).

Summary of Submissions
Submitter #330 believes that all new houses should be required to at least have a grey H2O tank. The submitter suggests that Council could look at buying them in bulk for a discounted price to sell to any ratepayer who would like to purchase one or two.

Submitter #418, Horizons Regional Council, highlights the importance of long term investment in infrastructure that is compliant with regulations and improves the health of the environment. The submitter looks to stay in touch with council as the reform package rolls out.

Submitter #418, Horizons Regional Council notes that there are new dam safety regulations and outlines expectations for Council.

Submitter #416 believes that we are fortunate for the three waters decision.

Submitter #416 states that Council needs to look at ensuring that Horizons does their fair share.

Officer Analysis
The submitters comments are noted.

In response to submitter #418, Council is aware of the new regulations, has made a submission to the Dangerous, Earthquake-Prone and Flood-Prone Dam Policy, and is working with a consultant to complete a Comprehensive Dam Safety Review.

Rubbish and Recycling

Topic 19	Environmental education
Topic 20	Hunterville Waste Transfer Station
Topic 21	Rubbish collection

Topic 19: Environmental education

Submitter and Submission numbers
Horizons Regional Council (#418).

Summary of Submissions
Submitter #418 notes their appreciation for the ongoing support and funding commitment to the Enviroschools programme.

Officer Analysis
The submitter's comments are acknowledged.

Topic 20: Hunterville Waste Transfer Station

Submitter and Submission numbers
Pam Remnant (#255).

Summary of Submissions
Submitter #255 requests that the driveway for the Hunterville transfer station is fixed as it is eroding away with large potholes.

Officer Analysis
Officers will investigate condition of the driveway at the Hunterville Transfer Station and organise repair works if needed.

Actions
Officers investigate the condition of the driveway at the Hunterville Transfer Station and organise repair works if needed.

Topic 21: Rubbish Collection

Submitter and Submission numbers
Shirley R Russell (#412).

Summary of Submissions
Submitter #412 states that there is no rubbish service in Ōhingaiti Village.

Officer Analysis
Submitter comments are noted. There are no rubbish services for Ōhingaiti Village, and no services are planned.

Parks & Reserves

Topic 22	Tutaenui Reservoir
Topic 23	Dog poo collection bins
Topic 24	Parks
Topic 25	Recreation

Topic 22: Tūtaenui Reservoir

Submitter and Submission numbers
Ryan Wilkinson (#296), Greg Carlyon - Tūtaenui Stream Restoration Society (#432).

Summary of Submissions
Submitter #296 suggests a coffee cart and fountain is added at the reservoir.

Submitter #432 provides a summary of the work the Tūtaenui Stream Restoration Society has been completed at the Tūtaenui Reserve. The submitter notes the success of the relationship between

Council and the Society in achieving positive outcomes for the site – "powered by volunteers". The submitter specifically requests Council continue funding of $10,000 per annum through the life of the Long Term Plan.

Officer Analysis

In 2021, Council approved funding of $10,000 per annum for Years 1-3 of the 2021-31 Long Term Plan. This funding has been used to support a range of projects led by the Tūtaenui Stream Restoration Society, such as funding the shell rock for the paths. The work the Tūtaenui Stream Restoration Society lead around the Tūtaenui Reservoir is significant. A huge number of volunteer hours are provided and have made substantial improvements to the environmental and recreation experience for the site. Officers recommend Council continues funding support. The funding is currently included in the budget estimates presented to Council.

The Tūtaenui Stream Restoration Society are leading improvements in accordance with the management plan that was created for the site. There are no plans for either a coffee cart or fountain at the site.

Recommendation

That Council continue funding $10,000 per annum to the Tūtaenui Stream Restoration Society to maintain the Marton B & C Dams, also known as the Tūtaenui Reserve, through the life of the Long Term Plan 2024-34.

Topic 23: Dog poo collection bins

Submitter and Submission numbers

Nigel Belsham (#357).

Summary of Submissions

Submitter #357 requests that dog poo collection bins are installed along popular dog walking routes in the main towns. The submitter states that rubbish bins are being used for disposing dog poo, but there are not any bins around Skerman Street, Pukepapa Road or Bredins Line in Marton. The submitter believes that these areas are well utilised for dog walking.

Officer Analysis

The addition of every rubbish bin, regardless of the intended use, adds substantial additional cost pressure to the activity. Due to the potential district wide costs involved, it is considered to be more reasonable to expect dog owners to manage their dog waste rather than spreading the cost across all rate payers.

Topic 24: Parks

Submitter and Submission numbers

Katrina O'Brien (#230), Rosie Gilbert (#318), Angela McIntyre (#378), Charlotte Oswald (#419), James Kilmister (#446), Recreation Aotearoa (#452) Urban Effects (#454).

Summary of Submissions

Submitter #318 requests more wasp control in Taihape Parks.

Submitter #318 requests Council fast track the Taihape Playground and states that Council needs to be involved as it is too much work for volunteers.

Submitter #419 would like the playground in Taihape to be a priority as it benefits the whole community, attracting people to town to shop and support local businesses.

Submitter #318 requests the toilets at the Rec are upgraded, suggesting the Nga Awa block is too far away.

Submitter #318 does not think it is fair for ratepayers to be paying for toilets, showers, and caravan waste for travellers.

Submitter #454 is a provider of streetscape furniture and made a submission about investing in parks and recreational centres. This submitter provides commentary about the importance of public spaces and streetscapes for economic and community development. This submitter suggests that while they understand the need to cut costs, moderate investment in public spaces shows that Council cares for its communities. This submitter provides examples of recent projects and notes their interest in being a partner of Council in providing updates to public spaces.

Submitter #446 provides comments around the work done on the Hunterville Domain by the community and suggests that the process for upgrading the area should be more user friendly.

Submitter #230 shares that the entrance to Taihape is disgusting, and if a community member did not pick up rubbish daily along other sides of the road by the dump it would be absolutely terrible.

Submitter #378 states that grass clippings are being dumped on the side of the road by Council near the fence in McIntyre Reserve. The submitter believes that this encourages the public to dump green waste and rubbish on the berm increases hazards such as fires and is unsightly.

Officer Analysis

The submitters comments are noted, comments around the grass clippings at McIntyre Reserve will be investigated by Council's Parks Team.

In response to submitter #318, Parks staff are in the process of training in wasp control management as this needs to be done in a controlled way that is safe for staff and the community. Council staff are working with The Taihape Playground Group to get this work underway.

The services that submitter #454 are noted. Officers investigate the services and products from a range of suppliers before procurement to ensure the best price and style of streetscape furniture for the space are procured.

Ngā Awa Block opened in 2023, consisting of four changing rooms including showers and toilets within each, public toilets, referee rooms, etc. It is not intended to duplicate these services at Memorial Park. Like all public toilet facilities, access is available for the whole community. Providing high quality facilities for travellers can enhance community economic wellbeing by encouraging people to stop and spend time and money in local shops.

Actions

The Parks Team will investigate the concern about grass clipping around the McIntyre Reserve.

Topic 25: Recreation

Submitter and Submission numbers

Recreation Aotearoa (#452).

Summary of Submissions

Submitter #452 is a registered charity focused on the recreation sector, Recreation Aotearoa. They provide a comprehensive submission outlining the benefits of recreation for health and community wellbeing, including recent research on key topics. They also include comment on recreation through a Te Ao Māori lens, disability – accessibility and inclusion in recreation. The submitter also commented on the importance of the local government sector in providing for recreation and considers recreation to be a core part of providing for community wellbeing. The submitter also references a report from the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment and the recommendations contained within. This submitter requests council implement a tree planting programme for public spaces, focusing on areas adjacent to streets and footpaths. The submitter makes the following specific requests:

- Supports proposed investment in active recreation in the draft LTP.
- Supports active transport infrastructure.
- Supports investment in play.
- Cautions against deferred maintenance and upgrades of playgrounds.
- Supports investment in public toilets and walkways and connecting green spaces.
- Encourages Council to increase investment in accessibility of playgrounds and parks.
- Encourages Council to take a collaborative approach to the development of recreation spaces, including people with disabilities.
- Suggests Council should have a process for people with accessibility issues to notify Council of accessibility barriers for recreation spaces.
- Encourages Council to be patient with the uptake of new facilities when implemented, although notes that a build it and they will come approach does not always work.

Officer Analysis

The submitters comments are noted.

Community

Topic 26	Community facility projects
Topic 27	Marton administration building project
Topic 28	Taihape Grandstand
Topic 29	Taihape Town Hall / Civic Centre
Topic 30	Taihape netball courts
Topic 31	Ōhingaiti tennis courts
Topic 32	Bulls Commemorative Centre
Topic 33	Rangitīkei Active Gym development
Topic 34	Housing
Topic 35	Public toilets
Topic 36	Taihape Wellness Project

Topic 37	Making the district more welcoming
Topic 38	Marketing for the district
Topic 39	Community events
Topic 40	Antenatal classes
Topic 41	Health services for Hunterville
Topic 42	Definition of public health
Topic 43	Community places
Topic 44	Emergency management
Topic 45	Community and Leisure Asset Management Plan

Topic 26: Community facility projects

Submitter and Submission numbers

Simon Wall - General Manager – Strategy and Relationships, Apollo Projects (#436).

Summary of Submissions

Submitter #436 suggests that realistic capital budget should be developed for capital projects and warns against over inflating budgets as a method of reducing risk. This submitter considers it important for Council to include expert construction feedback in the budget development process. This submitter supports the design and build methodology for the Taihape Town Hall and Library redevelopment project. They list benefits of this project methodology. The submitter also suggests the Taihape and Marton projects are combined to gain cost efficiencies. This submitter also comments on the need to use high utilisation predictions. The submitter notes a potential conflict of interest given they are tendering for the Taihape project.

Officer Analysis

The comments from the submitter are noted. It is too premature to make comment on combining the Taihape and Marton projects. Council has a dedicated Project Management Office that consider the most appropriate procurement approach for each project. Budgets are developed based on expert knowledge and include appropriate contingencies.

Topic 27: Marton administration building project

Submitter and Submission numbers

Hayley Grant (#018), Shane Sorensen (#179), Anne McAleece (#193), Joanne Simpson (#222), Amanda Jane Emery (#375), Gregory Smith (#416), Antonia Metz (#426), Carolyn Bates (#428), Len Robinson (#434), David Monteith (#449), Rodger Rangi (#450).

Summary of Submissions

Submitters #018, #193, #222, #416, #426, #449, #450 do not support new Council buildings being constructed. Submitters provide the following comments/ suggestions:

- Submitter #018 suggests that staff squeeze into Te Matapihi with a pack in/pack out setup for when the space is needed, make staff work from home during these rare occasions.
- Submitters #193 and #449 do not believe a new building is an essential requirement in the current economic environment.
- Submitter #222 asks that Council stops wasting money on a new building as it is not affordable and is not needed.

- Submitter #450 considers Council should lease a building in Palmerston North and work towards being part of Manawatu District Council. This submitter considers Marton lacks a ratepayer base and the only way to fix the issue is amalgamation with neighbours.
- Submitter #416 does not want Council to spend money on vanity projects or new buildings.

Submitter #179 wants Council to cut costs on the new council building.

Submitters #426 and #449 do not think upgrades should be considered for the Marton offices or library but consider as the Taihape Town Hall requires strengthening as a historic building that it should be the focus.

Submitter #193 does not want Council to proceed with a new council building is improved and meets the community's satisfaction.

Submitter #375 states that it is a shame to not use the corner building with the location, and they do not understand why it was bought if it was not going to be used. They consider the location makes sense as it is in town and the green space and stage etc with no near public toilets. The submitter understands that it is messy with earthquakes and the historical status, but it was like that when it was purchased. The submitter would like Council to build on that site as Council is building anyway.

Submitter #434 questions whether there is a needed to replace the Council building and considers all that is needed is a comfortable building for staff. The submitter does not consider there needs to be an elaborate building. The submitter suggests using the fire building to house staff.

Submitter #428 references their submission point from the 2021 Long Term Plan: "….*states that Council is proposing more consultation and questions how much longer it will take.* In response, submitter #428 states and another three years on and suggests that consultation is still ongoing.

Officer Analysis
Council has decided to build a new office and library building on the current site at 46 High Street, Marton to replace the existing earthquake prone buildings, including the old library building. Work is underway to finalise a project plan for this. The project will be undertaken in the most efficient, cost effective and timely way possible.

The Taihape Town Hall and Civic Centre project has been budgeted for, including receiving a better-off funding allocation. Detailed design is expected to be done in 2024/25.

Council has also agreed to dispose of the buildings it owns on the corner of High Street / Broadway, Marton and a process for this has commenced.

Topic 28: Taihape Grandstand

Submitter and Submission numbers
Ken Bellamy (#287), Christine Gregory (#349), Geoff Duncan (#369), Peter Kipling-Arthur – Taihape Community Board (#405).

Summary of Submissions
Submitter #287 requests the grandstand be started immediately and suggests starting the exterior first. The submitter also proposes 6 changing rooms, four showers, two toilets, two handbasins and a public toilet on the north wall.

Submitter #369 requests that Council focuses on the work required to upgrade the Taihape Grandstand. The submitter states that work and ground has been covered including identifying funding. The submitter believes that the sooner it is done the betters, especially regarding costs. The submitter shares that there is immense community support for this project.

Submitter #405 commends Council on retaining the existing building rather than demolishing it due to the historical and community significance of the building.

Submitter #349 suggests that Council does not prioritise the grandstand and stops wasting money on old buildings.

Officer Analysis
Ngā Awa Block opened in 2023, consisting of four changing rooms including showers and toilets within each, public toilets, referee rooms, etc. It is not intended to duplicate these services in the Grandstand.

Council has already resolved to spend up to $1m to investigate the refurbishment and restoration of the Grandstand, and this work has commenced.

Council is presently considering a maintenance plan for the Taihape Grandstand that will also strengthen the building and is currently obtaining an opinion from a structural engineer to confirm whether the maintenance plan is suitable and will strengthen the Grandstand to 34%.

Topic 29: Taihape Town Hall/Civic Centre

Submitter and Submission numbers
Ken Bellamy (#287), Christine Gregory (#349), Andrew Nicholls (#350), John Vickers (#393), Peter Kipling-Arthur – Taihape Community Board (#405).

Summary of Submissions
Submitter #287 makes comment about the design and activities included in the Taihape Town Hall, suggesting the building will not include a library or information centre or offices. The submitter suggests that the library site should be considered as a location for a playground.

Submitter #350 requests that the earthquake strengthening of the Taihape town hall is put on hold until central government has reviewed the building regulations regarding earthquake strengthening.

Submitter #349 believes that Council should demolish the town hall and put the $14 million into a new building.

Submitter #405 commends the Council on using the existing building rather than demolishing it due to the historical and community significance.

Submitter #393 states there have been cost over runs for the major upgrade and reconfiguration of the Taihape Town Hall in the past.

Officer Analysis
The Taihape Town Hall and Civic Centre project has been budgeted for, including receiving a better-off funding allocation. Detailed design is expected to be done in 2024/25.

Topic 30: Taihape Netball Courts

Submitter and Submission numbers

Mary Haggie - Taihape Netball Centre - Te Pokapu Poitarawhiti o Taihape (#400).

Summary of Submissions

Submitter #400 states that the netball courts are not fit for purpose and are not safe. This submitter requests that Council provides funding for the relocation of the stormwater drain, releveling and relaying of the asphalt, and resurface the courts with plexipave and remarked.

Officer Analysis

Council Officers have been working with Taihape Netball and Taihape Tennis with an aim to improve drainage. Officers also sought quotes on behalf of Taihape Netball and Taihape Tennis to re-surface the courts. The drainage of the courts does flow to the centre of the courts, which is unusual. Typically, it would flow end on end or side on side, outwards with a 1% fall. Drainage work was carried out on the current drainage system in 2022, which involved installing a new drainage line and repairing (lining) a current drainage line. The Group Managers – Community, and Assets/Infrastructure and the current PMO staff are not aware of any feedback about drainage issues from Netball during the 2023 season.

The re-surfacing of the courts was carried out early 2024. As part of installing the new tennis sleeves the contractor arranged by Taihape Tennis had to make large 0.7m diameter cuts and concrete the sleeves in for the force they are required to take. While doing this, the contractor hit the drainage pipe in four places, then made it tidy by installing four sumps. While it is believed the additional sumps improved drainage from the courts, this did create additional sump covers on the courts, and it required the main pipe to be fixed because it was broken by the activity around the new tennis sleeves. At this time, staff do not know if this caused any damage to the main drainage pipe, which may now be causing issues with the drainage. Further investigative work, including CCTV of the pipe, would need to be done to establish this.

With regards to the line markings on the courts and the space allocated between each court, both Clubs determined their layout and the space between the courts and provided this directly to Plexipave. Whilst it is not uncommon to have spacing different than the NZ Netball recommendations of 3-metres, Plexipave were quite explicit with Netball regarding the netball court markings because initially they had been advised that Netball would only require three courts with a warmup space at the end and this was a proposed change to the original instruction (which subsequently resulted in less than 3-metres between courts). Plexipave asked that Netball add the measurements to, and draw on, a diagram showing the distance of the gaps required by them.

Actions

Further investigation would be required to determine options to rectify these issues.

Topic 31: Ōhingaiti tennis courts

Submitter and Submission numbers

Mike Maher (#305).

Summary of Submissions

Submitter #305 suggests the tennis courts should be reinstated for the kids and future generation to give the kids somewhere to play.

Officer Analysis

Feedback from some Ohingaiti locals who use the courts advise that locals did some work on the courts over the summer of 2022/23 and suggested that at this time the courts are adequate for the amount of use they receive. They would, however, appreciate Council assistance with annual spraying of the courts. This could be carried out from within current budgets.

Actions

The Parks Team will include the Ōhingaiti Tennis Courts in their annual spray programme.

Topic 32: Bulls Commemorative Centre

Submitter and Submission numbers

Helen Cooper – Bulls and Districts Historical Society (#382).

Summary of Submissions

Submitter #382 requests that Council purchases the materials required for the Society to undertake the work to fix the roof of the Bulls Commemorative Centre that is leased to the Society. The submitter has provided two quotes. The first quote provides a price of $39,962.50 and does not specifically identify the cost of materials. The second quote provides a price of $21,152.09. It is noted that this quote does not include removal of the existing roof or specify the cost of materials.

Officer Analysis

The Bulls & Districts Historical Society have leased the former Bulls Library Building from the Council for 35 years to convert the building into a dedicated World War 1 Memorial to be known as the Bulls Commemorative Centre.

Council has undertaken a property review to examine which properties should be retained or improved throughout the district. Those identified for retention are being assessed for asset condition. Following this process projects will be prioritised. Officers recommend that the priority for this property is assessed following the work completed on asset condition and district-wide priorities.

Recommendation

That Council does/does not [delete one] purchase materials required for the Bulls and Districts Historical Society to replace the roof of the Bulls Commemorative Centre.

Topic 33: Rangitīkei Active Gym development

Submitter and Submission numbers

Nadine Nairne - Facility Manager Rangitīkei Active Gym - Marton Aquatic and Leisure Trust (MALT) (#440).

Summary of Submissions

Submitter #440 provides an overview of the current operation of the Rangitīkei Active Gym and current limitations. The submitter has put forward a proposal to cover the courtyard between the

pool offices and their facility to increase the space available for users and to increase the range of programmes available. The submitter states they will fund the project to $30,000 and requests a Council contribution of up to $50,000 plus building alterations to the pool area of the building if required and a waiver of building consent fees. The submitter notes that the Marton Aquatic and Leisure Trust would apply for external funding to cover the remaining cost.

The submitter also requests an extension of the lease of 10 years, with a right of renewal upon expiry, and keep the current financial renewal date at the current expiry date.

Officer Analysis

The proposed work would require a building consent. As part of the consent, fire and accessibility reports would be required for the entire building i.e. including the swim centre. A number of works would be required to meet fire and accessibility requirements. Further analysis of the entire building to improve the environment and reduce operating costs for both the gym and swim centre is suggested. This would then provide an opportunity for joint funding applications to improve the building significantly.

Recommendation

That Council does/does not [delete one] contribute up to $50,000, building alterations to the pool area of the building if required, and a waiver of building consent fees to cover the courtyard between the pool offices and the Rangitīkei Active Gym.

Actions

Staff will investigate the options to renew the lease.

Topic 34: Housing

Submitter and Submission numbers

Ian Rae – Taihape Community Trust Board (#332), Paula Snowden - Health New Zealand | Te Whatu Ora (#441).

Summary of Submissions

Submitter #332 requests that Council develops residential subdivision of land in Taihape for future housing. That submitter states that the lack of housing in the town is inhibiting growth and sustainability of the town which is currently in decline.

Submitter #441 highlighted the importance of warm, dry and safe housing and compliance with the Healthy Homes Standard. The submitter has suggested Council is aiming for 95% compliance by 2034 and notes that 100% compliance is required by 1 July 2025 at the latest.

Officer Analysis

A Business Case for housing in Taihape is presently being prepared as part of the Better Off Funding. This will be presented to Council at their workshop on 23 May 2024.

Submitter #441 is referencing the Council's 2021-31 Long Term Plan Community Housing performance measure, which was based on the Otago University Rental Warrant of Fitness Programme. Staff continually work towards ensuring that all our Community Housing complies with the Healthy Homes Standards, where practicable, within the required timelines.

Topic 35: Public toilets

Submitter and Submission numbers
Charlotte (#199), Christine Gregory (#349), Carmen Wihongi (#359).

Summary of Submissions
Submitter #199 requests that council installs public toilets at Walker Park in Bulls as it is a picnic stop on the state highway. The submitter also shares that the local school uses the park, and not having access to these facilities can be problematic.

Submitter #359 requests that the public toilet by Speirs is opened again as shopkeepers often are asked for the use of their facilities.

Submitter #349 suggests that Council should build modern showers and toilets.

Officer Analysis
There is currently no toilet planned for Walker Park. Council has previously considered a request for toilets at Walker Park and declined the submission due to the close proximity of the toilet block at Rangitīkei Junction.

The public toilets adjacent to Spiers did not meet Crime Prevention through Environment Design (CPTED) requirements and were replaced by new toilets in Follett Street, Marton. Council no longer owns this toilet block.

Submitter #349 has not stated where they think Council should build modern showers and toilets. However, all new toilet blocks and showers Council has built in the past several years comply with SNZ4241:1999 and CPTED and have received favourable comment.

Recommendation
That Council does / does not [delete one] consider toilet amenities at Walker Park, Bulls.

Topic 36: Taihape wellness project

Submitter and Submission numbers
Mel Pera (#314), Amy Ball (#376), Brierly Chase (#381), De Anna Green (#386), Kimiora King (#397), Ngā Iwi o Mōkai Pātea Services Trust Governance Board - Nga Iwi O Mokai Patea Services (#402), Rahera Ingle (#407), Piki Te Ora Hiroa - Mokai Patea Services (#421).

Summary of Submissions
Submitter #402, Nga Iwi O Mokai Patea Services, has been working on a collaborative project with Whanganui Regional Health Network, Taihape Health Limited and Taihape Health Trust to improve the current Taihape Rural Health Centre / Old Taihape Hospital site and bring the Taihape Medical Centre/health Limited together with the Mokai Patea Services Whanau Ora Unit and other interested health providers under one roof. The submitter notes that all parties working on this project are not for profit organisations. The submitter requests that Council supports the initiative by providing manpower and resources to maintain the grounds at the new site factored from year two of the Long Term Plan, and that Council considers offering support through a loan system.

Submitter #421, Mokai Patea Services, has been working on a collaborative project with Whanganui Regional Health Network and their subsidiary group Taihape Health Limited, and the Taihape Health Trust over the last 3 years to look at revitalising and improving the current Taihape Rural Health Centre/Old Taihape Hospital site and remodel it into a space for the Taihape Medical Centre/Health Limited together with Mokai Patea Services Whanau Ora Unit and other interested health providers. The submitter notes that they presented at the February 2023 Councill Meeting.

Submitters #314, #376, #381, #397, #407, #421 request Council support the Taihape Wellness Project in the form of providing ongoing maintenance of the grounds and caretaking at the future site. Submitters note any additional financial support if available would be appreciated by the community.

Submitter #314 specifically requests Council purchase the building from its current owners.

Submitter #386 supports the development of the Taihape Wellness hub.

Submitter #421 requests that Council offers support via a loan system if needed to help with any shortfalls of funding given all parties are community trusts and not-for-profit organisations.

Officer Analysis
Council has previously resolved that it does participate in a collective approach with key stakeholders in the Taihape community on this Taihape Wellbeing Initiative. Council staff have continued to participate in dialogue.

Regarding submission #314, it is not the intention of Ngā Iwi O Mokai Patea Services and Whanganui Regional Health Board that Council purchase the building. Rather, that Council offer support via a loan or other financial solution.

The Parks team do not have current capacity available to maintain the facility grounds without additional resourcing. Additional budgets will have to be approved if this is to be considered.

Actions
Council staff to meet with Ngā Iwi O Mokai Patea Services to discuss further their submission and how Council may be able to assist.

Topic 37: Making the district more welcoming

Submitter and Submission numbers
Celeste (#011), Katrina O'Brien (#230), Michelle Donovan (#248), Charissa Lawlor (#384), James F Russell (#391),

Summary of Submissions
Submitter #011 states that the district need to be made more welcoming. The submitter points out that the Airforce base is just down the road and that we can make this a place that people want to visit and spend money in and also live.

Submitter #230 would like Council to focus on the important things like the empty, dirty and unappealing shops and the dirty main street tiles in Taihape.

Submitter #230 states that the poor state of the entrance to Taihape does not provide a good first glimpse of Taihape.

Submitter #248 states that Marton always seems to get stuff done and Taihape gets forgotten, noting that Taihape is on the main Highway. The asks we got a new amenities building but really why?

Submitter #384 asks what the long term plan for Hunterville is? The submitter notes that the community committee works hard to make the town beautiful, and the community is driven to get things done and seats have been painted, new Queens Park signs have been paid for by Lions and the Town would like to see more.

Submitter #384 highlights that Hunterville along with Taihape is on the main road.

Submitter #391 states that their visitors to Ohingaiti cannot believe the state of the Village. The submitter notes that the Rangitīkei's motto is 'Keep Rangitīkei Beautiful'.

Officer Analysis
Submitter #248 asks why Taihape got a new Amenities building. A number of sporting codes submitted to Council requesting a new amenities building as part of the 2016/17 Annual Plan process. While the submitter considers Taihape gets forgotten, it is not clear what they would like to see in Taihape. Taihape has received considerable funding over recent years, for example, Papakai Pumping Station, Ngā Awa Block, Taihape Town Hall renovation, and Taihape Grandstand renovation projects, as well as grants for Taihape Playground project, Hautapu River Parks Bridges project, and Courts re-surfacing and lighting projects.

A number of the above submissions are vague on detail of what the submitter would like to see. For example, #384 said Hunterville would like to see more improvements but does not state what, while Submitter #391 is not specific about what visitors to Ohingaiti are referring to.

Topic 38: Marketing the district

Submitter and Submission numbers
Rod & Anna Hardy (#410).

Summary of Submissions
Submitter #410 would like to see a strong marketing campaign which would reflect the Rangitīkei as a proud stand out district of undisputed beauty, industry, and lifestyle.

Officer Analysis
Council now has a Destination Management Plan (DMP) and a DMP Advisory Group, which includes members of the community. They are working collaboratively to promote the district and have commenced implementing actions from the DMP by facilitating and supporting community initiatives that will promote and market our district. Some examples are; five district golf courses – stay and play; creation of a 200km cycle trail; and town centre revitalisation projects. Council will work to improve communication on the work underway in this space.

Topic 39: Community events

Submitter and Submission numbers
Carmen Wihongi (#359), James Kilmister (#446).

Summary of Submissions

Submitter #359 would like the Harvest festival to be moved back to Centennial Park as it will be good for retailers.

Submitter #359 requests that Council backs the Country Music Festival more as it puts Marton on the Map.

Submitter #446 provides comment regarding the Shemozzle and thanks Council for support from the Sponsorship Grant. They note that they will always need the support from Council to help run the event and notes that it is a great way to promote the Rangitīkei and local businesses.

Officer Analysis

The Harvest Festival was moved to Sir James Wilson Park as it became too big for Marton Park. As it is held on a Sunday most retailers are closed therefore it would not affect trading. Holding it at Sir James Wilson Park also helps to differentiate it from the Marton Market Day. The recent success of the Marton Harvest Festival held at Wilson Park shows that the venue works well for both vendors and attendees.

Currently the Country Music Festival receives Event Support funding from Council towards the running of the event. Council also prepares the grounds, provides additional cleaning at toilets, allows access to the changing rooms for use, supplies the rubbish bins, and helps to promote the event. There is also access to power at Wilson Park and Memorial Park for events to access. We are always open to other ways in which we can help support events so if the organisers reach out, we are happy to help where we can. Council's Community Group Property Team also request feedback from the event organisers after the event.

Topic 40: Antenatal classes

Submitter and Submission numbers

Kira Swainson (#235).

Summary of Submissions

Submitter #235 would like to see antenatal classes in the district. The submitter notes that the closest classes are in Whanganui, Feilding, and Palmerston North and they book up quickly. The submitter suggests that there may be a way to get some providers to come to the district.

Officer Analysis

Antenatal classes are provided in both Marton and Taihape. Whanganui Regional Health Network have advised they will ensure this information is on their website (if it presently isn't).

Topic 41: Health Services for Hunterville

Submitter and Submission numbers

James Kilmister (#446).

Summary of Submissions

Submitter #446 raises concerns about the lack of a doctor in Hunterville. They suggest a doctor is based in Hunterville two or three days per week.

Officer Analysis
Whanganui Regional Health Network advise that the demographic and need for a Doctor in Hunterville is not obvious to the providers as the majority of the Hunterville population are enrolled in either Marton, Bulls, Whanganui or Taihape. If transport is an issue this should be discussed with their provider. Council refers this concern to the Hunterville Community Committee, requesting that the committee seeks to understand the need within the town. Requests that

Topic 42: Definition of public health

Submitter and Submission numbers
Paula Snowden - Health New Zealand | Te Whatu Ora (#441).

Summary of Submissions
Submitter #441 requests council clarify the definition of public health on p127 of the Long Term Plan and offer support to reframe the concept and work with Council on opportunities in this space.

Officer Analysis
In the context of Council's activities, Public Health relates to activities associated with issuing and oversight of Liquor Licences and licensing of Food Premises.

Topic 43: Community places

Submitter and Submission numbers
Paula Snowden - Health New Zealand | Te Whatu Ora (#441).

Summary of Submissions
Submitter #441 provides comment on the importance of marae as community hubs. They request that community place initiatives such as the Taihape Town Hall or Marton Civic Centre Council should consider accessibility for people with disabilities, facilities for cycling and trees.

Officer Analysis
Council agrees on the importance of Marae as community hubs.

Taihape Town hall renovation and Marton Civic Centre new build will consider accessibility requirements for new buildings as per the Building Act 2004.

Topic 44: Emergency management

Submitter and Submission numbers
John Bligh(#347).

Summary of Submissions
Submitter #347 requests that a full independent review of Civil Defence be carried out of Councils systems and published in full for the protection of the district.

Officer Analysis
The Rangitīkei District Council is an active member of the Manawatū-Whanganui Civil Defence Emergency Management Group, as required by the Civil Defence Emergency Management Act 2002.

The group is a consortium of the local authorities in this region with the vision to "build a resilient and safer region with communities understanding and managing their hazards and risks". The group maintains a Plan that considers all phases of emergency; reduction, readiness, response and recovery. Emergency Management in our Region is co-ordinated via our Civil Defence Emergency Management (CDEM) Group which is based on regional council boundaries and combines local councils, emergency services, health boards and other organisations to take a highly coordinated approach to emergency management.

Rangitīkei District Council has a Strategic Response Plan based upon the principles of Readiness, Reduction, Response and Recovery, to build a more Resilient Community. Our Strategic plan covers many topics including:

1. Emergency Management Duty Officer Guide
2. Localised Emergency Events
3. EOC Activation Process
4. Tsunami Action Plan
5. Whangaehu Flood Action Plan
6. Whangaehu Village Community Emergency Response Plan
7. Turakina Flood Action Plan
8. Scotts Ferry Flood Action Plan
9. Earthquake Action Plan
10. Taihape Subsidence Plan
11. Marton / Bulls Flood Action Plan
12. Welfare Operations
13. Emergency Communications
14. Pandemic and Communicable Disease Plan
15. Covid 19 Resurgence Plan
16. Local Recovery Plan
17. Key Contacts

The Strategic plan contains personal information and is thus not publicly available. We do however have some Community Response Plans available on our website, including for

- Koitiata
- Marton
- Taihape

Plans for Bulls, Hunterville, Turakina, Whangaehu and Ratana are still under development in consultation with representatives of those communities.

Councils Controllers and key staff have agreed there will be an emphasis on all staff training and have been working together to identify training opportunities and programmes for emergency management.

Topic 45: Community and Leisure Asset Management Plan

Submitter and Submission numbers

Lynne Sheridan (#431).

Summary of Submissions

Submitter #431 requests that Council's town centres are included in the next Community and Leisure Asset Management Plan and that regular maintenance works for each CBD are identified in the document following discussion with the community committees/boards. The submitter suggests Council survey the community committees/boards alongside the annual resident survey regarding the condition of the CBD and invite their comments.

Officer Analysis

The Community and Leisure Asset Management Plan has been replaced by the Social Infrastructure Activity Management Plan 2024-2034. It is documented that CBDs are also not included in the Social Infrastructure AMP, and the submitter's suggestion will be noted for the next review of this plan.

Community Leadership

Topic 46	Broadway and High Street buildings
Topic 47	Business support
Topic 48	Town centre services
Topic 49	Bulls development
Topic 50	Climate change
Topic 51	Māori Wards
Topic 52	LTP Process

Topic 46: Broadway and High Street buildings

Submitter and Submission numbers

Sam Scott (#99), Amanda Jane Emery (#375), Lyn Turner (#398), Nigel Belsham - Business Rangitīkei (#417).

Summary of Submissions

Submitter #099 suggests that Council develop the empty buildings on High Street/Broadway into 'Marton Heritage Apartments' and rent them out to bring in income. The submitter states that not everyone wants a garden to look at.

Submitter #375 would like Council to sort out the corner building.

Submitter #398 thinks this site could be better used for car parks, noting that parks are limited around town.

Submitter #417 is disappointed that Council is not moving to the main street. The submitter reminds Council that the buildings were purchased to centralise services and revitalise the main street.

Officer Analysis

Officers note the comments regarding the buildings on the corner of High Street/Broadway which were initially purchased for the Marton Civic Centre Project. At the 14 December 2024 meeting, Council decided that it would construct a new administration building and library on the site at 46 High Street, Marton. The report that informed this decision can be viewed through the following link - Agenda of Ordinary Council Meeting - Thursday, 14 December 2023 (Rangitīkei.govt.nz).

This decision resulted in Council considering the future of the buildings on the corner of High Street/Broadway at the 29 February 2024 Council meeting. At this meeting Council decided the buildings were surplus to requirements and that they should be placed on the market for sale. The submitters are able to view the report through the following link - Agenda of Ordinary Council Meeting - Thursday, 29 February 2024 (Rangitīkei.govt.nz).

Topic 47: Business support

Submitter and Submission numbers

Nigel Belsham - Business Rangitīkei (#417), No name (#448).

Summary of Submissions

Submitter #417 acknowledges the policy in reducing or waiving fees for internal consenting costs for new businesses adopted in 2015, but notes that with the increasingly complex regulatory environment, businesses need more support in order to get underway.

Submitter #448 requests Council continues to support the Hunterville community, businesses and organisations.

Officer Analysis

The policy for 'Reducing or Waiving Fees for Internal Consenting Costs' was adopted by Council in 2015 the comments made by the submitter regarding the increasingly complex regulatory environment are acknowledged. It is Councils intention to review this policy as part of a wider review into the Council support available to business and commercial property owners.

Council has no intention to change the way it provides support to its communities and encourages the community of Hunterville to engage with Council officers regarding their projects and ideas for improvements.

Topic 48: Town Centre Services

Submitter and Submission numbers

Barbara Brewin (#195), Nicola Rowe (#315).

Summary of Submissions

Submitter #195 suggests that a hub for banks is required. The submitter suggests that the three main banks that were previously here could share one building on separate days. This would provide an invaluable service to the community and would only require one building, not three. The submitter states that two thousand new homes will bring a lot more customers to the district.

Submitter #315 notes they moved to Marton two years ago and love the small town feel but are concerned about limited shops and empty buildings.

Officer Analysis

Officers note the impact that the loss of banks has had on the community. While Council is an advocate for bringing banking services back to our district, these decisions are made by the banks independently from Council.

Council works closely with building owners and businesses to ensure opportunities are there for existing businesses to thrive, new businesses to establish and building owners can attract tenants. This is done in partnership with stakeholders like property owners and Business Rangitīkei.

Topic 49: Bulls development

Submitter and Submission numbers

KPA Properties (#288).

Summary of Submissions

Submitter #288 raises several concerns regarding their proposed development in Bulls:

- Haylock Park – the submitter states that they were proposing to incorporate Haylock Park into their development and provide a road through to their development from Walker Crescent, introduce small community-based businesses and add a playground. They suggest that Council took this option off the table and caused a 12 month delay to the project and request Council reconsider this proposal.
- Rezoning – The submitter suggests that Council notified them near the end of 2022 that the land had been identified as suitable for development under a council plan change. They note that after little communication from staff that they were told that staff will not be able to say if the land is likely to be rezoned until the end of 2024 and then it will take 2-3 years. The submitter suggests the timeframes are due to Council delays.
- Resource consent – the submitter notes that they are assessing the viability of the project and identifying areas that can be re-designed to reduce costs. They note that the redesign has been in discussion with Council for 7 months and they have been disappointed in the process and willingness to work together.
- Relationships – the submitter notes good relationships with neighbouring districts and states other issues, but does not specify. They note the progress of other developments in the region.

Officer Analysis

Haylock Park

The submitter approached Council regarding a roading link through Haylock Park that would service their development and also noted a desire for developing a commercial area to the north of the road. Council approved the concept of a link road through Haylock Park in August 2022, as it was an important part of ensuring connectivity for Bulls. Progress on the submitter's request regarding the proposed commercial activities were not progressed, awaiting a written request from the submitter. Officers always made the submitter aware that these matters should be dealt with separately to the subdivision to ensure the subdivision process would not be delayed.

If the submitter is still keen to explore establishing commercial activities on Haylock Park then this would be subject to a resource consent or plan change process as this land is zoned Residential and commercial activities are not permitted as of right in this zone. Further to this, Council (as the landowner) would need to work to understand whether such a use of this space is feasible and appropriate.

The link road was not required as part of their subdivision consent RM210084 and does not cause a delay in constructing their subdivision. Officers suggest that any further discussion on the matter be

revisited only once the submitter has an approved subdivision consent, they are actively implementing.

Rezoning

The submitter received a letter from Officers during the development of Pae Tawhiti Rangitīkei Beyond, Community Spatial Plan informing them of the process and suitability assessment for their rural zoned parcel in Bulls, identified in the Community Spatial Plan as BUL03. This parcel was identified as having a *moderate* suitability rating. Officers have met with the submitter on two occasions (2022 and 2023) and at no stage stated that BUL03 would be guaranteed to be progressed for rezoning. The submitter was informed that there are three key options for Bulls and further technical assessment is required before a preferred option (or options) is progressed. The key challenge associated with the site which restricts its suitability for future growth is the flood hazard. In response to this constraint the submitter provided a proposal for consideration which they consider avoids the flood prone areas.

From early in the Community Spatial Plan development process, the timeframe for notification of a plan change for rezoning was identified as 2024. There have not been delays to that stated timeframe at this stage, Officers are currently in the research phase of this plan change.

Resource consent

The submitter has an approved subdivision consent (RM210084) that was granted in June 2022. There are no Council requirements stopping the submitter from progressing with this approved development. At the end of July 2023, the submitter approached Council identifying that they intended to make changes to the proposal to increase the viability of the project. Council's Resource Management Team provided comments on a number of occasions on the revised scheme plan provided by the submitter. The submitter was informed the design of the revised subdivision was of concern to officers. Officers have worked with the submitter to help them understand their concerns and Officers from the Strategy & Development Team have discussed alternative designs for the subdivision to help facilitate a good outcome for the submitter and their proposed development.

Relationships

Officers have always been open to working with the submitter and have met with them on multiple occasions. The submitter has an approved subdivision consent and Officers continue to work with the submitter as they revise the proposed development in Bulls.

Topic 50: Climate change

Submitter and Submission numbers

Gregory Smith (#416), Horizons Regional Council (#418), Paula Snowden - Health New Zealand | Te Whatu Ora (#441).

Summary of Submissions

Submitter #418 encourages Council to add provisions through the Long Term Plan for initiatives that increase resilience to natural hazards and a changing climate, including recommended actions from the Joint Action Plan.

Submitter #416 does not like that Council is tied to carbon taxes and man-made climate change.

Submitter #441 notes support for Council completing the Climate Strategy and Action Plan and notes the level of funding is under discussion. The submitter considers that clear funding confirms the intent of implementing the work. Health NZ note their desire to participate as a stakeholder in the implementation of the Climate Strategy and Action Plan. This submitter also notes resilience/adaptation projects which have been implemented for a range of at risk communities. This submitter also requests Council undertake risk assessments of marae, particularly those vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, roading and access, and urupa protection.

Officer Analysis
Comments in support of the Climate Strategy and Action Plan are noted. Officers are working through implementation of the Climate Strategy and Action Plan in 2024. Any further funding needs will be assessed through the 2024/25 Annual Plan process. This will include consideration of priorities for risk assessment work in the Rangitīkei.

Topic 51: Māori wards

Submitter and Submission numbers
Gregory Smith (#416).

Summary of Submissions
Submitter #416 would like the Māori wards disbanded. The submitter does not believe that they provide any benefit and states that the positions were created without public consultation.

Officer Analysis
Māori Wards were established during the representation review for the 2022 local body elections. The public had the opportunity to submit (and object on decisions) at the time of this review. The Government is proposing changes to the Local Electoral Act that will require Council to either disband the Māori Wards prior to the 2025 local body elections or run a binding poll alongside the 2025 election that will apply from 2028. The legislation is currently moving through parliament, with Council expected to make such a decision in mid-2024.

Topic 52: Long Term Plan process

Submitter and Submission numbers
Rosemary Mead-White (#172), Alessandra McKain (#252), Paul Hughes (#304), Charissa Lawlor (#384), Gregory Smith (#416),

Summary of Submissions
Submitter #172 thanks Council for consulting

Submitter #304 notes their support for Mayor Andy Watson, comments that he is doing a great job, and appreciates him attending meetings in small halls throughout the district.

Submitter #384 understands that it is hard and time consuming to put together a plan of this size and congratulates Council on a well documented plan which has been easy to read and somewhat understand.

Submitter #252 note that the QR code in the newspaper was too small to work well.

Submitter #416 notes the issue of the word limit on the online form.

Submitter #416 notes they would like to speak to their submission but are unable to due to work commitments, and notes that the submission period is several weeks shorter than other councils.

Officer Analysis
Submitter comments are noted and will be considered when planning future consultations. The consultation period was compliant with the requirements under the Local Government Act 2002 and was a time period consistent with the majority of other councils throughout New Zealand.

Regulatory

Topic 53	Fly tipping and unsociable behaviour

Topic 53: Fly Tipping and Unsociable behaviour

Submitter and Submission numbers
Scott Parkes (#301), Angela McIntyre (#378), James F Russell (#391), Shirley R Russell (#412).

Summary of Submissions
Submitter #301 raises a number of concerns about unsociable behaviour and considers Council does not care about Ohingaiti:

- The state of the area opposite the pub – burnt down and a pile of rubbish.
- Lots of dogs making it unsafe.
- Tiny homes on small sections without consent.

Submitter #378 requests that Council removes unsightly rubbish along the old main road in Ohingaiti.

Submitter #412 states that the Ohingaiti Village has extreme need for a makeover from the basics of sections with no sewerage to rubbish, metal, concrete, vehicles, and burnt out machinery.

Submitter #391 is concerned about the look of Makohine Lane due to rubbish and unkept sections.

Submitter #412 believes that uncontrolled dogs are an issue in Ohingaiti Village.

Officer Analysis
The comments from the submitters are noted and submitters are encouraged to log specific concerns through Council's Request for Service system. This is able to be done online at www.Rangitīkei.govt.nz or by phone 0800 422 522. Unkempt sections that are a fire risk should be reported to FENZ. Council has no oversight on unkept sections. Council have not received complaints related to wandering dogs or illegal tiny homes. Ōhingaiti does not have a reticulated three waters network and there are no plans to implement such a service.

Miscellaneous

Topic 54	Infrastructure Strategy & Council activities
Topic 55	Central Government
Topic 56	Moawhango dam release
Topic 57	Weather modification
Topic 58	District management plan
Topic 59	Gender equity
Topic 60	Comments of support
Topic 61	Sediment and nutrients in waterways
Topic 62	Summary of Significance and Engagement Policy
Topic 63	Miscellaneous

Topic 54: Infrastructure Strategy & Council activities

Submitter and Submission numbers

Justin Adams (#312), Angela McIntyre (#378), Rodger Rangi (#450).

Summary of Submissions

Submitter #312 provides comments in support of the quality of the Infrastructure Strategy, particularly supporting the optimised renewal programme and focus on resilience and increasing asset data knowledge.

Submitter #378 states that people move to regions for its location and good services that it provides so infrastructure needs to be the priority.

Submitter #312 considers Council covers a comprehensive range of activities and highlights key challenges. The submitter notes the importance of monitoring and evaluation of progress.

Submitter #312 considers the long term plan addresses the needs of a small population.

Submitter #450 stated that the works programme is unsustainable and unfair to future ratepayers.

Officer Analysis

Submitter comments are acknowledged.

Topic 55: Central Government

Submitter and Submission numbers

Allan Cant (#370).

Summary of Submissions

Submitter #370 notes that Central Government is imposing more costs onto ratepayers, which need to be managed in the context to income and the aging population. The submitter would like Council to stand up against these laws. The submitter states that these laws seem to be driven by ideology and not science.

Officer Analysis

The submitter comments are acknowledged. There have been substantial legislative changes with the current coalition Government and the previous Labour Government. Council proactively advocates for the district's interests through submissions on legislative changes. These submissions

are available to view on Council's website through this link - Submissions made to other Organisations: Rangitīkei District Council.

Topic 56: Moawhango dam release

Submitter and Submission numbers
Angela McIntyre (#378).

Summary of Submissions
Submitter #378 is concerned about the damage the releasing of the dam in summer months is causing to aquatic life. The submitter outlines a number of solutions to protect the aquatic life.

Officer Analysis
The release of water associated with the Moawhango Dam is a matter managed by Horizons Regional Council. It is recommended that the submitter contacts Horizons regarding this submission point.

Topic 57: Weather modification

Submitter and Submission numbers
Angela McIntyre (#378).

Summary of Submissions
Submitter #378 lists a number of concerns about weather modification, and some solutions they would like Council to implement.

Officer Analysis
The matter regarding weather modification and solutions raised by the submitter are generally within the jurisdiction of Horizons Regional Council. It is recommended that the submitter contacts Horizons regarding this submission point.

Topic 58: District Management Plan

Submitter and Submission numbers
Carolyn Bates (#428),

Summary of Submissions
Submitter #428 comments on the summary of her submission points raised during the 2021 LTP consultation and feels that this comment still applies and they are not presently aware of any such or similar survey being carried out to support this proposal from Council.:

> *Submitter #165 questions the development of the District Management Plan and suggests this work had been undertaken in the past. The submitter also suggests a survey to analyse information about the district had been completed in association with Rangitīkei.com*

Officer Analysis
In 2021, Officers interpreted the submitter to be referencing the Destination Management Plan and noted Council was planning on preparing one. This document has since been created. It is unclear

what information the submitter suggests surveying the community and detail was unable to be sourced from the submitter prior to the drafting of this report.

Topic 59: Gender equity

Submitter and Submission numbers
Gretta Mills (#430).

Summary of Submissions
Submitter #430 provided commentary regarding the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals. They provided commentary regarding their recent attendance at the Commission on the Status of Women at the United Nations in New York. The submitter provided comments regarding gender equality and considers the status of women in the Rangitīkei requires action by organisations such as RDC. The submitter specifically points out the first 6 sustainable development goals which are relevant for women and children. Submitter #430 also comments that Council has the duty to serve the community fairly and equitably. They request that Council is transparent about the following:

- Council roles and gender equity within staff, including assessing bias in recruitment and salary decisions.
- Consultation processes in the community, ensuring that women's views are sought and valued equally with men.
- Council policies should be examined with a gender lens.

Officer Analysis
Council is an equal opportunities employer. Council has an equitable balance of gender across roles and levels. Recruitment decisions are based on best person for job, following a robust, gender neutral, selection process. Salary decisions are based on role and experience.

Community consultation occurs with the community with the intent of capturing views from all segments in society. A gender lens is not explicitly used to assessed Council policies of consultation processes. However, it is noted that generally Council receives a higher proportion of submissions from females than males.

Topic 60: Comments of support

Submitter and Submission numbers
Susan O'Regan (#068), Kym Skerman (#088), Sam Scott (#099), Kate (#227), H L Anderson (#371), Nigel Belsham, Business Rangitīkei (#417).

Summary of Submissions
Submitter #068 says that Council does an awesome job and that it is a pleasure to live in this district.

Submitter #088 Thanks Council for all the fantastic work Council does.

Submitter #099 says that Ben is AWESOME!

Submitter #227 Fabulous ideas/projects, thank you.

Submitter #371 says keep up the good work, our town and surrounds generally all look tidy and attractive, well done.

Submitter #417 acknowledge their relationship with Council at both the governance and officer level and are committed to further developing these relationships.

Officer Analysis
The comments from submitters are acknowledged.

Topic 61: Sediment and nutrients in waterways

Submitter and Submission numbers
Angela McIntyre (#378).

Summary of Submissions
Submitter #378 is concerned about sediment and nutrients entering waterways, particularly sediment coming from gravel roads. The submitter would like under sink disposals banned, education on the consequences so urban residents lower their footprint, and analyse sediment runoff from gravel roads and re-educate accordingly.

Officer Analysis
The submitters comments are noted. Council does not have the authority to ban under sink disposal units. Council has not completed its own analysis on sediment in waterways as this an activity that is led by Horizons.

Topic 62: Summary of Significance and Engagement Policy

Submitter and Submission numbers
Lynne Sheridan (SE003).

Summary of Submissions
Submitter SE003 requests page 117 of the Draft LTP is amended to reflect what happens and to be transparent (underlined).

"This Policy outlines how and when you can have input into the decision-making processes of the Council and covers two things:

1. Significance; and

2. ~~How the Council will get your input to decision-making (participation)"~~ <u>How and whether, the Council will get your input to decision-making (participation).</u>

Officer Analysis
The summary of the Significance and Engagement Policy aligns with the wording of the Significance and Engagement Policy. Further analysis of the submitter's comments related to the Significance and Engagement Policy are provided separately. Officers do not recommend a change to wording is required to achieve clarity in the policy.

Topic 63: Miscellaneous

Submitter and Submission numbers

Len Robinson (#434).

Summary of Submissions

Submitter #434 provides comment about how Council operates and suggests Councils should go back to the old way. The submitter suggests the CEO should be someone from the local government sector.

Submitter #434 questions whether Rangitīkei District Council will become irrelevant and states the local MP has moved their office to Feilding. The submitter also suggests the water is partly run by Manawatū. The submitter questions whether councils will be forced to merge and considers there is duplication and policy conflict with regional councils.

Submitter #434 considers the economy is at risk of collapse and provides comment about the economic climate and history. The submitter also provides comment about the parliamentary system and supports a move towards localism.

Officer Analysis

Submitter comments are acknowledged. There are currently no plans for amalgamation and the CEO is appointed by Council in accordance with legislative requirements.