

Subject: 2010/11 Draft Annual Plan Hearings Report

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Meeting Date: 5/6 May 2010

Report to COUNCIL for decision

SUMMARY

Formal consultation on Council's draft Annual Plan occurred during March 2010. The objective of the consultation was to highlight Council's proposed plans for Year 2 of the Ten Year Plan, inform the community of progress made on key projects and to seek community feedback both informally, via the community update meetings, and more formally through Annual Plan submissions process. A report outlining Community Update meetings and other consultation carried out during March, was considered by Council at its meeting in April (report 10/218).

In terms of the formal draft Annual Plan 2010/11 submissions process, the Council received 69 submissions, seven of which were received late. Twenty-six submitters have requested to be heard. Note that there were no submissions relating to the draft Fees and Charges document that also went out for public consultation at the same time.

The Hearings on 5/6 May will conclude the public phase of the special consultative procedure for the draft Annual Plan 2010/11.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Council

1. receives the report
2. receives and considers the late submissions (submission numbers 67-73)
3. amends the draft Annual Plan to reduce the dividend expected from Gisborne Holdings Ltd from \$800k to \$500k, with the shortfall to be deficit funded
4. instructs staff to prepare a revised draft Annual Plan for consideration at the Council meeting on 27 May, incorporating all amendments resulting from the resolutions made during the hearings process
5. instructs staff to prepare a final Fees and Charges document for consideration at the Council meeting on 27 May
6. instructs officers to advise submitters of the outcomes of the hearings process.

1. BACKGROUND

Councillors have now received the following submission summary reports:

- **Hearings Schedule** - setting out the timetable of submitters to be heard.
- **Hearings Schedule Summary of Submissions with Officer Responses** - this report contains all of the summaries and officer responses for those submitters that have requested to be heard.
- **24 Annual Plan Activity Reports** - these reports briefly summarise, by activity or project, the issues/themes arising from all of the submissions. The relevant submission summaries and officer responses are attached to each report.
- **Summary of all Submissions and Officer Responses** - This report contains the complete list of submission summaries and officer responses ordered by submission.

The reports listed above have also been posted on the Council website. Submitters who have requested to be heard have been sent a summary of their submissions together with the corresponding officer responses.

2. DISCUSSION

Council received 69 submissions for its draft Annual Plan 2010/11 (11 were received via the Council website) with 26 submitters requesting to be heard. The submissions covered a range of Council activities and themes.

The table below summarises the number of submissions containing comments relating to Council's various activities and projects:

Activity / Project Area	No of Comments	Activity / Project Area	No of Comments
Governance	6	District Policy	4
Land Transport and Parking	34	Natural Resources Policy	2
Wastewater Treatment Plant	2	Environmental Health	4
Stormwater	1	Civil Defence, Emergency Management and Rural Fires	2
Reserves and Open Spaces	15	Building Services	1
Community and Staff Housing	3	Animal Control	1
Flood control	6	Inner Harbour	5
Enterprise Operations	3	Development Control	1
Finance and Support Services	7	Planning and Performance	3
Rates	15	Economic Development	10
Libraries	3	Community Development	10
Aquatic and Recreation Facilities	1	Arts and Culture	23

Each activity report summarises the areas covered by the submission comments and highlights any overarching themes or messages arising from the submission. Four key messages that have emerged from the submissions are:

1. Concerns about rates

Rates concerns included calls to keep the rates low by limiting Council activities and concerns about the way rates are distributed across the District (refer to report 10/239).

2. Strong support for walking and cycling projects

Community support for the walking and cycleway projects set out in the Ten Year Plan remains strong. It is unfortunate that Council has been unsuccessful in obtaining funding for these projects from the New Zealand Transport Agency (refer to report 10/234).

3. Support for a more strategic approach to arts and culture

A large number of submissions expressed a desire for greater transparency and inclusiveness in decision-making relating to Council's role in arts and culture, particularly in the area of arts in public places, and for promoting regional identity (refer to report 10/255).

4. Requests for local planning projects

Calls for more opportunities for community led and focused planning initiatives in the form of requests for new township plans and progress on planned neighbourhood revitalisation projects (refer to report 10/252).

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

With the exception of the Community Development Activity Report, which recommends consideration of two minor increases in expenditure (approximately \$6,000 in total) be added to the 2010/11 Annual Plan, there are no increases in expenditure recommended by officers as a result of the draft Annual Plan submissions. The remaining officer recommendations can be loosely grouped into the following types:

- Recommendations for no change to be made to the draft 2010/11 Annual Plan.
- Recommendations to respond to, or reconsider submissions in later planning rounds (e.g. as part of the preparation of the 2011/12 Annual Plan, or to inform the 2012-22 Ten Year Plan process.
- Recommendations that Council work programmes for 2010/11 be changed or reprioritised, but within existing budgets.

It is also important to note that as a result of indications provided from the board of Gisborne Holdings Limited, it is recommended that Council amends the draft Annual Plan 2010/11 to reduce the dividend from Gisborne Holdings Ltd from \$800k to \$500k. While this change is discussed in the Enterprise Operations activity report (refer 10/249), a recommendation as to how to fund the decrease in revenue is not included. Therefore, this report recommends that the 300k decrease be deficit funded in the draft 2010/11 Annual Plan.

Note that a register of recommendations/resolutions will be prepared to ensure that all Council resolutions are monitored and actioned.

4. NEXT STEPS

Upon completion of the hearings process, the next steps are as follows:

- The revised Plan will be considered by Council 27 May 2010
- Council is scheduled to adopt the 2010/11 Annual Plan 24 June 2010