

Long Term Plan toolkit

Have your say

On the future of sport, recreation, and play in the Whakatāne district

What is the Long Term Plan?

The Long Term Plan (LTP) serves as the district's roadmap for the next decade. It sets out the various activities, services, and investments the Council intends to undertake or suggest for the forthcoming years.

Whakatāne District Council reviews its LTP every three years, with ongoing public consultation to gather input on the proposed plans. This consultation period, which is currently underway, provides individuals and organisations with the chance to express their opinions on the Council's proposed actions, including funding allocations for play, active recreation, and sport infrastructure.

Key dates



12 March - 12 April 2024
Submissions are open



18-19 April 2024
Opportunity to present
your submission to the
Mayor and Councillors



20 June 2024
Adoption of the LTP -
including changes made
as a result of submissions

What's being proposed for the sport, recreation, and play sector?

Whakatāne District Council plays a crucial role in supporting and investing in play, recreation, and sport facilities. We greatly value this support and, as a sector, rely on Council's investment to enable many of the great physical activity options available to all of us across the district.

Maintaining and developing fit-for-purpose sport, recreation and play facilities is a major challenge. **Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub** is a key example. The precinct is well used for many activities, and provides crucial indoor court space to meet existing and growing demand.

However, **significant maintenance and upgrades are required** to meet health and safety standards, meet existing and growing demand and to generate economic benefits for the wider district.

Given the critical role Rex Morpeth infrastructure plays in enabling sport, recreation, and play in the district, Sport Bay of Plenty has long advocated for the redevelopment of Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub to ensure the precinct is fit-for-purpose now and into the future.

Proposed options

To address the maintenance and upgrades required, the Whakatāne District Council LTP proposes three options for scaling, staging and funding redevelopment and upgrades.

Option 1

Carry out redevelopment of the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub as soon as possible. Secure **35% external funding** for major development works in 2028 and 2029. The remainder would be funded through rates and development contributions.

Redevelopment includes:

- A multi-purpose facility with significant upgrades to Whakatāne War Memorial Hall
- A sports pavilion to replace the existing Rugby Park grandstand
- An accessibility-friendly playground
- Increased carparking space
- Other required improvements over the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub area.

Option 2

Carry out redevelopment of the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub as soon as possible. **Secure 50% external funding** for major development works in 2029 and 2030. The remainder would be funded through rates and development contributions.

Option 3

Carry out necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub consisting of:

- Refurbishment of the Little Theatre
- Upgrades to the Whakatāne War Memorial Hall reception lounge, kitchens, hall flooring, toilets and mezzanine floor
- Seismic strengthening of the rugby grandstand and minor upgrades to the kitchen and changing facilities
- A new children's play space similar in size to the existing playground
- Additional carparking.

(See pages 24-25 of the LTP for a complete breakdown of the options).

Key takeaways

What are the crucial components of this LTP to you, a member of our play, active recreation and sport sector?

- Council investment enables many of the physical activity options available to all of us across the district
- Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub is a well-used community asset for people within and outside of the district but needs significant maintenance and upgrades
- There are limited indoor court facilities in the district and demand is growing
- The LTP proposes three options for Rex Morpeth, including redevelopment (options 1 and 2), or necessary upgrades (option 3)
- User fees and charges will not change (fees and charges to remain as per 2023 review until 2025/2026 financial year)

In addition to Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub, the Council has confirmed in its Financial Policies that user fees and charges will not change (fees and charges to remain as per 2023 review until 2025/2026 financial year).



Why should I make a submission?

Writing a submission for a Council's LTP allows you to voice your opinions and suggestions regarding the direction and priorities of your local government.

Councils are major providers of sport, play, and recreation facilities – without them, much of what happens in our sector wouldn't be possible.

Draft LTPs are an opportunity to make a submission on what Council plans to do over the next 10 years to support quality physical activity opportunities through the provision of fit-for-purpose facilities and spaces.

This is your chance to participate in the decision

making process, influence policy, and advocate for issues that matter to you and your community.

Your submission can help shape the future development, services, and projects in your area.

Highlighting the value of play, active recreation and sport, and the benefits it can have on individual, social and community wellbeing is one way we can influence decision-making processes.

Sport Bay of Plenty encourages all members of our sector to have a say and make a submission. You can submit as an individual, as a club or organisation, or both. The more submissions we can achieve, the more likely it is our collective voice can be heard.

How do I make a submission?

Making a submission is easy and can be done online or via email/post.

- **Online:** www.whakatane.govt.nz
- **Email:** submissions@whakatane.govt.nz
- **Post:** Whakatāne District Council, Private Bag 1002, Whakatāne 3158
- **Drop off:** To the Council offices in Whakatāne and Murupara
- or **Contact** your elected members

Making a verbal submission

In support of your submission, you can also verbally present to Council. This allows you to emphasise key points and demonstrate your passion. Hearings also offer elected members an opportunity to enquire further, allowing extra opportunities to amplify your message.

If you would like to formally present your submission you will need to register with Council before **5pm, Friday 12 April**. Do this by emailing info@whakatane.govt.nz or calling 07 306 0500. Formal hearing dates are 18-19 April 2024.

Visit

www.whakatane.govt.nz
To have your say online
before 12 April 2024

Long Term Plan 2024-34 Submission Form

All fields marked with an asterisk (*) are required

4. How should we scale, fund and stage necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub?

- Option 1: Carry out redevelopment of the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub as soon as possible. This requires us to secure 35% external funding for major development works in 2028 and 2029.
- Option 2: Carry out redevelopment of the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub as soon as possible. This requires us to secure 50% external funding for major development works in 2029 and 2030.
- Option 3: Carry out necessary upgrades to the Rex Morpeth Recreation Hub

* Please refer to pages 24-26 of the Consultation Document for approximate costs and ratepayer contributions.

Key messages to consider in your submission

Acknowledge Council's support

Acknowledge the critical support and investment Whakatāne District Council offers to support sport, recreation, and play in the Eastern Bay. Without this support, many in our community would not have the great opportunities to participate.

Economic benefits

Highlight the potential of sport and recreation to stimulate economic growth. Activities and events in our region can attract large numbers from within and outside of the district. Having fit-for-purpose spaces and places, and maintaining great natural assets, can enhance our local economy.

Investment in facilities

Advocate for continued investment in high-quality sport facilities across the District to meet the growing needs of the community. This includes upgrading existing facilities and developing new ones where necessary to cater to diverse sporting activities.

Acknowledge Council's challenges

Acknowledge the challenges Council is facing, including a tough fiscal environment and many demands. These demands are not an 'either/or' situation, however, and investing in our people and the communities wellbeing must remain a priority.

Long-term planning and investment

Stress the importance of taking a long-term perspective in planning and investing in sport and recreation infrastructure. Advocate for strategic planning processes that consider future population growth, demographic trends, and evolving community needs to ensure sustainable development over time.

Health and wellbeing

Remind council that sport, active recreation, and play create happier, healthier people and better-connected communities. Active New Zealanders are 59% more likely have the highest level of wellbeing, with positive impacts on physical, mental and social indicators.



Importance to community

Demonstrate how sport, recreation, and play facilities host a myriad of events that help to enhance community engagement and belonging. These facilities serve as vital community hubs, foster social cohesion and promote physical and mental wellbeing.

Youth engagement and development

Highlight the importance of supporting a range of physical activity opportunities for young people. When making decisions regarding the provision of play, active recreation and sport we have both an opportunity and a responsibility to understand and support the wants and needs of young people.

Environmental sustainability

Urge the council to prioritise environmental sustainability in the planning and development of sport facilities. This may include incorporating eco-friendly design principles, promoting the use of renewable energy sources, and preserving green spaces for outdoor activities.

Accessibility and inclusivity

Emphasise the importance of ensuring that sport opportunities are accessible and inclusive for all residents, regardless of age, ability, or socioeconomic background. This may involve initiatives such as improving accessibility in existing facilities and providing programs for disadvantaged communities.

¹ Sport NZ. The Value of Sport and Active Recreation to New Zealanders [2017].

Tips for writing a submission

Writing a **clear** and **succinct** submission for the Long Term Plan is essential.

The Council will receive several submissions. In order to cut through the noise - the most effective submissions are clear, short, and to the point.

Provide quantifiable evidence and examples to support your argument:

- Example: "Over the past five years, our club has seen a 50% increase in membership, resulting in overcrowded courts during peak hours. This growth highlights the urgent need for court upgrades."

Emphasise how your proposal will benefit the wider community or specific demographics:

- Example: "Our tennis club serves as a hub for social interaction and community bonding. Better courts will offer residents of all ages, including seniors and youth, a safe and enjoyable space for recreational activities and tournaments."

Clearly state your concern or topic:

- Example: "Our tennis club requires additional funding to improve court facilities, as current conditions hinder player experience and limit community engagement."

Outline the benefits of your proposal to the area, relevant sectors, and community:

- Example: "Enhancing our tennis courts will not only attract more players but also boost local sports tourism, benefiting nearby businesses. Additionally, improved facilities will encourage youth participation, promoting an active and healthy lifestyle."

Clearly articulate the action you want the Council to take in response to your submission:

- Example: "We urge the Council to allocate additional funding to upgrade our tennis courts in the upcoming Long Term Plan. This investment will not only benefit our club but also contribute to the overall well-being and vitality of our community."



Have your say on the Whakatāne
District Council's Long Term Plan
before 12 April 2024.

Find out more: www.whakatane.govt.nz