

Annex A - Evaluation of new initiatives against Council's Significance and Engagement Policy

The significance of any differences is determined by assessing each against the criteria contained in Council's Significance and Engagement Policy, which are as follows:

- Importance to the District
- Disproportionate impacts on select parts of the community
- The amount of money involved
- The types of assets involved
- Effects on levels of service
- Permanence of the decision
- Effects on relationships
- Inconsistencies with existing strategies, plans and policies.

Table 1:

Initiative	Description	Evaluation against Council's Significance & Engagement Policy	Conclusion
Mt Stewart Development – Stage 2	This request is for the second stage of planting and landscaping at Mt Stewart. This is a joint project with the Missing Wingman's Trust and the RNZAF Ohakea base. Funding sought is for additional native plants, machinery and landscaping materials. \$20k (Capex)	Continuation of an existing project for which there is community support (<i>and previously consulted on</i>) The amount of money involved is small (\$20k Capex)	Does not trigger Council's Significance and Engagement Policy
Sandon (Sanson) Cemetery Fencing and Planting	Funding is sought for fencing and planting in the gully area behind the current historic cemetery to protect the waterway from stock. The fencing is required for compliance with Horizons' One Plan. The planting will help with the control of pest plants. Local residents have offered to provide volunteer labour and will fund at least half of the required plants. (\$28k Capex)	Project has community support The amount of money involved is relatively small (\$27k Capex) Fencing is necessary to achieve compliance with Horizons One Plan stock exclusion requirements	Does not trigger Council's Significance and Engagement Policy

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Ōroua River Walkway – Land Acquisition	<p>This funding is to enable Council pay those affected landowners whose land has been acquired under the Public Works Act for the construction of a further section of the Ōroua River walkway from the Manawatū Wastewater Treatment Plant to Turners Road.</p> <p>\$335k (Capex) – to bring forward funding from 2028/29 to 2026/27</p>	<p>This project has already been consulted on as part of the 2024-34 Long-term Plan</p> <p>Consistent with Council's Walking and Cycling Strategy 2020</p> <p>Potential for negative effects on Council's relationships with landowners if not supported</p>	Does not trigger Council's Significance and Engagement Policy
Community Libraries Free WiFi and Open Plus Access	<p>This request is for the installation of Inspire Free WiFi at the Community Libraries to enable free wifi access to the community when they use these facilities. If this request is approved, there will be ongoing Opex costs of \$7,284 per annum for the data which will be include in the draft budget for the LTP. (\$12k Opex)</p> <p>Following installation of WiFi, approval is also sought for the installation of installation of access control systems in these libraries to enable the community to access these services, even if volunteers are not available to provide access.</p> <p>\$40k (Capex)</p>	<p>These projects are to address inequity concerns and improve levels of service for those villages with a community library</p> <p>Cost is not significant</p> <p>Has community support</p>	Do not trigger Council's Significance and Engagement Policy
Installation of Footpaths and Drainage in Urban Areas	<p>This initiative is for the installation of new footpaths and safe crossing refuges throughout the District in areas experiencing significant residential or commercial growth.</p> <p>\$50k (Capex)</p>	<p>Will improve levels of service for those streets that receive new footpaths and roadside drainage</p> <p>Will help to address perceived inequities in existing urban areas</p>	Does not trigger Council's Significance and Engagement Policy

Initiative	Description	Evaluation against Council's Significance & Engagement Policy	Conclusion
New Footpath and Safe Crossing Installations	This request is for a budget to go towards new footpaths and roadside drainage on existing urban streets. This request is to address equity concerns where residents living on streets and paying urban rates but do not have footpaths or roadside drainage to the same standard as new development areas that surround them. \$10k (Capex)	Will improve levels of service for those streets that receive new footpaths and safe crossing installations in areas experiencing growth Will help to address perceived inequities through investment in rural village infrastructure	Does not trigger Council's Significance and Engagement Policy
Feilding Water Resilience	This request is to bring \$500k of the capital budget for the Feilding Water Resilience Project forward one year from 2027/28 to 2026/27. In bringing this budget forward the remaining work would be able to be completed early, enabling Council to achieve compliance with the drinking water standards sooner. The impact of reallocating these funds on depreciation will be \$10k per annum. \$500k (Capex) brought forward.	This project was already consulted on as part of the 2024-34 Long-term Plan (request is to bring forward budget already in the Plan) Will enable improved levels of service and compliance with the NZ Drinking Water Standards to be achieved one year earlier Supports a strategic asset	Does not trigger Council's Significance and Engagement Policy
Wastewater Centralisation – Halcombe to Mt Stewart	This request is to bring \$2.6M of capital budget for the wastewater centralisation project forward two years from 2028/29 to 2026/27. Council is progressing faster on the wastewater centralisation project than anticipated. Moving these funds forward would enable the project to be completed one year earlier than scheduled. However, it needs to be noted that the impact of reallocating these funds on depreciation will be \$53k per annum.	This project was already consulted on as part of the 2024-34 Long-term Plan (request is to bring forward budget already in the Plan) Potential cost savings through completing the project sooner	Does not trigger Council's Significance and Engagement Policy

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	\$2.6M (Capex) brought forward		
Replace Himatangi Beach Reservoir Roof	<p>This request is for funding to replace the steel roof at the Himatangi Beach Reservoir. An annual inspection has found that the roof needs to be replaced and not doing so could mean that this reservoir needs to be taken off line to minimise the risk of the water supply becoming contaminated. If the reservoir is taken off line this will increase the risk of the village running out of water in the summer months when the number of people staying in the village increases considerably.</p> <p>\$100k (Capex)</p>	<p>Necessary to minimise risk of drinking water contamination</p> <p>Protects a strategic asset (water supply storage facility)</p> <p>Potential impacts on the availability of drinking water for the Himatangi Community if this request is not supported</p>	Does not trigger Council's Significance and Engagement Policy
Ranfurly Road Landfill Closure: Earthworks and boundary fencing; earthworks, topsoiling and removal of buffer areas	<p>Construction of boundary line fencing and associated earthworks (\$115k Capex) AND Earthworks, topsoiling and removal of buffer areas (\$85k Opex).</p> <p>Both of these requests are necessary to conclude the ongoing lease and closure plan for part of the old landfill on a private landowner's land.</p>	Potential to negatively impact on Council's relationship with the land owner if not supported	Does not trigger Council's Significance and Engagement Policy
Legal Budget for Local Water Done Well Bylaw Reviews	<p>This request is for legal budget for the review of council's existing waters-related bylaws against the new waters legislation. All territorial authorities in New Zealand are required to review their existing bylaws by August 2027. While the review will be carried out in-house, funding is sought for legal advice to ensure Council meets its legislative obligations, particularly given these requirements are new.</p>	Necessary for Council to meet its legislative requirements	Does not trigger Council's Significance and Engagement Policy

Initiative	Description	Evaluation against Council's Significance & Engagement Policy	Conclusion
	(\$30k Opex)		
Feilding Freight Movement and Intersection Demand Business Case	<p>\$250k for a Feilding Freight Movement and Intersection Demand Business Case. As this will attract a NZTA subsidy, the impact on rates would be \$122,500. There are a number of intersections between State Highway 54 and local roads that Council would like to upgrade to address known safety concerns. This programme business case would also enable Council to demonstrate the impact of the Te Utanganui Central New Zealand Distribution Hub projects on the wider roading network.</p> <p>The completion of this business case is necessary for Council to be able to demonstrate the need for these improvements before they can be included in the next Regional Land Transport Plan and put forward for funding via the National Land Transport Programme. (\$250k Opex with an NZTA Subsidy - \$122.5k rates impact)</p>	Significant community support for addressing known safety concerns Consultation on the projects that come out of these investigations would be part of the next Long-Term Plan Financial impact on ratepayer \$122.5k (NZTA Subsidy)	Does not trigger Council's Significance and Engagement Policy
Dangerous Tree Removal	<p>Budget to enable Council to more proactively remove dangerous trees from the road corridor. Efficiency gains are possible as the removal of dangerous trees can be carried out at the same time as other works are being carried out in the road corridor.</p> <p>(\$50k Opex with NZTA subsidy - \$24.5k rates impact)</p>	Will help to reduce liability risk to Council and improve public safety on the roading network (a strategic asset)	Does not trigger Council's Significance and Engagement Policy
Rural community limestone	This initiative is responding to community demand for Council to maintain limestone	This request is in response to community demand for	Does not trigger Council's Significance and

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footpath maintenance	paths that have been constructed throughout the District, including by community committees. (\$10k Opex)	maintenance of walkways	Engagement Policy
Feilding Aerodrome Runway Resealing grant request	This request was for an Opex grant of up to \$185k to go toward the resealing of the Feilding Aerodrome runway. Council did not support this request but instead supported offering Feilding Aerodrome Incorporated a low-interest loan. The Feilding Aerodrome would pay the principal and interest at no cost to ratepayers.	Benefits users of the Feilding Aerodrome, with some economic benefits to the wider District This is not a Council-owned facility Decision to offer a loan rather than a grant to Feilding Aerodrome Incorporated means that support is at no cost to the ratepayer	Does not trigger Council's Significance and Engagement Policy
Grant for resurfacing the Sanson Domain around the carpark and toilet block	This request is for a one-off grant of approximately \$17k. The funding they are seeking from Council would resurface the remaining sealed areas on the site, including around the carpark and Council's toilet block. The Sanson Domain is also used as a freedom camping site. The domain is Council owned property that The club leases for blokarting and is in the process of resurfacing its track and sealed area this summer. (\$17k Opex)	Benefits users of the Sanson Domain, including freedom campers and Manawatū Blokart members, and the Sanson community Council owns the Sanson Domain and toilet block, and leases the land to the blokart club. The amount of money requested is not significant	Does not trigger Council's Significance and Engagement Policy