

Date: Tuesday 25 March 2014
Time: 9.30am
Meeting Room: Council Chamber
Venue: Takapuna Service Centre
Level 3
1 The Strand
Takapuna

Annual Plan Hearings - Devonport-Takapuna

OPEN MINUTE ITEM ATTACHMENTS

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Submission to Draft Annual Plan 2014/15

1. Borrowing

Further borrowing of \$1.25B will bring city debt to \$8.2B this year, with debt servicing at \$1.2M per day. This is financially irresponsible. The LTP projection was for a \$12B debt by 2020. This is sustainable, some think. At \$8.2B in 2014 you cannot say this Council is 'on track'.

2. Fact Sheet : How We'll Fund New Investment

We find the usual 'spin-doctor' language, "the cost to be spread over the lifetime of the assets" – actually the lifetime of the ratepayers, future debt, 50 years. Then we get an 'either/or' statement, equally false. You are increasing rates constantly. Core services are already taxed and we pay rates for these in the first place. So, yes, stop the "development of new assets" until you/we can afford them.

In the last paragraph "prudent" and "sustainable" depend on point of view. I, and many others, do not agree.

"Unforeseen events" could mean anything the mayor and his supporters, with casting votes from the MSB, decide to push into this Plan. The Living Wage, at a 1% - 3% cost to us in rates, review overridden, was due to be here. So far, thankfully, it is not.

3. Service Charges

Again, you intend to increase fees and service charges by 2.5% this year, ignoring the fact that core services are what we pay rates for. This constant extortion is despicable. I have calculated that 20 cents per ratepayer has been taken to pay the mayor's \$210,000 bill that he refuses to pay. This shows the giant profits to be made every time you raise a service charge by \$1 - over a million dollars just counting ratepayers.

Some non-core services should have fees ; e.g. rubbish tips, dog licences, swimming pools (though some areas dear to the mayor's heart are exempt), but distinction should be made between ratepayers and non-ratepayers, which used to be the case.

4. Rates Increases

You propose an 'average' increase of 2.4% in this Plan, more in some areas. David Thornton of No More Rates presents a graph using Council's own figures which shows the increase to be 4.5%. Wastewater charges create a further giant increase in the rates, as follows :

- Water supply and a functioning sewerage system are primary core services we pay rates for, and always have done.
- The operation and maintenance of the sewerage system is Council's responsibility paid for by the rates, and always has been.
- This Council placed Watercare in charge from July 2012 but did not pay them to run it; instead gave them the ratepayers as a captive market to levy charges from.
- This Council has removed this service from the General Rates bag and has pocketed the money each year paid by ratepayers, with no rates reduction to compensate.

- Watercare bills twelve times a year and reads the meter six times, increasing administration costs.
- Watercare is a CCO running its own private operation, not employed and barely controlled by Council, with shareholders demanding profits, and commercial salary levels, big business.
- Their charges are notional, excessive, unjustifiable and driven purely by the profit motive.
- A fixed fee of \$190 per house is charged for simply being connected (every house paid a connection fee when built). For 520,000 ratepayers that is, \$988,000 before they actually use the system. Usage charges then follow.
- My 'water bill' has increased by 200% due to wastewater charges. If I add this increase to my rates this year (excluding the cost of water) the proportion is 15.26%. Add 4.5% and my rates have increased by 19.76% this year. It will be worse for larger families.
- Watercare intends to increase its charges this year.

The Auckland ratepayer has been paying 20% each year in rates increases since July 2012 and some are paying far more. This cannot be justified in comparison with inflation rates, interest rates, GDP levels, wage levels. This Council has failed in its duty to provide "good quality local services ... at the least possible cost" (LGA 2012). It has cynically handed ratepayers over for commercial exploitation and retained the money already paid for this core service.

Conclusion

Why this constant grab for more money? Because this Council is over-ambitious and has taken on more than it can handle.

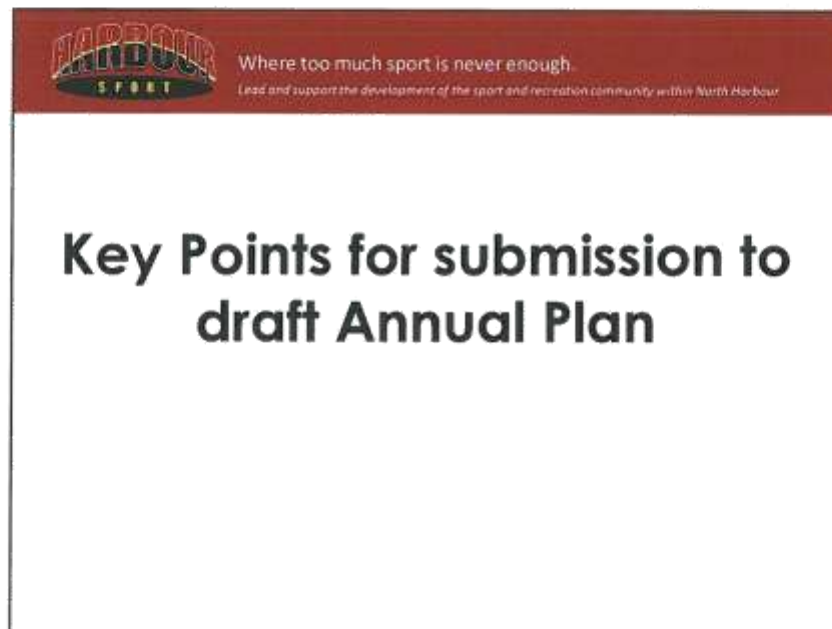
- a. LTP. CRL link is draining millions. Only 10% of Aucklanders work in the CBD and no more than 20% will ever use it. \$3.86B was the initial cost projection. What is it now?
- b. Council had to co-ordinate/restructure essential administrations for all of Auckland. This has been achieved but at considerable cost.
- c. Council has taken on a range of grandiose, voter-visible, capital works projects all over Auckland, some unwise, others involving gross legal and consultancy costs, budget overruns and CCO runaway costs. Administration costs have vastly increased.
- d. Money has been squandered and this continues in a tightening financial situation :
 - \$28M V8 supercars (losses coming this year).
 - \$30M handed with no oversight to Manukau Educational Trust for a Disneyland whitewater rafting project (maintenance bill of \$10M a year if ever built). Will require \$29M more to complete.
 - \$12M overseas travel and \$60M spin-doctors' salaries in the first two years. Since then?
 - Mayor's office costs \$10,000 per week.
 - 'Free', voter-grabbing public events, rates-funded, e.g. Pacifica Festival, Maori New Year, Asian Festival, Homosexual Parade, etc (discrimination in the selection). What are the costs? Why can not these vibrant special groups pay for their own festivities?
 - Funding a plethora of cultural, racial, religious, safety, sporting groups.
 - Ongoing Maori welfarism in covert ways.

This list is not exhaustive; others could add to it.

As this Council grapples with the need to maintain normal services, and to forward a range of extra-normal, financially-crippling projects, and to promise and license more expansive projects such as this year's Local Plan, confusion creeps in, CCOs become autonomous and communication breaks down. Local boards are used as apologists, misinformed, prohibited from input into the Unitary Plan, for instance. Dishonesties, lies, to do with that Plan multiply and due process is put aside to favour special interests, such as the Ngati Whatua and Bayswater Marina developments inserted into the Plan for Devonport/Takapuna.

At the centre of this is the mayor, who does not need to achieve consensus in council thanks to his MSB votes and 'special' powers; he has spent two years of the first term pursuing an adulterous relationship and sending several thousand related text messages while supposedly being 'on the job'.

Now this year's Plan offers more of the same, increased rates and service costs, more borrowing to create a giant future debt laid on the backs of the ratepayers and their children. Any 'economies of scale' from this 'super' Council have long since been absorbed by it and the ratepayer continues to be exploited. This Council increasingly resembles a monster led by a monster.





Where too much sport is never enough.
Lead and support the development of the sport and recreation community within North Harbour

Partnerships


- Development of partnerships with community organisations
- Support to help initiate and resource quality collaborations
- Auckland Council lead the development of multi-agency partnerships (i.e. with local schools and clubs), through facility upgrading and development, especially in identified areas of need



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SARSAP

- Alignment to Sport and Recreation Strategic Action Plan (SARSAP)
 - Establishes an overarching strategy for sport and recreation in Auckland
 - Developed in conjunction with the sport and recreation sector as a plan for the sector
 - Council work with the Sport and Recreation sector to help resource and implement initiatives from SARSAP



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Sub Regional Planning

- Linking of Local Boards in the development of sub-regional sport and recreation programmes and facilities



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Localised Community Hubs

- Development of 'Community Sport and Recreation Hubs' where a number of sport and recreation opportunities can be offered and developed locally
 - Sports played locally
 - Support local sport and recreation by providing and promoting local facilities and programmes



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Provision of Resources for Sport & Recreation

- Including sport and recreation specific KPI's within the LTP that will drive improved levels of service within the Auckland Council
- Continue provision for the upgrade of sport and recreation facilities to meet current and future growth demand in all regions
 - Key analyses utilised and plans implemented
 - Well planned consultation to meet future needs



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Harbour Sport acknowledged in Local Board Plans

- **Role of Harbour Sport now**
 - HS will always serve the sports community in our region as it was the sports community that set us up.
 - The type of support Harbour Sport provides may change as Harbour Sport responds to community needs, funders requirements and the evolution of sport in our region.
 - Harbour Sport is a key leader in Local Sport Delivery, supporting, guiding and promoting key initiatives to meet the Auckland Plan



MSOffice5
MSOffice6

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Auckland Sport & Harbour Sport

Complimentary Roles	
Auckland Sport – Regional RST	Harbour Sport – Local RST
Regional strategy & investment	Community strategy
Regional programmes	Community programmes
Governing Body	Local Boards
Regional & national stakeholders	Local stakeholders
Regional fundraising & funding	Local fundraising
National & regional sports organisations	RSOs & Clubs
College Sport	Schools
Centralised finance & shared services	Sports Houses
Monitoring & evaluation	Delivery



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A few Projects in the North

- Major Sports Park developments: Metro Park and Warkworth Showgrounds
- Albany Pool and Millennium
- Community Sports Village
- SFCD-13/14 Ashley Reserve #1 & #2 and NH Stadium # 1&2 cricket, # 4 artificial
- Feasibility Studies-Birkenhead Sports Trust, Ice Sports, Windsor Park, Auckland Baseball



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MSOffice5 Has HS changed?

HS will always serve the sports community in our region as it was the sports community that set us up.

, 3/06/2011

MSOffice6 The type of support Harbour Sport provides may change as Harbour Sport responds to community needs, funders requirements and the evolution of sport in our region.

, 3/06/2011