

CONCERNED RATEPAYERS KAPITI

NOTES RELATING TO THE

“ HELP US PRIORITISE FOR KAPITI SURVEY”

INFORMING THE LONG TERM PLAN

(PLEASE NOTE: CRK comments are in the green boxes
following each of the Council's survey questions)

**THIS DOCUMENT IS FOR INFORMATION ONLY -
DO NOT USE THIS DOCUMENT AS
YOUR SURVEY RESPONSE**

OFFICIAL COUNCIL SURVEY FORMS CAN BE
FOUND ON THEIR WEBSITE OR SUBMIT ONLINE

<https://haveyoursay.kapiticoast.govt.nz/LTP27-37>



Help us Prioritise for Kāpiti survey

Your voice matters. Please fill out as many questions as you can to help inform the development of our Long-term Plan 2027-37.

Please note there will be further opportunities to have your say on our next long-term plan later this year and as part of our formal consultation process in early 2027.

About you

First and last name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Name of organisation if providing feedback on their behalf: _____

Age group:

We're asking about age as it helps ensure we achieve fair representation from across our district – please tick one:

☐ Under 20s ☐ 20s ☐ 30s ☐ 40s
☐ 50s ☐ 60s ☐ 70s ☐ 80s+

Do you live in or own a property in Kāpiti?

☐ yes ☐ no

If yes, what part?

☐ Paekākāriki ☐ Peka Peka ☐ Raumati
☐ Ōtaihangā ☐ Paraparaumu ☐ Waikanae
☐ Te Horo ☐ Ōtaki ☐ Hautere ☐ Reikōrangī

If no, where are you from? _____

Are you a Kāpiti Coast District Council ratepayer?

☐ yes ☐ no

Community priorities

We have reflected on what we heard through our Vision Kāpiti kōrero and we have identified eight community priorities that support the achievement of our People, Place, and Partnership community outcomes. These will help us build a more resilient future for Kāpiti.

1. Do you agree that these priorities are the right things for Council to be focussed on as we develop the next LTP? (tick yes or no for each priority).

Community priorities	Yes	No
1. Housing - Finding a home that's affordable, accessible, and right for people's needs is already a challenge for many in Kāpiti. But it's not just about building more homes - it's about the types of homes and making sure they're in the right places, supported by the right infrastructure, and shaped around local needs.		
2. Health - Good health starts with the basics – safe water, warm homes, access to local services, places to be active, and communities where people feel connected and supported. Our community expects these services and we need to advocate for them.		
3. Connected communities - Feeling connected is part of what makes a place feel like home. As Kāpiti changes, we need to make sure people have places, spaces, and opportunities to meet, take part, and feel they belong.		

Community priorities (continued)	Yes	No
4. Peace, Safety and Equality - Feeling safe in our community, and prepared for an emergency, is part of what makes Kāpiti a great place to live. As our district grows and changes, we want our centres, beaches, parks, roads, and shared spaces to stay welcoming, well cared for, and easy to enjoy.		
5. Land use - How we use land affects everyday life in Kāpiti – where people live, how they move around, where businesses can grow, and how easy it is to access parks, services, and community facilities.		
6. Waters - Water is one of the most important services we provide. Every day, our communities rely on safe drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater systems to support public health, local growth, and the environment.		
7. Working with others - Many of the things that matter to Kāpiti need more than Council working alone. Some local issues sit with government agencies, community organisations, mana whenua, businesses, or other partners — and sometimes the best results come when we work together.		
8. Shaping our direction together - Council decisions affect everyday life in Kāpiti – the services people use, the places we invest in, how rates are spent, and how we plan for the future. We can't do everything at once which is why it is important that people understand the choices in front of us, what they cost, and how decisions are made.		

QUESTION 1

Most of the proposed community priorities will not focus Council on the provision of fundamental services. Some describe desirable outcomes (i.e. peace, safety and equality, shaping our direction together), some have a mixture of fundamental services with services that are not the responsibility of local councils (i.e. health and housing).

The categories in Question One mix up things that are:

- absolutely core business for KCDC – and should continue to be provided

with

- a number of things that are discretionary – and could be provided if spending is desirable, effective and affordable

and with

- things that are either aspirations or approach, not functions or
- things which are and should continue to be the responsibility of others.

Our concern is that if you tick “yes” to all of the items in Question One – which is what most people would reasonably do - KCDC will say it has a community mandate to keep on doing exactly what it does now – with ongoing high rates increases as a consequence.

As a result, we recommend that you do not answer Question One – or answer Question One by ticking “no” to all items - and use question two to provide an alternative set of priorities.

2. These are not Council's only priority areas. If there is something important that you think we need to prioritise, please tell us in less than 500 words below.

QUESTION 2

Please read our suggestions below to clarify not answering question one, or a 'no' response to question one.

The proposed list of priorities does not adequately describe the parameters that must determine what KCDC actually does. Having a clear view of the fundamental responsibilities of the Council will help you consider what's most important for Council to spend money on.

The priorities should focus on **Council prioritising the delivery of its fundamental responsibilities on providing core services**. We suggest the following priorities:

1. **Governance and management (running an effective and efficient council with Community Boards, enabling democracy in action, every day)**
2. **Water services** (While water services are a priority, there is some debate about whether water services should be included in the Long-term Plan. While 'water' will be provided by an in-house business unit, a separate water strategy is being developed for implementation from 1 July 2027. The water plan was approved by DIA in 2025, but it is unclear how the water plan and the LTP will work together.)
3. **Regulatory functions (land use, building/ resource consents, by-laws)**
4. **Network Infrastructure**
 - a. **District wide planning, (RMA, with GWRC, coastal management)**
 - b. **Access and Transport (local roads, footpaths)**
5. **Waste management and minimisation**
6. **Disaster management, emergency preparedness**
7. **Community and recreational facilities including libraries, pools, parks and open spaces, sports fields, community buildings, cemeteries)**

Over and above this list, the major events fund is useful if its affordable, as it builds a sense of community.

Planning principles

Council is mindful of the need to balance affordability with the need to invest in essential services and deliver on our community's priorities now and into the future.

We're proposing to adopt five planning principles to help guide the development of our next LTP.

3. Do these principles reflect how Council should make decisions? (tick yes or no for each).

Planning principles	Yes	No
Community voice What you have to say matters. Council will use community feedback and local insight to help prioritise LTP investment decisions, set levels of service*, and decide how costs should be shared.		
Growth pays for growth As Kāpiti grows, new development should pay for or contribute to the infrastructure and services it needs. Existing ratepayers should not be unfairly asked to cover the cost of growth.		
User pays where it makes sense Individuals or groups who use a service should help pay for it, instead of the cost falling on all ratepayers. Where a service mainly benefits certain people or groups, we will recover the cost where appropriate and look at fees and charges before using rates to fund it.		
Live within our financial limits Council will manage money carefully, keep debt at sustainable levels, and pay for day-to-day services from day-to-day income wherever possible. Looking after essential infrastructure, renewals, maintenance, safety, and legal requirements comes before new or optional upgrades.		
Prioritise the must-dos Council will focus first on essential services, legal requirements, safety, resilience, and core infrastructure. We will look for opportunities to work with others to increase the quantity and quality of our community outcomes, and the value from our services.		

**Levels of service refers to what we do to deliver a service – including the quality, quantity, reliability, responsiveness, and cost of providing that service or activity to you.*

QUESTION 3

Our suggested response to question 3: We recommend that you do not answer Question three or answer Question three by ticking “no” to all items.

4. What else should Council consider when developing its LTP? Please tell us in less than 150 words below.

QUESTION 4

Our suggested response to question 4.

We have bolded suggestions for slightly re-worded principles (with an explanation of why we've made the change in brackets).

1. **Live within the finances provided by affordable rates across the Kapiti District**
("Live within our limits" is too broad as the limit is not specified. The limit could be rates increases of 10% per annum! We suggest this principle needs to be unequivocal in its intent.)
2. **Prioritise core responsibilities**
(Focusing on 'must dos' is open to interpretation. We suggest Council should focus on its fundamental responsibilities)
3. **Community voice- community feedback**
(We are not clear how not sure what 'local insights' mean and how they are gathered. It's redundant and open to interpretation.)
4. **Growth pays for growth**
(No change)
5. **User pays (using Auditor General Guidelines)**
(We would like to see this principle applied using a transparent rationale.)

What other principles would you add?

Let's talk rates

Cost pressures, population growth, and changes in our operating environment mean we can't avoid future rates increases without making significant trade-offs or imposing significant costs on future generations.

5. If Council aimed to keep the total KCDC rates (general and water rates) paid at no more than 5% of median household income (based on rates affordability data), would you be prepared to accept reduced levels of service* in some areas to achieve this?

Yes ☐

No ☐

If no, what are the services that matter most to you?

QUESTION 5

This question assumes:

- Everything that KCDC does now is a priority and there is no discretionary spending
- There is no wasteful spending at KCDC
- There are no efficiencies to be found in how KCDC delivers services
- That debt reduction – if it occurs – must be paid by rates increases (which is the current LTP assumption)
- That cost-plus budgeting will continue into the future.

A rates affordability measure means making hard choices so that the core services continue to be funded at an appropriate level and quality while areas of discretionary funding are limited or stopped altogether.

We need Council to stop scare-mongering about reduced levels of service and start thinking about exercising financial discipline.

Please read our suggestions below to comment on a 'no' response.

We support the approach of limiting spending to no more than 5% of median household incomes including water and regional council rates. When this is in place, then Council should exercise financial discipline by:

- **Planning should ensure all essential services are budgeted before any 'discretionary spending' is considered**
- **Any discretionary spending that is not affordable within the spending limit should be reduced or stopped altogether.**
- **Operational spending should increase no faster than the rate of inflation (the CPI)**
- **New spending outside of the financial limit should be funded from savings in current activities**
- **Council should undertake, and act on, efficiency and cost management audits to ensure that all services are provided at maximum efficiency and at reasonable cost**
- **Capital projects should be reviewed to ensure that they are actually needed, and that the scope of work is not overspecified**
- **Borrowing should only be used for agreed infrastructure projects, not day-to-day operations**
- **Depreciation should be used to repay debt rather than rates increases.**

Local government reform

The Government is proposing to reorganise councils as part of its Simplifying Local Government reform. These changes could have long-term implications for Kāpiti. If the proposed changes go ahead, there will be costs involved with transitioning to new arrangements which will need to be reflected in Council's Long-term Plans.

6. Who do you think should fund the cost of amalgamation?

- ☐ Local councils
- ☐ Central government
- ☐ Other (please state in the box below)

CRK do not see the relevance of this question in relation to Priorities and Planning Principles for the Long Term Plan.

We are currently conducting a separate survey to gather community views about the proposed changes to local government. If you'd like to join this conversation, visit haveyoursay.kapiticoast.govt.nz/LocalGovernmentReform by midnight, Tuesday 30 June 2026.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR FEEDBACK

Thank you for filling in our survey and sharing your thoughts.

The information you've provided will be reviewed and summarised by our Strategy and Growth team.

The summary will be shared with Elected Members and may be made public on our website however, your personal details won't be included.