

Staff responses to Actions from Council briefing of 6 December 2022

The following are responses from staff to questions asked by Councillors at the Council Briefing of 6 December 2022.

1.3 Councillors were provided with an opportunity to ask questions of clarification and requested further information on the following:

1.3.1 In relation to rating for renewals - to provide a timeframe of when the Council would be aiming to reach 100%?

Staff response: Councils existing Financial Strategy targets rating for 100% of long run average renewals (net of NZTA subsidy) by 2031.

1.3.2 In relation to rating for renewals - what is the estimated percentage of budget for three waters?

Staff response: Of the \$193.7m (net of gst) proposed to rate for renewals, 58.3% or \$112.9m relates to Three Waters.

1.3.3 A request for a table to explain the relationship between debt and rates.

Staff response:

Debt	23/24 cost	Rates impact in 23/24	24/25 cost	Rates impact in 2024/25
Plan 23/24 borrowing of \$74m generates 1% rates increase over 2 years	Forecast interest cost 5.2% x 40% of year = \$1.54m No principal repayment until following year	0.24%	Forecast interest cost 5.2% full year = \$3.85m 3.33% principal repayment (30 year term) = \$2.46m	Additional \$4.77m = 0.76%

1.3.4 In relation to ChristchurchNZ grant - is this committed and can the inflation be capped?

Staff response: In terms of inflation, the ChristchurchNZ grant is not inflated.

1.3.5 In relation to grants – a list of all grants and what they relate to.

Staff response: a list of Community Grants is provided with the information pack for the briefing of 24 January 2023.

1.3.6 In regards to CRAF – confirmation of the delivery dates.

Staff response: Copy of 18 January 2023 memo to the Mayor and Councillors is attached for reference.

1.3.7 In relation anchor projects - what have been delayed and what are the resourcing capacities for projects for central city vs suburban areas.
Staff response: Timelines per Monthly Report from Programme Management Office (PMO) included in Watchlists. No distinction nor capacity constraint discernible between central city vs suburban.

1.3.8 In regards to Waitaki Street Estuary Edge work – guidance on how this project can be put back into the Capital Programme?
Staff response: It is a little unclear which project this refers to as there are a number of possibilities:

Project ID	Project Title	Service Area
30588	Estuary Green Edge Pathway	Parks, Heritage and Coastal
61615	SW South New Brighton & Southshore Estuary Edge Flood Mitigation	Three Waters
62549	Red Zone Regeneration-Southshore and South New Brighton Estuary Edge Erosion Management	Parks, Heritage and Coastal
62925	SW Waitaki Street (OARC)	Three Waters
66000	SW Wainoni to Waitaki Stopbank (OARC)	Three Waters

All these projects will be included in the draft FY24 Annual Plan (can be found in the Capital Programme Schedules provided). While some of these projects have been re-phased this was based on the deliverability of the project and project risks including consenting delays.

Council approval/guidance would be required to add any project back into the capital programme before it goes out for consultation. A submission could also be made as part of the consultation process which would be considered before the final adoption of the FY24 Annual Plan.

1.3.9 In regards to the Pages Rd Bridge project – what are the ancillary projects, how are they aligned and how can they be progressed?
Staff response: Copy of 18 January 2023 memo to the Mayor and Councillors is attached for reference.

Additional information provided through the Elected Member Questions and Answers: Staff are not recommending any delays or overall budget changes, but are recommending re-phasing the budget to reflect the likely delivery dates. This is based on progress to date, and the forecast for the remainder of Scheme Design, Consultation, Hearings Panel and Council Decision, Detailed Design and Consenting, and then Construction. However, if progressed faster staff can use "bring backs" from future year budgets to ensure work continues without delay.

There is available budget and resource to continue this project at this stage. In 2023 a Hearings Panel will assess the design and consultation feedback to decide the scope to be progressed, at which point the overall project budget will be assessed. If required, any additional budget can be requested through the LTP at this time. (Staff are closing out scheme design at the moment, before progressing to Consultation and Hearings Panel in 2023.)

The ancillary projects support the function of the new bridge, particularly as an emergency route. For consultation/hearings panel staff will assess options to progress elements of these in a phased way so the main works can be started. Any delay to Waitaki Stormwater basin is unlikely to cause any delay to this project as the design of the tie-in between the two projects is being agreed.

Since this question was asked staff have done a update briefing to the Community Board, and are investigating ways to have a further Q&A session.

The construction programme for Pages Rd Bridge will not be completed until after the consultation, Hearing Panel and Council decision has been completed.

1.3.10 In regards to maintenance for internal renovations (carpet/painting) – Is this Capex or Opex, and advice on deferring non-structural maintenance.

Staff response: Building maintenance is a grey area. Normally painting is regarded as opex unless it is part of a larger renovation. Carpet is more likely capex if part of a renovation or nearing end of useful life.

Deferring non-structural maintenance will tend to lead to assets looking more 'shabby' and can cause health and safety and other issues. E.g. overgrown lawns, unwatered plants, graffiti, torn carpet hazard etc.

The purpose of Councils asset management planning is to ensure assets are fit for purpose at minimum overall cost and budgets reflect this approach.

1.3.11 In regards to the Brenchley Avenue flooding issues – What would be required to investigate solutions to the flooding issues?

Staff response: Copy of 14 November 2022 memo to Fendalton-Waimairi-Harewood Community Board is attached for reference.

1.3.12 In regards to partnering with the community on projects – Officers to look through the Annual Plan for any projects that might be able to proceed in partnership with work the community or other organisations.

Staff response: Partnering on community projects – Current projects which are or potentially could proceed in partnership with the community include but are not limited to;

- *the Multicultural Centre*
- *Old Municipal Chambers*
- *Shirley Community Centre*
- *Summit Road Society (Urban Pest Trapping)*
- *Governors Bay Jetty*
- *Phillipstown Community Centre*
- *Community House (Facility Partnership)*
- *Bromley Community Centre*
- *Bridge Street Trust (Facility Partnership)*
- *Hoon Hay Community Centre*
- *Parklands Community Centre*
- *Conservation Volunteers NZ (Planting Cranford Basin)*
- *Rod Donald Trust (Numerous initiatives)*

1.3.13 In regards to projects listed in the attachments – assurance that projects in the current year budget which are being carried forward are captured.

Staff response: Carry-forward position to be updated through the balance of the financial year before finalisation at year-end. Intention is for net zero with bring-backs and carryforwards. Updated Capital Programme Schedules are provided.