



FAQs – draft Annual Plan 2025–26

1. What is a 10 Year Plan and an Annual Plan?

The 10 Year Plan (Long Term Plan) sets out the city's vision, key projects, and budget for the next decade. An Annual Plan reviews and updates these plans yearly to adjust for economic conditions and community priorities.

2. What has influenced this draft Annual Plan?

We are managing significant cost pressures, including a reduction in our transport funding from government, market-driven revenue reductions and cost increases to our bulk water supply, by reprioritising spending, increasing fees and targeting \$0.5M in annual savings. This has helped us to reduce the rates increase planned through the Long Term Plan.

3. How can I provide feedback on the draft Annual Plan?

Feedback can be provided online at hutt.city/haveyoursay, through community hubs, or by engaging directly with elected representatives.

4. What is the engagement period for the draft Annual Plan?

Engagement runs from 27 March to 27 April 2025.

5. When will the Council make final decisions on the draft Annual Plan?

Final decisions will be made on 4 June 2025 and the plan will be adopted on 27 June 2025.

6. What does the draft Annual Plan mean for my rates as a resident?

Rates revenue is proposed to increase by 12.8% (after growth), equating to an average household increase of \$9.06 per week. This is reduced from a 13.4% increase (after growth) in the Long Term Plan. 53% of this increase is related to Water services and the remaining increase is for other essential services. The rates calculator is available online for you to look at how this increase is estimated to impact your property.

7. What does the draft Annual Plan mean for my rates as a commercial property owner?

Rates revenue is proposed to increase by 12.8% (after growth), equating to an average increase of \$52.16 per week for the average central commercial property and \$38.79 per week for the average suburban commercial property.

8. Why is the rates increase necessary?

The increase helps maintain core services, address key infrastructure backlog, and manage debt responsibly to ensure we remain financially sustainable in the long term.

9. What fees and charges are increasing and why?

Certain fees are increasing to cover rising costs. The full list is available online within the Draft Annual Plan, or in printed copies at community hubs.

10. How does Council manage debt levels?

Debt is managed under our financial strategy that ensures long-term affordability while enabling funding of core infrastructure investments in the city. This includes ensuring we remain within set limits for debt and related debt ratios.

11. Where can I find more information about the draft Annual Plan?

Details are available at hutt.city/draftannualplan, in printed copies at community hubs, or by engaging directly with elected members.