

FAQs – Annual Plan 2026–2027

General

1. What is the Annual Plan?

The Annual Plan outlines the Council's spending priorities and projects for the year ahead. It updates the 10 Year Plan (Long Term Plan) to reflect current conditions—such as changes in costs, funding, or community needs—and details how Council will fund its activities.

2. How does the Annual Plan differ from the 10 Year Plan?

The 10 Year Plan sets out the longer-term goals and priorities for our city, the Long Term Plan is reviewed every 3 years and the Annual Plan is a one-year update that allows for adjustments in response to current challenges and opportunities.

The Long Term Plan will be reviewed in 2027.

Engagement

3. How were people able to have their say?

From Late March through April 2026, Lower Hutt residents were invited to provide feedback on our draft Annual Plan 2026-2027 through an online forum, in our neighborhood hubs, and via public engagements with elected members.

Rates

4. What is the confirmed rates revenue increase?

In mid-May elected members worked through a range of decisions related to the Annual Plan 2026/27, with a key element being a decision to approve an 8.8% rates revenue increase (before growth). This was slightly lower than what was included in the draft Annual Plan.

5. What does this mean for my household?

For the average residential property this equates to approximately a \$4.13 increase per week or \$215 per annum.

6. Why are rates increasing?

Charges for water services will no longer be included in rates from 1 July and will be charged separately to property owners by Tiaki Wai. The rates increase applies to the portion of rates that remains.

The rates increase supports the delivery of essential services and investment in infrastructure that our city depends on. It helps Council:

- Respond to inflation and rising costs of service delivery
- Maintain day-to-day services like rubbish and recycling, parks, roads, and community facilities
- Manage debt responsibly so we remain financially sustainable in the long term

7. What support is available if I'm struggling to pay my rates?

We offer payment plans and rates postponement options. You may also qualify for a Government rates rebate. Visit huttcity.govt.nz/rates for more information or call us on 04 570 6666.

Fees & charges

8. Are any Council fees or charges changing?

Yes. From July 1 2026, some charges have been increased to better reflect the true cost of delivering services and reduce pressure on rates.

9. Where can I see fees for a service I use?

Under the 'Our Finances' section in the Annual Plan 2026-2027, you can find all changes to *fees and charges* from P109. Specific changes, including pools, landfill, community hall hires and more can be found on the relevant Council webpages.