

0.0 Additional Matters for Deliberation - Annual Plan 2023/24**Author:** Katrina Gray, Senior Strategic Planner**Authoriser:** Carol Gordon, Group Manager - Democracy & Planning**1. Reason for Report**

- 1.1 To provide additional matters for Council's deliberation that were omitted from the initial Annual Plan deliberations.

2. Context

- 2.1 Council undertook deliberations on submissions to the Annual Plan 2023/24 at its 1 June 2023 meeting and subsequently adopted the Annual Plan on 22 June 2023. However, while preparing the responses to submitters, Officers identified that the summary of submissions and officer responses to matters related to parks and reserves were accidentally omitted from the deliberations report Council considered on 1 June 2023. These items are attached.
- 2.2 Elected Members are asked to undertake deliberations on these items, noting that any financial decisions will be funded via unbudgeted expenditure as the Annual Plan has already been adopted.

3. Financial Implications

- 3.1 Any funding decisions would be provided as unbudgeted expenditure for the 2023/24 year.

4. Impact on Strategic Risks

- 4.1 There is a potential implication on the following strategic risk:
 - Trust and confidence is tarnished – if consideration of the additional matters is not given, and therefore, included in the response to submitters.

5. Mana Whenua Implications

- 5.1 There are no identified mana whenua implications.

6. Statutory Implications

- 6.1 If Council decided to re-visit the Annual Plan considering the additional deliberations, there would be an impact on meeting the statutory deadline for adopting an Annual Plan. Officers recommend any decisions with a financial implication are done as unbudgeted expenditure.

7. Decision Making Process

- 7.1 This item is not considered as significant.

Attachments:

1. Analysis of submissions - Parks and Reserves

Recommendation

That the report 'Additional Matters for Deliberation - Annual Plan 2023/24' be received.

Recommendation

With regard to officer comments made in response to submissions as listed in in Attachment 1, Council has considered the Officer comments and accepts them [with amendments/ without amendment], noting they will be included as Council's response to submitters.

Parks & Reserves

Topic 1	Pest Control
Topic 2	Reserve Management Plan – Koitiata Recreation Reserve
Topic 3	Equal Reserve Support Across the District
Topic 4	Dog Waste Bins on Walkways

Topic 1: Pest Control

Submissions

Hura Duffin (145).

Summary of submissions

Submitter 145 suggested that Council introduce a pest trapping programme and work with Horizons towards Old Man's Beard eradication in areas like the Omatane reserve. This submitter also suggested that Council focus on clean rivers and waterways, and support Māori inclusion in all major decision making. Submitter 145 reiterated a closer co-operation with Horizons Regional Council with shared goals.

Officer Comment

Council does not currently offer pest control activities and do not have the staff or expertise to assist in this area. The management and protection of rivers and waterways is the responsibility of Horizons Regional Council. Council works closely with Horizons to ensure improved environmental outcomes for the district. Council also has close working relationships with Iwi in the District and involves Iwi in our activities where appropriate.

Actions

Council will continue to work closely with Iwi and Horizons Regional Council to achieve good environmental outcomes for the district.

Topic 2: Reserve Management Plan – Koitiata Recreation Reserve

Submissions

Jo Anson (188).

Summary of submissions

Submitter 188 advised that The Koitiata Community is seeking the development of a Reserve Management Plan for the Koitiata Recreation Reserve. A plan would ensure the sustainability of the current community-based wetlands restoration project by bringing together relevant

partners (community/RDC/Horizons/Ngāti Apa) to support and agreed programme of work to enhance the biodiversity of the Reserve.

Officer Comment

A Reserve Management Plan will be a valuable addition to ensure long term activities are aligned with the desired outcomes. Many of our parks and reserves across the district needs new or updated Management Plans and these plans will be developed according to the priorities set in the Parks, Open Spaces and Sporting Facilities Strategy. At this stage it is uncertain when the Koitiata Management Plan will be developed, but it is included in the strategy.

Actions

Council will continue to create new Park Management Plans where required or update existing Park Management Plans when required.

Topic 6: Equal Reserve Support Across the District

Submissions

Matthew Thomas (198), Don Tantrum (153).

Summary of submissions

Submitter 198 suggested that RDC's support for Parks and Reserves be equal across the district. The submitter comments on issues with Old Man's Beard in the Taihape reserves. They note support given by Council to the Tutaenui Reserves - seats, shell rock for paths, agreement to weed release for the first three years and a clicker counter to count the people using the reserve. The submitter suggests a similar arrangement occurs with other groups. The submitter also requests Council works alongside them in relation to Council branding and destination management activities.

Submitter 153 referred to previous communications sent to Council regarding the work of the Rangitikei Environment Group, Friends of Mount Stewart and Friends of Taihape. In particular, the submitter noted the limited follow up maintenance carried out by Council including control of Old Man's Beard and other weeds. The submitter requested Council increase staffing to ensure further maintenance can be carried out.

Officer Comment

Council contributes \$20,000 per annum to the REG group for the control of Old Man's beard mainly in the northern parts of the district. More regular communications with the REG group can be used to make sure REG activities are targeted at the critical areas of importance to FOT to make sure the money is spent in the correct areas.

Council does not have resources to assist with the additional maintenance. Council could consider additional support to REG through the long term plan process, in consideration of a strategic approach to support the wide range of community environmental projects occurring throughout the Rangitikei.

It should be noted Council have spent considerable resource supporting Friends of Taihape on other activities, including obtaining \$375,000 of Central Government support to the Hautapu bridges project.

Correspondence was received from Submitter 153 on 7 February 2023, and was forwarded to Elected Members as requested on 8 February 2023.

Actions

Officers undertake more regular communications with the REG group to ensure weed control activities are happening in the desired areas.

That Council considers support given for environmental initiatives across the district through the Long Term Plan 2024-34, including the potential for additional funding of the Rangitikei Environment Group (REG).

Topic 4: Dog Waste Bins on Walkways

Submissions

Belinda Harvey-Larson (208), Carolyn Bates - Marton Community Committee (214).

Summary of submissions

Submitter 208 suggested that dog poo bins via Stallon Plastics, could be placed on our walkways, Sir James Wilson Park, Centennial Park, Follet Street Park and Green area Village Green.

Submitter 214 suggested that Dog Poo Bins should be installed at parks in Marton, we also would be supportive of such bins being installed throughout the district.

Officer Comment

The suggested bins are in the shape of a dog and creates problems when trying to empty them. If bins need to be installed throughout the proposed locations, officers recommend normal litter bins are installed which serve litter and doggie waste. Across the district we have a carry in/carry out philosophy with regards to doggie waste and it works well for most of the time. Council currently spends around \$6,500 per year on litter bin bags alone. This excludes the staff time to empty them, and it excludes the dump charges to dispose of the waste. Every new bin will increase annual expenditure.

Action

That the need for additional dog waste bins is considered through the Long Term Plan 2024-34, including the walkways in Marton, Sir James Wilson Park, Centennial Park, Follet Street Park and Green area Village Green.