

Draft Policies and Proposed Fees Consultation Pack

Welcome to the Draft Policies and Proposed Fees Consultation Pack

These documents have been reviewed as part of the Long Term Plan consultation process. They are being consulted alongside the Long Term Plan. The work is being completed to support the Long Term Plan 2015-25.

The policies and proposals in this pack are in draft form. They have been developed and considered by Council and we would like to hear what you think before they are finalised. You can read more about the major changes to each proposal below.

Revenue and Financing Policy

The Revenue and Financing Policy sets out the Council's funding philosophy and how the Council will fund each of its activities and explains why. The policy provides ratepayers and customers with predictability and certainty about the sources for funding for the Council's activities. This is a legislatively required policy.

In determining how activities are funded the Council is obliged to equitably share the costs of delivering services across different users as well as ensuring equity between current and future generation. In order to arrive at its chosen funding arrangements Council has to consider:

- The community outcomes to which each activity primarily contributes
- An analysis of who benefits from the activity
- Over what period of time the benefits are delivered
- Whether the activity is needed in response to the action(s) (or lack of action(s)) of some person or group
- Whether it would be more prudent for the activity to be funded separately or included with other activities

Finally the Council must consider the overall impact of any allocation of liability for revenue needs on the community.

The Policy has been reviewed as part of the Long Term Plan 2015-25 development process and is now available for your feedback. The following changes are proposed to the previous policy:

- Addition of more information under Council's funding approach regarding the funding approach used by Council

and description of the rating methods used

- Adjustment to the District Planning funding recovery percentages to reflect greater public recovery required due to the District Plan review.
- A rewrite of the Stormwater activity funding recovery approach to better reflect the intended approach. This has no impact on the funding mechanisms to be used.
- Minor editing and grammatical changes.

The full policy can be read in this document.

Rates Remission and Postponement Policy

These policies define the circumstances in which the Council may remit or postpone rates. Remission of rates involves reducing the amount owing or waiving collection of rates altogether. Postponement of rates means that the payment of rates is not waived in the first instance, but delayed for a certain time or until certain events occur.

The Policy has been reviewed as part of the Long Term Plan 2015-25 development process and is now available for your feedback. The majority of the policy has been retained in its current form, but the following changes are proposed to the previous policy:

- Partial remission of UAGC on low value properties – the threshold for the first tier has been increased from \$18,000 to \$20,000 to reflect increased values.
- Rates Postponement – the amount required to be paid has increased from \$750 to \$1,000 to reflect the level of rate rebates.

Rates Discount Policy

This policy allows for a discount for the early payment of total rates that are identified in the rates assessment before the due date or dates for those rates in the current financial year.

The Policy has been reviewed as part of the Long Term Plan 2015-25 development process and is now available for your feedback. The major changes proposed are:

- Policy has been reviewed to enable its application over multiple financial years (previously a date was specified in the policy every year).

Proposed Fees and Charges 2015/16

This document outlines the proposed fees and charges for the 2015/16 year. Fees and charges are one of the ways the Council passes on some of the costs directly to those that benefit from Council services and facilities. This means those that benefit from these services pay for them. Most changes are minor. Fee changes are proposed in the following activities:

- Building Control
- Cemeteries
- Southern Trust Events Centre
- Westend Hall
- Rangitata Huts Leases
- Land Information Memorandums
- Motor Camps
- Parking
- District Planning
- Sewer -Trade Waste and Special Liquid Waste
- Social Housing rentals
- Swimming Pools – Aqua Classes
- Waste Minimisation

Have your Say!

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Your views on the proposed changes are important. We encourage you to share your views by making a submission.

The proposals within this Statement of Proposal are available for comment from Saturday 28 March until 5pm, Tuesday 28 April.

How to provide feedback

When making a submission on the proposed changes, please tell us:

- what aspect/s of the proposed areas of change you would like to comment on
- what you want and what decision you would like made, and
- the reasons for this.

If I make a submission, do I have to appear at a hearing?

The short answer is no. All submissions are given due consideration and everyone has the opportunity to make their submission personally if they want to. If you want to make your submission personally to the Council, let us know with your submission. We'll get back to you with a time and other hearing details.

Is my submission private?

Submissions are public information because in local government we have an obligation to be as transparent as possible. If there are any details you don't want made public, please let us know.

How will I know my submission has been considered?

All submissions are important and will be considered. We'll keep you informed along the way. A Council officer will provide comments on your submission and we'll send this to you before the hearings take place. At the end of the process, we will summarise the decisions made by Council and let you know the outcomes.

What's happening when?

- 28 March – Submissions open
- 28 April at 5pm – Submissions close
- 25-27 May – LTP Hearings
- 23 June – Any changes made and LTP adopted by Council

Want more information?

The best way to get access information quickly is through our website – www.timaru.govt.nz. Copies of all information are also available through Council's main office in Timaru, our service centres in Geraldine and Temuka and Timaru library.

Need help?

If you need help, just get in touch any way you like and we'll help you through the process of making a submission. You can phone, e-mail, or contact us through the website, write to us or come in and see us. Our contact details are as follows:

- Phone Mark Low or Paul Cooper on 03 6877200 for advice on making a submission; or
- e-mail submission@timdc.govt.nz

Where do I send my submission?

- Make it online through the Timaru District Council website at www.timaru.govt.nz; or
- E-mail it to submission@timdc.govt.nz; or
- Write to LTP Submission, Freepost 95136, Timaru District Council, PO Box 522, Timaru 7940; or
- Drop it in to Timaru District Council, 2 King George Place, Timaru or at one of our Service Centres in Temuka or Geraldine.