

Mayoral column – Planning for our future

For the past few months our Council has been drafting Carterton's Ten Year Plan. Also known as the Long Term Plan (LTP), reviewed every three years the plan is a document that sets out the Council's intentions, priorities and the issues its district faces for the next decade.

Putting the draft plan together, although exciting, comes with challenges, and for some of our governance group it is the first time going through the Long Term Plan process.

As Councillors we are mindful to get this part of the process right.

The Ten Year Plan is significant in the successful future planning of our district, it is important that we take our time and get the priorities for our community accurate.

This starts by listening to our community. Prior to Christmas, Council engaged with Carterton residents on what they thought should be Council's focus for the next decade.

Although there were many valuable projects and concepts submitted during the engagement process, we also received plenty of feedback about providing value for money and keeping rates at a realistic level.

We have taken this feedback into the planning phase of the Ten Year Plan, and are mindful not to overcommit.

Due to the significance of a Ten Year Plan, a robust consultation and engagement period is conducted. This process starts with a Consultation Document, which contains information needed to allow the people of Carterton to engage with us on the district's issues and priorities.

Currently the Consultation Document is being finalised and is expected to be adopted by Council on Tuesday 24th April, and released for public consultation on Thursday 26th April.

This is time round, the distribution of the Consultation Document will be slightly different to how we have made the document available in the past. Instead of printing 9000 copies and sending them to each household, the Consultation Document, submission form and supporting documentation will be made available on the Council's website, www.cdc.govt.nz/plans/tenyearplan. Hardcopies will be available at Council and the District Library on Holloway Street, and on hand with Councillors throughout the consultation period. However if there is any reason that you cannot access the document please let us know at the Council office and we will make sure we get a copy to you.

My fellow Councillors and I are looking forward to discussing Carterton's Ten Year plan with our community. There will plenty of face to face opportunities to sit down with us, and we encourage you to do so!

Locations and dates of these engagement opportunities will be available on the Ten Year Plan page on our website prior to the consultation period commencing.

Lastly, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the council officers who have been working around the clock to pull the details together for the plan, it is a huge task, and I am very grateful to them for the long hours and attention to detail.

ENDS