ACCOUNTING POLICIES

STATEMENT OF RESPONSIBILITY

The Prospective Long Term Plan Financial Statements, which form part of the 2024-2034 LTP, was adopted by Council on XXXXXX

The purpose of the LTP is to provide a roadmap to the Council and community on the planned activities and expenditure of Council over the next ten years. The use of this information for purposes other than for which it is prepared may not be appropriate.

The Council is responsible for the Prospective Financial Statements presented, including the appropriateness of the underlying assumptions and related disclosures. The Prospective Financial Statements have been prepared in compliance with the PBE FRS 42 Prospective Financial Statements.

The Council, who is authorised to do so, believe the assumptions underlying the Prospective Financial Statements are appropriate and as such, adopted the Prospective Financial Statements on XXXXXX

No actual financial results have been incorporated within the Prospective Financial Statements.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Reporting Entity

Waitomo District Council is a territorial local authority established under the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA) and is domiciled and operates in New Zealand. The relevant legislation governing the Council's activities are the LGA and the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002.

The Council provides local infrastructure, local public services, and performs regulatory functions to the community. The Council does not operate to make a financial return.

The Prospective Financial Information contained within this LTP may not be appropriate for purposes other than those described.

Basis of Preparation

The Prospective Financial Statements are for Waitomo District Council (the Council) as a separate legal entity. Consolidated Prospective Financial Statements comprising the Council and its controlled entities and associates have not been prepared.

Statement of Compliance

The Prospective Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the LGA, which includes the requirement to comply with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in New Zealand (NZ GAAP).

The Prospective Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with Tier 1 PBE (Public Benefit Entity) accounting standards.

The Accounting Policies set out below have been applied consistently to all periods presented in these Prospective Financial Statements.

Presentation Currency and Rounding

The reporting period for these Prospective Financial Statements is the 10-year period ending 30 June 2034. The Prospective Financial Statements are presented in New Zealand dollars, rounded to the nearest thousand ($000's), unless otherwise stated.

Measurement Basis

The measurement basis applied is historical cost, modified by the revaluation of land and buildings, certain infrastructural assets and financial instruments and investment property. The accrual basis of accounting has been used unless otherwise stated.

For the Assets and Liabilities recorded at fair value, fair value is defined as the amount for which an item could be exchanged, or a liability settled, between knowledgeable and willing parties in an arm's length transaction. For Investment Property, the fair value is determined by reference to market value.

The market value of a property is the estimated amount for which a property could be exchanged on the date of valuation between a willing buyer and a willing seller in an arm's length transaction.

Standards issued and not yet effective and not early adopted

At adoption of this LTP the following standards were on issue but not yet effective. There is no expected material impact to the prospective financial statements.

Standards, Amendments or Interpretations	Effective for annual reporting periods beginning on or after	Expected to be initially applied in the financial year ending
Disclosure of Fees for Audit Firms' Services	1 January 2024	30 June 2025
Amendments to PBE IFRS 17 Insurance Contracts	1 January 2026	30 June 2027

Revenue

Revenue comprises rates, revenue from operating activities, grant revenue, interest revenue, and other revenue and is measured at the fair value of consideration received or receivable.

Revenue is recognised to the extent that is probable that the economic benefits will flow to the Council and the revenue can be reliably measured.

Revenue may be derived from either exchange or non- exchange transactions. These are defined as:

- Exchange transactions

Exchange transactions are transactions where the Council receives assets (primarily cash) or services, or has liabilities extinguished, and directly gives approximately equal value (primarily in the form of goods, services, or use of assets) to another entity in exchange.

- Non-exchange transactions

Non-exchange transactions are transactions that are not exchange transactions. In a non-exchange transaction, the Council either receives value from or gives value to another entity without directly giving or receiving approximately equal value in exchange.

An inflow of resources from a non-exchange transaction recognised as an asset is recognised as revenue, except to the extent that a liability is also recognised in respect of the same inflow.

As the Council satisfies a present obligation recognised as a liability in respect of an inflow of resources from a non-exchange transaction recognised as an asset, it reduces the carrying amount of the liability recognised and recognises an amount of revenue equal to that reduction.

The following specific recognition criteria must also be met before revenue is recognised.

Rates revenue

Rates are set annually by resolution of the Council and relate to a particular financial year. All ratepayers are invoiced within the financial year for which the rates have been set. Rates arising from late payment penalties are recognised when rates become overdue. Rates revenue is classified as non-exchange revenue.

NZTA Waka Kotahi roading subsidies

The Council receives funding assistance from Waka Kotahi, which subsidises part of the costs of maintenance and capital expenditure on the local roading infrastructure. The subsidies are recognised as revenue upon entitlement, as conditions pertaining to eligible expenditure have been fulfilled. Roading subsidies are classified as non-exchange revenue.

Other Subsidies and Grants received

Other subsidies and grants are recognised as revenue when they become receivable unless there is an obligation in substance to return the funds if conditions of the grant are not met. If there is such an obligation, the grants are initially recorded as grants received in advance and recognised as revenue when conditions of the grants are satisfied. Other grants received are classified as non-exchange revenue.

Fees, Levies & Charges

Other fees, levies and charges are recognised as revenue when the obligation to pay arises or, in the case of licence fees, upon renewal of the licence. Fees, levies and charges are classified as non-exchange revenue. with the exception of on-going charges of consultants' fees for resource consents.

Interest Revenue

Revenue is recognised using the effective interest rate method, which is the rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash receipts through the expected life of the financial instrument. Interest revenue is classified as exchange revenue.

Sale of goods

The sale of goods is recognised when products are sold to the customer and all risks and rewards of ownership have transferred to the customer. This revenue is classified as exchange revenue.

Property Rental Revenue

Rental revenue arising on property owned by the Council is accounted for on a straight-line basis over the lease term. Property rental revenue is generally classified as non-exchange.

Donated, subsidised or vested assets

Where a physical asset is acquired for nil or nominal consideration, the fair value of the asset received is recognised when the control of the asset is transferred to Council. The fair value of this asset is recognised as revenue, unless there is a use or return condition attached to the asset and is classified as non-exchange revenue.

Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised when the Council has been supplied with the service or has control of the goods supplied.

Grant Expenditure

Non-discretionary grants are those grants that are awarded if the grant application meets the specified criteria and are recognised as expenditure when an application that meets the specified criteria for the grant has been received.

Discretionary grants are those grants where the Council has no obligation to award on receipt of the grant application and are recognised as expenditure when a successful applicant has been notified of the Council's decision.

Borrowing Costs

Borrowing costs are recognised in the period in which they are incurred.

Depreciation and amortisation

Depreciation of Property, plant and equipment and amortisation of intangible assets are charged on a straight-line basis over the estimated useful life of the associated assets.

Income Tax

Income tax expense includes components relating to both current tax and deferred tax.

Current tax is the amount of income tax payable based on the taxable profit for the current year plus any adjustments to income tax payable in respect of prior years. Current tax is calculated. using tax rates (and tax laws) that have been enacted or substantially enacted at balance date.

Deferred tax is the amount of income tax payable or recoverable in future periods in respect of temporary differences and unused tax losses. Temporary differences are differences between the carrying amount of assets and liabilities in the statement of financial position and the corresponding tax bases used in the computation of taxable profit.

Deferred tax is measured at the tax rates that are expected to apply when the asset is realised or the liability is settled based on tax rates (and tax laws) that have been enacted or substantially enacted at the balance sheet date. The measurement of deferred tax reflects the tax consequences that would follow from the manner in which the entity expects to recover or settle the carrying amount of its assets and liabilities.

Deferred tax liabilities are generally recognised for all taxable temporary differences. Deferred tax assets are recognised to the extent that it is probable that the taxable profits will be available against which the deductible temporary differences or tax losses can be utilised.

Deferred tax is not recognised if the temporary difference arises from the initial recognition of goodwill or from the initial recognition of an asset or liability in a transaction that is not a business combination, and at the time of the transaction, affects neither accounting profit nor taxable profit.

Current and deferred tax is recognised against the surplus of deficit for the period, except to the extent that it relates to a business combination, or to transactions recognised in other comprehensive revenue and expense or directly into equity.

Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents includes cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts.

Inventory

Inventory held for use in the provision of goods and services on a commercial basis are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value. The cost of purchased inventory is determined using the FIFO method.

The amount of any write down from the loss of service potential or from cost to net realisable value is recognised in surplus or deficit in the period of the write down.

Receivables

Short-term receivables are recorded at the amount due, less an allowance for Expected Credit Losses (ECL).

The Council apply the simplified ECL model of recognising lifetime ECL for short-term receivables.

In measuring ECLs, receivables have been grouped into rates receivables, and other receivables, and assessed on a collective basis as they possess shared credit risk characteristics. They have then been grouped based on the days past due. A provision matrix is then established based on historical credit loss experience, adjusted for forward looking factors specific to the debtors and the economic environment.

Rates are "written-off" when remitted in accordance with the Council's rates remission policy; and

- in accordance with the write-off criteria of sections 90A (where rates cannot be reasonably recovered) and
- 90B (in relation to Māori freehold land) of the local Government (Rating) Act 2002.

Other receivables are written-off when there is no reasonable expectation of recovery. Indicators that there is no reasonable expectation of recovery include the debtor being in liquidation or the receivable being more than one year overdue.

Other Financial Assets

Other financial assets (other than shares in subsidiaries) are initially recognised at fair value. They are then classified as, and subsequently measured under, the following categories:

- amortised cost.
- fair value through other comprehensive revenue and expense (FVTOCRE); and
- fair value through surplus and deficit (FVTSD).

Transaction costs are included in the value of the financial asset at initial recognition unless the it has been designated at FVTSD, in which case it is recognised in surplus or deficit.

The classification of a financial asset depends on its cash flow characteristics and the Council's management model for managing them.

A financial asset is classified and subsequently measured at amortised cost if it gives rise to cash flows that are 'solely payments of principal and interest (SPPI)' on the principal outstanding and is held within a management model whose objective is to collect the contractual cash flows of the asset.

Financial assets that do not meet the criteria to be measured at amortised cost or FVTOCRE are subsequently measured at FVTSD. However, the Council may elect at initial recognition to designate an equity investment not held for trading as subsequently measured at FVTOCRE.

Subsequent measurement of financial assets at amortised cost

Financial assets classified at amortised cost are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less any expected credit losses (ECL). Where applicable, interest accrued is added to the investment balance. Instruments in this category include term deposits, NZLGFA borrower notes, and loans to subsidiaries and associates.

Subsequent measurement of financial assets at FVTOCRE

Financial assets in this category that are equity instruments designated as FVTOCRE are subsequently measured at fair value with fair value gains and losses recognised in other comprehensive revenue and expense. There is no assessment for impairment when fair value falls below the cost of the investment. When sold, the cumulative gain or loss previously recognised in other comprehensive revenue and expense is transferred to accumulated funds within equity. The Council designate into this category all equity investments that are not held for trading as they are strategic investments that are intended to be held for the medium to long-term.

Interest revenue and dividends recognised from these financial assets are separately presented within revenue.

Subsequent measurement of financial assets at FVTSD

Financial assets in this category are subsequently measured at fair value with fair value gains and losses recognised in surplus or deficit.

Interest revenue and dividends recognised from these financial assets are separately presented within revenue.

Other than for derivatives, the Council has no instruments in this category.

Expected credit loss allowance (ECL)

The Council recognise an allowance for ECLs for all debt instruments not classified as FVTSD. ECLs are the probability-weighted estimate of credit losses, measured at the present value of cash shortfalls. which is the difference between the cash flows due to Council in accordance with the contract and the cash flows it expects to receive. ECLs are discounted at the effective interest rate of the financial asset.

ECLs are recognised in two stages. ECLs are provided for credit losses that result from default events that are possible within the next 12 months (a 12-month ECL). However, if there has been a significant increase in credit risk since initial recognition, the loss allowance is based on losses possible for the remaining life of the financial asset (Lifetime ECL).

When determining whether the credit risk of a financial asset has increased significantly since initial recognition. the Council considers reasonable and supportable information that is relevant and available without undue cost or effort. This includes both quantitative and qualitative information and analysis based on the Council's historical experience and informed credit assessment and including forward-looking information.

The Council consider a financial asset to be in default when the financial asset is more than 90 days past due. The Council may determine a default occurs prior to this if internal or external information indicates the entity is unlikely to pay it's credit obligations in full.

Council measure ECLs on loan commitments at the date the commitment becomes irrevocable. It the ECL measured exceeds the gross carrying amount of the financial asset, the ECL is recognised as a provision.

Unlisted shares in the subsidiary and other companies

Investments in subsidiaries and other companies is carried in Council's financial statements in the following way:

- Investment in subsidiary is carried at fair value.
- Investments in other companies is carried at cost, which materially approximate their fair value.

Derivative financial instruments

Derivative financial instruments are used to manage exposure to interest rate risks arising from the Council's financing activities. In accordance with its Treasury Management Policy, the Council does not hold or issue derivative financial instruments for trading purposes.

Derivatives are initially recognised at fair value on the date a derivative contract is entered into and are subsequently remeasured to their fair value at each balance date. The method of recognising the resulting gain or loss depends on whether the derivative is designated as a hedging instrument, and, if so, the nature of the item being hedged.

The associated gains or losses on derivatives that are not hedge accounted are recognised in surplus or deficit.

The full fair value of a hedge accounted derivative is classified as non-current if the remaining maturity of the hedged item is more than 12 months, and as current if the remaining maturity of the hedged item is less than 12 months.

The portion of the fair value of a non-hedge accounted interest rate derivative that is expected to be realised within 12 months of balance date is classified as current, with the remaining portion of the derivative classified as non-current.

Hedge accounting

The Council designates certain derivatives as either:

- hedges of the fair value of recognised assets or liabilities or a firm commitment (fair value hedge);or
- hedges of highly probable forecast transactions (cash flow hedge).

The Council have elected to not adopt the new hedge accounting requirements of PBE IPSAS 41 as permitted under the transitional provisions of PBE IPSAS 41. This means the Council continues to apply the hedge accounting requirements of PBE IPSAS 29 Financial Instruments: Recognition and Measurement.

The Council documents at the inception of the transaction the relationship between hedging instruments and hedged items, as well as its risk management objective and strategy for undertaking various hedge transactions. The Council also documents its assessment, both at hedge inception and on an ongoing basis, of whether the derivatives that are used in hedging transactions are highly effective in offsetting changes in fair values or cash flows of hedged items.

Cash flow hedge

The portion of the gain or loss on a hedging instrument that is determined to be an effective hedge is recognised in other comprehensive revenue and expense, and the ineffective portion of the gain or loss on the hedging instrument is recognised in surplus or deficit as part of "finance costs".

If a hedge of a forecast transaction subsequently results in the recognition of a financial asset or a financial liability, the associated gains or losses that were recognised in other comprehensive revenue and expense are reclassified into surplus or deficit in the same period or periods during which the asset acquired, or liability assumed affects the surplus or deficit.

However, if it is expected that all or a portion of a loss recognised in other comprehensive revenue and expense will not be recovered in one or more future periods, the amount that is not expected to be recovered is reclassified to surplus or deficit.

When a hedge of a forecast transaction subsequently results in the recognition of a non-financial asset or a non-financial liability, or a forecast transaction for a non-financial asset or non-financial liability becomes a firm commitment for which fair value hedge accounting is applied, the associated gains and losses that were recognised in other comprehensive revenue and expense will be included in the initial cost or carrying amount of the asset or liability.

If a hedging instrument expires or is sold, terminated, exercised, or revoked, or it no longer meets the criteria for hedge accounting, the cumulative gain or loss on the hedging instrument that has been recognised in other comprehensive revenue and expense from the period when the hedge was effective will remain separately recognised in equity until the forecast transaction occurs.

When a forecast transaction is no longer expected to occur, any related cumulative gain or loss on the hedging instrument that has been recognised in other comprehensive revenue and expense from the period when the hedge was effective is reclassified from equity to surplus or deficit.

Hedge ineffectiveness

Hedge ineffectiveness in a hedge relationship can arise from:

- Differences in the timing of cash flows of the hedged items and hedging instruments.
- Changes to the forecasted amount of cash flows of hedged items and hedging instruments.
- The counterparties credit risk effecting fair value movements of hedging instruments and hedged items.

Payables

Payables and other payables are recognised at their face value when the Council becomes obligated to make future payments resulting from the purchase of goods or services.

Payables may be derived from either exchange or non- exchange transactions. These are defined as:

- *Exchange transactions*

Exchange transactions are transactions where the Council receives assets (primarily cash) or services, or has liabilities extinguished, and directly gives approximately equal value (primarily in the form of goods, services, or use of assets) to another entity in exchange.

Payables from exchange transactions include payables to suppliers, retention monies and payables for elected members' and directors' fees.

- *Non-exchange transactions*

Non-exchange transactions are transactions that are not exchange transactions. In a non-exchange transaction, the Council either receives value from or gives value to another entity without directly giving or receiving approximately equal value in exchange.

An inflow of resources from a non-exchange transaction recognised as an asset is recognised as revenue, except to the extent that a liability is also recognised in respect of the same inflow.

As the Council satisfies a present obligation recognised as a liability in respect of an inflow of resources from a non-exchange transaction recognised as an asset, it reduces the carrying amount of the liability recognised and recognises an amount of revenue equal to that reduction.

Non exchange payables include payables for GST, deposits and bonds held and deferred grant revenue.

Borrowings

Borrowings on normal commercial terms are initially recognised at the amount borrowed plus transaction costs. Interest due on the borrowings is subsequently accrued and added to the borrowings balance.

Good and Service Tax (GST)

All items in the financial statements are stated exclusive of GST, except for receivables and payables, which are presented on a GST inclusive basis. Where GST is not recoverable as input tax it is recognised as part of the related asset or expense.

The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the IRD is included as part of receivables or payables in the Statement of Financial Position.

Where the Council is not in possession of or issued a valid tax invoice at balance date, the GST portion is not accounted for in either Receivables or Payables.

Commitments and contingencies are disclosed exclusive of GST.

Provisions

A provision is recognised for future expenditure of uncertain amount or timing when there is a present obligation (either legal or constructive) as a result of a past event, it is probable that an outflow of future economic benefits will be required to settle the obligation, and a reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation.

Provisions are measured at the present value of the expenditures expected to be required to settle the obligation using a pre-tax discount rate that reflects current market assessments of the time value of money and the risks specific to the obligation. The increase in the provision due to the passage of time is recognised as an interest expense and is included in finance costs.

Landfill Post Closure Costs

The Council has a legal obligation under the resource consents for open and closed landfills to provide ongoing maintenance and monitoring services at the sites after closure. A provision for post closure costs is recognised as a liability when the obligation for post closure arises.

The provision is a measure based on the present value of future cash flows expected to be incurred, taking into account future events including legal requirements and known improvements in technology. The provision includes all costs associated with landfill post closure.

Amounts provided for landfill post closure are capitalised to the landfill asset where they give rise to future economic benefits to be obtained. Components of the capitalised landfill asset are depreciated over their useful lives.

Gallagher Recreation Centre Long Term Maintenance Provision

Council has an obligation to Ministry of Education and Te Kuiti High School Board of Trustees to maintain the Gallagher Recreation Centre that Council uses to provide recreation services to the community. This obligation is established under the Property Sharing Agreement for the facility.

A Long Maintenance Provision is established to recognise this obligation and is based on a 30-year maintenance plan for the facility, regular contributions from the Board of Trustees and contributions from the Ministry of Education made on a project basis for significant replacement items.

The provision amount is based on the present value of the future planned maintenance amounts less the future funding contributions.

Employee Entitlements

Short-Term Employee Entitlements

Employee benefits expected to be settled within 12 months after the end of the period which the employee renders the related service are measured based on accrued entitlements at current rates of pay.

These include salaries and wages accrued up to balance date, annual leave earned to, but not yet taken at balance date, retiring and entitlements expected to be settled within 12 months, and sick leave.

A liability for sick leave to the extent that absences in the coming year are expected to be greater than the sick leave entitlements earned in the coming year. The amount is calculated based on the unused sick leave entitlement that can be carried forward at balance date, to the extent that the Council anticipates it will be used by staff to cover those future absences.

Leases

Finance Leases

A finance lease is a lease that transfers to the lessee substantially all the risks and rewards incidental to ownership of an asset, whether or not title is eventually transferred.

At the commencement of the lease term, finance leases are recognised as assets and liabilities in the Statement of Financial Position at the lower of the fair value of the leased item or the present value of the minimum lease payments.

A finance charge is charged to the surplus or deficit over the lease period so as to produce a constant periodic rate of interest on the remaining balance of the liability.

The amount recognised as an asset is depreciated over its useful life. If there is no certainty as to whether the Council will obtain ownership at the end of the lease term, the asset is fully depreciated over the shorter of the lease term and its useful life.

Operating Leases

An operating lease is a lease that does not transfer substantially all the risks and rewards incidental to ownership of an asset. Lease payments under an operating lease are recognised as an expense on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

Property, Plant & Equipment

Property, plant and equipment consists of:

Operational Assets

Operational assets are tangible assets, able to be dealt with as part of the operating strategy and include land, buildings, plant and equipment, motor vehicles, furniture and fittings, computer hardware, library books, and finance leases for office equipment.

Restricted Assets

Restricted assets cannot be disposed of because of legal and other restrictions but provide a benefit or service to the community. These are mainly assets associated with reserves vested under the Reserves Act, endowments and other property held in Trust for specific purposes.

Infrastructural Assets

Infrastructural assets are the fixed utility systems providing an ongoing service to the community but are not generally regarded as tradable. They include infrastructural land, roads, water reticulation systems, sewerage reticulation systems, storm water systems, refuse systems and land under roads.

Land (operational, restricted and infrastructural) is measured at fair value. Buildings (operational and restricted) and all infrastructural assets (except for land under roads) are measured at fair value less accumulated depreciation. All other asset classes are measured at cost less accumulated depreciation and impairment losses.

Additions

The cost of an item of property, plant and equipment is recognised as an asset if, and only if, it is probable that future economic benefits or service potential associated with the item will flow to the Council and the cost of the item can be measured reliably.

Work in progress is recognised at cost less impairment and is not depreciated.

In most instances, an item of property, plant and equipment is initially recognised at its cost. Where an asset is acquired through a non exchange transaction, it is recognised at fair value as at the date of acquisition.

Disposals

Gains and losses on disposals are determined by comparing the proceeds with the carrying amount of the asset. Gains and losses on disposals are included in the surplus or deficit. When revalued assets are sold, the amounts included in the property revaluation reserves in respect of those assets are transferred to accumulated funds.

Subsequent Costs

Costs incurred subsequent to initial acquisition are capitalised only when it is probable that future economic benefits or service potential associated with the item will flow to the Council and the cost of the item can be measured reliably.

The costs of day to day servicing of property, plant and equipment are recognised in the surplus or deficit as they are incurred.

Depreciation

Depreciation is provided on a straight-line basis on all property, plant and equipment other than land, land under roads, work in progress and those assets in the tables below that are not depreciated, at rates that will write off the cost (or valuation) of the assets to their estimated residual values over their useful lives.

Operational Assets

Operational assets are depreciated on a straight line basis. The estimated useful lives are as follows:

Operational Buildings	15-100 years
Plant and Equipment	4-13 years
Motor vehicles	5-7 years
Furniture and Fittings	5-30 years
Computers	4-5 years
Library Books	7 years
Archive Books	Not depreciated

Restricted Assets

Restricted assets are depreciated on a straight line basis as follows:

Restricted Buildings	15 – 100 years

Infrastructural Assets

Infrastructural assets are depreciated on a straight line basis. The estimated useful lives are as follows:

Roads and Footpaths

Pavement Formation	Not depreciated
Pavement Subbase	120 - 160 years or not depreciated
Pavement Base	60 – 120 years or not depreciated
Sealed Surface	12 – 22 years
Metal Surface	Not depreciated
Bridges and Major Culverts	60-100 years
Retaining Walls and Other Structures	20 – 100 years
Footpaths and Footpath Crossings	19 – 80 years
Drainage and Culverts	70 – 80 years
Kerb and Channel, Stormwater Channels	K & C 80 years, SWC not depreciated
Guard Rails	50 years
Streetlights and Poles	Lanterns 20 -25 years, poles and brackets 15 – 60 years
Road Signs	Signs 15 – 20 years, Signposts 30 years
Resource Consents	3 – 24 years

Water Supply Assets

Pipes	60 – 120 years
Fire Hydrant Valves	75 years
Meters	30 years
Tobies	60 years
Pump Stations	20 – 100 years
Dam Structures	100 years
Reservoir Structures	80 years
Treatment Plants	5 – 100 years
Resource Consents	11 – 35 years or not depreciated

Wastewater Assets

Pipes	50 - 120 years
Manholes	100 years
Separator Tanks	50 years
Pump Stations	15 – 100 years
Treatment Plants	15 – 100 years
Resource Consents	15 – 35 years

Stormwater Assets

Pipes	60 – 120 years
Manholes and Cesspits	100 years
Resource Consents	20 years

Solid Waste Assets

Landfill Cells and Earthworks	Not depreciated
Building and Shelters	20 – 60 years
Oxidation Ponds	80 years
Roading and Driveways	12 – 80 years
Weighbridges and Automatic Gates	15 – 50 years
Bins and Containers	15 – 80 years
Retaining Walls	25 – 100 years
Fencing and Other Assets	15 – 35 years
Resource Consents	30 – 34 years

The depreciation rates are applied at a component level and are dependent on the remaining useful life for each component. The residual value and useful life on an asset is reviewed and adjusted where applicable at each balance date.

Revaluation

Land and buildings (operational and restricted) and infrastructural assets (except for land under roads) are revalued with sufficient regularity to ensure that their carrying value does not materially differ from fair value and at least every three years. The carrying values of revalued items are assessed annually to ensure that they do not differ materially from fair value. If there is a material difference, then an off-cycle revaluation is carried out for that asset class.

Revaluations of property, plant and equipment are accounted for on a class of asset basis.

The net revaluation results are credited or debited to other comprehensive revenue and expense and are accumulated to a property revaluation reserve in equity for that class of asset. Where this would result in a debit balance in the asset revaluation reserve, this balance is not recognised in other comprehensive revenue and expense but is recognised in surplus or deficit. Any subsequent increase on revaluation that reverses a previous decrease in value recognised in the surplus or deficit will be recognised first in the surplus or deficit up to the amount previously expensed, and then recognised in the other comprehensive revenue and expense.

Revaluation of Restricted Assets

Land and buildings in restricted assets are subject to either restrictions on use, or disposal, or both. This includes restrictions from legislation (such as land declared as a reserve under the Reserves Act 1977), or other restrictions (such as land or buildings under a bequest or donation that restricts the purpose for with the assets can be used).

Intangible Assets

Computer Software

Computer software licenses are capitalised on the basis of the costs incurred to acquire and bring to use the specific software. The costs associated with maintaining computer software are recognised as an expense as incurred. The costs associated with the development and maintenance of the Council's website are recognised as an expense as incurred. Staff training costs are recognised in the surplus or deficit when incurred.

Carbon Credits

Purchased carbon credits are recognised at cost on acquisition. They are not amortised, but are instead tested for impairment annually. They are de-recognised when they are used to satisfy carbon emission obligations.

Service Concession Asset

Gallagher Recreation Centre (GRC) – Licence to use the facility Council has completed following the construction of the stadium on Te Kuiti High School grounds. The development of the facility was in partnership with Ministry of Education and the Te Kuiti High School is recognised as intangible asset for Council's right to access the facility to provide recreation and sporting activities to the wider community. The intangible is recognised at cost.

Amortisation

The carrying value of an intangible asset with a finite life is amortised on a straight-line basis over its useful life for software. Amortisation begins when the asset is available for use and ceases at the date that the asset is de-recognised. The amortisation charge for each period is recognised in the surplus or deficit.

The useful lives and associated amortisation rates for software and service concession asset (GRC-licence to use the facility) have been estimated as follows:

Computer software	2 – 5 years
Service concession asset	35 years

Forestry Assets

Immature standing forestry assets that have not yet reached their second prune are measured at cost.

Standing forestry assets that have passed their second prune are independently revalued biannually at fair value less estimated costs to sell for one growth cycle. Fair value is determined based on the present value of expected future cash flows discounted at a current market determined rate. The calculation is based on assessment of growth, timber prices, felling costs and silvicultural costs and takes into consideration environmental, operational and market restrictions.

Gains and losses arising on initial recognition of forestry assets at fair value less costs to sell and from a change in fair value less costs to sell are recognised in the surplus or deficit.

Forestry maintenance costs are recognised in the surplus or deficit when incurred.

Non-current Assets Held For Sale

Non-current assets held for sale are classified as held for sale if their carrying amount will be recovered principally through a sale transaction, not through continuing use. This condition is regarded as met only when the sale is highly probable and the assets (or disposal group) is available for immediate sale in its present condition and the sale of the asset (or disposal group) is expected to be completed within one year from the date of classification. Non-current assets held for sale are measured at the lower of their carrying amount and fair value less costs to sell.

Any impairment losses for write-downs of non-current assets held for sale are recognised in the surplus or deficit.

Any increases in fair value less costs to sell are recognised up to the level of any impairment losses that have been previously recognised.

Non-current assets held for sale (including those that are part of a disposal group) are not depreciated or amortised while they are classified as held for sale. Interest and other expenses attributable to the liabilities of a disposal group classified as held for sale continue to be recognised.

Investment in Unlisted Shares

Council has an interest (1.6%) in a Council Controlled Organisation (CCO), Waikato Local Authority Shared Services Limited (trading as Co-Lab). Council has no significant influence over the company's operational or financial policies.

As this investment is not traded on an active market, and quoted market prices of similar financial assets are not available, the fair value cannot be measured reliably. The investment is therefore measured at cost.

Council has an interest (0.15%) in Civic Financial Services Limited. Council has no significant influence over the company's operational or financial policies.

Council has an interest (0.04%) in New Zealand National Mutual Riskpool. Council has no significant influence on operational or financial policies.

As this investment is not traded on an active market, and quoted market prices of similar financial assets are not available, the fair value cannot be measured reliably. The investment is therefore measured at cost.

Investment Property

Investment property consists of miscellaneous housing and residential sections properties. Investment property is held primarily for capital growth, rental or similar revenue. Properties leased to third parties under operating leases are classified as investment property unless the property is held to meet service delivery objectives, rather than to earn rentals or for capital appreciation.

Investment property is measured initially at its cost, including transaction costs. After initial recognition, the Council measures all investment property at fair value as determined annually by an independent valuer. Gains or losses arising from a change in the fair value of investment property are recognised in the surplus or deficit.

Cost Allocation

The council has derived the cost of services for each subsequant activity. Direct costs are expensed directly to the activity. Indirect costs relating to the overall running of the organisation and include staff time, office space and information technology costs. These costs are allocated to Council activities using appropriate cost drivers such as resource use, staff number and floor area. All overhead costs have been allocated to significant ativites.

Impairment Of Property, Plant and Equipment and Intangible Assets

Intangible assets that have an indefinite useful life are not subject to amortisation and are tested annually for impairment. Property, plant and equipment and intangible assets that have a finite useful life are reviewed annually for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount may not be recoverable.

An impairment loss is recognised for the amount by which the asset's carrying amount exceeds its recoverable amount. The recoverable amount is the higher of an asset's fair value less costs to sell and value in use.

Value in use is depreciated replacement cost for an asset where the future economic benefits or service potential of the asset are not primarily dependent on the assets ability to generate net cash inflows and where the entity would, if deprived of the asset, replace its remaining future economic benefits or service potential.

If an asset's carrying amount exceeds its recoverable amount the asset is regarded as impaired and the carrying amount is written down to the recoverable amount. For revalued assets the impairment loss is recognised against the revaluation reserve for that class of asset. Where that results in a debit balance in the revaluation reserve, the balance is recognised in the surplus or deficit.

For assets not carried at a revalued amount, the total impairment loss is recognised in the surplus or deficit.

Value in use for non-cash generating assets

Non cash generating assets are those assets that are not held with the primary objective of generating a commercial return. For non-cash generating assets, value in use is determined using an approach based on either a depreciated replacement cost approach, restoration cost approach, or a service units approach. The most appropriate approach used to measure value in use depends on the nature of the impairment and availability of information.

Value in use cash generating assets

Cash generating assets are those assets that are held with the primary objective of generating a commercial return.

The value in use for cash generating assets and cash generating units is the present value of expected future cash flows.

Equity

Equity is the community's interest in the Council and is measured as the difference between total assets and total liabilities. Equity is disaggregated and classified into the following components:

- Accumulated Funds,
- Other reserves, and
- Property revaluation reserves.

Other Reserves

Restricted reserves are a component of equity generally representing a particular use to which various parts of equity have been assigned.

Reserves may be legally restricted or created by the Council. Restricted reserves are those subject to specific conditions accepted as binding by the Council and which may not be revised by the Council without reference to the Courts or a third party. Transfers from these reserves may be made only for certain specified purposes or when certain specified conditions are met. Also included in restricted reserves are reserves restricted by Council decision. Transfers to and from these reserves are at the discretion of the Council.

Council created reserves are a combination of depreciation reserves and transfers of surplus or deficit from operations. The purpose of the reserves is to maintain balances of funded depreciation for future renewal of assets and to hold revenue streams in separate balances as required by Council. Available for sale reserves consists of valuation gains associated with Council's investments, classified as Available for Sale.

Hedging reserves comprise the effective portion of the cumulative net change in the fair value of derivatives designated as cash flow hedges.

Property Revaluation Reserves

Property revaluation reserves relate to the revaluation of property, plant and equipment to fair value.

Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS)

The regulations for landfill methane emissions under the New Zealand Emissions Trading Scheme (NZ ETS) require waste disposal facility operators to surrender New Zealand Units (NZU's) by 31 May of each year to match the remission from 1 January to 31 December of the preceding calendar year. The cost of meeting ETS obligations is mandatory and Council is required to surrender NZU's for the landfill methane emissions associated with Rangitoto Landfill. NZU's that are purchased to meet these liabilities are recognised at cost and subsequently recognised at cost subject to impairment. Where there is an obligation to return units the expense and liability are recognised and are measured at the carrying value of units on hand plus the fair value of any additional units required.

Critical Accounting Estimates and Judgements

In preparing this Long Term Plan the Council has made estimates and assumptions concerning the future. These estimates and assumptions may differ from the subsequent actual results. Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations or future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. Subsequent actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis and adjustments are made where necessary.

Estimates that affect Balance Sheet carrying values

The estimates and assumptions that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year are discussed below:

Landfill Aftercare Provision

The Council has a legal obligation under resource consents for open and closed landfills to provide ongoing maintenance and monitoring services at sites after closure. A provision for post closure is recognised as a liability when the obligation for post closure arises.

The long term nature of the liability means that there are inherent uncertainties in estimating costs that will be incurred.

Gallagher Recreation Centre Long Term Maintenance Provision

There is uncertainty around the amounts and timings of the long-term maintenance amounts and contributions made on a project basis by the Ministry of Education.

Infrastructural Assets

There are a number of assumptions and estimates used when performing depreciated replacement cost valuations over infrastructural assets. These include:

- The physical deterioration and condition of an asset, for example the Council could be carrying an asset at an amount that does not reflect its actual condition. This is particularly so for those assets, which are not visible, for example storm water, wastewater and water supply pipes situated underground. This risk is minimised by the Council performing a combination of physical inspections and condition modelling assessments of underground assets;
- Estimating any obsolescence or surplus capacity of an asset; and
- Estimates are made when determining the remaining useful lives over which the asset will be depreciated. These estimates can be impacted by the local conditions, for example weather patterns and traffic growth. If useful lives do not reflect the actual consumption of the benefits of the asset, then the Council could be over or underestimating the annual deprecation charge recognised as an expense in the surplus or deficit.

To minimise this risk the Council's infrastructural asset useful lives have been determined with reference to the NZ Infrastructural Asset Valuation and Depreciation Guidelines published by the National Asset Management Steering Group, and have been adjusted for local conditions based on past experience. Asset inspections, deterioration and condition modelling are also carried out regularly as part of the Council's asset management planning activities, which gives the Council further assurance over its useful life estimates.

Experienced independent valuers perform the Council's infrastructural asset revaluations.

Property, plant and equipment useful lives and residual values

At each balance date the Council reviews the useful lives and residual values of its property, plant and equipment. Assessing the appropriateness of useful life and residual value estimates of property, plant and equipment requires the Council to consider a number of factors such as the physical condition of the asset, expected period of use of the asset by the Council, and expected disposal proceeds from the future sale of the asset.

An incorrect estimate of the useful life or residual value will impact on the depreciable amount of an asset, therefore impacting on the depreciation expense recognised in the surplus or deficit, and carrying amount of the asset in the Statement of Financial Position. The Council minimises the risk of this estimation uncertainty by:

- physical inspection of assets;
- asset replacement programs;
- review of secondhand market prices for similar assets; and
- analysis of prior asset sales.

The Council has not made significant changes, apart from those noted above, to past assumptions concerning useful lives and residual values.

Three Waters Service Delivery Reforms

All legislation relating to water services entities has been repealed by the government; Water Services Entities Act 2022, Water Services Entities Amendment Act 2023, and Water Services Legislation Act 2023.

Council will continue to recognise its three waters assets and operations throughout this LTP.

Feasibility studies are underway for the establishment of a regional water services entity to take over and manage water services regionally, however for this plan no adjustment or assumptions made for this possibility.

Valuation of Investment in Inframax Construction Ltd

The investment in Inframax Construction Limited was revalued as at 30 June 2023 and resulted in a valuation range of $9.2m to $12.1m with a mid-point of $10.602m for the investment. After consideration of the subsidiary's financial statements and forecasts, Council adopted the mid-point valuation of $10.602m to be fair value at 30 June 2023. Adoption of this value resulted in a gain on valuation of $4.19m, which is included in Other Comprehensive Revenue and Expense. Experienced independent valuers performed the valuation of the investment in Inframax Construction Limited at 30 June 2023.

It has been assumed that there has been no change in the value of the investment in Inframax Construction Ltd over the life of this plan.

Comparatives

To ensure consistency with the current year, certain comparative information is reclassified where appropriate. This could occur where:

- Classifications have changed between periods;
- The Council has made additional disclosure in the forecast years, and where a greater degree of disaggregation of prior year amounts and balances is therefore required; or
- There has been a change of accounting policy.

For this LTP 2024-34 the comparatives have been changed to include rates on Council owned properties to be included as rates revenue and rates expenditure.

Within the Funding Impact Statements, the comparators have been restated for Internal charges and overheads recovered to include recoveries between Group of Activities, rather than recoveries within the within same Group of Activities.

Recovery of Internal charges and overhead depreciation has been reclassified to Increase (decrease) in reserves to match the depreciation expense.

Public Benefit Entity Financial Reporting Standard 42 Prospective Financial Statements (PBE FRS 42)

The Council has complied with PBE FRS 42 in the preparation of these prospective financial statements. In accordance with PBE FRS 42, the following information is provided:

(i) Description of the nature of the entity's current operation and its principal activities

The Council is a territorial local authority, as defined in the Local Government Act 2002. The Council's principal activities are outlined within this LTP.

(ii) Purpose for which the prospective financial statements are prepared

It is a requirement of the Local Government Act 2002 to present prospective financial statements that span 10 years and include them within this LTP. This provides an opportunity for ratepayers and residents to review the projected financial results and position of the Council. Prospective financial statements are revised annually to reflect updated assumptions and costs.

(iii) Bases for assumptions, risks and uncertainties

The prospective financial information has been prepared on the basis of best estimate assumptions as the future events which the Council expects to take place. The Council has considered factors that may lead to a material difference between information in the prospective financial statements and actual results. These factors, and the assumptions made in relation to the sources of uncertainty and potential effect, are outlined within this LTP.

(iv) Cautionary Note

The financial information is prospective. Actual results are likely to vary from the information presented and the variations may be material.

(v) Other Disclosures

The prospective financial statements were authorised for issue on XXXXXX by Waitomo District Council.

The Council is responsible for the prospective financial statements presented, including the assumptions underlying prospective financial statements and all other disclosures. The information in this LTP is prospective and as such contains no actual operating results.

Changes in accounting policies

The accounting policy for forestry assets has been changed to measure immature standing forestry assets at cost and stands past their second prune at fair value less costs to sell at fair value biannually.

Apart from these two changes there has been no other changes to accounting policies during the year.