

Annual Plan 2025/2026 – Updated timelines and process

Meeting: Council Briefing
Date of meeting: 3 February 2025
Reporting officer: Tracey Deane, Strategic Planning Advisor

Purpose | Ngā whāinga

To update Elected Members on the Annual Plan (AP) 2025/2026, revised timelines and their alignment with other processes.

Discussion | Ngā kōrerorero

Annual Plan Process

The AP context and process was outlined at the November 2024 Council Briefing. Since that time, staff have been preparing the finances and identifying notable items, and any that are likely to require public consultation.

The Annual Plan process is running later than normal due largely to the need to finalise information on a variety of key topics, for example, Local Waters Done Well (LWDW), Kauri Coast Community Swimming Pool, Revenue and Finance Policy changes and water security for Dargaville. This has resulted in the timeline needing to be reworked to ensure that we continue to meet our statutory timeframes.

Alongside the Annual Plan, Local Waters Done Well (LWDW) Acts have been progressing through parliament with council briefed throughout, and it is recommended that public consultation for this aligns with the Annual Plan to ease the consultation burden on our communities.

It should be noted that if any items in both the AP and the LWDW processes meet specific LGA criteria, an amendment to the Long Term Plan 2024-2027 may also be required. This will be carried out alongside both the AP and LWDW processes adding to the complexity of this situation.

Where we are now

A report follows this one for direction today on the reviewed LTP year two (1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026) financials. This will determine the items requiring AP consultation and whether an LTP amendment is required.

Annual Plan Timelines - community engagement and consultation

Following this briefing and direction given by Council, staff will prepare draft financial figures which inform Council to decide on whether consultation is required.

The new timeline utilises existing scheduled council dates wherever possible to reduce the impact on elected member calendars.

Attached for reference are the **updated** communications timelines for the two scenarios: **Attachment A** (Inform Timeline) if no consultation is required, and **Attachment B** if Council decides that consultation is required.

The financials and decision to consult will now be made at an Extraordinary Council Meeting ahead of the 5 March 2025 Council Briefing.

Adoption of the Source documents and the Consultation Document for consultation (should the decision be made to consult), will occur at an Extraordinary Council Meeting ahead of the 4 April 2025 Council Briefing.

Consultation on the AP, LWDW and LTP amendments if required, will occur from approximately 7 April to 7 May 2025.

Hearings will be between 14-16 May, with Deliberations held on Council Meeting date 28 May 2025.

This keeps the Annual Plan 2025/2026 on track to be adopted by the end of June 2025, as required by legislation.

Next steps | E whaiake nei

1. Following the direction provided at this briefing, staff will continue to work on the projected Annual Plan information
2. A report will come back to an extra Council Meeting 5 March 2025 for confirmation of the financials, and a decision on whether or not consultation with the community is required.

Attachments | Ngā tapiritanga

	Title
A	Annual Plan 2025/2026 - Inform Timeline - updated
B	Annual Plan 2025/2026 - Consult Timeline - updated