

Summary Annual Report

For the year ended 30 June 2022



WHANGANUI
DISTRICT COUNCIL
Te Kaunihera a Rohe o Whanganui



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Message from the Mayor and Chief Executive

Tēnā koutou katoa

Thank you for taking the time to read this summary of Whanganui District Council's Annual Report for 2021/2022.

At the time of publication, we have a new council and Mayor, with a healthy number of new councillors around the table. The council also has a relatively new chief executive so we are looking at building from our past and taking Whanganui to a new level of growth and maturity.

We move forward from the legacy outlined in this Annual Report Summary, which, in many ways, provides a baseline for our future activity. It sets out the council's activities over the past year, including progress on key projects and strategies and summarises its financial performance.

Global pressures created a challenging environment for the council in 2021/2022. Inflation, COVID-19 and supply chain issues affected local businesses and had an impact on some of our major projects, such as the Sarjeant Gallery Redevelopment, which announced an estimated cost increase of \$9.4M in March 2022.

We acknowledge the work that took place in this context to ensure Whanganui continues to progress and thrive – economically, socially, culturally and environmentally.

The Long-Term Plan for 2021-2031 was adopted, allocating budget for an extension to the Davis Library, youth spaces and places, town centre regeneration, a coastal plan and housing.

In November 2021 Whanganui was named as New Zealand's only UNESCO City of Design, recognising our city's historic and contemporary contributions to art and creativity. This designation earns Whanganui a place in the UNESCO Creative Cities Network of 246 cities around the globe that put creativity at the heart of their development plans.

Our port revitalisation project, Te Pūwaha, made significant progress, on a foundation built on Tupua te Kawa, the intrinsic values enshrined into law by Te Awa Tupua (Whanganui River Claims) Act 2017. The Sarjeant Gallery Redevelopment is scheduled for completion at the end of 2023.

A further key achievement was the adoption of a waste minimisation and management plan which will deliver a rates-funded kerbside recycling service and food waste collection over the next two years.

We thank the previous council, staff and our community partners for their contributions during the 2021/2022 year and look forward to building on this work over the coming triennium.



Andrew Tripe
Mayor of Whanganui



David Langford
Chief Executive

Statement of Compliance and Responsibility

This Annual Report summary provides an overview of Whanganui District Council's activities, services and finances for the year 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022.

The information is taken from the council's audited Annual Report 2021/22 that was adopted by the council on 20 December 2022.

Detailed information on the council's financial position and performance is provided in the full Annual Report 2021/22.

The Summary Annual Report was authorised by the Mayor, Andrew Tripe, and Chief Executive, David Langford, on 20 January 2023.

Andrew Tripe
Mayor of Whanganui

David Langford
Chief Executive

Welcome to our Summary Annual Report for 2021/22

Our planning and reporting framework

Long-Term Plan (LTP)

In 2021, the council adopted a Long-Term Plan (LTP) for the period 2021-2031 that outlined the services and projects we planned to deliver for the district for that 10-year period. We review the LTP every three years.

Annual Plan

In years two and three of the Long-Term Plan, we produce an Annual Plan. It sets out how we will deliver on our LTP, highlights our key issues and projects, and how much these will cost. It also outlines any significant changes that the council has made to the LTP.

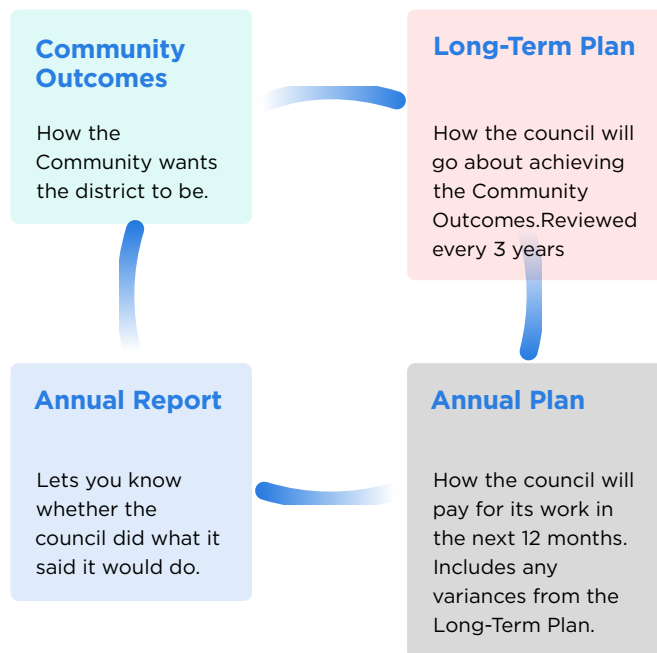
Annual Report

At the end of each financial year we produce an Annual Report that provides details of our activities and financial performance. It compares what we did against what we planned to do in our LTP.

Summary Annual Report

This document provides a summary of information contained in the Annual Report.

The planning cycle



Ongoing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic

The impact of the coronavirus pandemic continued to be felt across all sectors of New Zealand to varying degrees during 2021/2022.

Commencing the financial year sitting at Alert Level 1, all of New Zealand was forced to move into Alert Level 4 on 17 August 2021 with a complete lockdown for a two-week period. Alongside all regions south of Auckland, Whanganui progressively moved through Alert Levels 3 and 2 over subsequent months until the COVID-19 Alert System was replaced by the COVID-19 Protection Framework, also known as the traffic light settings, on 2 December 2021.

Initially identified as a 'red' region, Whanganui moved to the 'orange' setting on 30 December 2021 until 23 January 2022 when all of New Zealand was moved to the 'red' setting in response to community transmissions of the Omicron variant. Several 'red' setting restrictions were eased in March 2022, and all New Zealand regions returned to the 'orange' setting with effect 13 April 2022. New Zealand remained at the 'orange' setting as at 30 June 2022.

Under the red traffic light setting, all facilities, including those that were customer-facing, were able to remain open. There were, however, limits on numbers attending indoor events, and capacity limits based on one-metre social distancing for all public facilities (e.g. libraries, galleries, museums, swimming pools) with council facilities and venues requiring a My Vaccine Pass for entry. The graduated move to the orange setting on 13 April 2022 saw restrictions lift on gathering numbers, My Vaccine Pass requirements, and capacity limits at venues.

The council remained focused on keeping critical services (such as wastewater, drinking water, roading, and compliance services) running as the COVID-19 outbreak continued throughout the year. All council facilities

remained open although the Splash Centre had to adjust its opening hours at times to accommodate for staff being required to isolate. Health and safety protocols included regular rapid antigen testing for council staff who had been identified as critical workers under the business continuity plan.

Although not a lead agency in a pandemic, the council's Civil Defence staff continued to support local organisations. Implementation and maintenance of the various COVID-19 alert level and protection framework controls in support of community and staff safety, and the continuity of service delivery, was paramount. These outcomes were also enabled by the the council's Crisis Management Team. The council's various media channels continued to actively publish and endorse key messages in support of Government and community-led COVID-19 management initiatives.

Building on lessons learned from the previous year, the council continued its resurgence planning across the organisation and improved upon its digital capacity and software. In addition to providing online payment services, other improvements included the remote processing of building consents during lockdowns and the remote verifications of food and health audits wherever possible to reduce staff exposure. Online learning resources and opportunities were made available such as the Library Learning Resource webpage, and increased digital access to collections at the Whanganui Regional Museum and the Te Whare o Rehua Whanganui Sarjeant Gallery. Contactless services were promoted wherever possible to ensure the safety of both staff and users.

Our vision



Our Goals				
 Community Community spirit – a united community that champions cultural diversity	 Connectivity A connected district that is accessible	 Creativity Humming with cultural personality	 Environment Safeguarding our natural resources and unique environment	 Economy Employment and development opportunities for everyone
Key strategies and plans				
Overarching plans: Long-Term Plan, District Plan, Infrastructure Plan				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcoming Communities • Youth places • Safer Whanganui • Housing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Digital • Active Transport • Urban Transport • Rural communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public art • Arts and culture • Town Centre Regeneration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open spaces and physical activity • Heritage • Waste management • Climate change • Coastal management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic development • Finance and infrastructure • Urban growth • Port
Current priorities and challenges				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving community wellbeing and celebrating diversity • Working with other agencies on addressing our housing crisis • Civil defence emergency preparedness, response and recovery 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting active and healthy communities • Supporting digital equity – including in the rural area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Growing Whanganui's reputation as an arts destination • Affirming and supporting traditional art, culture and our unique heritage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protecting our unique environment and maintaining infrastructure in the face of climate change • Upholding our obligations under Te Awa Tupua 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rising costs and limited income. Keeping rates affordable and managing growth well



Our communities' wellbeing

Improving our communities' quality of life is at the very essence of our organisation. Whether we are providing multiple platforms for communities' participation, implementing initiatives to improve business success, providing valuable infrastructure and services or showcasing Whanganui on the national and international map - all facets of what we do, we do to promote healthy and resilient communities now and into the future.

Section 3 of the Local Government (Community Wellbeing) Amendment Act 2019 provides for local authorities to play a broad role in promoting the social, economic, environmental, and cultural wellbeing of their communities, taking a sustainable development approach.



Our activities and performance

Our projects and work programmes are structured around 11 groups of activities. Each activity contributes to community outcomes through our Leading Edge strategic aspirations and promotes the social, economic, environmental and cultural wellbeing of the Whanganui community.

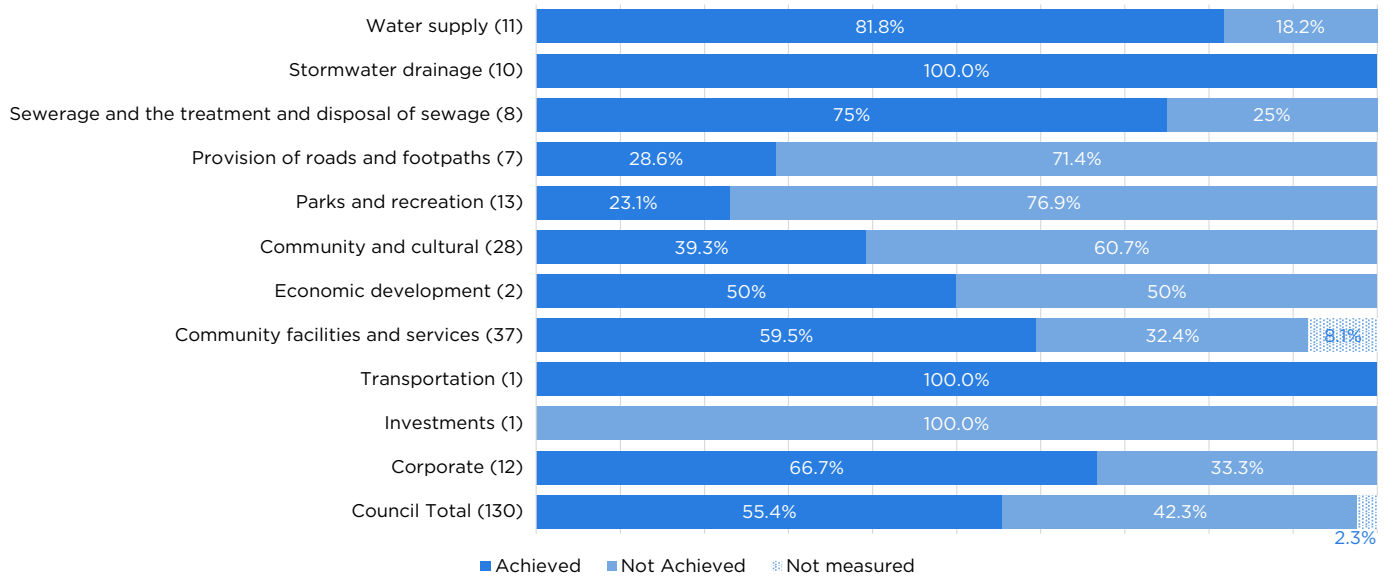
Using a variety of sources, including an independent survey of residents, and internal data, the council measures its performance to ensure we have delivered our services to an excellent level.

Under the Long-Term Plan 2021-2031, the council reports on 130 non-financial performance measures across its 11 activity groups. The summary charts opposite summarise the results as a percentage of total measures per activity.

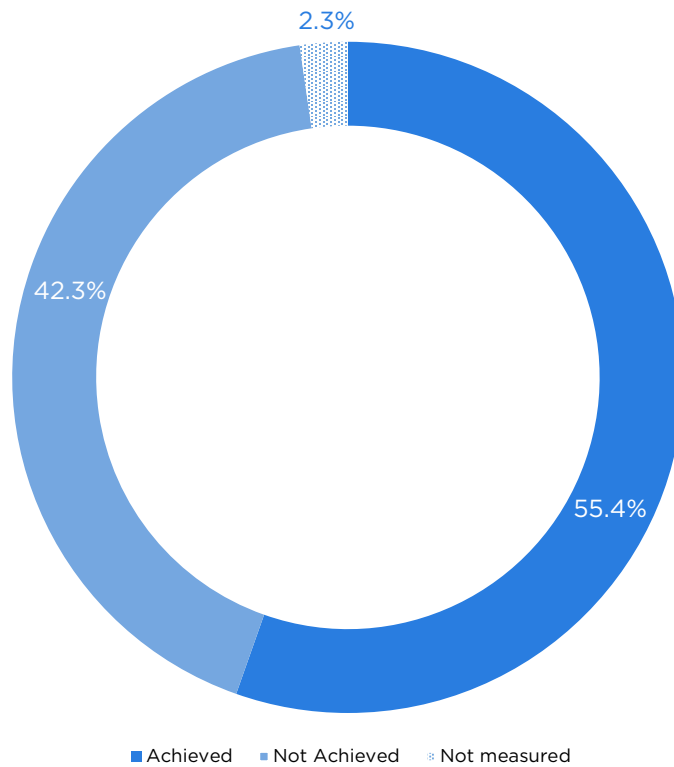
Of the 130 measures that we use to track performance, the graph shows that:

- We have achieved the target for 72 measures.
- We have not achieved the target for 55 measures.
- We did not have data available for 3 measures.

Our activities and performance



Performance Targets Measure



Summarising our performance

The following section provides a summary of our performance against the measures. Detailed information on the performance targets and results can be found in the full Annual Report 2021/22.



Water supply

Every local authority has a general responsibility to improve, provide and protect public health. Good-quality water systems play a vital role in this. Our priority is to supply water that is safe to drink and to ensure the security of the city’s water supply. The most successful approach to this is by regularly monitoring the water quality and maintaining the infrastructure that supports it.

Key highlights for 2021/22

We completed the installation of the 3.8km water supply connection between Fordell and the main city supply.

A fourth water bore at Kai Iwi was commissioned. This bore will add resilience to the city’s water supply.

Pipe installation work on the Whanganui Airport supply upgrade project (stage 1, 2 and 3) was completed. The final stage of the airport supply upgrade included the installation of 380 metres of pipe from the northern side of Cobham Bridge to Taupo Quay, with the entire project incorporating a total renewal length of 870 metres. This project will ensure adequate supply and improved resilience in the airport water zone and specifically, critical assets, including the Wastewater Treatment Plant and the airport.

We introduced bulk water supply filling stations in Ridgway and Peat streets using a permit system.

Work continued towards implementing a global consent for all water-take consents from Horizons Regional Council – a resource application was submitted with a detailed Assessments of Environmental Effects. A consolidation of water permits into a single global consent will promote efficiency in consenting and monitoring procedures and recognises the interconnectedness of the groundwater system and the wider environment.

	Budgeted for 2021/22 (\$000)	Actual spend 2021/22 (\$000)
Capital expenditure	2,266	3,487
Operating expenditure	4,751	5,022

These are summary figures from the group Funding Impact Statement. See the full Annual Report 21/22 for details.

Stormwater drainage

Stormwater

Stormwater collection and its disposal are necessary in order to protect the health and safety of people, land and property.

Waterways and natural drainage

The main objective for Whanganui’s waterways and natural drainage is to ensure they behave effectively and efficiently. These systems are critical to allow or mitigate flooding impacts within the urban area. Natural water systems must be managed to meet environmental and amenity standards for the district’s wellbeing.

Key highlights for 2021/22

Stormwater

Although delayed due to COVID-related delivery issues, we completed stormwater works in Raupo Street. This work has provided a level of service to the Heads Road industrial area, and additional capacity for the effective completion of the wastewater system separation.

Consultation with Hapū, Ngā Tāngata Tiaki and Horizons Regional Council commenced on the stormwater quality assessment programme. This will form an underlying basis for further guiding activities within the Healthy Streams Initiative.

Design work and consultation with Tangata Whenua was progressed on the capital works needed in the Mosston Road / Mill Road attenuation area.

We kicked off two important new capital works projects from the Long-Term Plan, one for Separation Completion (Hinaiu Street), and one for Stormwater Levels of Service Improvement (Smithfield Road). These are scheduled for completion early 2023.

Waterways and natural drainage

The Healthy Streams Initiative focuses on erosion and vegetation control, removal of obstructions, improved fish passage, enhanced habitat and uplifting the general health of urban streams which flow into Te Awa o Whanganui. Working with Iwi, Department of Conservation and Horizons Regional Council, we commenced / undertook a number of stream enhancement projects. These included projects in the Karaka Street / Seafront Road reserve, Tutaeika, Awarua and Matarawa Streams, Titoki Reserve and watercourses, and the Kokohuia wetland watercourse.

	Budgeted for 2021/22 (\$000)	Actual spend 2021/22 (\$000)
Capital expenditure	3,272	3,001
Operating expenditure	3,169	2,589

These are summary figures from the group Funding Impact Statement. See the full Annual Report 21/22 for details.

Sewerage and the treatment and disposal of sewage

The council provides and operates three wastewater systems that manage the collection, treatment and disposal of wastewater. These include the Whanganui urban system servicing the city, and two rural systems for Mowhanau and Marybank. The systems are comprised of service lines, pipe networks, pump stations, treatment plants and outfalls.

Key highlights for 2021/22

Central government’s Three Waters Stimulus Project funding was used for a number of projects during the financial year:

- Extending the remaining useful life of over 1,600 metres of wastewater mains by way of relining. Relining is a trenchless technology minimising disruption and reinstatement.
- Replacement of the Westway Pipe Bridge (between Durie Hill and Putiki) – a critical asset that was at the end of its useful life. This project required construction of a new 64-metre concrete-lined wastewater main and replacement of its support structure.
- Retrofitting of scum baffles to the clarifiers at the council’s Wastewater Treatment Plant to capture floating scum and remove it from the final discharge.
- Fitting newly-made “duckbill” diffusers to the ocean outfall stage of the wastewater treatment plant. The new diffusers will help to ensure ideal discharge conditions prevail at the outfall.

Installation of the renewed twin step screens at Beach Road was completed following COVID-related delays for the manufacturer and delivery to site.

	Budgeted for 2021/22 (\$000)	Actual spend 2021/22 (\$000)
Capital expenditure	2,160	3,752
Operating expenditure	8,778	9,238

These are summary figures from the group Funding Impact Statement. See the full Annual Report 21/22 for details.

Provision of roads and footpaths

Roading transportation is a core essential service for the council. This group includes the management of the district's roads, bridges, traffic management and control systems, and street lights, and contributes to our economic and social enhancement. The footpaths and berms activity provides a network of urban and rural footpaths and walkways, berms and street furniture (seats/benches, bus shelters, rubbish bins).



Key highlights for 2021/22

Roading

Work was completed on the 600-metre Fitzherbert Avenue extension to Mosston Road with the road opening to the public in March 2022. The project – majority-funded (\$2.04M) through the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment’s Provincial Growth Fund – will not only benefit residential expansion in Whanganui, but provides a strategic transportation link to the Mill Road industrial area.

Funding of almost \$10M was secured from Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency for a group of significant safety projects in our roading programme to be undertaken 2021-24.

Rehabilitation work was undertaken on Rapanui Road approaching Mowhanau township. The design incorporated a slight change of alignment and included widening to allow for a two metre-wide cycleway corridor.

Heavy rain events during the year continued to cause substantial damage to roading. We submitted two emergency work claims of approximately \$9M (across four weather events) with Waka Kotahi. Further investigation and costing of more technical restorations at Christie’s Hill, Papaiti Road underslip, Somme Parade underslip, Tangi Street and Matarawa Hill Road, is underway.

Re-instatement works (resulting from the 2018 emergency) were completed at Jerusalem and Whangaehu Valley Road. This included securing agreement with Ngā Tāngata Tiaki on the Whanganui River Road works at Jerusalem and obtaining a resource consent from Horizons Regional Council.

Footpaths and berms

As part of the Road to Zero safety project, we constructed raised pedestrian platforms outside Cullinane College, Seddon Street (for St Mary’s School students), and near the Virginia Road / Tulloch Street intersection.

The programme of footpath maintenance and replacements continued with a number of footpath and kerb renewals around the urban area.

	Budgeted for 2021/22 (\$000)	Actual spend 2021/22 (\$000)
Capital expenditure	10,038	9,027
Operating expenditure	9,685	11,104

These are summary figures from the group Funding Impact Statement. See the full Annual Report 21/22 for details.

Parks and recreation

We provide a range of services and facilities that offer access to sports and recreation opportunities for residents. This includes parks, open spaces, reserves, sports grounds and swimming pools. These facilities encourage quality of life and healthy lifestyles, and are important for the wellbeing of the district.

Key highlights for 2021/22

Parks and reserves

An integrated approach to the Pukenuamu Queen's Park architectural landscape plan was agreed upon with Roopū Kaitiake enabling the teams to explore approaches based in kaupapa Māori or tīkanga Māori practice and principles. We will be going to market in the next financial year to attract a suitable designer.

Consultation commenced with Ngā Paerangi and the community regarding the design of a public toilet in the vicinity of the Upokongaro War Memorial Hall. This work will allow for the expected increase in visitor numbers to the area using the Mountains to Sea cycle trail and the Upokongaro cycle and pedestrian bridge.

Seismic strengthening was undertaken at the Kowhai Park Castle, as well as painting and maintenance work on the park's wet play area. We also brought the park's flying fox up to current safety standards and reopened it to the community following its temporary closure in October 2020 due to safety concerns.

Work was undertaken to re-establish dune plantings and native plantings in reserve areas in partnership with Horizons Regional Council and other community groups.

We engaged a coastal scientist to undertake consultation and develop a coastal action plan to make Castlecliff and Kai Iwi beaches more resilient in the face of climate change.

Co-funded by the Rotary Club of Whanganui and the Sport and Recreation Facilities Fund, final approval was received toward progressing a riverbank fitness park. Installation is expected from September 2022.

Cooks Gardens

Although impacted by changes to COVID-19 restrictions, we successfully continued to run events wherever possible. This included hosting the Cooks Classic that was broken into three sessions with gaps in between to ensure that we adhered to attendance restrictions.

Work on a new scoreboard and ticketing booth is well underway with UCOL engaged for the concept, design and construction of the ticket booth.

Swimming pools

An accessibility audit was undertaken at the Splash Centre to ensure that the pool facility is a place for all people of all abilities to enjoy. Funding has been sought in the 2022/23 Annual Plan to implement a number of improvements to access and equipment as identified through the audit process.

	Budgeted for 2021/22 (\$000)	Actual spend 2021/22 (\$000)
Capital expenditure	2,193	649
Operating expenditure	8,278	8,319

These are summary figures from the group Funding Impact Statement. See the full Annual Report 21/22 for details.



Community and cultural

Supporting community services and facilities as well as promoting cultural enrichment encourages a tolerant and strong community. The council oversees the management of key cultural facilities, ensures appropriate stewardship of nationally important collections, works closely with central government departments, and focuses on collaboration to achieve shared objectives for improving outcomes and wellbeing across a culturally and socially diverse community.

Key highlights for 2021/22

Community

The council's annual allocation of \$150,000 for Community Contracts attracted 26 applications. Of these, 23 were successful.

The Creative Communities Scheme funded 26 projects over the 2021-22 year. In partnership with Creative New Zealand, the scheme aims to provide better access and engagement in the arts for local communities.

Our Whanganui Arts and Creative Industries Survey 2021 surveyed a total of 421 creatives and community arts. The data collected will help inform future community arts support for our vibrant arts community.

Safer Whanganui's school holidays scavenger hunt saw at least 30 whānau taking part. The hunt was a COVID-friendly way of familiarising whānau with local organisations who look out for our safety and wellbeing.

We launched the Great Whanganui Play Trail. This collaborative project, led by Sport

Whanganui and the council, connects many of the creative, playful, and significant places that already exist in our town centre into one large experience.

Since its launch in November 2021, our Tākaro Play Trailer (with support from Sport Whanganui and the YMCA) has reached more than 2000 tamariki through its use in schools and at community events.

The council established the Whanganui Youth Council in October 2021, transitioning from the Youth Committee that was disestablished as part of this process. The Youth Council is able to operate outside the legislative framework which gives more flexibility to enable fuller engagement from its members.

The Youth Council launched its \$600ship initiative during Youth Week. In total, \$5400 was awarded to support local projects and initiatives being driven by rangatahi.



A feasibility study was undertaken to identify options and viability for a “youth hub or youth places and/or spaces” in the district. The study will be completed later in 2022.

In order to address the dynamic and changing needs in the housing space, we undertook an in-house prioritisation exercise. The identified priorities focus on homelessness supports, future-proofing our older persons housing portfolio, residential spatial planning and our inner-city housing potential. As well as reviewing underused council land to understand housing potential, we worked collaboratively with central government and social support agencies through the Safer Whanganui and housing reference forum to help find solutions to the housing shortage in Whanganui.

In addition to commencing an audit of the council’s carbon emissions, we investigated the suitability, and options, for solar-powered systems at council facilities. We also undertook

a local transport survey attracting about 500 responses that will support delivery of the climate change strategy and identify opportunities to reduce transport emissions. Reducing our carbon footprint is a key part of our commitment to mitigating climate change.

We launched a Welcoming Activities Grant for community groups with funding of up to \$500 available for activities or events that enhance newcomer experience in Whanganui.

Building on past successes, Whanganui was named a Smart21 Community for 2022 by the Intelligent Community Forum, the only New Zealand city for 2022, and one of only 21 worldwide. Benchmarked against other global applicants, we demonstrated that we were keeping up with change in a digital world.

More than 790 responses were received for a digital survey covering household connectivity and digital confidence in the district.

New Zealand Glassworks (NZG)

Our fifth birthday was celebrated with a record number of entries to our glass design competition.

Improvements were made to the layout, equipment and ergonomics for the NZG hot shop, impressing our users. The glass workshop schedule for 2022 sold out in a record time of three weeks.

NZG's first show for 2022 opened with an exhibition by Te Rongo Kirkwood, our first NZG glass residency recipient. Visitor numbers for the two-month exhibition totalled 3725. An inaugural exhibition series featuring selected art glass works from significant national private collections, including that of Stuart Park's, was also held.

NZG was the most active facility and gallery in New Zealand for the International Year of Glass 2022.

Libraries

Our digital services continued to grow with the addition of the Beamafilm streaming service, and the Library Learning Resources webpage with its online learning resources and opportunities. More than 16,000 video-based courses are available through LinkedIn Learning and are free to library members.

In partnership with Digital Inclusion Alliance Aotearoa, we offered a series of free one-hour sessions on how to use popular smartphone apps. This very successful Appy Seniors programme is aimed at people aged 65+.

Endeavouring to maintain as much consistency as possible for children and families during the various COVID-19 alert levels, we promoted contactless services, ran online storytimes and activity ideas, or ran limited-number sessions.

The Children's Team created a successful Summer Reading Programme allowing children the opportunity to talk with a librarian about their summer reading, or send in reports via Facebook or the internet.



Sarjeant Gallery Te Whare o Rehua Whanganui

Work progressed on the Sarjeant Gallery Redevelopment Project for earthquake strengthening and restoration of the existing 100-year-old Sarjeant Gallery. As at the end of the reporting period, construction was 75% complete for the basement foundations and floors, and the construction of a new, modern extension wing. The collection storage facility and ground floor of the tower block are complete, and next level formation is underway.

The unforeseen complexities of strengthening the existing building, amplified by incremental delays with work interruptions, labour resourcing and material supply issues due to the COVID-19 situation has resulted in an extension of the project’s original 24-month programme and increased the forecast total project cost.

Exhibition and events programmes have been planned up until the expected closure of Sarjeant on the Quay at 38 Taupo Quay prior to the move back to Pukenua Queen’s Park. A timeline to exit Taupo Quay has also been developed, along with planning the transition of the gallery’s art collection back to its new purpose-built storage facility, and the installation of re-opening exhibitions.

Royal Whanganui Opera House

We livestreamed the Great Opera Moments performance as part of Opera Week reaching audiences across the world. COVID-19 restrictions did, however, lead to the postponement or cancellation of many other scheduled events throughout the reporting year.

Whanganui War Memorial Centre

Following on from our success in holding the Downer New Zealand Masters Games in early 2021, we were named as a finalist in the Support – Best Venue 2021 category in the 2021 NZ Event Awards.

A number of modifications were made within the centre including improvements to the Fly Floor rigging infrastructure in the Main Hall that will entice professional shows to the venue, and to stage lighting in the Concert Chamber.

Whanganui Regional Museum

Continued growth in digital visitors in each quarter has seen more than 13,000 website visitors and nearly 220,000 through social media channels for the year. National and international access to the collections and collection stories via digital platforms has attracted positive feedback and behind-the-scenes exposure for the objects and team.

A refurbishment of the gallery for He Awa Ora includes new directional carpet that leads visitors to the exhibition. Its pattern is based on the Whanganui awa.

Match funding provided through a partnership formed with the Blumhardt Foundation will be used for an annual acquisition of contemporary Whanganui craft and design for the next three years.

	Budgeted for 2021/22 (\$000)	Actual spend 2021/22 (\$000)
Capital expenditure	16,412	13,117
Operating expenditure	10,873	10,225

These are summary figures from the group Funding Impact Statement. See the full Annual Report 21/22 for details.

Economic development

Economic development functions are provided by our council-controlled organisation, Whanganui & Partners, with support provided by the council. Our goal is to foster economic growth and wellbeing in order to improve business success, employment opportunities and the wealth of the community.

Whanganui & Partners' mission is to lead and drive opportunity through business, education and lifestyle. They promote Whanganui as a destination to live, visit, work, study and invest. Their activities include supporting new and existing businesses, bringing events to Whanganui and providing the latest economic data, analysis and commentary on the Whanganui district.

Whanganui & Partners ensure visitors are informed, impressed and ready to return.

The activities included in the group are:

- Whanganui & Partners
 - economic development
- Whanganui i-SITE Visitor Information Centre

Key highlights for 2021/22

Economic development

In March 2022, Whanganui & Partners began operating as a Council Controlled Organisation.

For detail on the activities and financial performance reporting for economic development and the i-SITE Visitor Information Centre please refer to Whanganui & Partners' [Audited Financial Statements 2022](#) and [Performance Report 2021-2022](#)

	Budgeted for 2021/22 (\$000)	Actual spend 2021/22 (\$000)
Capital expenditure	0	0
Operating expenditure	3,532	4,839

These are summary figures from the group Funding Impact Statement. See the full Annual Report 21/22 for details.



Community facilities and services

The council provides services and facilities that help to sustain the safety and welfare of our community, preserve our exceptional heritage and infrastructure, and protect our environment and awa.

Key highlights for 2021/22

Cemeteries

Community views were sought on a range of issues regarding burials, cemeteries, cremations, monuments and memorials in the district ahead of a review of the Cemeteries and Crematoria Bylaw in 2023.

CBD maintenance

Our Drews Avenue streetscape project received the Agent for Change trophy from Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency. It was considered an excellent example of how to open street space to meet the needs of the community.

Signage for pedestrian and vehicle wayfinding for parking was installed in the central city.

We invigorated the pop-up space on Maria Place for summer with two mobile food businesses on-site.

Waste minimisation

We formally reviewed and adopted the council's Waste Minimisation and Management Plan 2021. Key elements of the plan are two new rates-funded kerbside collection services for recycling and food waste that are due to commence in 2023 and 2024 respectively.

Recycling material was collected from 39 schools / preschools as part of the Paper4trees project. This resulted in 120 tonnes of paper being recycled and 450 native trees being distributed back to local schools for planting.

Our largest ever hazardous substance drop-off day for the public saw about 80 households registered to participate and more than 4.5 tonnes of hazardous waste dropped off for safe disposal.

Pensioner housing

The council partners with Age Concern to focus on our tenant's wellbeing. We have improved heating and ventilation in 93% of our units through installation of heating, extractor fans, and draught stopping. Work has continued towards our obligations as a landlord in terms of Healthy Homes requirements well before the legislative timeframes.

Community buildings

We completed restoration, and preliminary fire and structural reports, for the Whanganui Repertory Theatre building. We also undertook temporary stabilisation work on the bank at the rear of the building. Engagement with Tangata Whenua will determine the approach to be taken for further permanent work on the site.

A community pre-engagement phase for the concept design of the Durie Hill lookout upgrade was completed with feedback being overwhelmingly supportive.

Emergency management

Preparatory work was taken on planning for concurrent event responses under the differing COVID-19 alert levels.

Support was provided to the District Health Board's vaccination drive using the incident control trailer as a mobile pop-up.

We shared our geographical information services (GIS) mapping software knowledge with other regions, as well as our GIS-based evacuation plans.

Work continued with public education and building community response initiatives. This included reviewing emergency plans for several early childhood and school facilities and supporting the agencies responsible for the operational delivery aspects of a COVID-related community welfare response.

Animal management

Dog registration compliance remained at 94% of the 8335 known active dogs in the district.

Dog impound numbers decreased with 695 dogs impounded in 2021/22.

Building control

We carried out 3761 site inspections and 172 pool barrier inspections for the 2021/22 year.

Recent improvements to digital capacity and software enabled remote processing of building consents during the lockdown period. The impacts of COVID-19 meant that the building control team were operating at reduced resourcing levels and were not able to meet all statutory timeframes for building consent and Code Compliance Certificate applications and site inspections.

Environmental health

Food and health audits continued despite COVID-19 restrictions with remote verifications being used wherever possible to reduce staff exposure.

We completed 842 drinking water samples from our town water supply with only one failed sample detected.

Resource management

Over the reporting year we received and assessed 381 applications for use of land, subdivisions of land, certificates of compliance, and variations to easements.

Our GIS team mapped and counted the areas of residential land potentially available in the General Residential Zone. This work supports the progress of the Residential Spatial Plan, the council's Housing Strategy, and our commitment to the National Policy Statement – Urban Development.

Environmental policy

Progress on a number of District Plan changes were made. The appeals process for Plan Change 54 – Industrial continued with one appeal resolved and two others in mediation. Collation of landowner consultation on Plan Change 48 – Outstanding Natural Landscapes is in progress and an evaluation report for the plan change is in preparation. The rezoning proposals for Plan Change 58 – Outer Castlecliff are being carefully scrutinised following additional ecological surveys, and a determination by Horizons Regional Council that part of the area is “stable duneland”, a rare habitat under the Horizons One Plan. A new Plan Change 60 – Miscellaneous is under development to address a range of adjustments and corrections needed.

Council adopted its He Kaupapa Here: Ngā Tuku Iho Whanganui District Council Heritage Strategy. The strategy sets out a framework for facilitating, encouraging and managing successful heritage outcomes.

The funding pool for the council's Heritage Grant Fund was increased from \$100,000 to \$250,000 annually, and the scope of the funding criteria widened. The boost to funding helped to alleviate the substantial gap left by the cancellation of the Heritage EQUIP scheme that had been administered by the Ministry for Culture and Heritage.

Parking services

A project to upgrade our ageing parking meters in the town centre was completed. The number of existing meters was reduced from 216 to 59 with the new meters being able to accommodate modern ways of paying.

	Budgeted for 2021/22 (\$000)	Actual spend 2021/22 (\$000)
Capital expenditure	714	742
Operating expenditure	11,699	11,672

These are summary figures from the group Funding Impact Statement. See the full Annual Report 21/22 for details.



Transportation

Transport provides and maintains connections both within the district and beyond. It is essential for economic prosperity and social connectedness. The transportation group includes:

- Whanganui Airport** - The council has a joint venture with the Crown for the provision of a provincial airport. The airport provides sealed and grass runways and passenger terminal facilities for scheduled aircraft services and for commercial and private aircraft. It also provides property and infrastructure for aircraft storage and allied aviation service businesses. In addition, commercial leases are provided for non-aeronautical commercial activities.
- Whanganui Port and Whanganui River** - Whanganui Port provides berthing facilities for shallow-draft coastal freight vessels, commercial vessels and pleasure boats. The facility offers a safe, navigable river bar harbour and also confines the coastal portion of the Whanganui River to its existing alignment. Revitalisation plans are underway at the port and, in order to facilitate this, the council has transferred its port-related assets and operations to a Council Controlled Organisation (CCO) called Whanganui Port Limited Partnership. This CCO (which has been referred to as a Special Purpose Vehicle) will own and run the port into the future.
- Durie Hill elevator** - This provides access for pedestrians and cyclists and links the CBD to the suburb of Durie Hill and a city lookout area. It is New Zealand's only public underground elevator and a unique tourist attraction.



Key highlights for 2021/22

Whanganui Airport

An airfield information service, known as UNICOM, was introduced. It aims to improve the safety of operations at the airport and surrounding airspace.

Work commenced on the Parallel Taxiway project with a design / build proposal tender due to go to market in the next reporting year.

Whanganui Port and Whanganui River

The council's portion of Te Pūwaha – the jointly funded Whanganui Port revitalisation project – is underway with the first tranche of the project work having been completed and preparatory work undertaken for the build of the physical infrastructure.

Taking advantage of COVID-related impacts at other major ports in New Zealand, additional cargo was sought and moved through Whanganui Port by Coastal Bulk Shipping.

Durie Hill elevator

The 102-year-old Durie Hill elevator underwent specialist repairs to its DC motor. A free shuttle service was operated for Durie Hill residents and school children on weekdays during the closure of the elevator and entranceway.

	Budgeted for 2021/22 (\$000)	Actual spend 2021/22 (\$000)
Capital expenditure	251	305
Operating expenditure	2,080	2,780

These are summary figures from the group Funding Impact Statement. See the full Annual Report 21/22 for details.

Investments

The portfolio of investments provides income to support the work of the council. The Investments activity intends to enhance the development of our district and provide an acceptable financial return to the community. The activity has the following major components:

- Whanganui District Council Holdings Limited (WDCHL) which owns 100% of the shares in GasNet Limited, the New Zealand International Commercial Pilot Academy (NZICPA) and the Whanganui Port General Partner Limited
- City Endowment property portfolio
- Quarry

Key highlights for 2021/22

In December 2021 the Harbour Endowment property portfolio was transferred to the Port Limited Partnership in exchange for an equity investment in the Limited Partnership. Governance oversight and reporting through to the council of the Limited Partnership will be provided by Whanganui District Council Holdings Limited.

We achieved a 2.9% return on our City Endowment investment portfolio. Although the result was largely affected by one underperforming asset, the remaining portfolio achieved a 5.8% return. The underperforming asset was a section of land in Manuka Street currently used for grazing, although it has been valued by QV as industrial land with a value of \$5.8M.

The council has concluded that further exploration of Waitahinga Quarry in the short term will be put on hold. It is likely to be reactivated in the future when there is proven demand for the supply of rock.

	Budgeted for 2021/22 (\$000)	Actual spend 2021/22 (\$000)
Capital expenditure	8	61
Operating expenditure	974	658

These are summary figures from the group Funding Impact Statement. See the full Annual Report 21/22 for details.

Corporate

The council’s group of corporate activities provides support for its staff and elected members to work together for the benefit of our community. The group includes:

- Governance – delivered by the Mayor and 12 councillors with support from staff
- Corporate management – financial management and advice, strategy and policy, legal services, risk management and health, safety and wellbeing, information management and services, human resources, communications and customer services
- Community and operational property – this portfolio of properties are held for either community or operational use.

We received 24,644 phone calls over the reporting period with 19,533 service requests. In total, 4728 of these were related to animal management and 2038 for noise complaints.

Community feedback from stakeholder engagement helped to shape our inaugural Heritage Strategy, Freedom Camping Bylaw, and a broadened Open Space and Physical Activity Strategy. A draft coastal plan will be developed in coming months following a number of community events and two-way information sharing.

Continuous improvement for corporate business enabled a number of digital inspections and online application functions to be internally automated and integrated, providing a better customer experience.

Key highlights for 2021/22

Governance

The Youth Committee transitioned to the Whanganui Youth Council in October 2021. The new format provides flexibility to our young leaders to collaborate and engage with their peers and progress projects to benefit young people in Whanganui.

A full meeting calendar was delivered throughout the various COVID-19 alert levels with virtual, hybrid and in-person meetings allowing for continued decision-making and leadership on behalf of the district.

Corporate management

COVID-related restrictions impacted on the number of people choosing to physically visit council facilities with customers taking advantage of the alternative payment methods now available such as direct debit, internet banking and online payments.

Community and operational property

Taking into account the needs and wellbeing of the community, the council continues to incorporate good business practices into its decision-making for community and operational property.

	Budgeted for 2021/22 (\$000)	Actual spend 2021/22 (\$000)
Capital expenditure	970	317
Operating expenditure	13,139	13,782

These are summary figures from the group Funding Impact Statement. See the full Annual Report 21/22 for details.

Financial summary

The following pages provide a summary of Council's financial performance for 2022.



Financial summary

The following pages provide a summary of Council's financial performance for 2022.

Whanganui District Council

Summary statement of comprehensive revenue and expense

For the year ended 30 June 2022

	COUNCIL			GROUP	
	Budget 2022 \$000	Actual 2022 \$000	Actual 2021 \$000	Actual 2022 \$000	Actual 2021 \$000
Rates	67,728	67,497	63,855	67,497	63,855
Other revenue	38,556	53,465	47,339	65,909	58,839
Total revenue	106,284	120,962	111,194	133,406	122,694
Finance costs	(4,903)	(4,523)	(4,629)	(5,014)	(5,116)
Other operating expenses	(84,896)	(96,166)	(84,023)	(98,809)	(93,422)
Total operating expenses	89,799	100,689	88,651	103,823	98,537
Surplus/(deficit) before tax	16,485	20,273	22,543	29,583	24,157

Share of associate surplus/(deficit)	-	14	6	14	6
Income tax (expense)/benefit	-	(25)	80	874	233
Surplus/(deficit) after tax	16,485	20,262	22,629	30,471	24,395

Surplus/deficit attributable to: Whanganui District Council	16,485	20,262	22,629	30,471	24,395
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Other comprehensive revenue and expense

Gain on property plant & equipment revaluations*	-	183,166	82,325	183,166	82,326
Gain on carbon credits revaluation	-	1,135	396	1,136	396
Financial assets at fair value through other comprehensive revenue and expense	-	53	58	53	58
Total other comprehensive revenue and expense	-	184,354	82,780	184,352	82,781

Total comprehensive revenue and expense attributable to:

Whanganui District Council	16,485	204,617	105,409	214,559	107,178
Non-controlling interest	-	-	-	265	-
	16,485	204,617	105,409	214,824	107,178

*Gains on property plant & equipment revaluations are presented net of taxation.

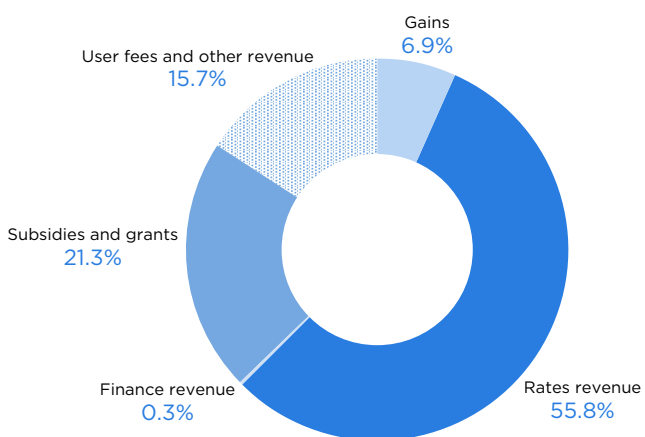
Explanation of major variances:

Other revenue

Vested assets from completed developments were \$5.5 greater than budgeted.

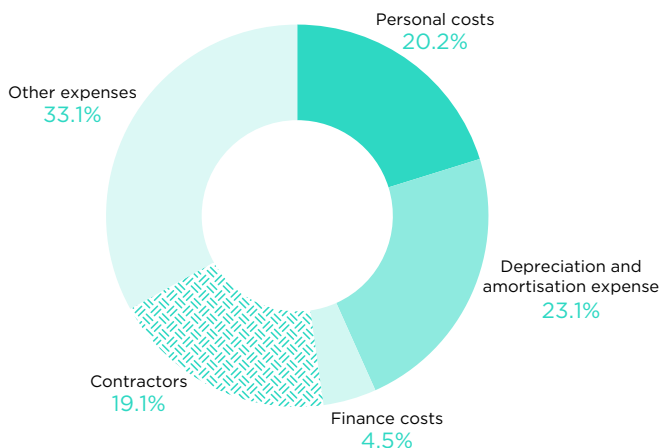
Gains are \$10.2M higher than budgeted, driven by significant valuation increase in infrastructure assets, derivative financial instruments (swaps), carbon credits, and gains on assets transferred to the Port operating company.

Where did our operating revenue come from?



The council receives revenue from a number of different sources, as shown on the graph above. Rates are the primary source of revenue for the council accounting for 56% of the total.

What were our operating expenses?



In order to provide the services for the community, the council incurs costs as illustrated above.

Other operating expenses

Other operating expenses are \$10.58 million higher than budget. This is driven by:

- Loss on disposal (\$6.5M) as Port and Harbour endowment assets have been transferred to the Port operating entity.
- Unplanned repairs and maintenance (\$1.08M) on the Harbour Endowment portfolio, prior to transfer to the Port Operating Company. As the transfer was delayed from the original date, the council continued to operate and maintain the Harbour Endowment portfolio in the interim.
- Higher maintenance and contact costs (\$1.2M) on roading assets, driven by weather events and additional sealed pavement maintenance.
- Unplanned bulk funding to Whanganui & Partners (\$1.8M). When Whanganui & Partners became independent of the council in March 2022, all remaining budget in the Economic Development activity and grant revenue for STAPP and other projects was paid over as bulk funding.

Whanganui District Council

Summary statement of changes in equity

For the year ended 30 June 2022

	COUNCIL			GROUP	
	Budget 2022 \$000	Actual 2022 \$000	Actual 2021 \$000	Actual 2022 \$000	Actual 2021 \$000
Balance at 1 July	945,973	1,039,132	933,724	1,067,932	960,756
Total comprehensive revenue and expense for the year	16,485	204,617	105,409	214,824	107,176
Non-Controlling interest - funds introduced	-	-	-	1,500	-
Balance at 30 June	962,458	1,243,749	1,039,132	1,284,257	1,067,932

Components of equity

Retained earnings	607,802	608,008	584,070	638,408	604,529
Restricted reserves	51,271	72,407	76,081	72,407	76,081
Revaluation reserves	302,188	560,495	377,329	568,837	385,671
Other reserves	1,197	2,840	1,652	2,840	1,651
Non-controlling interest	-	-	-	1,765	-
Balance at 30 June	962,458	1,243,749	1,039,132	1,284,257	1,067,932

Whanganui District Council

Summary statement of financial position

For the year ended 30 June 2022

	COUNCIL			GROUP	
	Budget 2022 \$000	Actual 2022 \$000	Actual 2021 \$000	Actual 2022 \$000	Actual 2021 \$000
Total current assets	14,754	35,566	63,841	43,525	69,322
Total non-current assets	1,094,472	1,331,084	1,101,422	1,389,576	1,149,870
Total current liabilities	(26,719)	(32,009)	(29,911)	(40,507)	(37,620)
Total non-current liabilities	(120,049)	(90,893)	(96,219)	(108,337)	(113,639)
Net assets	962,458	1,243,749	1,039,132	1,284,257	1,067,932
Total equity	962,458	1,243,749	1,039,132	1,284,257	1,067,932

Explanation of major variances:

Assets

Current assets are higher than budgeted as a result of loans to subsidiaries, cash from subsidiaries and pre-funding held on term deposit.

Total non-current assets is \$236.6M higher than budget, mainly due to a significant valuation increase (\$247.7M) for the council's infrastructure assets. This is partially offset by less shares in the Whanganui Port Limited Partnership than expected (\$20.3M), as capital works progressed as planned.

Liabilities

Payables is \$1.5M higher than planned, however this fluctuates regularly due to the timing of invoicing and workloads.

Total borrowings are \$13.8M lower than budget, mainly due to lower capital expenditure and unplanned subsidy funding.

The favourable variance to budget of \$11.8M in derivative financial instruments is due to changing market conditions affecting the revaluation of these instruments, driven by growing interest rates.

Whanganui District Council

Summary statement of cash flows

For the year ended 30 June 2022

	COUNCIL			GROUP	
	Budget 2022 \$000	Actual 2022 \$000	Actual 2021 \$000	Actual 2022 \$000	Actual 2021 \$000
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	6,684	5,386	6,560	8,761	8,767
Net cash from operating activities	38,489	30,241	36,202	33,241	40,022
Net cash from investing activities	(38,233)	(32,061)	(37,374)	(32,123)	(39,156)
Net cash financing activities	(206)	5,000	-	8,505	(872)
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	6,734	8,566	5,387	18,385	8,761

Explanation of major variances:

Operating activities

Cash flows from operating activities is an indication of whether an entity is able to finance its normal operations from short-term funds. The council generated a \$30.2M cash surplus from operating activities. This is an unfavourable variance to budget of \$8.2M, mainly due to higher expenditure in the Port and Harbour Endowment activities.

Investing activities

Cash flows from investing activities show net assets purchases to be \$32.1M, which is \$6.2M less than budget. The main reason for this relates to lower than planned capital expenditure. Capital variances to budget are discussed in detail in the 'Groups of Activities' section of this Annual Report.

Financing activities

Cash flows from financing activities shows a net debt increase of \$5M, with greater borrowings than repayments. This variance is driven by combination of pre-funding loans and on-lending to subsidiaries.

Whanganui District Council

Summary funding impact statement

For the year ended 30 June 2022

	Budget 2022 \$000	Actual 2022 \$000	Actual 2021 \$000	Actual 2022 \$000
Sources of operating funding				
Rates	67,728	67,497	63,967	63,855
Other income	16,484	24,206	18,303	19,890
Total operating funding (A)	84,212	91,703	82,270	83,745
Application of operating funding				
Payments to staff and suppliers	62,533	65,795	59,882	62,244
Finance costs	4,903	4,522	5,705	4,629
Total application of operating funding (B)	67,436	70,317	65,587	66,873
Surplus (deficit) of operating funding (A - B)	16,776	21,386	16,683	16,872
Sources of capital funding				
Subsidies, grants and development contributions	21,684	12,504	5,420	13,705
Increase (decrease) in debt	(206)	5,000	(2,159)	-
Gross proceeds from asset sales	-	-	-	90
Lump sum contributions	-	-	-	-
Other dedicated capital funding	29	578	19,028	18
Total sources of capital funding (C)	21,507	18,082	22,289	13,813
Application of capital funding				
Capital expenditure				
-to meet additional demand	2,950	1,842	900	1,465
-to improve the level of service	21,424	21,510	22,841	20,832
-to replace existing assets	13,860	10,930	15,111	12,466
Increase (decrease) in reserves	50	5,187	120	(4,076)
Increase (decrease) in investments	-	-	-	-
Total application of capital funding (D)	38,283	39,468	38,971	30,686
Surplus (deficit) of capital funding (C - D)	(16,776)	(21,386)	(16,683)	(16,872)
Funding balance ((A - B) + (C - D))	-	-	-	-

Notes to the summary financial statements

Events after the balance date

In June 2022, the Government introduced legislation to establish four publicly-owned water services entities to take over responsibilities for service delivery and infrastructure from local authorities with effect from 1 July 2024. The legislation received royal assent from the Governor-General on 14 December 2022. The impact of these reforms will mean that the council will no longer deliver three waters services or own the assets required to deliver these services. In December 2022, the Government introduced the Water Services Legislation Bill, which will transfer assets and liabilities to the water services entities.

Summary of capital expenditure

The following table shows a summary of the expenditure on capital work for the council. Major variations to the approved budget are discussed below.

	LTP Budget 2022 \$000	Actual for Year 2022 \$000
Activity		
Water Supply	2,265	3,487
Stormwater	3,272	3,001
Sewerage and the treatment and disposal of sewage	2,160	3,752
Roads, footpaths and pathways	10,038	9,027
Parks and recreation	2,193	478
Community and cultural	16,412	13,117
Economic Development	-	-
Community facilities and services	714	742
Transportation	251	305
Investments	-	61
Corporate	920	311
Total	38,225	34,281

Explanation of major variances:

Water supply

The total capital acquisitions spend was significantly higher than budget this year, driven by unplanned three waters stimulus projects. The Fordell Rural Scheme connection was also partially funded by this programme.

The capital replacements budget was underspent for the year, driven by prioritisation of the stimulus-funded projects. Roothing coordinated projects exceeded budget as work was brought forward to coincide with roading works. The Bastia Hill Water Tower upgrade and Eastown Road-Rangitikei Street projects were placed on hold while the focus was on delivering the stimulus-funded projects.

Sewerage and the treatment and disposal of sewage

The capital growth budget of \$1M for the Mill Road industrial area had minor spend, due to the focus on stimulus-funded projects. The balance will be carried over to 2022/23 to continue the project.

Capital acquisitions was significantly higher than planned, driven by the stimulus-funded projects. These include the Westway Pipe Bridge, scum baffle upgrades at the wastewater treatment plant, upgrade to the ocean outfall, as well as accelerated mains relining and trenchless renewals.

Roads, footpaths and pathways

Capital acquisitions is higher than budgeted, driven by higher spend on the Fitzherbert Avenue extension project. The Mā Ake Let's Go programme is externally funded by Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency to develop and encourage cycling.

Capital replacements is lower than planned, driven by focus on response to emergency weather events in in late-2021 and early-2022. This is reflected by significantly higher environmental maintenance to reinstate and maintain the network after these events. Additional emergency funding has been sought from Waka Kotahi, with funding expected in 2022/23.

Parks and recreation

The velodrome options investigation budget remains unspent and will be carried over to 2022/23.

The majority of parks and reserves replacement projects have been deferred to 2022/23, with the associated budget carried over. This is driven by a combination of internal and external capacity constraints and reassessing the work programme to focus on critical workstreams.

Community and cultural

The Sarjeant Gallery Redevelopment Project continues with physical works. This will continue over 2022/23 and 2023/24, with the remaining budget carried over to fund this.

Additional information about this summary

This Summary Annual Report has been prepared in accordance with PBE FRS 43: Summary Financial Statements. It has been extracted from the full Annual Report and is designed to give an overview of the council and group¹ operations. This summary does not include all the disclosures provided in the full financial statements and cannot be expected to provide as complete an understanding as the full financial report of the council. The full Annual Report contains detailed information on the finances and service performance and was adopted by the council on 20 December 2022.

The council has designated itself a Public Benefit Entity (PBE) for financial reporting purposes. The full financial statements were prepared in accordance with New Zealand Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (NZ GAAP) and comply with Tier 1 Public Benefit Entity (PBE) accounting standards. The financial statements are for the year ended 30 June 2022 and all figures are in New Zealand dollars and are rounded to the nearest thousand dollars.

Audit New Zealand has audited the full financial statements and has issued an unmodified report. This summary has been examined by Audit New Zealand for consistency with the full Annual Report.

The Summary Annual Report was authorised for issue on 20 January 2023 by the Mayor, Andrew Tripe, and Chief Executive, David Langford.

To view the comprehensive version of the 2020/21 Annual Report please refer to our website:
www.whanganui.govt.nz/Your-Council/Official-Documents/Reports

¹ *The Whanganui District Council group (WDCG) consists of the ultimate parent Whanganui District Council and its subsidiaries, Whanganui District Council Holdings Limited (100% owned) which in turn owns 100% of GasNet Limited and the New Zealand International Commercial Pilot Academy (NZICPA), and Whanganui Airport Joint Venture (50%). Its 49% equity share of New Zealand Masters Games Limited, its 15% interest in the Manawatu Whanganui LASS Limited and its 33% interest in the Whanganui River Enhancement Trust are equity accounted. All Whanganui District Council subsidiaries and associates are domiciled in New Zealand.*

Independent Auditor's Report

To the readers of Whanganui District Council and group's summary of the annual report for the year ended 30 June 2022

The summary of the annual report was derived from the annual report of the Whanganui District Council and group (the District Council) for the year ended 30 June 2022.

The summary of the annual report comprises the following summary statements on pages 10 to 43:

- the summary statement of financial position as at 30 June 2022;
- the summaries of the statement of comprehensive revenue and expense, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year ended 30 June 2022;
- the notes to the summary financial statements that include explanatory information; and
- the summary statement of service performance called "Our activities and performance".

Opinion

In our opinion:

- the summary of the annual report represents, fairly and consistently, the information regarding the major matters dealt with in the annual report; and
- the summary statements comply with PBE FRS-43: Summary Financial Statements.

Summary of the annual report

The summary of the annual report does not contain all the disclosures required by generally accepted accounting practice in New Zealand. Reading the summary of the annual report and the auditor's report thereon, therefore, is not a substitute for reading the full annual report and the auditor's report thereon.

The summary of the annual report does not reflect the effects of events that occurred subsequent to the date of our auditor's report on the full annual report.

The full annual report and our audit report thereon

We expressed an unmodified audit opinion on the information we audited in the full annual report for the year ended 30 June 2022 in our auditor's report dated 20 December 2022.

Our auditor's report on the full annual report also includes an emphasis of matter paragraph drawing attention to the Government's three waters reform programme. In June 2022, the Government introduced legislation to establish four publicly owned water services entities to take over responsibilities for service delivery and infrastructure from local authorities with effect from 1 July 2024. The legislation received royal assent from the Governor-General on 14 December 2022. The impact of these reforms will mean that the District Council will no longer deliver three waters services or own the assets required to deliver these services. In December 2022, the Government introduced the Water Services Legislation Bill, which will transfer assets and liabilities to the water services entities. This matter is disclosed on page 41 of the summary financial statements.

Council's responsibility for the summary of the annual report

The Council is responsible for preparing the summary of the annual report which includes preparing summary statements, in accordance with PBE FRS-43: Summary Financial Statements.

Auditor's responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on whether the summary of the annual report represents, fairly and consistently, the information regarding the major matters dealt with in the full annual report and whether the summary statements comply with PBE FRS 43: Summary Financial Statements.

Our opinion on the summary of the annual report is based on our procedures, which were carried out in accordance with the Auditor-General's Auditing Standards, which incorporate the Professional and Ethical Standards and the International Standards on Auditing (New Zealand) issued by the New Zealand Auditing and Assurance Standards Board.

In addition to reporting on the summary and full annual reports we carried out a limited assurance engagement related to the District Council's Debenture Trust Deed. This engagement is compatible with those independence requirements.

In addition to reporting on the summary and full annual reports, we have audited the District Council's 2021-2031 Long-term plan amendment and carried out a limited assurance engagement related to the District Council's debenture trust deed. These engagements are compatible with those independence requirements.

Other than in our capacity as auditor, we have no relationship with, or interests in the District Council or its subsidiaries and controlled entities.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chris Webby". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Chris Webby
Audit New Zealand
On behalf of the Auditor-General
Palmerston North, New Zealand
20 January 2023

Summary Annual Report

For the year ended 30 June 2022



**WHANGANUI
DISTRICT COUNCIL**
Te Kaunihera a Rohe o Whanganui