

The Council adopted its Annual Report for the 2019/20 financial year on Monday 30 November 2020. The Annual Report, which reflects the period from 1 July 2019 – 30 June 2020 shows how well the District's assets are being looked after and how well the Council is performing as an organisation.

COVID-19

The COVID-19 global pandemic and the associated 'lockdowns' (from March 2020) had a significant impact on the Council's service delivery (eg suspension of recycling collection), work programmes (projects delayed) and (to a lesser extent) revenue streams. While non-essential facilities were closed during Alert Levels 3 and 4 and many services reduced at Level 2, staff played an active role in the emergency management response as well as kept essential services operating throughout.

Today's Southlink presents a brief overview of the 2019/20 Annual Report. For the full Annual Report go to our website www.southtaranaki.com or phone us toll free 0800 111 323 to arrange for a copy to be sent to you.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

The Hāwera Town Centre Re-development work continued with the purchase of two properties – one for future development to link the Napier Street carpark to Union Street and the other to extend the Little Regent Street carpark.

The Hāwera Town Square was refurbished and the new Nelson Street one-way was completed.



Development of Te Ramanui o Ruapūtahanga the District's new Heritage, Arts, Library, Culture and Information Centre continued with its resource consent being heard by an independent commissioner on 30 June 2020. The consent was approved and planning for development started.



The Town Centre Revitalisation Plans for Eltham, Manaia, Ōpunakē, Pātea and Waverley were adopted by the Council in October 2019. Budgets and implementation of the plans will be considered as part of the 2021-31 Long Term Plan.



Initial designs were completed for the replacement of the Manaia Town Hall. However the scope of this project changed when the Manaia Sports Complex was identified as earthquake prone and closed. Further community consultation was undertaken during the year and new plans will be presented in late 2020.



The stormwater upgrades at Wilson Road, Fox Street and Dieffenbach Street, Ōpunakē were completed.

The new \$1,465,000 Waiinu Wastewater Treatment P49lant was completed in February 2020.

The new Waverley Water Treatment Plant (\$2,100,000) was completed and commissioned in June 2020.



The Eltham Water Treatment Plant trunk main replacement programme was started and will be finished in 2021.

Automated remote water reading equipment was installed for rural water connections in Inaha, Waimate West and Ōpunakē water schemes.

Pātea's Hunter Shaw building was re-opened in September 2019 after \$650,000 worth of earthquake strengthening work and some internal refurbishments.



The Hāwera subway rail bridge mural was completed in February 2020.



A fully self-contained ablution pod was installed at Waihi Beach, at a cost of just over \$73,000.

In Ōpunakē, the footbridge across Ōtahi Stream below Te Namu Pā, part of the Ōpunakē Loop Track was completed ahead of schedule.



In July 2019 the District's Dog Control Bylaw and Policy was reviewed. The amended Bylaw allows dog owners to walk their dogs through the town centres on short leads with some exceptions.



The 2019 District Business Park Feasibility Study identified the Waihi Road mixed use area in Hāwera as the most suitable place for development. Structure planning is now underway to examine the infrastructure requirements.

For the 2019/20 year:

616

building consents were issued

146

resource consents were issued

552

(90%) of the 616 building consents were processed within the 20 working days statutory timeframe

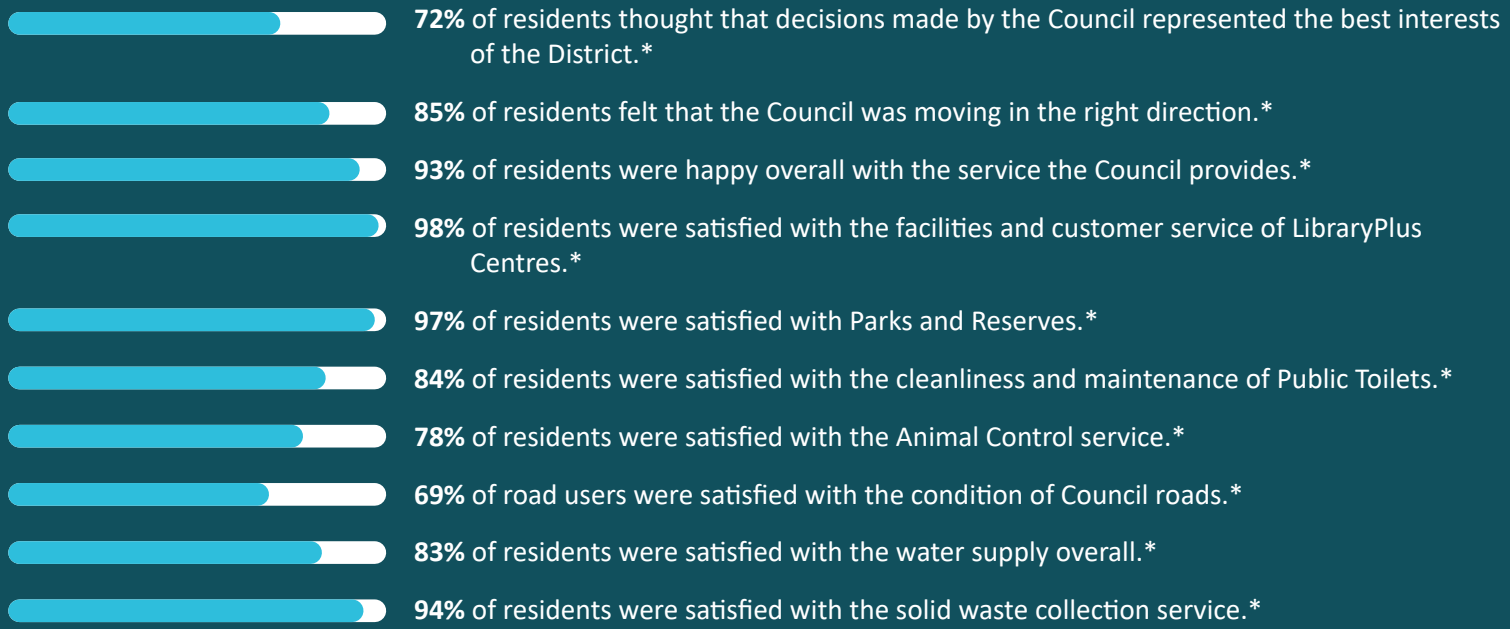
All (100%)

1791 building inspections were completed within 2 working days of request.

A total of
1,245
Animal Control
related complaints
were received
during the 2019/20
year.

Which was
109
fewer than the year
before.

334
(99%) of the 351
reported serious
dog or wandering
stock incidents were
responded to within
4 hours.



* Survey was conducted by Research First using a sample of 400 residents 18 years + and representative of the population in terms of ward, age and gender.

37,829
visitors used our free rural pools
and
81,056
visitors used the Hāwera
Aquatic Centre
*The Hāwera Aquatic Centre was
almost 20,000 down on the previous
year due to COVID-19 restrictions.*

A total of
129,256
visits were recorded at the TSB
Hub which was lower than the
previous year. This was because
the facility was closed during Alert
Levels 3 and 4, and subsequent
Level 2 restrictions which saw
reduced visitors to the facility.

The total waste diverted from
landfill, dropped from 33.13% in
the previous year to
25.14%
for the past year.

*This is largely due to additional
waste being delivered to the
Hāwera Transfer Station from
commercial contractors that
previously disposed of waste
directly to Colson Road landfill.
Furthermore, during COVID-19
Alert Level 4 we could not process
recycling and had to stop collecting
it, while general waste continued to
be collected.*



All (100%)
water plants and reticulated networks
met NZ Drinking Water Standards for
bacteria.

646

(91%) of the 707
noise complaints
received were
responded to within
1 hour

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

	Council
Net surplus/(deficit)	(\$3,943,000)
Total assets	\$1,066 million
Total liabilities	\$146 million
Total equity	\$920 million

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

The Council finished the year with a \$2,000 operational deficit before unbudgeted adjustments (loss on derivative contracts \$3,586,000 and disposal of assets \$355,000). After taking these unrealised losses (which have no impact on rates) into account the Council finished the year with a deficit of \$3,943,000 against a budgeted surplus of \$6,894,000. The main reasons for the (\$11.2 million) variance are as follows:

REVENUE

Total revenue was \$7.2 million less than budgeted. This included reduced income of \$4.4 million from the Long Term Investment Fund mainly because of COVID-19. The subsidies and grants income from the NZ Transport Agency was also under budget due to a delay in completing some roading projects and also a

delay in grants from TSB Community Trust for Te Ramanui o Ruapūtahanga project (\$4 million).

EXPENDITURE

- An accounting adjustment for the \$0.4 million loss on infrastructure asset disposals (no impact on rates).
- \$3.6 million accounting adjustment for the loss on derivative contract (Swaps).

OPERATING EXPENDITURE



The Long Term Investment Fund (LTIF)

After allowing for the withdrawal of the annual rates subsidy the value of the LTIF at 30 June 2020 decreased from \$147.09 million in 2019 to \$144.65 million (which included internal borrowing of \$15.99 million). The Fund reduced mainly because of COVID-19. The impact of the reduced income is not significant when considered within the long-term context of the LTIF, which has performed well over the last 10 years and has a healthy inflation fluctuation reserve.

DEBT

The Council's total borrowing increased from \$128.51 million in 2019 to \$133.99 million.