



Managing our assets

As you may be aware, we are facing significant financial challenges as we develop our next 10 Year Plan for 2024–34.

One of these challenges is the future affordability of our community facilities and parks and reserves. Past under-investment in many of our facilities means significant work is required over the next 10 years.

At the same time there is increasing demand from our growing population and new activities. We must ensure we can continue to meet the needs of our communities while not increasing the burden on ratepayers.

What we're doing

As part of consultation on our draft 10 Year Plan we're proposing increases to leases, licenses and hire fees to ensure they reflect the true cost of assets and strike a fair balance for users and non-users.

Our aim is to provide a range of multi-use and flexible spaces that can have many uses and users. We are going to look at when and how buildings and spaces are being used and whether they could provide better service to the community, alongside our existing users.

What does this mean for our communities?

We are starting a series of conversations with lease holders and hirers of a community facilities or spaces provided by Hutt City Council to understand current and future potential use of those assets.

Options for assets to be shared and activities to be hubbed will be looked at.

As part of this there may be the opportunity for a small number of assets to be divested and gifted to community, where groups can show they are able to fund the ongoing operating and maintenance costs without further Council support.

We'll also be changing our approach to how our spaces are booked to make sure they are optimised and accessible to everyone.

We recognise there are groups that have done a great job with Council assets for many years, ensuring they achieve their purpose of enabling our community to thrive. However, we need to strike the right balance of meeting the needs of our growing and diverse community and keeping rates affordable.

What's next?

You can provide feedback on our proposal for managing assets in the feedback form for our 10 Year Plan consultation. There'll also be an opportunity to attend a meeting to discuss this with councillors and Council officers on Wednesday 17 April at 7pm at the Lower Hutt War Memorial Library.