Statement of Accounting Policies

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Contents

Reporting entity

Manawatū District Council (Council) is a territorial local authority governed by the Local Government Act 2002 and is domiciled and operates in New Zealand.

The Group consists of Manawatū District Council, which is the controlling entity and four controlled entities; The Feilding Civic Centre Trust, the Manawatū Community Trust, Awahuri Forest / Kitchener Park Trust and Heartland Contractors Ltd (100% owned). The Group also includes Central Economic Development Agency Limited, (50% owned) and Manawatū Wanganui LASS (14.3% owned). All entities are incorporated and domiciled in New Zealand. The Council is not aware of any restrictions that may have been imposed upon the CCO's other than normal banking covenants, or any risks associated with them.

The primary objective of Council is to provide goods or services for the community and social benefits, rather than making a financial return. Accordingly, Council has designated itself and the Group as Public Benefit Entities (PBEs) as defined under the Public Benefit Entities International Public Sector Accounting Standards (PBE IPSAS).

The financial statements are for the Manawatū District Council as a separate legal entity. Consolidated prospective financial statements comprising the Council and its controlled entities have not been prepared because the differences to Council prospective financial statements are not material.

Basis of preparation

The accounting policies set out below have been prepared on a going concern basis and have been applied consistently to all periods present in these prospective financial statements. These prospective financial statements have also been prepared based on the assumptions stated.

Statement of compliance

The prospective financial statements of Council have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act 2002, which includes the requirement to comply with New Zealand Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (NZ GAAP).

The prospective financial statements and service performance information have been in accordance prepared to comply with PBE accounting standards for a Tier 1 entity.

These prospective financial statements comply with the PBE Standards

The prospective financial statements have been prepared on an historical cost basis, except for assets and liabilities, which are recorded at fair value. These are detailed in the specific policies below.

Presentation currency and rounding

The prospective financial statements are presented in New Zealand dollars and values are rounded to the nearest thousand dollars ($'000). Consequently there may be rounding discrepancies in the financial statements.

The functional currency of Council and its controlled entities and associates is New Zealand dollars.

Summary of significant accounting policies

Controlled entities

In the Group financial statements Council consolidates all entities where Council has the capacity to control its financing and operating policies, to obtain benefits from the activities of that entity. This power exists where Council controls the majority voting power on the governing body, or where such policies have been irreversibly predetermined by Council, or where the determination of such policies is unable to impact materially on the level of potential ownership benefits that arise from the activities of the controlled entity.

Council's investment in its controlled entities is carried at cost in Council's parent entity financial statements.

Associates

Council’s associates are accounted for in the Group financial statements using the equity method. An associate is an entity over which Council has significant influence and that is neither a subsidiary nor an interest in a joint venture. The investment in an associate is initially recognised at cost and the carrying amount in the Group financial statements is increased or decreased to recognise the Group’s share of the surplus or deficit of the associate after the date of acquisition.

Distributions received from an associate reduce the carrying amount of the investment. If the share of deficits of an associate equals or exceeds its interest in the associate, the Group discontinues recognising its share of further deficits. After the Group’s interest is reduced to zero, additional deficits are provided for, and a liability is recognised, only to the extent that Council has incurred legal or constructive obligations or made payments on behalf of the associate. If the associate subsequently reports surpluses, the Group will resume recognising its share of those surpluses only after its share of the surpluses equals the share of deficits not recognised.

Where the Group transacts with an associate, surpluses or deficits are eliminated to the extent of the Group’s interest in the associate. Dilution gains or losses arising from investments in associates are recognised in the surplus or deficit.

The investment in the associate is carried at cost in Council’s parent entity financial statements.

Joint ventures

A joint venture is a contractual arrangement whereby two or more parties undertake an economic activity that is subject to joint control. For jointly controlled operations Council and Group recognises in its financial statements the assets it controls, the liabilities and expenses it incurs, and the share of income that it earns from the joint venture.

Exchange transactions

Exchange transactions are transactions where 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

In a non-exchange transaction 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 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.

Revenue

Revenue is measured at the fair value of consideration received or receivable. Revenue may be derived from either exchange or non-exchange transactions.

Specific revenue policies

Specific accounting policies for major categories of revenue are outlined below:

- Rates are set annually by a resolution by Council and are recognised at the start of the financial year to which the resolution relates. All ratepayers are invoiced within the financial year to which the rates have been set.
- Rates arising from late payment penalties are recognised as revenue when penalties are applied on overdue rates as per Council's rates resolution.
- Rates remissions are recognised as a reduction of rates revenue when Council has received an application that satisfies its rates remission policy.
- Water billing revenue is recognised on an accrual basis. Unbilled usage, as a result of unread meters at year-end, is accrued on an average usage basis.
- Government grants and subsidies are recognised upon entitlement, which is when the conditions pertaining to eligible expenditure have been fulfilled. The most significant government grant is from New Zealand Transport Agency, which subsidises part of the costs in maintaining the local roading infrastructure network.
- Revenue from other services is recognised when the service has been rendered to a third party.
- Fees and charges for building and resource consent services are recognised on a percentage completion basis with reference to the recoverable costs incurred at balance date.
- Sales of goods are recognised when the goods are delivered.
- Interest revenue is accrued on a time basis, by reference to the investment principle and the effective interest applicable.
- Dividends (net of imputation credits) are recognised when the right to receive payment has been established.
- Where a physical asset is acquired for nil or nominal consideration, the fair value of the asset received is recognised as revenue. Assets vested in Council are recognised as revenue when control over the asset is obtained.

- Revenue derived through acting as an agent for another party is recognised as a commission or fee on the transaction.

- Development contributions are recognised as revenue when Council provides, or is able to provide, the services that gave rise to the charging of the contribution. Otherwise, development contributions are recognised as liabilities until Council provides, or is able to provide, the service.

Borrowing costs

All borrowing costs are recognised as an expense in the period in which they are incurred.

Cost allocation

Costs directly attributable to an activity are charged directly to that activity. Indirect costs are charged to activities using appropriate cost drivers such as; actual usage, staff numbers and floor area.

Foreign currency

Foreign currency transactions are translated into New Zealand dollars (the functional currency) using the spot exchange rate prevailing at the date of the transactions. Foreign exchange gains and losses resulting from the settlement of such transactions and from the translation at year end exchange rates of monetary assets and liabilities denomination in foreign currencies are recognised in the surplus or deficit.

Grant expenditure

Non-discretionary grants are those grants that are awarded if the grant application meets a specified criteria. Expenditure is recognised when an application that meets the specified criteria for the grant has been received.

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

Income tax

Income tax expense includes 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 substantively 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 prospective financial statements 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 substantively enacted at balance date. The measurement of deferred tax reflects the tax consequences that would follow from the manner in which the economic 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 taxable profit 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 and liability in a transaction that is not a business combination and, at the time of the transaction, affects neither accounting surplus nor taxable profit.

Current and deferred tax is recognised against the surplus or 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 in equity.

Goods and Service Tax (GST)

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

The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the Inland Revenue Department (IRD) is included as part of receivables or payables in the statement of financial position.

The net GST paid to, or received from, the IRD including the GST relating to investing and financing activities is classified as an operating cash flow in the statement of cash flows.

Commitments and contingencies are disclosed exclusive of GST.

Financial instruments

Council is party to financial instruments as part of its normal operations. These include bank accounts, investments, accounts receivable, accounts payables and borrowings. All financial instruments are recognised in the statement of financial position and all revenues and expenses in relation to financial instruments are recognised in the .

Unless otherwise covered by a separate policy, all financial instruments are reported at their fair value.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents includes cash on hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. All these deposits are reflected at their fair value.

Debtors and other receivables

Short-term receivables are recorded at the amount due, less an allowance for expected credit losses (ECL).

The Council and group apply the simplified ECL model of recognising lifetime ECL for 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.

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); or

• fair value through surplus and deficit (FVTSD).

Transaction costs are included in the carrying value of the financial asset at initial recognition, unless 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 and group’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.

A financial asset is classified and subsequently measured at FVTOCRE if it gives rise to cash flows that are SPPI and held within a management model whose objective is achieved by both collecting contractual cash flows and selling financial assets.

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

Initial recognition of concessionary loans

Loans made at nil or below-market interest rates are initially recognised at the present value of their expected future cash flows, discounted at the current market rate of return for a similar financial instrument. For loans to community organisations, the difference between the loan amount and present value of the expected future cash flows of the loan is recognised in surplus or deficit as a grant expense.

Financial assets at fair value through surplus or deficit

This category has two sub-categories: financial assets held for trading, and those designated at fair value through surplus or deficit at inception.

A financial asset is classified in this category if acquired principally for the purpose of selling in the short term or if so designated by management. Derivatives are also categorised as held for trading. Gains or losses due to change in fair value are recognised in the surplus or deficit.

Currently, Council does not hold any financial assets in this category.

Loans and receivables

Loans and receivables are non-derivative financial assets with fixed or determinable payments that are not quoted in an active market. They are included in current assets, except for maturities greater than 12 months after the balance date, which are included in non-current assets.

After initial recognition, they are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less impairment. Gains and losses when the asset is impaired or derecognised are recognised in the surplus or deficit.

Loans to community organisations made at nil or below-market interest rates are initially recognised at the present value of their expected future cash flows, discounted at the current market rate of return of a similar financial instrument. The difference between the face value and the present value of the expected future cash flows of the loan recognised in the surplus or deficit as grant expenditure. The loans are subsequently measured at amortised costs using the effective interest method.

Council has provided a number of loans or advances to community-based organisations that have specific conditions attached. In some circumstances these loans are only repayable should the community-based organisation cease to operate in accordance with the loan conditions. Those loans that are not expected to be repaid to Council in the foreseeable future are recorded at fair value and shown as a contingent asset.

Receivables are classified as "Accounts Receivables" in the statement of financial position. Advances and loans are classified as “Other Financial Assets” in the statement of financial position.

Held-to-maturity investments

Held-to-maturity investments are assets with fixed or determinable payments and fixed maturities that Council has the positive intention and ability to hold to maturity. e.g. Local Government Stock and Bonds.

After initial recognition they are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method less impairment. Gains and losses when the asset is impaired or derecognised are recognised in the surplus or deficit.

Financial assets at fair value through other comprehensive revenue and expense

Financial assets at fair value through other comprehensive revenue and expense are those that are designated as fair value through equity or are not classified in any of the other categories above.

This category encompasses:

- Investments that Council intends to hold long-term, but may be realised before maturity; and
- Shareholdings held for strategic purposes (other than Council's investments in its controlled entity).

Gains and losses are recognised directly in other comprehensive revenue and expense except for impairment losses, which are recognised in the surplus or deficit. In the event of impairment, even though the asset has not been derecognised, any cumulative losses previously recognised in other comprehensive revenue and expense will be recognised in the surplus or deficit. On derecognition of the asset the cumulative gain or loss previously recognised in other comprehensive revenue and expense is recognised in the surplus or deficit.

Impairment of financial assets

Financial assets are assessed for objective evidence of impairment at each balance date. An impairment loss is recognised whenever the carrying amount of an asset exceeds its recoverable amount. Impairment losses are recognised in the surplus or deficit.

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

Property, plant and equipment

Property, plant and equipment consists of:

- Operational assets: includes land, buildings, library books, plant and equipment, and motor vehicles.
- Restricted assets: includes parks, reserves and associated assets owned by Council, which provide a benefit or service to the community and cannot be disposed of because of legal or other Council restrictions.
- Infrastructure assets: the fixed utility systems that provide a continuing service to the community and are generally regarded as non-tradeable. Each asset class includes all items that are required for the network to function. For example, sewer reticulation includes reticulation piping and sewer pump stations.

Property, plant and equipment are shown at cost or valuation, less accumulated depreciation and impairment losses.

Cash and 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.

Cash generating assets are those assets that are held with the primary objective of generating a commercial return. Council does not hold any cash-generating assets.

Depreciation

Depreciation is provided on a straight-line basis on all property, plant and equipment other than land (which is not depreciated), at rates that will write off the cost (or valuation) of the assets to their estimated residual values over their useful lives. The residual value and useful life of an asset is reviewed and adjusted, if applicable, at each financial year-end.

The useful lives and associated depreciation rates of major classes of assets have been estimated as follows:

Asset class	Useful life	Depreciation Rate
Non Infrastructural assets		
Buildings	40 – 80 years	1.25 – 2.5%
Plant and equipment	4 – 10 years	10 – 25%
Motor vehicles	3 – 5 years	20 – 33%
Library books	10 years	10%
Infrastructural assets		
Roading network		
Top surface (seal)	2 – 23 years	4.3 – 33.3%
Pavement (base course)	69 years	1.45%
Sealed	69 years	1.45%
Unsealed	-	Not Depreciated
Formation	-	Not Depreciated
Culverts	50 – 100 years	1 – 2%
Footpaths	25 – 70 years	1.4 – 4%
Kerbs	50 – 67 years	1 – 1.49%
Signs	15 years	6.67%

Streetlights	25 – 70 years	1.4 – 4%
Bridges	50 – 100 years	1 – 2%
Water system		
Pipes	34 – 120 years	0.8 – 2.9%
Valves, hydrants	50 years	2%
Pump stations	25 years	4%
Treatment, supply and storage	10 – 100 years	1 – 10%
Wastewater system		
Pipes	50 – 100 years	1 – 2 %
Manholes	100 years	1%
Pump stations	25 years	4%
Treatment plant	10 – 50years	2 – 10%
Drainage network		
Pipes	40 – 100years	1 – 2.5%
Manholes, cesspits	100 years	1%

Additions

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

In most instances, an item of property, plant and equipment is recognised at its cost. Where an asset is acquired at no cost, or for a nominal cost, 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 asset revaluation reserves in respect of those assets are transferred to retained earnings.

Work in progress

All assets constructed by Council are initially recorded as work in progress. Work in progress is recognised at cost less impairment and it is not depreciated. Upon completion, these assets are transferred to their relevant asset class and depreciation commences.

Revaluation

Those asset classes that are revalued are valued on either a one-year or a three-yearly valuation cycle on the basis described below. All other asset classes are carried at depreciated historical cost. The carrying values of revalued items are reviewed at each balance date to ensure that those values are not materially different to fair value. If a material difference exists, a revaluation will be undertaken.

Operational and restricted: land and buildings

These assets are revalued to fair value as determined from market-based evidence by an independent valuer. The most recent valuation was performed by Quotable Value NZ as at 30 June 2022. Council's policy is to revalue land and buildings every three years

Infrastructural asset classes: water supply, wastewater, stormwater, drainage systems and roads

These assets are revalued annually to fair value on a depreciated replacement cost basis. The valuation was performed internally by engineering staff and will be peer reviewed every three years. The most recent valuation was 30 June 2023.

Land under roads

Land under roads was valued based on fair value of adjacent land determined by Tony Jones of Quotable Value NZ, effective 1 July 2005. Council has elected to use the fair value of land under roads as at 30 June 2005 as deemed cost. Land under roads is therefore no longer revalued.

Library collections

The library collections were initially valued at depreciated replacement cost in accordance with the guidelines released by the New Zealand Library Association and the National Library of NZ. This is considered deemed cost and is no longer revalued.

Accounting for revaluations

Council accounts for revaluations of property, plant and equipment on a class of asset basis.

The results of revaluing are credited or debited to other comprehensive revenue and expense and are accumulated in an asset revaluation reserve in equity for that class of asset. Where this results in a debit balance in the asset revaluation reserve, this balance is recognised in the surplus or deficit. Any subsequent increase on revaluation that offsets 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 credited to other comprehensive revenue and expense.

Intangible assets

Software acquisition and development

Acquired computer software licences are capitalised on the basis of the costs incurred to acquire and bring to use the specific software.

Costs associated with maintaining computer software are recognised as an expense when incurred.

Staff training costs are recognised in the surplus or deficit when incurred.

Costs that are directly associated with the development of software for internal use by Council are recognised as an intangible asset. Direct costs include the software development, employee costs and an appropriate portion of relevant overheads.

Software is amortised on a straight-line basis over the estimated useful life of the asset (usually 4 years). The amortisation charge for each period is recognised in the surplus or deficit.

Costs associated with development and maintenance of Council's website are recognised as an expense when incurred.

Easements

Easements that are an integral part of an infrastructure asset are included in the value of the asset. Other easements are not recognised.

Impairment of property, plant and equipment and intangible assets

Council's non-financial assets are split between cash generating assets and non-cash generating assets. Cash generating assets are assets held with the primary objective of generating a commercial return. Non-cash generating items are non-financial assets other than cash generating assets. The majority of Council non-financial assets are non-cash generating assets.

At each balance date, Council assesses whether there is any objective evidence that any non-financial asset has been impaired (unable to provide the intended level of service). Any impairment losses are recognised in the surplus or deficit.

If the carrying amount of a class of assets is increased as a result of a revaluation, the increase shall be credited directly to revaluation surplus. However, the increase shall be recognised in surplus or deficit to the extent that it reverses a revaluation decrease of the same class of assets previously recognised in surplus or deficit.

If the carrying amount of a class of assets is decreased as a result of a revaluation, the decrease shall be recognised in surplus or deficit. However, the decrease shall be debited directly to revaluation surplus to the extent of any credit balance existing in the revaluation surplus in respect of that class of assets.

Financial liabilities

Trade payables

Short-term payables are recorded at the amount payable.

Loans and borrowings

Loans/borrowings are initially recognised at their fair value.

Borrowings are classified as current liabilities unless Council or group has an unconditional right to defer settlement of the liability for at least 12 months after balance date.

Short-term employee entitlements

Employee benefits are expected to be settled within 12 months after the end of the period in which services are rendered for current rates of pay. These include salaries and wages accrued up to balance date and annual leave earned, but not yet taken, at balance date.

Annual leave has been calculated on an actual entitlement basis at current rates of pay. Sick leave has not been included, as the amount of accumulated sick leave that is anticipated to be taken in future periods is not considered to be material.

Superannuation schemes:

Defined contribution schemes

Obligations for contributions to Defined Contribution Superannuation Schemes are recognised as an expense in the surplus or deficit as incurred.

Defined benefit schemes

The Council belongs to the Defined Benefit Plan Contributors Scheme (the scheme), which is managed by the Board of Trustees of the National Provident Fund. The scheme is a multi-employer defined benefit scheme.

Insufficient information is available to use defined benefit accounting, as it is not possible to determine, from the terms of the scheme, the extent to which the surplus/deficit will affect future contributions by individual employers, as there is no prescribed basis for allocation. The scheme is therefore accounted for as a Defined Contribution Scheme.

Provisions – landfill closure and aftercare costs

As the previous operator of landfills, Council has a legal obligation to rehabilitate landfill sites post-closure and to provide ongoing maintenance and monitoring services after closure. The costs to meet these post-closure landfill obligations are recognised within the provision.

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.

Financial guarantee contracts

A financial guarantee contract is a contract that requires Council and group to make specified payments to reimburse the holder of the contract for a loss it incurs because a specified debtor fails to make payment when due.

Financial guarantee contracts are initially recognised at fair value. If a financial guarantee contract was issued in a stand-alone arm’s length transaction to an unrelated party, its fair value at inception is equal to the consideration received. When no consideration is received, the fair value of the liability is initially measured using a valuation technique, such as considering the credit enhancement arising from the guarantee or the probability that the Council will be required to reimburse a holder for a loss incurred discounted to present value. If the fair value of a financial guarantee cannot be reliably determined, a liability is recognised at the amount of the loss allowance determined in accordance with the ECL model.

Financial guarantees are subsequently measured at the higher of:

- the amount determined in accordance with the ECL model; and
- The amount initially recognised less, when appropriate, cumulative amortisation as revenue.

Leases

Finance leases

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

At the commencement of the lease term, Council recognises the leased asset and corresponding liability 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.

The asset is depreciated over the period Council is expected to gain benefit from the use of the asset.

Operating leases

An operating lease is a lease where the lessor effectively retains all the risks and benefits of ownership of an asset.

Lease payments under an operating lease are recognised as an expense on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

Net assets/equity

Net assets or equity is the community's interest in Council and is measured as the difference between total assets and total liabilities.

The components of equity are:

- Retained earnings
- Restricted and Council created reserves
- Asset revaluation reserves

Restricted and Council created reserves

Restricted reserves are a component of equity generally representing a particular use to which various parts of equity have been assigned. These reserves may be legally restricted or created by Council.

Restricted reserves are those subject to specific conditions accepted as binding by Council and which may not be revised without reference to the Courts or a third party. Transfers from these reserves may be made for certain specified purposes or when certain specified conditions are met.

Also included in restricted reserves are reserves restricted by Council decision. Council may alter them without references to any third party or the Courts. Transfers to and from these reserves are at the discretion of Council.

Asset revaluation reserves

This reserve relates to the revaluation of property, plant, and equipment to fair value.

Related parties

Related parties arise where one entity has the ability to affect the financial and operating policies of another through the presence of control or significant influence. Related parties include controlled entities and key management personnel, including the Mayor and elected members, the Chief Executive and members of the executive team.

Critical judgements in applying accounting policies, estimates and assumptions

All judgements, accounting estimates and assumptions are included in the accounting policies. None is considered critical, with the exception of the following:

Properties that receive rent

Properties that receive rent have been classified as Property Plant and Equipment rather than Investment Properties, as these are held for strategic purpose rather than to earn rentals or for capital appreciation.

Landfill aftercare provision

The exposure of Council in relation to the estimates and uncertainties surrounding the landfill aftercare provision is based on discounted cash flows of estimated liability costs.

Infrastructural assets

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

- The physical determination and condition of an asset. For example, 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 that are underground. This risk is minimised by Council performing a combination of physical inspections and condition modelling assessment of underground assets;

- The replacement cost of an asset is based on recent construction contracts in the region for modern equivalent assets, from which unit rates are determined. Unit rates have been applied to components of the network based on size, material, depth and location. If recent contract cost information is considered out of date, it is indexed using the Consumer Price Index for civil constructions to convert them to current dollar value at the valuation date.

- 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 Council could be over or under estimating the annual depreciation charge recognised as an expense in the surplus or deficit.

To minimise this risk, 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 Economic Entity, and have been adjusted for local conditions based on experience.

Asset inspections, deterioration and condition modelling are also carried out regularly as part of Council's asset management planning activities, which gives Council further assurance over its useful life estimates.

Experienced valuers perform Council's infrastructural asset revaluations.

Comparatives

To ensure consistency with the current year, certain comparative information has been reclassified where appropriate. This has occurred:

- where classifications have changed between periods;
- where Council has made additional disclosure in the current year, and where a greater degree of disaggregation of prior year amounts and balances is therefore required; and
- where there has been a change of accounting policy.

Public Benefit Entity Prospective Financial Reporting Standards

The Council has complied with PBE FRS 42 in the preparation of these prospective financial statements.

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 Long Term Plan

Purpose for which the prospective financial statement 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 the Long Term Plan. 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 in the Annual Plan to reflect updated assumptions and costs.

Bases for assumptions, risks and uncertainties

The 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 the Significant Forecasting Assumptions section of this Long Term Plan.

Cautionary Note

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

Other Disclosures

The prospective financial statements were authorised for issue on (*date adopted*) by Manawatū District Council. The Council is responsible for the prospective financial statements presented, including the assumptions underlying the prospective financial statements and all other disclosures. The Long Term Plan is prospective and as such contains no actual operating results.