

# Have your say on Timaru District Council's Revenue and Financing Policy

**Timaru District Council is proposing to change the way we fund footpaths across the District.**

## What is the Revenue and Financing Policy?

This Policy sets out how we fund all our activities, including the different methods of funding we'll use, such as general rates, targeted rates, fees and charges.

The Policy isn't about how much we intend to spend, but about how we intend to spread the cost of each service across the District and across different groups of ratepayers. It also sets out our rationale for why we fund these services in this way. For example, our rationale for funding our Animal Control services mainly from dog registration fees is because the owners of dogs create the need for Council to monitor and control stray and aggressive animals.

The Policy is reviewed every three years, in line with the development of our Long Term Plan.

## Why the proposed change?

The main change Council is proposing is the way we fund footpaths across the District.

Under the current Policy, footpath replacement and maintenance is funded through a targeted rate based on the land value of each rating unit. There is a targeted rate set for each of the following areas; Geraldine, Temuka, Timaru, and Rural areas (including Pleasant Point).

This Policy was set because previously, Council did not receive any funding assistance from Waka Kotahi (New Zealand Transport Agency) for footpaths. It was decided that each community should set the level of funding for footpaths in their area. This was done through the Long Term Plan and Annual Plan budgeting process with Council and Community Boards.

In 2018 Waka Kotahi began providing co-funding for footpaths. This has allowed Council to increase the amount spent across the District as a whole.

Because of this change, Council now believes that it is more appropriate to fund footpaths in the same way we fund all roading work that attracts co-funding from Waka Kotahi, that is, at a District-wide level through the General Rate (70%) and the Uniform Annual General Charge (30%).

At an operational level, every three years all footpaths in the District are condition rated, and replacement and maintenance needs are assessed on a quality and use basis. Our current Policy however, limits the amount of work planned and carried out across the different communities based on the budget set, rather than the condition rating of the footpaths. This has meant that in some instances, smaller townships are receiving a lower level of service for footpaths, due to limited funding. This would likely continue if we do not amend this Policy.

## What is the impact of the proposed change?

This change will mean that the cost of all footpaths will be spread across the whole District.

This will mean an initial increase in rates for the areas currently charged the Rural Community Works and Services Rate, and a decrease in rates for those charged the Geraldine, Temuka and Timaru Community Works and Services Rate.

This increase in rates for those in the rural areas will be matched by an increase in footpath replacement and maintenance in coming years, to lift the quality of these footpaths to match those in larger urban areas.

The proposed changes to footpath funding have been included in the draft budgets for Council's Long term Plan.

This table shows the rates impact of the proposed amendment on sample properties across the District for 2021/22

	Residential (Sample)				Primary(Sample)			Commercial /Industrial
	Geraldine	Pleasant Point	Temuka	Timaru	Rural*	Timaru*	Rural*	
Land Value	\$192,500	\$139,400	\$139,400	\$200,000	\$606,800	992,500	2,191,200	\$239,300
General Rates (including UAGC) (\$)	1375.21	1233.92	1233.92	1395.17	1944.79	2474.66	4763.00	3629.00
Targeted Rates (\$)	1236.30	960.67	1180.61	1178.53	29.04	1042.43	110.00	1222.63
<b>Total Rates with policy change (\$)</b>	<b>2611.52</b>	<b>2194.59</b>	<b>2414.53</b>	<b>2573.70</b>	<b>1973.83</b>	<b>3517.09</b>	<b>4873.00</b>	<b>4851.63</b>
Total Rates without policy change (\$)	2646.92	2126.72	2492.21	2636.43	1872.84	4027.94	462.89	4738.60
Rates impact of change	-35.40	67.88	-77.69	-62.73	100.99	-510.86	251.11	113.03

\*Properties listed are examples. Actual rates charged will vary according to where you live, the services you receive, the property category you belong to and the land value of your property. \*Do not include rates for water, sewer or waste minimisation

This proposed change isn't about how much Council is planning to spend on our footpaths, but rather how we spread the cost across the District.

## Other Options?

The other option available is to keep the status quo for the funding of footpaths.

This would mean we would have the ongoing problem of not having enough budget to address footpath quality issues in some of our smaller townships. This is not Council's preferred option.

## The Policy

For a full copy of the proposed Policy, and a copy of Council's current Policy visit [thrivingtogether.co.nz/revenueandfinancing](http://thrivingtogether.co.nz/revenueandfinancing), email [thriving@timdc.govt.nz](mailto:thriving@timdc.govt.nz), or call into a Service Centre in Timaru, Geraldine or Temuka.



## How do you have your say?

We would like to hear your feedback on this proposed change to our policy. You can provide your feedback through any of the ways outlined below.

**Submissions close 10 May 2020.**

### Have your say online

Visit [thrivingtogether.co.nz/revenueandfinancing](http://thrivingtogether.co.nz/revenueandfinancing) to complete an online submission.



#### Email us

Send your feedback to [thriving@timdc.govt.nz](mailto:thriving@timdc.govt.nz)



#### Fill out the feedback opposite or write us a letter and send it to:

Revenue and Financing Policy Submission  
Timaru District Council  
Freepost 95136  
PO Box 522  
Timaru 7940



#### Speak to someone about this Policy change.

As part of our Long Term Plan consultation, the Mayor and Councillors will be out and about across the District to discuss our plans, including this change to the Revenue and Financing Policy. For a full list of events across the District see our website

### [thrivingtogether.co.nz](http://thrivingtogether.co.nz)

Council will be holding a hearing for anyone who wishes to address Council on this proposed change to the Revenue and Financing Policy. If you would like to speak at the Council hearing please let us know in your submission form or email us at [thriving@timdc.govt.nz](mailto:thriving@timdc.govt.nz). We will contact you with details and dates for the hearing closer to the time.

### Make sure you also have your say on our Long Term Plan 2021-31

Visit [thrivingtogether.co.nz](http://thrivingtogether.co.nz) for all the details.

#### Privacy Statement

All submissions (including name and contact details) will be included in public documents, at Council offices and Libraries/Service Centres and on Council's website. Personal information will be used for submission administration purposes such as contacting you if you want to speak at the Council hearing. All information is held by Council, and you have the right to access and correct personal information.

## Your details

Your submission must include your name, and a postal or email address. If you want to speak to Council on your submission, please include a phone number we can contact you on.

First name:

Surname:

Organisation (if applicable):

Phone (landline or mobile):

Email address:\*

Postal address:\*

Do you want to speak about your submission at a Council Hearing?

Yes

No

If you do not indicate, we will assume you do not wish to speak

## Your feedback

Do you agree with our plans to change the way we fund our footpaths?

Please tick one.

YES

NO

Something else? Tell us why:

Remember your submission will be included in public documents, including your contact details (unless you tell us you would prefer this not to happen).

\*we require your email address and/or your physical postal address.