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## 6. Statement of Accounting Policies

### 1. Reporting Entity

Central Hawke's Bay District Council (Council) is a territorial local authority governed by the Local Government Act 2002 and is domiciled in New Zealand.

The Central Hawke's Bay District Council Group (CHBDC) consists of Central Hawke's Bay District Council and its subsidiary – Tamatea Limited (100% owned). Tamatea Limited (Tamatea) was incorporated in New Zealand on 26 October 2006.

The primary objective of CHBDC is to provide goods or services for the community or social benefit rather than making a financial return. Accordingly, CHBDC has designated itself as a public benefit entity for the purposes of New Zealand equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards (NZ IFRS).

### 2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

#### 2.1 Statement of Compliance and basis of preparation

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

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with NZ GAAP. They comply with NZ IFRS and other applicable Financial Reporting Standards, as appropriate for public benefit entities.

The financial statements are presented in New Zealand Dollars (NZD). The functional currency of CHBDC is New Zealand Dollars.

#### 2.2 Basis of Financial Statement Preparation and Measurement Base

In respect of CHBDC the measurement base adopted is that of historical cost basis modified by the revaluation of certain assets.

#### 2.3 Critical Accounting Estimates and Assumptions

In preparing these financial statements CHBDC has made estimates and assumptions concerning the future. These estimates and assumptions may differ from the subsequent actual results. Estimates and assumptions are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations or future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. The estimates and assumptions that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year are discussed below –

##### *Landfill aftercare provision*

Note 8 presents an analysis of the exposure of CHBDC in relation to the estimates and uncertainties surrounding the landfill aftercare provision.

##### *Infrastructural assets*

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

- the physical deterioration and condition of an asset, for example the 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 stormwater, wastewater and water supply pipes that are underground. This risk is minimised by Council performing a combination of physical inspections and condition modeling assessments of underground assets;
- 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 CHBDC could be over or under estimating the annual depreciation charge recognised as an expense in the statement of financial performance. To minimise this risk CHBDC'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 Group, and have been adjusted for local conditions based on past experience. Asset inspections, deterioration and condition modelling are also carried out regularly as part of the CHBDC's asset management planning activities, which gives CHBDC further assurance over its useful life estimates. Experienced independent valuers assist in performing the Council's infrastructural asset revaluations.

## **2.4 Investment in Subsidiary**

Council consolidates its investment in its subsidiary - Tamatea – as it has the capacity to control that company's financing and operating policies so as to obtain benefits from the activities of the entity. This exists because Council, as the sole shareholder, controls the voting power of the governing body.

## **2.5 Basis of consolidation**

The purchase method is used to prepare the consolidated financial statements, which involves adding together like items of assets, liabilities, equity, income and expenses on a line by line basis. All significant intragroup balances, transactions, income and expenses are eliminated on consolidation.

Revenue from developers contributions are recognised when it is acknowledged that the liability of payment exists to the Council based on the issue of the compliance certificate and when conditions of the servicing agreements have been met.

Vested assets are recognised when the significant risks and rewards of ownership have been transferred to the Council and when the obligation to accept the transfer of the assets to the Council has been determined.

## **2.6 Investment in Associate**

CHBDC accounts for its investment in Infracon Limited in the group financial statements using the equity method.

An Associate is an entity over which CHBDC has significant influence, and where this entity is neither a subsidiary nor Joint Venture. The investment is initially recognised at cost and the carrying value is increased or decreased to recognise CHBDC's share of the change to the net assets of the associate after the date of acquisition. CHBDC's share of the surplus or deficit is recognised in CHBDC's income statement. Distributions received from the associate reduce the carrying value of the investment.

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The investment is tested annually for impairment. Where the carrying amount exceeds its recoverable amount, an impairment loss is recognised in the income statement. The recoverable amount is the higher of the investment's fair value, less costs to sell and its value in use.

In testing for impairment, CHBDC has made estimates and assumptions concerning the future which may differ from subsequent actual results. Reliance has been placed on the independent audit of Infracon to provide assurance on the carrying value of its assets and the assumption that the company remains a going concern.

## **2.7 Equity**

Equity is the community's interest in CHBDC and is measured as the difference between total assets and total liabilities. Public equity is disaggregated and classified into a number of reserves to enable clearer identification of the specified uses that CHBDC make of its accumulated surpluses.

The components of equity are:

- Accumulated funds
- General Reserves
- Trust Funds
- Revaluation Reserves

## **2.8 Reserves**

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

### **2.8.1 Council-created Reserves**

These are reserves established by Council decision. The Council may alter them without reference to any third-party or the Courts. Transfers to and from these reserves are at the discretion of the Council.

### **2.8.2 Trust Funds**

These are funds received by the Council over time, usually by way of donation or bequest, which restrict the use of the funds. All such funds are separately invested and are not available for any other purposes. The interest earned is credited to the funds.

## **2.9 Overhead Allocations**

The costs of providing support services for the Council are accumulated and then allocated to each significant activity using appropriate allocation bases which reflect usage and/or capacity for each significant activity.

## **2.10 Revenue**

Revenue is recognised to the extent that it is probable that the economic benefits will flow to Council and the revenue can be reliably measured. The following specific recognition criteria must also be met before revenue is recognised –

Rates revenue is recognised when payable.

Revenue from the sale of goods and services is recognised in the income statement when the significant risks and rewards of ownership have been transferred to the buyer or the obligation to pay arises. In the case of Licence fees, upon renewal of the licence.

Revenue from services rendered is recognised when invoiced. No revenue is recognised if there are significant uncertainties regarding recovery of the consideration due, associated costs or the possible return of the goods.

Government grants and subsidies are recognised as revenue when entitlement has been established by the grants agency, and are recognised at their fair value.

Dividends are recognised when the shareholder's right to receive payment is established.

Revenue from developer contributions is recognised when it is acknowledged that the liability of payment exists to the Council based on the completion of the subdivision or connection to service.

Vested assets are recognised when the significant risks and rewards of ownership have been transferred to the Council and when the obligation to accept the transfer of the assets to the Council has been determined.

## **2.11 Valuation**

### **2.11.1 Current Assets**

Accounts receivable are stated at estimated net realisable value, after providing for doubtful and uncollectible debts.

All other current assets are stated at cost.

Cash and Short Term Investments in the balance sheets comprise cash at bank and in hand and short term deposits with an original maturity of three months or less.

### **2.11.2 Financial Assets**

Financial Assets are initially recognised at fair value plus transaction costs unless they are carried at fair value through the Income Statement in which case the transaction costs are recognised in the Income Statement

Purchases and sales of financial assets are recognised on trade-date, the date on which CHBDC commits to purchase or sell the asset. Financial assets are derecognised when the rights to receive cash flows from the financial assets have expired or have been transferred and the CHBDC has transferred substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership.

CHBDC classifies its financial assets into the following categories- fair value through the Income Statement, loans and receivables and available for sale. The classification depends on the purpose for which the investments were acquired. Management determines the classification of its investments at initial recognition.

*Financial assets at fair value through the Income Statement.*

Financial assets at fair value through the Income Statement include financial assets held for trading. A financial asset is classified in this category if acquired principally for the purpose of selling in the short-term.

After initial recognition they are measured at their fair values with gains or losses on remeasurement recognized in the Income Statement.

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### *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. CHBDC's loans and receivables comprise cash and cash equivalents, debtors and other receivables.

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 Income Statement.

After initial recognition these investments are measured at their fair value, with gains and losses recognized directly in equity except for impairment losses, which are recognised in the Income Statement.

On derecognition the cumulative gain or loss previously recognised in equity is recognised in the Income Statement.

### *Fair value*

The fair value of financial instruments traded in active markets is based on quoted market prices at the balance sheet date. The quoted market price used is the current bid price. The fair value of financial instruments that are not traded in an active market is determined using valuation techniques. CHBDC uses a variety of methods and makes assumptions that are based on market conditions existing at each balance date. Quoted market prices or dealer quotes for similar instruments are used for long term debt instruments held. Other techniques, such as discounted expected cash flows, are used to determine fair value for the remaining financial instruments.

## **2.11.3 Impairment of financial assets**

At each balance sheet date CHBDC assesses whether there is any objective evidence that a financial asset or group of financial assets is impaired. Any impairment losses are recognised in the Income Statement.

### *Loans and other receivables*

Impairment of a loan or a receivable is established when there is objective evidence that CHBDC will not be able to collect amounts due according to the original terms. Significant financial difficulties of the debtor/issuer, probability that the debtor/issuer will enter into bankruptcy, and default in payments are considered indicators that the asset is impaired. The amount of the impairment is the difference between the asset's carrying amount and the present value of estimated future cash flows, discounted using the original effective interest rate. For debtors and other receivables, the carrying amount of the asset is reduced through the use of an allowance account, and the amount of the loss is recognised in the statement of financial performance. When the receivable is uncollectible, it is written off against the allowance account. Overdue receivables that have been renegotiated are reclassified as current (i.e. not past due). For term deposits, local authority stock, government stock and community loans, impairment losses are recognised directly against the instruments carrying amount.

Impairment of term deposits, local authority, government stock, bonds and notes and related party loans is established when there is objective evidence that the CHBDC will not be able to collect amounts due to the original terms of the instrument. Significant financial difficulties of the issuer, probability the issuer will enter into bankruptcy, and default in payments are considered indicators that the instrument is impaired.

#### 2.11.4 Non Current Assets

Non-current assets held for sale are classified as held for sale if their carrying amount will be recovered principally through a sale transaction rather than 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 Income Statement.

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 group) are not depreciated or amortised while they are classified as held for sale.

(a) Work In Progress:

Work in progress is treated as a non current asset on the basis that there is a high likelihood that it will be capitalised. This covers work on infrastructural assets, plant, property or equipment that is incomplete at balance date, and excludes borrowing costs.

On completion the total cost of the project is transferred to the relevant asset class and then depreciated.

(b) Land and Buildings

Land and Buildings are revalued on a maximum of a three yearly cycle, or more frequently where market evidence reflects that the current values of land and buildings is materially different to their fair value. The valuation uses the depreciated replacement cost method, based on currently accepted valuation methodology.

The results of revaluing are credited or debited to an asset revaluation reserve for that class of asset. Where this results in a debit balance in the asset revaluation reserve, this balance is expensed to the income statement.

Land under Roads is revalued annually based on the fair value of adjacent land.

(c) Property, Plant and Equipment (Fixed Assets):

On acquisition, all fixed assets are initially stated at cost.

Plant and Machinery are stated at historical cost less accumulated depreciation and any impairment in value.

Library Books are valued at historical cost. All subsequent and future additions are recognised at cost. Depreciation is provided over the asset's useful lives.

(d) Infrastructural Assets:

Infrastructural Assets: water, stormwater, and waste/sewerage are revalued on a three yearly cycle, or more frequently where the value has changed

significantly, using the depreciated replacement cost method, based on currently accepted valuation methodology.

The Landfill and Transfer Stations are revalued on a three yearly cycle, using the depreciated replacement cost method.

Roading and its networks are revalued each year using the depreciated replacement cost method.

All subsequent additions to Infrastructural Assets are stated at depreciated cost.

## 2.12 Depreciation

### 2.12.1 Property, Plant and Equipment: (Excluding Infrastructural Assets)

Council's fixed assets, with the exception of infrastructural assets and land, are depreciated on a straight line basis at rates, which will write off their cost or value over their estimated useful economic lives. This depreciation charge is reflected in the appropriate cost of service statement.

The expected lives of major fixed asset classes are:

	<b>Years</b>
• Buildings	6 – 165
• Emergency Equip, Misc Plant, Computer Equip, Office Equip	4 - 5
• Office furniture, Library Books	4 - 10
• Land is considered to have an indefinite useful life and is not depreciated	

### 2.12.2 Infrastructural Assets

#### (a) Water, Sewerage and Stormwater Assets:

Water, Sewerage and Stormwater Assets are the utility systems, which provide continuing services to the community and are not generally regarded as tradeable.

Depreciation is calculated using useful life of components as provided by Opus International Consultants Asset Valuation Reports and in accordance with the standard NZ Infrastructure Asset Valuation and Depreciation Guidelines (NZIAVDG).

The expected lives of major fixed asset classes are:

	<b>Years</b>
Water Systems	
• Pipes	40 - 100
• Valves, Hydrants, Meters, Tobies	20 - 60
• Pump Stations	15 - 90
• Reservoirs	60 - 90

## Sewerage Systems

• Pipes	50 - 120
• Manholes	100
• Valves	25 - 40
• Pump Stations	25 - 90
• Treatment Plant	15 - 100

## Stormwater Systems

• Pipes	50 - 125
• Manholes	100
• Open Channels	50
• Service Laterals	80
• Sumps	75

## (b) Roothing Assets:

Roothing Assets is the rooding network, which provides continuing services to the community and is not generally regarded as tradeable.

Depreciation is calculated using useful life of components as provided by Opus International Consultants Asset Valuation Reports and in accordance with the standard NZ Infrastructure Asset Valuation and Depreciation Guidelines (NZIAVDG).

The expected lives of major fixed asset classes are:

	<b>Years</b>
• Pavement Maintenance - Unsealed	7
• Pavement Maintenance - Sealed	70
• Chip Seals	10
• Area Wide Pavement Treatment Surface	10
Base course	70
Sub base	Not depreciated
Wearing Course	7
• Bridges	50
• Traffic – pavement marking	1
• Traffic – signs	15
• Footpaths	50-70

## (c) Landfill and Transfer Stations

The Landfill and Transfer Stations are the individual facilities which provides continuing services to the community and are not generally regarded as tradable. The expected future lives of the Landfill and Transfer Stations are 50 years.

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## 2.13 Borrowings

Borrowings are initially recognised at their fair value net of transaction costs incurred. Any resulting gain or loss is recognised in the Income Statement.

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

## 2.14 Loan to Tamatea

This loan arises from the transfer to Tamatea of the shares in Infracon Limited – formerly held directly by Council. The loan is interest free and is on call.

## 2.15 Goods and Services Tax

These financial statements have been prepared exclusive of Goods and Services Tax (GST), except for receivables and payables that are stated inclusive of GST.

## 2.16 Employee Entitlements

### *Long term benefits*

Provision is made in respect of the Council's liability for long service leave. Long service leave, has been calculated on a probability basis, which takes into consideration the likelihood that the Council will be obligated to make the payments

### *Short term benefits*

Wages, salaries, and annual leave are measured at nominal values on actual entitlement basis at current rates of pay.

A liability for sick leave is recognised to the extent that absences in the coming year are expected to be greater than the sick leave entitlements earned in the coming year. The amount is calculated based on the unused sick leave entitlement that can be carried forward at balance date, to the extent that Council anticipates it will be used by staff to cover these future absences.

## 2.17 Operating Leases

An operating lease is a lease that does not transfer substantially all the risks and rewards incidental to ownership of an asset. Lease payments under an operating lease are recognised as an expense on a straight line basis over the lease term.

## 2.18 Landfill Post-closure Provision

Council as operator of the district landfill has a legal obligation to apply for resource consents when the landfill reaches the end of its operating life. The resource consents will set out the closure requirements and requirements for ongoing maintenance and monitoring services at the landfill site after closure. A provision for post-closure costs is recognised as a liability when the obligation for post-closure arises. The provision is measured based on the present value of future cash flows expected to be incurred, taking into account future events including known changes to legal requirements and technological improvements.

The provision includes all costs associated with landfill post-closure: final cover application and vegetation, fencing off, completing facilities for leachate collection and the monitoring of gas systems, stormwater systems, and vegetation systems. Amounts provided for landfill post-closure are capitalised to the landfill asset where they give rise to future economic benefits or if they are incurred to enable future economic benefits to be obtained. The capitalised landfill asset is depreciated over the life of the landfill based on the anticipated capacity used.

## **2.19 Statement of Cash Flows**

For the purposes of the Cash Flow Statement, cash and cash equivalents consist of cash and cash equivalents as defined above, net of outstanding bank overdrafts.

Operating activities include cash received from all income sources and record the cash payments made for the supply of goods and services. Agency transactions are not recognised as receipts and payments in the Statement of Cash Flows as they do not represent transactions that Council can control.

Investing activities are those activities relating to the acquisition and disposal of non-current assets. Investing and financing activity transactions have had their respective sources and applications of cash netted off where rollover of financing has occurred and where there have been transfers between Council bank accounts.

Financing activities comprise activities that change the equity and debt capital structure of the Council.

## **2.20 Income Tax**

The income tax expense recognised in the income statement is the estimated income tax payable in the current year, adjusted for any differences between the estimated and actual income tax payable in prior periods.

The nature of the Council's taxable earnings is such that it does not give rise to deferred tax assets or liabilities.

## **2.21 Prospective Financial Information**

The financial information contained within this document is prospective financial information in terms of accounting standard FRS42. The purpose for which it has been prepared is to enable ratepayers, residents and any other interested parties to obtain information about the expected future financial performance, position and cashflow of Central Hawke's Bay District Council.

The actual results achieved for any particular financial year are also likely to vary from the information presented and may vary materially depending on the circumstances that arise during the period.