Drought and Covid-19
Economic Recovery Action Plan on a page

NOW – Our Immediate Response

1. Leading Civil Defence in Central Hawke’s Bay to ensure comprehensive local welfare support
Council is leading a local Civil Defence response and is coordinating with Hawke’s Bay Civil Defence and Emergency Management (HBCDEM), Ministry of Health, Police, Red Cross, FENZ, Safer CHB and other agencies to ensure our community get the best welfare support possible.

2. Partnering with the establishment of Tihei Mauri Ora with Te Taiwhenua o Tamatea
Council has worked with the Taiwhenua to establish a structure to enable direct engagement and support for our tangata whenua through marae and hapu networks within the District Health Board and Civil Defence structure called Tihei Tamatea!

3. Refund consent fees affected by Lockdown
Full refunds will be offered to anyone who wants to cancel a building consent or resource consent application that was lodged prior to 24 March 2020.

4. Early payments to suppliers
The Council is moving from a monthly cycle of payment of supplier invoices to a weekly cycle to assist cashflow of local businesses and contractors in particular.

5. Create local jobs with local projects
Council are investigating bringing forward or increasing parts of the District’s capital investment programme to stimulate local business and create jobs. This includes applying for additional funding through government economic stimulus packages.

6. Advocate to Central Government on behalf of our most vulnerable citizens
Council will advocate to Central Government to increase the current rates rebate scheme for those in financial hardship.

7. Certainty for farmers in the Tukituki Catchment
Council will continue to advocate on behalf of our community to Hawke’s Bay Regional Council on their regulatory approach towards implementation of the Tukituki Catchment Plan and associated consenting deadlines.

8. Rates Postponement Policy
Council will implement its newly adopted Rates Postponement Policy which allows those in our community experiencing financial hardship due to Drought, have their rates payment postponed.

9. Accelerate our regional, digital Business Hub project
Council will accelerate our proposed regional digital business hub project through the Provincial Growth Fund to create a space for businesses to connect and evolve quickly in a post-COVID world.

NEXT THREE MONTHS – Short/Medium-term Recovery

10. Re-frame existing economic assessment work to identify ‘quick wins’
Council staff will re-frame existing assessment work to include strategic analysis and potential direction for economic recovery.

11. Establish a Central Hawke’s Bay Recovery Task Force
Council, in partnership with Centralines, will establish a CHB Economic Recovery task force which looks at developing and supporting community/industry led economic recovery projects.

12. Incorporate a community recovery lens in our grant funding policy
Council will look to prioritise applications which contribute to community recovery from the effects of COVID-19 and drought.

13. Examine policies and processes to ensure Council can assist ratepayers who are experiencing financial hardship
Council will examine ways in which it can soften the financial impact felt by our community through a proactive and more lenient approach in the application of our existing rates payment policies and development of new policies identified.

14. Rates Rebate for 1,000 most impacted rate payers
Council will look to utilise $200k from our ‘Catastrophic Events Fund’ to fund the creation of a new Rates Rebate Fund.

15. More financial relief options
Council will proactively seek to soften the financial blow through revising the draft annual plan and consideration of the upcoming Long Term Plan in 2021.

16. Incorporating Social Procurement into Council’s capital programme
Additional emphasis will be given to the full range of social procurement, including local and iwi employment, contracting and business opportunities in our current and future capital works programme.

17. Continued prioritisation of Ngā Ara Tipuna and investigate feasibility of phase three opportunities
Ngā Ara Tipuna will remain a transformational and aspirational project for tangata whenua, with renewed emphasis on the economic and business development work streams within that project.

Six Months Plus – Long Term Recovery

Ongoing development of Council Long Term Plan informed by new economic and social assumptions as council and community evolve in the post-COVID world.

For the full economic recovery action plan go to: www.chbdc.govt.nz/our-district/economic-development