






## Policy on Significance

Otorohanga District Council must adopt, by special consultative procedure, a policy on significance. Having such a policy allows the Council to identify and recognise issues that the community regards as significant and wishes to be consulted on. It will assist the Council to assess significance consistently, and match its consultation and consideration of issues to community expectations.



The intent of this policy is to enable Council to undertake its day to day operating activities in an efficient and effective manner.




Council will take into consideration the following:

-  The current and future social, economic, environmental or cultural well being of the District;
-  The impact of the decision on Council's strategic direction as outlined in the Long Term Council Community Plan;
-  The impact of the decision on individual communities and the appropriate community plan;
-  The public interest (both historical and current) in relation to decisions concerning this issue; and
-  The financial consequence of the issue. An issue which has a direct annual financial consequence of more than 10% of total operating expenditure would be regarded as significant.

### Criteria





The following is the criteria for assessing the significance of an issue:

-  Whether the asset is a strategic asset within the meaning of the Local Government Act 2002 or listed in this policy.
-  The extent to which there is, or likely to be, a change in the level of service in carrying out any significant activity;

-  The extent to which there is, or is likely to be, a change in the way in which any significant activity is carried out;
-  The extent to which there is, or is likely to be, a change in the capacity of the Council to provide any significant service or carry out any significant activity; and
-  The assets being considered must be owned by Otorohanga District Council.

### Thresholds









The following are the thresholds which Council will use to determine the significance of issues:

-  Any one project with an expenditure of more than 10% of total operating expenditure in any financial year;
-  Any transfer to or from Council of ownership or control, of an asset at a value greater than 10% of total operating expenditure;
-  Entry into any partnership with the private sector to carry out an entire activity (as defined in the Revenue and Financing Policy) which has an annual operating expenditure of more than 10% of total operating expenditure; and
-  Exemptions from these thresholds will be:
  - Any land and buildings in fee simple (freehold title);
  - Any emergency works whatsoever such as natural disasters; and
  - Roading maintenance contracts (including reseals).

Processes

The decision to determine whether or not a project or issue is significant will be decided by Council through reports to either committee meetings or Council directly.

In terms of the Local Government Act 2002, the following assets are considered to be strategic:

-  The roading network and associated infrastructure;
-  Parks and Reserves, associated buildings (excluding community halls), and infrastructure;
-  Water supply schemes;
-  Wastewater schemes;
-  Urban stormwater schemes;
-  Housing for the Elderly units;
-  Kawhia Wharf; and
-  Shareholding in Waikato Regional Airport Limited.