

Council Member
Councillor Henry Davis

Public

Contact Officer:
Iliia Houridis, Director City Shaping

QUESTION ON NOTICE

Councillor Henry Davis will ask the following Question on Notice:

1. Provide an estimate for Option 1 and Option 2 for the Light Square upgrade?
2. What is the current timetable for each of the Main Street upgrades?
3. Assuming no increase to the New Capital Spend budget, in what year could the Light Square Master Plan be delivered?
4. If the Light Square Master Plan was implemented in the 2025 financial year, what rate increase would be required to repay the borrowings within 10 years?

REPLY

1. Light Square options
 - 1.1. The Light Square Master Plan outlines proposed options for further development to support the design stages which will inform the provision of cost estimates for Council's consideration.
 - 1.2. The Master Plan provides strategic directions, development, vision and principles at a precinct level.
 - 1.3. The next phase will involve public consultation before further design development in line with Council's decision on 13 August 2024 Item 24 – 7.3 Light Square Master Plan, including testing through the Integrated Transport Strategy, staging, cost estimation, and an investment strategy that will identify partnership and grant funding opportunities.
2. Main Street upgrade timetable - on 27 June 2023, Council approved the following timetable for each Main Street upgrade:
 - 2.1. An indicative forward estimate (new & upgrade) within the Long-Term Financial Plan for Hindley Street for construction occurring in 2024/25 and 2025/26.
 - 2.2. An indicative forward estimate (new & upgrade) within the Long-Term Financial Plan for Gouger Street for detailed design in 2024/25 and for construction occurring in 2025/26 and 2026/27.
 - 2.3. An indicative forward estimate (new & upgrade) within the Long-Term Financial Plan for O'Connell Street for detailed design occurring in 2024/25 and for construction occurring in 2026/27 and 2027/28. (Noting that Council will consider a budget reconsideration to allow for a small section of O'Connell Street - adjacent to the 88 O'Connell development – to commence construction in the FY2024/25 to align with the 88 O'Connell development program).

- 2.4. An indicative forward estimate (new & upgrade) within the Long-Term Financial Plan for Melbourne Street, for detailed design occurring in 2025/26 and for construction occurring in 2026/27 and 2027/28.
- 2.5. An indicative forward estimate (new & upgrade) within the Long-Term Financial Plan for Hutt Street for detailed design occurring in 2024/25 and for construction occurring in 2025/26 and 2026/27.
3. Delivery of Light Square Master Plan
 - 3.1. Light Square is yet to be costed and prioritised for Council as a Capital Project. Design development has been factored into the 2024/25 Annual Business Plan and Budget program and is subject to public consultation on two options, including consideration of staged approaches.
 - 3.2. Once public consultation and design development is progressed, the proposal with cost estimates will be put to Council to consider prioritisation, implications for investment and the Long-Term Financial Plan.
4. Light Square related borrowing
 - 4.1. The 2024/25 Annual Business Plan and Budget does not include a Capital allocation for Light Square as it is only at the Master Plan phase.
 - 4.2. In keeping with Council's adopted financial principles, if Light Square were to proceed, any Renewal component would be funded from within the Renewal program, which is funded from operational revenue. Any New and Upgrade component would be funded via debt, to minimise any rate increase to the community.
 - 4.3. The Annual Business Plan and Budget includes \$250,000 in 2024/25 to support the design development phase, which will inform cost estimates for future consideration.
5. Each figure above is estimated based on holding all other items constant – that is, they are subject to changes in other related assumptions. Council agreement and firming of each related assumption at the conclusion of the 2024/25 LTFP process will enable LTFP estimates based on the agreed set of assumptions adopted by Council.

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| Staff time in receiving and preparing this reply | To prepare this reply in response to the question on notice took approximately 5.5 hours. |
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