

30 April 2026



Dear 

29 Bowler Avenue, Gore 9710
PO Box 8, Gore 9740

Phone 03 209 0330
Email info@goredc.govt.nz
www.goredc.govt.nz

Official Information request for information relating to the 2026/27 Annual Plan

I acknowledge receipt of your official information request dated 28 March 2026 for the following:

I request the following information relating to the 2026/27 Annual Plan:

1. *A breakdown of the projected 27% increase in operating expenditure, including the main cost drivers (such as insurance, interest/debt servicing, depreciation, wages, compliance, District Plan, IT upgrades, or other categories) and the dollar amount for each.*
2. *The portion of the 27% operating expenditure increase that will be funded through new or additional debt (rather than rates), and the projected total council debt as at 30 June 2027.*
3. *Council's reasons for determining that no public consultation is required on the 2026/27 Annual Plan, given the 11% average rates increase and the substantially higher 27% growth in operating expenditure.*
4. *Indicative rates impacts for 2026/27 on the following medium property types (using the same methodology as the 2025–34 LTP examples):*
 - *Mataura residential property (approx. CV \$350,000)*
 - *Gore residential property (approx. CV \$495,000)*
 - *Rural property (approx. CV \$5,500,000)*

The Gore District Councils 2026/27 Annual Plan Issues and Options paper was put before the Council on 17 March 2026. It states in this paper that the Council requests the Chief Executive to prepare an Annual Plan and Annual Plan budget based on the approved options. Therefore, as approval has only been given, there has been no breakdown of figures completed as yet, and we are refusing Q1 and Q2 under section 17(g) - that the information requested is not held by the local authority and the person dealing with the request has no grounds for believing that the information is either—

- (i) held by another local authority or a department or Minister of the Crown or organisation;
or
- (ii) connected more closely with the functions of another local authority, or a department or Minister of the Crown or organisation.

The 2026/27 Annual Plan will come before the Council at its June meeting and will be included in the agenda papers which will be available from the Council's website. We are therefore also refusing under section 17(d) – that the information requested is or will soon be publicly available.

Q3 – The Council's Long-term Plan 2025-34, page 29, states that for year 2 of this plan (2026/27) the rates increase would be 11.87%. At the Council's meeting on 17 March the motion was carried to approve an average rate rise of 11% which was consistent with the financial strategy approved in the Long-term Plan 2025-34 and also to note that the recommended option does not legally require consultation under section 82 or 83 of the Local Government Act (2002).

Q4 – This information does not exist at this time. Therefore, we are also refusing this part of your request under section 17(g) – that the information requested is not held by the local authority and the person dealing with the request has no grounds for believing that the information is either—

- (i) held by another local authority or a department or Minister of the Crown or organisation;
or
- (ii) connected more closely with the functions of another local authority, or a department or Minister of the Crown or organisation.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz.

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to contact the Governance Team via governance@goredc.govt.nz

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'L. Straith', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Lornae Straith
GM Corporate Support / Chief Financial Officer