

Building Our Budgets – Defining Activities

24 Sept 2026



Agenda

Legislation changes

Implication of legislation on long-term-plan

Application of legislation through the long-term-plan

RLC interpretation of section 11A

Classification of all RLC activities

Direction sought

Sect 10: Purpose of local government

What has changed

Four well-being's (social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being) have been removed from the LGA purpose, and replaced with the enablement of democratic local decision-making, good quality and cost-effective local infrastructure, public services and regulatory functions

10 Purpose of local government

The purpose of local government is—

- (a) to enable democratic local decision-making and action by, and on behalf of, communities; and
- (b) to meet the current and future needs of communities for good-quality, cost-effective, and local—
 - (i) infrastructure; and
 - (ii) public services; and
 - (iii) performance of regulatory functions; and
- (c) to support local economic growth and development by fulfilling the purpose set out in paragraph (b).

Sect 11A: Core services to be considered

What has changed

The section has been reintroduced and requires Council to have particular regard to the contribution of the listed core services when performing its role and making decisions regarding service delivery, funding and long-term planning.

11A Core services to be considered in performing role

- (1) In performing its role, a local authority must have particular regard to the contribution that the following core services make to its communities:~~The following services are the core services of a local authority:~~
- (a) network infrastructure:
 - (b) public transport services:
 - (c) waste management and minimisation:
 - (d) civil defence emergency management:
 - (e) libraries, museums, reserves, and other community and recreational facilities.

What “core services” legally means

It is a weighting obligation

s11A requires Council to have particular regard to: network infrastructure, public transport, waste management and minimisation, emergency management, libraries, museums, reserves, and other community and recreational facilities

It is not an exhaustive list

The select committee said the list was not intended to capture every statutory responsibility

Building Act, RMA, Dog Control Act and Health Act duties do not become optional because they are absent from s11A

It is not a ban on non-core activity

s12 general competence continues, subject to the LGA, other enactments and general law
Council may fund non-listed activities where it can show lawful purpose, local benefit, sound decision-making, prudent finance and any required consultation

It does not set levels of service

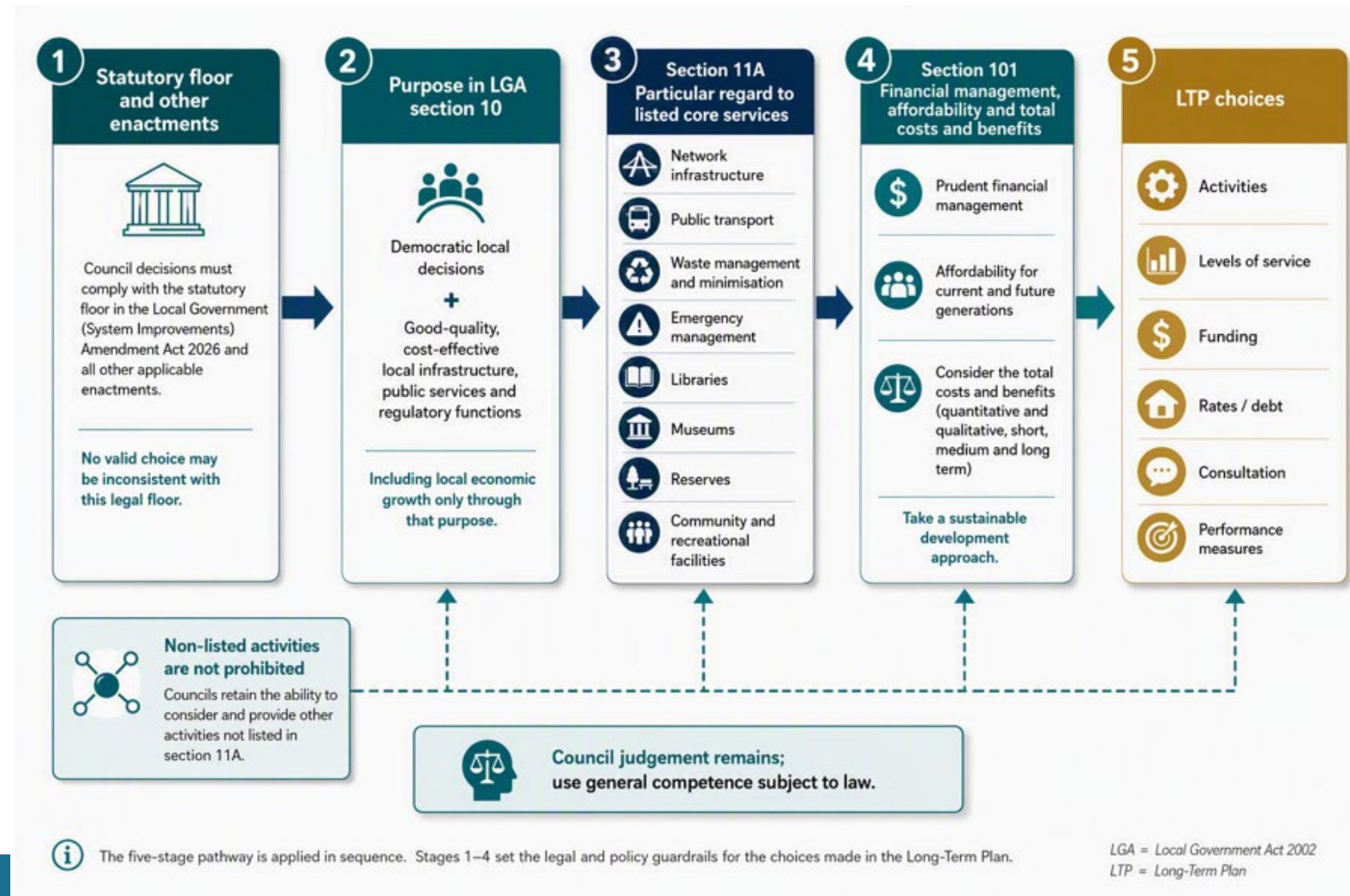
“Core” says nothing about scale, hours, operating model or subsidy — those remain elected-member policy choices

Core services direction for LTP scenario analysis

Future LTP scenarios will require clear assumptions about:

- What services Council considers "core"
- What services are discretionary or enhanced
- Which activities would be prioritised under a constrained funding environment

Application of the Act to LTP scenarios



RLC's interpretation of Sect 11A

Each listed category is an asset obligation, a service obligation, or both.

	(a) Network infrastructure	(b) Public transport	(c) Waste management & minimisation	(d) Emergency management	(e) Libraries, museums, reserves & community facilities
ASSETS What Council must hold and maintain	Roads, bridges, footpaths, traffic signals, street lighting and 3 waters infrastructure	Delivery and maintenance of transport infrastructure	Collection and resource recovery infrastructure	Not applicable	Facilities held and maintained to safety and legislative standards
SERVICES What Council must deliver	Not applicable	Safe, efficient and sustainable movement of people and goods	Reduction, reuse, recycling and resource recovery	Planning, co-ordination, response and recovery from hazards and emergency events	Community and recreational services delivered from those assets

Assets carry a maintenance obligation regardless of whether the activity is classified core or non-core — they must be kept to required safety and legislative standards.

Every activity, one classification map

All 45 activities across the organisation, classified in one view. Colour shows category; the classification is Council's, not the Act's.

Core services

Transport & network infrastructure
3 Waters infrastructure
Waste management & minimisation
Emergency management
Library
Museum
Parks & reserves

Community facilities

Cemeteries
Aquatic Centre
Pensioner housing
Inner-city management

Recreational facilities

Energy Events Centre
Sir Howard Morrison
Stadium

s11A listed, plus enabling and democratic functions

Public services

Economic development & tourism marketing
Growth & development support
Community grants & board funding
Road safety
Markets
Education programs
Sports development
Community safety
Partnerships & programmes
Facilities (non-enabling)

Discretionary under s12 — not prohibited

Regulatory services

Building services
Planning services
District Plan policy
Land development
Environmental services
Health inspections
Animal control
Alcohol licensing

Mandatory under other legislation

What s11A does not decide

s11A is a weighting obligation. the classification does not decide:

It is not a ban

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It is not an exhaustive list

The select committee said the s11A list was not intended to capture every statutory responsibility.

Building Act, RMA, Dog Control Act and Health Act duties do not become optional because they are absent from s11A.

“Core” says nothing about scale, hours, operating model or subsidy — those remain elected-member policy choices.

Direction sought

Feedback sought on our assessment of core activities

Questions?