

Future Council Strategies



*Hauraki Youth promoting
Sustainability in Hauraki*

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What topics are covered in this section?

Future Council Strategies

- This section outlines Council's possible future strategies, directions and actions which are signalled either by Central Government or Council. However, these have not been budgeted for as Council does not have enough information or certainty available to allow for them to be included in the Plan.
- As with all businesses, Council can not always be able to accurately foresee all issues that may come before it when preparing a 10 year plan. This section refers to and provides background details on some of the issues, events or projects that may arise in the next 10 years.
- Each strategy or direction is listed separately in alphabetical order.

Future Strategies

New Government Directions

As this Plan was being prepared a new Government was elected which has signalled a significant number of changes to previous policy and programme directions. It is likely there will be initiatives from Central Government that will impact on Council functions and services.

At the time this Plan was adopted, the new Government had already introduced a number of changes to various Acts and initiatives and indicated it has a full programme of new policy directions it wishes to implement over the next three years. It is not possible to allow for these changes in the current Plan as the majority of them are unknown at this stage. This Plan has therefore been prepared on the basis of current legislative requirements and known policy, strategy and programme requirements.

Changes made by the new Government will, where appropriate be addressed through subsequent Annual Plans, amendments to this Plan and the development of future Hauraki Community Plans.

Affordable Housing Enabling Territorial Authorities Act 2008

The Affordable Housing Enabling Territorial Authorities Act was passed into Law in 2008. The Act allows for territorial authorities that want to find out whether there is enough affordable housing in their district, to do so using a housing needs assessment, prescribed by the Act. If this assessment shows the authority that there is not enough affordable housing within their district then the Act prescribes a process for an Affordable Housing Policy to be written, if the authority wishes to do so.

Council will be giving consideration to the legislation later in 2009.

Assessment of Water and Sanitary Services

The Assessment of Water and Sanitary Services was first carried out in 2005. The Local Government Act 2002 requires that a review shall be carried out from "time to time".

The next Assessment of Water and Sanitary Services review is expected to take place prior to the Hauraki Community Plan 2012-22.

Depending on the outcome of this review there may be a need to consider the extent of some of the water and sanitary services that are currently not provided for.

Work identified in the current assessment continues to be undertaken and during the life of this Plan there is a particular focus on the works required to meet NZ Drinking Water Standards for Hauraki District water supplies. (See Appendix 3 and page 287 of this Plan).

Broadband

The issues of Broadband, Broadband speeds and Broadband availability in rural areas are matters that are of growing interest and concern to people in Hauraki District. Council has already been involved in advocating for the provision of high speed Broadband availability in rural areas, along with other rural authorities.

Council has indicated that it will continue to be involved in advocating for the rural communities (including the commercial and industrial sectors) of Hauraki for high speed broadband.

Cemetery Conservation Plans

During 2007 Council considered a request, made at the Hearing of Submissions to its proposed Consolidated By-law, for the development of a Cemetery Conservation Plan for the Waihi Cemetery.

Council further considered a report that was supportive of the development of such a plan but noted that there were a number of cemeteries (public, private and Urupa) in the Hauraki District and that a broader approach to Cemetery Conservation Plans could be considered.

Council agreed to consider the issue further after the adoption of the Hauraki Community Plan 2009-19. The work will be undertaken sometime during the 2009/10 to 2010/11 years.

Climate Change

Council has developed a clear policy direction on climate change and through the Draft Hauraki Community Plan 2009-19, Council asked the community for its views on the options considered by Council.

Council will need to keep this policy under active review as the science and policy directives relating to climate change become more definite. Please refer to the climate change section on page 24.

Community Well-being

In the past three years Council has considerably enhanced its involvement with social service agencies, primarily in a facilitation and coordination role. This involvement arose directly as a result of the community wishes expressed through the Community Outcomes identification process.

Council expects to continue to maintain an interest and be involved in the coordination of social service agencies working together towards the promotion of Community Outcomes.

In most cases Council is not a service provider, but works in partnership with other agencies, with the aim of improving community well-being. To date this has been done predominantly by raising awareness through education campaigns aiming to reduce the harm that domestic violence, gambling and excessive liquor consumption can have. If other initiatives develop these will need to be considered based on the extent of the need at the time.

Consultative Processes

Council is required to maintain a significant number of policies as a result of many differing legislative requirements. Many of these policies are required to be regularly reviewed, involving public consultation.

The Hauraki Community Plan 2009-19 contains a number of policies that have been reviewed as part of the consultation for this Plan. These have now been adopted and are available on Councils website www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz.

Council has an indicative schedule of future policy reviews which can be seen in Appendix 2 of this Plan. Should you be interested in being consulted in any of these future reviews, this schedule gives you early notice of the review period.

Council Offices and Parking - Paeroa

The need for additional office space has been established in Paeroa, as Council already has the situation where two groups of Council staff are housed in a separate building as a temporary measure because of lack of office space. Future needs are currently being assessed with a view to Council considering the various options it has in the future, particularly for office space.

The need for additional Council car parking has also become apparent. Council has purchased the property on the corner of William Street and Marshall Street in Paeroa. The house has been removed and the site will be developed for Council car parking.

Council Libraries

During the discussion of the Council office space review, it was suggested that a new site for the Paeroa library may be considered. If this option is considered as a viable option, then either a new library for Paeroa would need to be built, or a building sourced to suit the needs of the relocated library. One benefit of such a move would be the ability to shift those council staff currently in a separate building back into the main office.

Library services at Ngatea may be reviewed in the future. There has been a suggestion made that a new facility may be possible with Hauraki Plains College and the Council Library combining into one community facility. The initial suggestion is that the proposed facility is unlikely to be sited on the College grounds. No discussion on this suggestion has yet occurred.

Discovery Centre - Waihi

At the time of writing this Plan, final investigations and project design were being completed for the proposed Gold Discovery Centre proposed to be constructed in Seddon

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Street, Waihi (see Community Growth Activity on Page 246 for further details).

The \$20 million project is being given some financial assistance by the Council as follows:

Activity	Estimate Value/Contribution	Estimate Timing (Y/E)	Status
Concept - final development	\$70,000	2008/09	Part Paid 2007
Consenting and peer review	\$115,000	2009	
Land transfer to NZ Mint	\$100,000	2009	
I-site development programme	\$30,000	2009	
I-site fit-out	\$120,000	2010	
Visitor Attraction development	\$75,000	2009	
Visitor Attraction fit-out	\$200,000	2010	
Rental Guarantee Bond Funding	\$100,000	2009	
Total Contribution:	\$810,000		

Note that the capital contributions requested by Vision Waihi Trust were for the following basis:

- A partnership contribution towards the finalising of the design concepts prior to handing over the construction process to the development company.
- Payment in-kind for consenting, regulatory processes and peer review services for the project.
- The transfer of two Council owned land titles at the top of Seddon Street to community ownership via Vision Waihi Trust.
- A contribution to the development and fit-out of the I-site component of the centre.
- A contribution towards the development and fit-out of the Visitor Attraction exhibition.

In addition to the above one-off capital contributions, an annual operating grant of

\$85,000 for a period of five years was approved by Council. This grant is subject to a report being prepared on the rating impact and a suitable service delivery agreement being reached.

The total value of contributions will be \$1,235,000.

Economic Climate

As the Hauraki Community Plan 2009-19 was being prepared it became obvious that there was going to be an increasingly difficult economic climate to work within and that Council would be affected by this along with all other Councils.

The extent and length of this more difficult operating environment is unknown, and Council will clearly be keeping the level of its services and programmes under constant review to ensure its expenditure is necessary and well controlled.

As indicated in other sections of the Plan Council has:

- Applied a cap to staff numbers and applied a "sinking lid" policy on the appointment of new staff.
- The closure and limiting of hours for some public toilets.
- Deferring seal extension works for two years (partly to address drought roading repairs).
- Rationalising the hours of operation of the Paeroa and Waihi transfer stations.
- Spreading the cost over several years of water capital expenditure required for meeting demand, environmental standards and drinking water standards.

Elections

The next election cycle for Local Government is in 2010. Although the Hauraki Community Plan 2009-19 sets the strategic goals for the Hauraki District Council, there may be some alterations driven by changes in elected membership that may impact on some Council activities and programmes.

Emissions Trading

The Climate Change Response Act 2002 put into place a legal framework to allow New Zealand to ratify the Kyoto Protocol and to meet its obligations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Subsequently the Climate Change Response (Emissions Trading) Amendment Act 2008 was enacted and was the legislative commitment by the New Zealand Government under the Kyoto Protocol and its obligations to limit carbon emissions. It also aimed to help New Zealand meet its international obligations to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions under the Kyoto Protocol and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

To allow a smooth transition across the economy, an emissions trading scheme had been planned to phase in across production sectors between 2008 and 2013. However, the new Government elected in November 2008, has committed to reviewing the Act (including the phase-in times for the various production sectors involved) or replacing it with a carbon trading scheme.

Council does not own and operate any major pastoral farming or landfill activities which would be subject to any carbon emissions controls.

Council has approximately 100 hectares of pre 1989 forestry. (See entry for Mangawara Forest below. If this does not sell the total will be approximately 140 hectares). If Council harvests any significant area of trees without replanting the land in trees that meet the emissions trading scheme criteria then it will become liable to purchase carbon credits. At this stage Council has no policy or programme to harvest these trees without a complying replanting programme.

Other than the possible effect of forestry harvesting noted above, the Act in its present form will only affect Council (ratepayers) as a consumer of products subject to the Act. These products include consumption of carbon based energy (including electricity) and wood products. Some budget allowances will be required in the future to meet these increased costs.

Fees and Charges

Fees and charges were proposed as part of the Draft Hauraki Community Plan 2009-19. They have now been adopted and reflect organisational policy, particularly the Revenue and Financing Policy. All fees and charges made by Council are subject to ongoing review to ensure:

- Continual compliance with the Revenue and Financing Policy.
- Any major changes to the costs of particular activities are fairly reflected.
- Legislative compliance.

Any future proposed amendments to the fees and charges during the life of the plan will be notified by way of public notice and will generally be subject to the Special Consultative Procedure.

A complete list of Councils fees and charges are available from Councils website www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz.

Graffiti

The Government has passed legislation which is designed to assist communities to deal with graffiti.

The Summary Offences Act 1981 has been changed to make it an offence to sell spray paint cans to anyone under 18 years old, and to ensure that spray paint cans are only available in retail outlets with the direct intervention of a staff member, e.g. locked away in a cupboard, or behind the counter. Since October 2007, Council has been working to ensure that retailers are aware of these requirements, and annual inspections of premises selling paint in spray cans will be implemented to ensure compliance with the new provisions.

The Department of Justice has also developed the Stop Tagging Our Place strategy ("STOP") which is a series of recommendations to communities on how they can work in partnership with the Police, community organisations, Council and other interested parties in their fight against graffiti. It recommends the development of local community "STOP" strategies so that each community can address, at a local level, the

issues and drivers around graffiti and methods to combat it.

During the life of this Plan Council will be working with the Police in order to advance their strategy. In addition Council will be developing its own graffiti strategy in order to respond to the requirements of the amended Summary Offences Act 1981.

Hugh Hayward Domain

Additional to the capital programmed for the Hugh Hayward Domain development, there is the possibility that toilet facilities will be considered to be added to the Domain to service the passing public and the users of the Domain.

Karangahake Gorge and Reserve

The Karangahake Gorge and reserve lands are recognised by the Council as being areas of great natural beauty with high heritage, landscape and amenity values.

The Karangahake Gorge and its facilities are subject to a rapidly growing number of visitors each year. Unlike many such tourist locations, the majority of visitors arrive by private vehicle rather than by bus or other group transport.

This growth in visitor numbers is expected to continue and the facilities (particularly parking, public toilets, reserves, tracks and transport access) will come under increasing pressure. Hauraki District Council, the NZ Transport Agency and the Department of Conservation will need to continually review the facilities provided, their ability to cope with visitor numbers and the increasing effect of the visitor numbers on the environment.

The effluent disposal system for the public toilets on the reserve was the subject of a major upgrade in 2008. In the next few years however, it is likely there will need to be an additional expansion to the public toilet facilities as demand continues to grow.

Over the period of this Plan Council will undertake continued monitoring of the area, and it is likely that further facilities and initiatives will be considered and potentially developed in conjunction with the community, Department of Conservation and other agencies.

Land Purchase, Development and Sale

The Council has ongoing roles in land purchase and development with the purpose of:

- Providing adequate land for the provision of infrastructural and community services now and into the future.
- Investing in land to allow the Council to subdivide this land for residential, industrial or commercial purposes.
- Progressing of Community Outcomes. It may be necessary to purchase, sell or trade land and buildings in order to contribute to progressing or achieving an Outcome.

Council cannot always signal its intention to buy or sell land through the Hauraki Community Plan or Annual Plan process, as in many cases it must make decisions when the opportunity arises and there can be a need for confidentiality to ensure that land prices remain competitive. However, all decisions will be considered through the appropriate decision-making processes depending on the land in question.

Local Community Plans

The Council has signalled that it is interested in the development of Local Community Plans which would see individual communities being consulted and having input into to local policy and priority setting.

Council has not yet considered the extent or number of these plans but will be developing a methodology and approach during 2009.

Council will be ensuring residents are aware of the programme and their opportunity to participate through the HDC News page in the Hauraki Herald newspaper and through other advertising and contact media.

Please see the 'policy development activity' section for further information.

Mangawara Forest

The Mangawara Forest is situated on Mangawara Road off State Highway 27, in the foothills of the Hapukekohe Range just south of Kaihere. It is an 87.4 hectare property with

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40.2 hectares planted mainly in pinus radiata by Council using government funded labour (Project Employment Programmes - PEP scheme) starting in 1981. The earlier planted trees are now at an age mature enough for harvesting.

Council has resolved to dispose of the forest block by tender providing a realistic price can be obtained. Should an appropriate price not be forthcoming Council will then consider other options including harvesting and land sale.

Mining

There are currently two significant mining operations in Waihi: the open pit Martha Mine and the underground Favona mine. During the life of this Plan both operations are scheduled to cease active mining, which will lead to the implementation of closure and rehabilitation works.

Hauraki District Council along with Environment Waikato, as consenting authorities, will be actively involved in these processes to ensure rehabilitation and closure plans are fully implemented. The timing and extent of the works are still to be finally determined.

Paeroa & District Historical Society

Council is aware that within the next three year period it will be approached by the Society with feasibility and funding proposal to make significant enhancements to the Paeroa and District Museum building.

The Society has been keeping Council informed of progress on proposals for this building but it was not far enough progressed for Council to give any firm commitment at the time the Hauraki Community Plan was adopted.

Potential District Plan Changes

Council is sometimes approached by developers or other interested parties to amend the District Plan through a Plan Change. In some circumstances Council itself requests a Plan Change. Requests usually consist of the rezoning of land in order to allow for the development of the land for residential

or industrial use, or in the case of Waihi, extensions to mining consents.

Council is unaware of any pending requests for a Plan Change, but it is likely that there will be requests during the life of this Plan.

Given that Council is currently undertaking a full review of its Operative District Plan, any requests for Plan Changes in the near future are likely to be incorporated into the District Plan review.

National Policy Statements and Environmental Standards

The Resource Management Act 1991 allows for the Government to set National Policy Statements and National Environmental Standards for resource management purposes, after undertaking public consultation in each case. Until recently there have been very few of either but a number have now been circulated and are under consultation.

Once adopted by the Government, these would automatically be deemed to be Statements and Standards in all Regional and Territorial Authority Proposed and Operative Plans. However some of those currently under consideration may be amended or dropped by the new Government.

At present the following new Policies and Standards are being considered and at the time of writing had the following status:

National Policy Statements	Status
Coastal Policy (proposed)	Board of Inquiry underway
Renewable Electricity Generation (proposed)	Hearings underway
Freshwater Management (proposed)	Hearings underway
Flood Risk Management	Board of Inquiry underway
Urban Design	Scoping underway
Measurement of Water Takes	Issue pending
Electricity Transmission	Cabinet approval pending
Ecological Flows and Water Levels	Consultation underway
On-Site Wastewater Systems	Consultation underway
Sea Level Rise	Scoping underway

Ngatea – Possible Greenwaste Station

Council has received requests for the establishment of a greenwaste station in Ngatea to service the Plains Ward. The Hauraki Community Plan 2009-19 makes provision for an investigation into the need for and viability of such a facility.

If a real demand is identified for such a facility (which may be on a restricted time basis) then Council may set aside additional funds to construct a facility in the future.

Opening Hours for Public Facilities

Council operates a number of public facilities such as offices, swimming pools, libraries and transfer stations. The operating hours form part of the service levels Council provides to the community.

Council will consider altering operating hours for these type of facilities where there is a demand for longer hours and will also consider shortening opening hours where the public demand reduces or where expense does not justify the hours.

This is always a matter for ongoing review as circumstances alter.

Public Toilets

In considering the financial estimates for the Hauraki Community Plan 2009–19, Council has indicated it wishes to undertake a full review of the provision of public toilet facilities within the Hauraki District. The number and siting of the current toilets often reflects historical rather than present demand.

This review may be undertaken as part of the Assessment of Water and Sanitary Services (outlined separately in this section) or it may be a separate exercise as part of the asset management plan. It is expected that the review will include public consultation.

At this stage future upgrade proposals that have been suggested include Ngatea and Karangahake public toilets.

Public Transport

Hauraki District Council, along with other funding partners (Environment Waikato, NZ Transport Agency and Matamata-Piako District Council) currently subsidises a daily return bus from Paeroa to Hamilton. There are a number of local mini vans and vehicles that also operate transport services in the Hauraki District.

If viable opportunities for collaboration or other means of efficient transport methods to cater for the needs of residents in the Hauraki District were identified, these would be considered for support and funding by the Council.

Rating Inquiry

Shortly after the Hauraki Community Plan 2006-16 was adopted the Government announced it had established an Independent Inquiry into Local Government rates.

The Inquiry reported in August 2007, making 97 recommendations to the Government and to local councils for changes to the way that:

- Local Government is funded.
- Councils manage their finances.
- Councils plan and explain their plans to the public.

In some areas such as the rating of Maori freehold land, and valuation, the previous Government had called for further information and discussion. In some other areas the previous Government had not made any decisions before the election was called. This includes decisions around the types of rates that councils are allowed to levy and whether some properties should be exempt from paying rates (mostly land owned by the Government).

All of the decisions made at the point of this Plan publication are expected to result in little or no change for most ratepayers.

The previous Government considered that rates are the best means of funding the services that councils provide. It rejected other alternatives such as providing councils with part of the money it collects from income tax or GST. The previous Government also considered that councils' finances are generally healthy and therefore that it need not

provide additional funding for local authorities as a group.

The new Government has not made it clear which of the recommendations it wants to adopt, if any. Until it does, Council, like most others, is not expecting to receive any additional funding as a result of the Inquiry, so it is unlikely there will be any real impact for ratepayers as a result.

Recreational Activities

A key part of Council activities is providing recreational opportunities for the community. For Hauraki District Council the types of recreational opportunities provided include swimming pools, skate parks, passive recreation reserves, netball courts and halls, amongst others.

However, the focus on the provisions may change due to an increasingly ageing population and the continuing reduction in the number of younger people. There are also a number of Government and Regional initiatives relating to the development of a more active and participative lifestyle approach.

In the future the types of recreational activities and facilities required by the community may vary and this may require consideration of different types of activities being provided or supported.

Council will respond, where agreed, to community needs for upgrading of, or provision of new infrastructure to meet growth demands or changing sporting and recreational needs. The community has indicated there may be demand for: multi-use outdoor areas such as day camping; an increase in the exercise equipment provided in playgrounds; providing mountain bike tracks; catering for rugby league; or a gymnasium.

Recycling

At present Council supports a number of recycling initiatives including kerbside recycling and recycling facilities and greenwaste collection at its transfer stations in Waihi and Paeroa.

The sale of recycled goods (paper, cardboard, glass, plastics, metal etc) by our recycling contractor is always subject to market

pressures which can see demand and prices vary quickly. Markets for some recycled goods can disappear entirely.

Council must react to these market pressures as the cost of recycling could increase to the point where the community is no longer willing to pay for it, either through rates or user charges.

The alternatives to recycling are limited and generally involve disposal to landfill or storage at landfill until market conditions improve.

The new Waste Minimisation Act 2008 allows for the establishment of a fund from the proposed levy on all waste taken to landfills; half this fund can be accessed by local authorities for community and education initiatives in the recycling areas. The criteria for this funding has yet to be established but was being worked on at the time of writing this Plan.

Council has budgeted \$26,100 for an ongoing programme for recycling education through schools. The programme (and its extent) will depend on if funding is made available from the above mentioned fund.

Regional Land Transport Programme

The Waikato Regional Transport Committee has prepared a Regional Land Transport Programme for the Waikato Region 2009/10 – 2011/12. This document was consulted on during March/April 2009 and as at the formalising of this Plan, it was being prepared for adoption. This document is important to the Hauraki District Council as it establishes the regional priority for many of the Districts transport activities including all state highway activities, local road improvements, walking and cycling and community road safety activities. It also discusses regional funding allocations for transportation projects to be allocated through the National Land Transport Fund.

If you would like a copy of the Regional Land Transport Programme please visit the Environment Waikato (Waikato Regional Council) website www.ew.govt.nz or request a copy of the Regional Land Transport Programme from Environment Waikato by phoning 0800 800 401.

See 'Consultation, Collaboration and Decision Making' section on page 118 for further detail on the Regional Land Transport Strategy.

Regional Policy Statements

Environment Waikato commenced a review of its Regional Policy Statements in 2008. This process could take between three and six years to complete.

Amendments to the Resource Management Act 1991 have given the Regional Council more scope for region-wide planning including transport, heritage, infrastructure, landscape and urban design.

Prior to the amendments to the Resource Management Act 1991, district plans could not be inconsistent with the regional policy statements. Now, the district plans must give effect to regional policy statements.

This is a much more rigid approach and the Regional Council could be very prescriptive in its policies, objectives and requirements for the Region. It could also take a significant amount of local decision making away from territorial authorities and replace this with prescriptive measures.

Council is hopeful that Environment Waikato will take an inclusive approach to the review. It has established a Reference Group consisting of representatives of all its constituent territorial authorities along with regional representation, to try to develop the new statements in an agreed and cooperative way. The process is expected to be an expensive one for all concerned as each authority will need to analyse the effect of the new policies and objectives and amend district plans accordingly. Allowance has been made in the strategic planning budget for work on these statements.

Resource Management Act 1991

The previous Government signalled that proposed changes to the Resource Management Act 1991 could potentially result in the need for councils to gain accreditation for the supply and processing of resource consents. With the recent change of Government however, Council is currently unsure of whether or not this is likely to happen.

The new Government has signalled that a high priority will be given to amending the Resource Management Act 1991 in areas such as matters of national importance, submission opportunities, and streamlining of processing. A change in legislation has already been made since the new Government was announced, and further changes are expected in the near future. If legislative amendments require this, Council will be amending internal processes and its Operative District Plan.

Rural Community Halls

Council provides four main halls and event centre facilities, but actually assists a further 11 community halls that are administered by local committees and are funded by way of hall rates over local hall rating areas. Council has no involvement in the ownership or administration of these halls other than making a grant for insurance payments.

Council has signalled recently that it would like to undertake a review of its relationships with the Hall Committees, the future need for community halls, their funding and the demand placed on them by their respective Communities. The results of this review may see a long term change in the number of these halls and a different approach in the way that Council has involvement with these facilities. This review is programmed to occur during the life of this Plan.

Some hall committees will also be considering future funding for their halls and the areas for inclusion in Hall Rating Areas.

Sale of Reserve Land

In general terms the sale of reserve land requires a separate public consultation process. Council is not planning to sell or otherwise dispose of any of its significant reserves.

Sustainability

Through the Hauraki Community Plan 2009-19, Council has signalled its commitment to improving sustainable approaches in the services it provides. There may be a number of initiatives that are developed over the next three years as a result of this commitment. Such initiatives could include partnership

approaches. See page 19 for Councils approach to sustainability.

Swimming Facilities – Waihi

While Paeroa and Ngatea have ward funded swimming facilities owned and operated by Council, Waihi does not. Council provides an annual operating grant to the Waihi Community Baths Committee to allow for public access to the college pool when not being used for college purposes.

There has been a desire from some in the Waihi community for Council to provide a heated swimming pool facility in Waihi, owned and operated by Council.

While some initial investigations and discussions have occurred (and submissions made through past Annual Plan and Long Term Plan submission processes) no firm proposal has been developed for Council's consideration

Council's preferred option is to see all three towns having a pool with similar facilities and service levels. Council will investigate the feasibility of being able to operate the Waihi College pool on this basis. At present the Waihi College pool is owned by the Ministry of Education and operated by a College Committee. Discussions will obviously be needed with these organisations.

Tetley's Quarry

Council currently operates a quarry at Steen Road, Waitakaruru. Any financial surpluses from the quarry operation are used to reduce the general rate.

While Council has no immediate plans to alter the operational methodology at Tetley's Quarry or any programme to lease or dispose of the quarry asset, these options are always available to Council in considering the wise use of Council's resources.

Thames Valley Deerstalkers Association

The Thames Valley Deerstalkers Association has been awarded the hosting rights to the 2011 World English Sporting World Championships. This championship discipline

involves double combinations of clay targets rather than a single clay target. The word "English" refers to the type of shooting, not ethnicity.

This is a major event for Paeroa as there are often over 500-600 competitors at world championships. The Association is currently developing a detailed budget and strategic plan for the event and has approached Council to advise that it will be seeking some assistance towards the event in due course.

Council has indicated that it would be willing to facilitate some issues and assist with others if the appropriate opportunity arises. It will consider what improvements may be needed to Morrison Road as the traffic on the road as a result of the event will increase significantly.

Town Promotional Organisations

During the term of this Plan the Council will be undertaking a review of the role and funding for Town promotional organisations.

Over the past few years these roles have been developing and the basis for the original funding may have changed. At this stage no timetable has been set for this review.

Triennial Survey

Council is committed to undertaking a survey every three years of Hauraki residents and ratepayers. The purpose of the survey is to assess levels of satisfaction with Council services and facilities as well as gauging community opinion on social, economic, environmental and cultural well-beings and possible future Community Outcome directions. Council also uses the survey to assess the levels of service it provides through its activities and to identify possible new levels of service required by the community.

The next survey is due in 2010. There may be a need to reassess some aspects of Council operations if the survey indicates there is significant demand.

Waihi Events Centre

Discussions on a possible extension to the eastern side of the Waihi Events Centre to house a small gymnasium are in progress with

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the Waihi Sport and Recreation Group. An allowance has been made in the budget to investigate this proposal.

If the proposal is agreed to after this investigation then further budget provisions will need to be made for its construction.

Waihi Hazard Zones

Council received the updated Geological and Nuclear Science (GNS) Hazard Zone Assessment Report in late 2008. The hazard zones define areas above old workings and stopes where it is possible surface deformations may occur. Council accepted the reports recommendations that:

- A new hazard area is included immediately to the east of the existing pit (all on land owned by Waihi Newmont Gold).
- The existing zone be extended over the old stopes below the existing pit.
- Additional monitoring is undertaken on the southern side of the pit extending further south over Seddon Street.

Council has commenced this work by seeking advice on the type and extent of monitoring needed. Once this is finalised, monitoring points will be established and surveying will be undertaken on a regular basis.

Council will be seeking partnership assistance for the on-going funding of this monitoring from the relevant government agencies.

An estimate of the annual cost of \$37,500 (net of assistance) has been included in this Plan but once actual costs are known the amount allowed for may have to be varied.

Waihi Social Development Group

The Waihi Social Development Group (WSDG) was established in 2004/5 as part of the Waihi Community Vision to consider the future of Waihi post mining. It has a focus on the delivery of social and community services for the Waihi District and the identification of gaps in existing services. It also has a coordination/facilitation role in these areas.

The WSDG has a goal of developing a Social Services Village in Waihi (Pukewa Village).

The Council has resolved to support this in principle.

Walkways and Cycleways

At present there are a number of walkway and cycleway initiatives being investigated or developed in the Hauraki District.

There is an active walkway group in Waihi that is extending a series of walkways in the town.

Another group is looking at further developing the existing Department of Conservation walkway/cycleway through the Karangahake Gorge to become a walkway/cycleway from Waihi to Paeroa, with future possibilities including linkage to walkways to Thames and Te Aroha. This project will potentially be made possible by utilising the old railway corridors between these towns. The initial planning has commenced but more investigation and planning is needed before the project can be confirmed. Council may consider supporting this initiative in the future.

The Council is also aware that there are a number of walkway/cycleway proposals/initiatives being discussed at a national level. Council will consider future opportunities to be involved with these should the proposals develop further.

Walking and Cycling Strategy

The Land Transport Management Act 2003 introduced a number of new features to national policy on land transport. These included a focus on walking and cycling as methods of transport that required further consideration. The Act also gave walking and cycling an increased level of importance in national, regional and local transport planning. To meet these new legislative requirements policies are being developed at a national, regional and local level.

Hauraki District Council is currently developing a strategy on walking and cycling. This draft strategy, due in 2009, will be open for public consultation when it is prepared.

Waste Minimisation and Waste Management Plan

Council has a current Solid Waste Management Plan which was adopted in 2002. The most recent initiative from the plan by the Council was the introduction of pre-paid bags and kerbside recycling in 2008.

Council was considering the need to review this Plan until the Waste Minimisation Bill was presented to parliament.

The Bill was subsequently passed into law in September 2008. Its purpose is to protect the environment from harm with a focus on reduction, reuse, recycling and recovery of solid waste. It contains major new directives and directions for the management of the solid waste stream including:

- Life of product responsibilities.
- Landfill levies.
- The creation of a new Board to advise the Minister on waste minimisation issues.
- New responsibilities for Local Government including the development of a new Waste Management and Minimisation Plan by 2012.

As a result of the new legislation Council resolved to develop a new Waste Management and Minimisation Plan rather than review the current one. This is programmed to occur in the period 2009-11.

See appendix 4 for the *Summary of Waste Management Plan* on page 290 for further details.