

Consultation, Collaboration & Decision-making

What topics are covered in this section?

This section describes how Council is committed to dialogue and consultation with its community and other organisations both locally, regionally and nationally. It also explores Council's decision-making process and the rationale behind that process.

In addition, this section will briefly describe a variety of collaborative projects that the Council is proud to be part of. Within these collaborative projects Council takes a wide range of roles, from advocate to leader.



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- Local Authority Shared Service Limited
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Consultation and Decision-making

Council's commitment to dialogue

The Local Government Act 2002 establishes principles and procedures that Council must apply when undertaking consultation processes. However, it does not define what consultation is.

Consultation is the dialogue that precedes decision-making. Consultation is the genuine exchange of information, points of view and options between affected and interested people and decision-makers before a final decision is made.

Consultation is not:

- Solely providing information.
- Always about reaching agreement or consensus.
- Always about negotiation.

Council has adopted a policy on consultation to provide guidance on future consultation initiatives. This policy identifies:

- Council's commitment to consultation.
- Types of consultation.
- The Special Consultative Procedure.
- Statutory compliance.
- Consultation processes.
- Areas where Council may exercise its discretion.

Council takes pride in the way it communicates with the public. As an organisation responsible to the communities it serves, Hauraki District Council is committed to ongoing and effective consultation and as such Council has a Consultation Policy more extensive than that required under the Local Government Act 2002.

Council's commitment to consultation demonstrates its wish to provide opportunities for the community and stakeholders to actively participate in decisions for the future well-being of the Hauraki District.

The weekly 'HDC News' page published in the local paper, the Hauraki Herald, is a good way of regularly keeping the community informed on what is happening within Council. Also, forums on topics of interest are held to inform particular interest groups on 'best practice' methods or recent legislative changes. Council's website www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz is also a good avenue for communication and known to be a simple, effective and informative site.

How does Council communicate with the Community?

Legislative Consultation

The Local Government Act 2002 states that councils must consult on any decision or other matter that is considered to be significant. Council therefore has a Significance Policy. The process by which Council must consult on a significant decision is called a 'Special Consultative Procedure'. A summary of, and a full version of, the proposed project or plan must be made available to the public and be publicly notified. A minimum of 30 days is to be

allowed for submissions to be received on the proposal, and hearings must be set to allow submitters to present their submissions in person to elected members of the Council.

Over and above consultation requirements, the Local Government Official Information and Meeting Act 1987 (LGOIMA) states the basis on which the public can require Council to provide information it holds on any matter. While there are a limited number of restrictions relating to personal privacy, commercial sensitivity, legal privilege and similar matters, generally most

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information held by the Council is available to the public. Council can recover any cost that occurs when making information available.

Non-legislative consultation

Council communicates regularly with its residents, ratepayers and the public in a number of ways. The internet, weekly newspaper publications, and a weekly report to the local radio station by the Mayor are all examples of communication that Council offers.

Website

The Hauraki District Council website, www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz, contains regularly updated information on Council's activities such as:

- Information and maps of our district.
- Customer Services - fees & charges, forms, dog registration, building, liquor licensing, LIMs, rates, pool fencing, water meters.
- Documents - bylaws, Annual and Long-term Plans, District Plan & maps, policies, Council minutes.
- Services and Facilities - cemeteries (including an online search of cemetery records), offices, halls, libraries, swimming pools, service requests, pensioner flats.
- Also Civil Defence information, news, community calendar and situations vacant.

HDC News Page

A news page is published weekly in the Hauraki Herald (page 7). This page contains:

- Public notices, tender notices and situations vacant for Council.
- Notification of upcoming Council meetings.

- Notification of plans, policies and strategies to be or being consulted on.
- Articles on current happenings within the Hauraki District.
- Discussions and information on events and projects Council is involved with.

Local Governance Statement

Hauraki District Council has published a Local Governance Statement. The Local Governance Statement is a document that is a collection of information about the processes through which Council engages with the community, how Council makes decisions and how the community can influence those processes. A Local Governance Statement supports the purpose of Local Government by promoting local democracy; and by providing the community with information on ways to influence local democratic process and decision-making.

Triennial Survey

Another method of communication includes Council's triennial survey, which surveys District residents and ratepayers and provides feedback to assist Council in its decision-making processes.

In general, the purpose of the survey is to:

- Identify satisfaction levels with Community Outcomes.
- Measure progress towards achievement of Community Outcomes.
- Measure satisfaction with levels of services provided by the Council.
- Seek public opinion on future projects or issues.

Council endeavours to keep the level of satisfaction questions the same in order to enable the measurement of trends over a period of time.

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Levels of Service Review 2008

In preparation for the Hauraki Community Plan 2009-19, Council undertook an extensive review of the levels of service it provides.

The objective was to establish whether or not Council was providing 'value for money' at an acceptable level across Council assets and services.

Bus tours

To consult with the public on such a wide range of services, Council had to design a process that not only sparked interest for people to take part but also provided them with the information to make an informed decision. It was decided to invite people in each Ward to take a bus tour of the Hauraki District to see first-hand the assets Council provides. In June 2008, 65 people from across the district took part in two district tours. A third tour was scheduled, but at the last minute cancelled due to a road closure within the Karangahake Gorge (questionnaires were completed by the people due to go on the tour).

The bus tours visited wastewater and water treatment plants, parks and reserves, transfer stations, land drainage sites, halls and economic development initiatives.

To support the tour an information workbook was produced on all the assets and services. The information provided statistical data, current levels of services, current rates costs and links to Community Outcomes, which gave participants an insight into the asset or service and level of service provided. The workbook included four questions for every asset/service relating to: values, issues and whether or not the level of service should be reduced, left the same or increased. If the answer was to increase the level of service, then the participant was asked how much to increase the rates charges in order to increase that particular service.

The response from participants was positive, particularly due to the fact that the majority had not been aware of or seen the full range of services Council provided before.



Focus group consultation

In addition to the bus tours, stakeholder, business and community focus group workshops were organised outside of work hours.

The focus groups were a useful supporting tool to the tours, however those taking part in the focus group consultation did agree that being able to view the service/s and levels of service would have been an advantage in making a more informed decision.



Result

In total, 188 people took part in the collective review and provided Council with interesting and useful feedback. Across the board, participants were satisfied to very satisfied with the levels of service provided, and satisfied that the current rate/s being charged were adequate.

From the feedback given, Council has taken into consideration that the participants sought increased maintenance and improved quality

of maintenance in order to maintain or improve the level of service at the current cost/s. In some instances this is not possible due to increased costs and depreciation; however the comments have been noted.

The Levels of Service Review has helped provide Council with valuable direction as asset management plans and capital works programmes for the 2009–19 period were prepared.

How will Council work with Maori?

The Local Government Act 2002 places additional responsibilities on Council to consult with Maori and to involve Maori in decision-making processes. It also encourages Council to assist Maori to take part in Local Government processes.

Council has identified seven Iwi groups as having Tangata Whenua status within the District. It also acknowledges some Maori in the District do not have Tangata Whenua status but as 'visitors' (taurahere) are included in these responsibilities.

Council is actively encouraging the development of additional Memoranda of Partnership with Iwi groups and will, during the course of this Hauraki Community Plan, seek to work with Maori on fostering and developing Maori involvement in Local Government.

Council will be considering:

- Identifying matters and areas of interest to Hauraki Iwi.
- Consultation.
- Capacity building of Maori to take part in decision-making processes.
- Provision of information.
- Timetable for development of initiatives.

Iwi liaison has been identified as a separate Activity on page 152 of this Plan.

Iwi Liaison Forum

Council is currently in ongoing dialogue with Tangata Whenua discussing the establishment of an Iwi Liaison Forum. All parties are hoping to develop a mechanism where the opportunity for discussion, dialogue and ongoing exchange of views can be fostered and encouraged.

Council acknowledges its responsibility under the Local Government Act 2002 to:

- Have continuing consultation with Tangata Whenua.
- Consider options for capacity building of Tangata Whenua to better enable their participation in decision-making processes.

The Forum is seen as a potentially valuable mechanism for furthering these relationships.

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Consultation and Decision-making

Summary of decision-making processes

Section 14(1)(a)(i) of the Local Government Act 2002 requires local authorities to transparently show the reasoning behind why a decision has been made. There are numerous legislative requirements a local authority must take account of and these include:

- Present and future community interests and needs.
- Community well-being.
- The ability to sustain future development.
- Opportunity for Maori to contribute to decision-making processes.

Hauraki District Council has implemented a decision-making framework to ensure all decisions are made in a democratically accountable manner. This framework guides the extent of consideration a decision requires and is designed to ensure that the community, staff and elected members have a consistent and thorough understanding of each stage in the decision-making process.

Some decisions (as demonstrated by the decision-making framework) cannot be made unless 'explicitly provided for' in the Hauraki Community Plan. These include decisions to significantly alter an intended level of service for a significant activity, to transfer ownership or control of a strategic asset, or to construct, replace or abandon a strategic asset.

Those decisions that do not fall into the above category, yet are considered by management and Council to require a thorough transparent reporting process (but do not trigger the Significance Policy), are subject to an extensive but less rigorous process, e.g. when either a new or amended policy is being considered or when capital projects or minor changes in levels of service are being considered by Council. Operational decisions will generally not be subject to these strategic decision-making processes as they are the responsibility of the Chief Executive.

A copy of the complete consultation policy and decision-making framework can be obtained by contacting Council by phone on 07 862 8609 or call free 0800 734 834 (within the District).

Hauraki Youth promoting Sustainability for Hauraki

My name is Asia and my speech today is about Recycling.

I think we should recycle because if we recycle those things we are using, we can use them over and over again.

If we recycle paper we are saving our oxygen because if we cut down our trees we will have no oxygen then we could die.

If we recycle cardboard it will go to a factory and it will get made into new cardboard.

If we recycle glass it will get made into new glass.

If we recycle plastic it will get made into new milk bottles.

So we should recycle because it is saving our earth.

Asia

Asia Searancke
Paeroa Central School

Collaborative Projects

Working with others

The following collaborative projects are supported by Council in order to either advance community well-being or improve one or more of the Community Outcomes. In some cases they also help Council to achieve better levels of service, or economies of scale.

Council encourages the use of shared resources in order to act as sustainably as possible, and strives to conduct business efficiently by collaborating with other organisations where possible.

Council will investigate and implement other opportunities as they arise. These will be in support of enhancing Community Well-being and improving the Hauraki Community Outcomes.

Apprenticeship Scheme

Council is currently working with the Ministry of Social Development, the Mayors Task Force for Jobs, Wintec and various businesses throughout the District to advocate and facilitate mechanical engineering apprenticeships. It is hoped that the provision of this course within the Hauraki District will encourage some of the Districts youth to live, study and stay in the Hauraki District.

Better Futures Hauraki

Following the Community Outcomes identification process in 2005/06, Council, along with Ministry of Social Development, Hauraki Family Violence Intervention Network, Waikato District Health Board and New Zealand Police amongst a number of other agencies undertook a local mapping exercise. The objective was to identify all social service agencies within the District, and the services that they were providing, in order to gauge whether there were any gaps or disparities.

From this project, 'youth' were identified as a key group needing attention, and two visions were prescribed:

- To provide nurturing and safe home environments for all Hauraki Children.

- To encourage positive engagement with education, work and the community for all Hauraki Young People.

In order to take steps to achieve these goals, a forum now meets quarterly to discuss ideas and initiate actions both at a practitioner and at a governance level.

Business after Five

Council work with the Business after Five group in order to provide the business community with networking opportunities and updates on activities in the area, particularly from Council and town promotion groups.

Choosing Futures Waikato

All local authorities in the Waikato Region are presently working together to develop a common process for consultation, identification and monitoring of Waikato Regional Community Outcomes. Choosing Futures Waikato is the project name, and Council staff meet regularly through a number of forums and workshops including the strategic planner's network and the MARCO group (Monitoring and Reporting of Community Outcomes) in order to progress methodology.

This work includes involving national, regional and local organisations and iwi in identifying:

- Methodologies for monitoring Community Outcomes identified during the 2005 Outcomes identification process.
- Suitable indicators for measurement towards the achievement of Outcomes.
- A reporting mechanism that allows everyone the opportunity to report on their organisations role in the achievement of Outcomes.

Regional Outcomes are reported by Environment Waikato and can be found on their website, www.ew.govt.nz.

See also 'monitoring and reporting on Community Outcomes', and 'strategic planners' network' in this section.

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Community Services Partnerships

Council has a variety of partnership arrangements with a number of sporting and recreational clubs and government organisations. All relate to the management of activities on domains and/ or reserves and vary from providing financial assistance, to making available land for club rooms, mowing and marking sports fields and managing growth.

The partnerships are:

- Hauraki Plains Hockey - This is a lease of land agreement on the Hugh Hayward Domain, Ngatea. Council considers this partnership to be beneficial to the District.
- Other Sporting Clubs - Council has a variety of partnership agreements with many sporting clubs: rugby, rugby league, touch rugby, soccer, athletics, netball, tennis, croquet, equestrian and outdoor bowls. Many of these clubs have their own clubrooms on Council land for which they pay a minimal annual fee, if any.
- Karangahake Reserve (Car park area) - Council has established a partnership between Department of Conservation and New Zealand Transport Agency to focus on the increasing popularity of the Karangahake Reserve. Department of Conservation are developing additional walkways and huts in the park which in turn is attracting larger numbers of visitors each year, putting further pressure on roads, access and entry areas, car parking, toilets and solid waste facilities.

Coromandel Customer Care

This is a collaborative project which runs in conjunction with Wintec and Council. This project provides (at a minimal cost) customer care workshops for businesses within the region including updates on attractions in the region. The aim is to promote customer care and therefore sustainable businesses within the District providing for the development of tourism and business opportunities.

Council's relationship with Regional Council - Environment Waikato (EW)

Given that most of the drainage and surface flooding in Hauraki is disposed of through Environment Waikato floodgates and pump stations to the main river channels of the Piako

and Waihou Rivers, it is important that a close working relationship is maintained with Environment Waikato. Council does this by appointing a Councillor to serve with District landowners selected by Environment Waikato as representatives to the Environment Waikato Waihou-Piako Liaison sub-committee.

There is also a close and cooperative relationship between Environment Waikato and Council at three other levels:

- Councillors and Chief Executives through consultation and meetings.
- Management of both Councils through forums, and meetings.
- Staff of both councils for the inspection and operation of floodgates and pump stations, particularly in emergency situations.

Council can and does plan ahead for consent renewals as part of its asset management planning process and has an on-going relationship with Environment Waikato to ensure it is familiar with proposed or changing requirements.

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Enviroschools

Enviroschools is an initiative operated by Environment Waikato where local Councils fund facilitated workshops in the respective districts. Schools are visited, and the purpose of the programmes is to educate children on creating environmental and educational outcomes that benefit the school and the wider community.

Domestic violence

In conjunction with the Hauraki Family Violence Intervention Network, Council is making steps to progress its Domestic Violence Policy, adopted in 2007. In 2008, Council along with CAPS Hauraki; Child, Youth and Family Services; Hauraki Family Violence Intervention Network; Hauraki Safety Network; NZ Police; Relationship Services; Thames-Coromandel District Council; and Women's Refuge, supported White Ribbon Day through advocating against violence.

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Emergency Management (Civil Defence)

Emergency Management responsibilities are cooperative and operate on two levels.

At the regional level the Waikato Civil Defence and Emergency Management Group (WCDEMG) represents the Regional Council and all 10 constituent territorial authorities for planning and implementing emergency management matters. It has an Operative Emergency Management Plan and the Group is administered by the Waikato Regional Council.

The District Councils of Hauraki, Thames Coromandel and Matamata-Piako form a sub-regional grouping (Thames Valley Emergency Operating Area) for emergency management planning and response.

This Group has an Operating Plan and is controlled by a Joint Committee. It is administered by Thames-Coromandel District Council.

Energy Supply Contract

A contract for the supply of electrical energy was let jointly with other local authorities in the former Power New Zealand area, including Matamata-Piako, South Waikato, Kapiti and Rodney District Councils as well as Landcorp.

This contract covers all electricity supplies to these organisations.

The contract is in the process of being re-tendered.

“Get A Life! ’08. Skills for you. Skills for the Waikato”

‘Get a Life’ was a month long campaign which involved organisations in the Waikato working collaboratively to address the labour skill shortages and the level of school-leaver qualifications in the Waikato.

During May 2009, 41 career, training and work-related events were organised through a combination of schools, businesses, training providers, non-profit organisations, and hospitals, amongst others. Through the sharing of publicity and promotions, a range of options for learning more about skills, work and

careers, for students, teachers, parents, employers, employees and career changers was provided. Council was involved in an advocacy role and anticipates continuing this role in the future.

Hauraki Coromandel Development Group

This group is a joint committee of Hauraki and Thames-Coromandel Districts and is a partnership with Central Government that focuses on helping to further local projects.

Current projects that the Hauraki Coromandel Development Group are involved with include:

- Development of commercial activity in the Karangahake Gorge.
- Facilitating leadership programmes.
- Instigating the Coromandel Customer Care project in conjunction with Wintec.
- Development of the aquaculture industry.
- Supporting the mineral reserves industry.

Hauraki Plains – Hazard Assessment

Hauraki District Council and Environment Waikato jointly reviewed hazard and risk assessment issues on the Hauraki Plains. This review has been undertaken as both Councils have major infrastructural assets on the Hauraki Plains relating to the Waihou and Piako River Schemes, including drainage, flood control and foreshore stopbanks.

The assessment, entitled “An Overview of Natural Hazards in the Hauraki District”, can be viewed on Environment Waikato’s website www.ew.govt.nz. The analysis covered all natural hazards but had a focus on the areas of largest risk; being flooding, weather extremes and climate change.

The current infrastructure’s ability to provide the levels of protection needed, if climate change and sea level rise affect this area, needs to be assessed.

Work has commenced in the climate change policy area and public feedback was sought on the initial policy objectives as part of the development of this Plan. See page 17.

Integrated Transport Strategy

Driven by Environment Waikato, Council works with Matamata-Piako District Council and Thames-Coromandel District Council to address the transportation needs of the Eastern Waikato District, by identifying opportunities for integrated transportation, for a multitude of transportation modes.

Labour Market Strategy

In November 2007, Hauraki District Council, along with Department of Labour, Hauraki Enterprise Agency, Ministry of Social Development, OPC Fish & Lobster Ltd, Thames-Coromandel District Council and Wintec as well as other agencies, prepared a Labour Market Strategy.

This strategy is now being implemented in association with these agencies with seven key themes being focused on including:

- Education and Workforce Development
- Business and Industry
- Housing
- Seasonality
- Transport and Infrastructure
- Culture and Social Issues
- Health

Further information on the Labour Market Strategy and Hauraki Coromandel Careers, is available on www.haurakicoromandel.co.nz

Land Transport Programme

The Council prepares an annual Land Transport Programme. This is a maintenance, renewal and capital development programme for subsidised works spanning a 10 year period. This programme is considered by New Zealand Transport Agency in the course of the approval of Council's financial assistance from the National Roads Fund.

The 2009/10 Land Transport Programme as it relates to Hauraki District is incorporated in the Hauraki Community Plan 2009-19. The consultation process of the Draft Hauraki Community Plan 2009-19 serves also to satisfy the consultation requirements for the Land Transport Programme in terms of Sections 15

and 16 of the Land Transport Management Act 2003.

See the Rooding Activity on page 174 for further information.

Libraries

Through its library activity, Council currently provides outside services to a number of agencies, along with working in collaboration to provide increased levels of service as follows:

- A regular delivery of books is provided to the residents of Hetherington House rest home.
- Initiatives are regularly undertaken with local schools both during school time, and through the promotion of programmes such as story reading programmes at the library during school holidays.
- General collaboration takes place with other libraries in the greater Waikato region and the National Library in order to help provide the best service possible to residents. These services include encouraging the use of libraries by schools, training opportunities and inter-library loaning.

Liquor Advisory Group

Hauraki District Council, New Zealand Police and the Waikato District Health Board make up a Liquor Advisory Group that meets quarterly to discuss and address liquor related issues and problems that may arise in the liquor environment. This includes discussing if liquor regulations are appropriate.

Local Government New Zealand

Local Government New Zealand is an organisation that represents the national voice of Local Government with the intention of ensuring effective local governance throughout New Zealand. Local Government New Zealand advocates on behalf of local authorities, and promotes and encourages best practise approaches.

Quarterly meetings are held with councils within regions, to provide networking opportunities between councils, to share best practice approaches, to provide opportunity for working forums to be established on a

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geographic basis, and to provide direct two-way communication opportunities between local authorities and Local Government New Zealand.

Monitoring and reporting on Community Outcomes

The Local Government Act 2002 states that Council is required to report on its own contribution towards the community's identified Community Outcomes every year through the Annual Report. In addition to this, Council is also required to report back to the community every three years on how the Community Outcomes have been contributed to by all stakeholders involved, including government organisations and community groups.

Council's first report of the Hauraki Community Outcomes is due to be prepared in 2009/10, and considerable collaboration with other organisations will be needed in order to prepare it.

Positive Ageing Strategy

Council is working to achieve the goals set out in the Hauraki District Council Positive Ageing Strategy. In 2008 Council held a series of forums to help in the celebration of *Older Persons Day*. In conjunction with Sport Waikato and Grey Power, the opportunity was provided for two-way communication with the older persons of the District. This method of communication is expected to continue in the future, with other agencies, becoming involved.

Refuse disposal contract

The refuse disposal contract has been jointly negotiated with Thames-Coromandel and Matamata-Piako District Councils, for disposal of refuse to the modern landfill situated at the old Tirohia Quarry site.

Road Safety

Hauraki District Council in conjunction with Thames Coromandel District Council, Matamata-Piako District Council, Accident Compensation Corporation (ACC), Environment Waikato, NZ Police and New Zealand Transport Agency are collaboratively

working towards improving sub-regional road safety.

A Road Safety Action Plan has been developed. The Safety Action Plan focuses on driver behaviour (fatigue, failing to keep left, inattention and use of helmets) and known hot (dangerous) spots such as the Karangahake Gorge, Kopu-Hikuai Road, Thames Coast Road and State Highway 27 at Patetonga. It also focuses on community education programmes, the encouragement of community safety initiatives and the provision of resources to assist improving the safety of roads.

In order to implement the Road Safety Action Plan, annual resources will be agreed jointly by New Zealand Transport Agency, NZ Police, Matamata-Piako District Council, Thames Coromandel District Council and Hauraki District Council. This Road Action Plan will identify the key road safety issues facing the Eastern Waikato Districts, the actions for addressing these issues, and the methods of monitoring and reporting to show these actions are being progressed and achieved.

Each year specific resources are agreed upon between New Zealand Transport Agency, NZ Police, and Council for delivery of the services, identified below, at the local level.

New Zealand Police

For all roads in the Hauraki District, both highways and local roads the New Zealand Police undertake the following functions:

- Speed control
- Drink or drug driver enforcement
- Seatbelt use and education
- Visible road safety enforcement

Network-wide road policing:

- Commercial vehicle investigation and road user charges
- Crash attendance and investigation
- Traffic management

General road policing support:

- Police community services
- School road safety education

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New Zealand Transport Agency

This agency undertakes the following functions:

- Policy advice
- Safety information and promotion
- Driver licensing
- Subsidy on Council's roading network costs
- Safety auditing
- Vehicle impoundment

Hauraki District Council

Council cooperates with the New Zealand Transport Agency, Environment Waikato, neighbouring district councils, Accident Compensation Corporation and various other agencies in delivering roading network services to the Hauraki District.

Combined tendering process for road works

Hauraki District Council works with Thames Coromandel District Council for tendering processes, for Professional Services, Annual Sealing Contracts and in the future will be looking to consider the combined tendering for street lighting projects.

Rural fire

Each territorial authority in New Zealand has responsibility for planning for and responding to rural fires.

To meet these responsibilities Hauraki District has combined with Matamata-Piako and Thames Coromandel Districts to form a Joint Committee to meet and fund their combined responsibilities over the Thames Valley region.

Each authority has trained rural fire staff that can respond at a local or regional level. The Joint Committee has an Operative Rural Fire Plan, employs a Principal Rural Fire Officer and is administered by the Thames Coromandel District Council.

Waikato Regional Land Transport Strategy (RLTS) 2006-16

The Waikato Regional Land Transport Strategy became operative on 29 November 2006. The RLTS is the overriding plan for all land transport matters in the region. The purpose of the RLTS is to provide a framework for developing, maintaining and protecting the land transport system in the Waikato Region over the next 10 to 20 years.

The RLTS sets a direction to move the Waikato region away from a traditional road based transport system to a multi-modal integrated transport system based upon a set of priorities, decision-making and focused investment on strategic goals. The RLTS focuses on two key foundations:

- Focusing development on strategic corridors.
- Managing travel demand and encouraging alternative modes of transport.

The strategy will guide the future investments in road, rail, walking and cycling and passenger transport services to ensure an integrated, safe, responsive and sustainable land transport system into the future. Over time, implementation of the strategy will change the nature of the Waikato region's land transport system to one that better:

- Promotes and supports economic development, locally and nationally.
- Manages and sets priorities for funding for land transport projects for the next decade.
- Recognises the critical role that alternative modes such as passenger transport, walking and cycling and rail freight play in achieving economic and societal goals and delivering on public health and environment objectives.
- Provides access and mobility for all people in the region.
- Manages demand for private vehicle use, and provides real alternatives.
- Encourages freight haulage to shift from road to rail.

What does the RLTS mean for Hauraki District Council?

The RLTS relies on key transport stakeholders for its implementation and contains a number of specific actions that Hauraki District Council is responsible for. Council, in conjunction with regional transport partners, has been working collaboratively to implement the RLTS since its adoption.

The RLTS is also important to the District's transport planning and funding, as projects and activities proposed by Council must be consistent with the strategy incorporated in the Regional Land Transport Programme for national funding subsidies. In other words, the strategy has guided land transport investment for the District and become a major input into the Hauraki Community Plan 2009-19 planning process.

The next RLTS

The Land Transport Management Amendment Act 2008 has introduced changes relating to the requirements and preparation of regional land transport strategies. This includes moving the requirement to prepare and review a RLTS from a three yearly to six yearly cycle. The Amendment also requires a RLTS to cover a period of 30 years, recognising the long-term nature of transport investment.

Environment Waikato is planning for the review of the RLTS this year. The review of the RLTS will be completed in 2010/11. Hauraki District Council will be working closely with Environment Waikato and other regional transport partners in the process.

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Social Services

As a result of an increase in requests from social groups for funding to help with their organisations operations, Council has created a Contestable Social Fund. This initiative has resulted in funds being allocated for organisations to apply for to help assist their projects, in a manner that is equitable and effective and helps to strengthen the links between social service stakeholders, related Community Outcomes, community well-being and Council's other policy objectives.

Sports Administration

Through Sport and Recreation New Zealand (SPARC), Council provides funding to Sport 'n' Action Waihi to employ a development officer. The purpose of the development officer's role is to develop general sport and physical activity in Waihi.

Sport Waikato Coordinator

Council provides an annual grant for the provision of a sports coordinator for Hauraki. This is a collaborative project with Sport Waikato and Sport and Recreation New Zealand. In addition to this collaborative effort the coordinator in turn works with smaller community groups and sporting teams to provide sport services for the District.

In recent times these collaborative projects have included:

- Echo Walking Festival – a week long festival of walks in the Coromandel/Kaimai area, including Waihi and Paeroa. 780 participants took part in 2008. Members of the steering committee were Sport Waikato, Department of Conservation, Town Promoters and Sport 'n' Action Waihi.
- Hauraki Rail Trail – to convert the disused rail corridor from Te Aroha to Thames and Paeroa to Waihi into a walk/cycleway. Currently the sport coordinator is the secretary for the committee. The Committee involves Department of Conservation, Sport Waikato, Positive Paeroa, Council and the Te Aroha Community Board.
- Hauraki Alive – coalition of health agencies and Sport Waikato to advocate for improved nutrition and increased physical activity. The coalition is involved with Bike Wise, Push Play and general advocacy for healthy lifestyles.
- Paeroa's Biggest Loser Challenge – The Leader, Community lifestyle coach and Sport Waikato were involved in a 16 week challenge to lose the most weight which was very successful and will look to continue in another form in 2009.

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Strategic Planners' Network

Every two months, strategic planners from throughout the Waikato region meet. The purpose of the forums is to provide an avenue for inter-agency communication, coordination, and collaboration for strategic planning roles in organisations within the Waikato region. The Network encourages opportunities for networking, sharing of information and enhancing local good practice.

Tourism Coromandel

An annual joint contribution is made to Tourism Coromandel by the Hauraki and Thames Coromandel District Councils. In return, the Tourism Coromandel organisation promotes both districts nationally and internationally as visitor destinations.



Waihi Discovery Centre

Newmont Waihi Gold, New Zealand Mint, Waihi Vision Trust, Council and a developer are working in partnership to build an estimated \$20 million Gold Discovery Centre in Waihi. The large scale underground attraction is expected to be a significant feature providing an insight into the life of a miner and into the history of gold mining in Waihi.

The Gold Discovery Centre is expected to include interactive exhibitions, which include film, audio, hands-on working exhibits and a live gold pour. The Centre will focus on the geology of the region, the discovery of gold,

and the development of the gold mining industry, today and into the future. The Centre is expected to recreate the experience of descending into the Martha Mine and show the scale of the mining operation at Waihi.

Council is expecting to receive the resource consent application mid 2009.



Sport Waikato: Rock climbing

Water conservation

Council currently works with Matamata-Piako District Council, Thames Coromandel District Council and Environment Waikato on water conservation initiatives.

Through community education, the councils are trying to raise awareness of the impacts of water use on the environment and on infrastructural services. The Smart Water Use campaign is an example advertised each summer, through newspapers, websites and radio advertising.

Youth Initiatives

In 2006 Council adopted its Youth Policy, and since then a number of projects in support of youth have been initiated. The Hauraki Youth Forum meets regularly and aims to collectively advocate for the youth of the District. Although the youth forum is in reasonably early stages, a leadership camp has taken place in both 2007 and 2008.

Consultation, Collaboration and Decision-Making

Collaborative Projects

Annual Youth Awards began in 2006 and are now also provided in conjunction with the annual Citizen Awards.

Council supports a range of youth initiatives as they arise, including in the past having supported youth attending the National Youth Conference and supporting the Annual Children's Day held in conjunction with the Waihi Community Resource Centre and the Waikato District Health Board.

Many of the youth projects have benefited from collaborative resources, from the organisations such as Te Korowai Haoura O Hauraki, the Ministry of Youth Development and the Waikato District Health Board. New organisations present themselves to be involved in initiatives all the time, and this is an excellent example of partnership and collaboration for Hauraki District.

Council Controlled Organisations

Local Authority Shared Services Limited

The local authorities of the Waikato Region have worked closely together over a number of years on mutually beneficial joint projects. These projects have demonstrated the benefits that can be gained both in terms of outcomes achieved and reduction of costs to the community.

Taking this a step further the local authorities have begun to develop new shared service initiatives, including a valuation database to provide on-line, up to date information for all councils. The initiative has been formalised by the establishment of the Local Authority Shared Service Limited (LASS).

Local authorities of the Waikato Region have in December 2005, established LASS as a Council Controlled Organisation (CCO) by way of a company, in which each local authority will have a single share. This company will be used as an umbrella for future development of shared services throughout the Region.

Share Holders

Local Authority Shared Services Limited is jointly owned by the 13 local authorities of the Region being:

- Waikato Regional Council (Environment Waikato)
- Hamilton City Council
- Franklin District Council
- Hauraki District Council
- Matamata-Piako District Council
- Otorohanga District Council
- Rotorua District Council
- South Waikato District Council
- Taupo District Council
- Thames Coromandel District Council
- Waikato District Council
- Waipa District Council
- Waitomo District Council.

Council policies and objectives relating to CCOs

While Council does not have any significant policies or objectives about ownership and control of the company, the establishment of the company 'Local Authority Shared Services Limited' was initially subject to public consultation as part of the 2004-14 Long Term Council Community Plan. Council has a reviewed and adopted policy on the Appointment and Remuneration of Directors contained as part of this Hauraki Community Plan 2009-19.

The Constitution of Local Authority Shared Services Limited sets out the principles according to which the company will be operated and governed. This includes shareholders' rights and the appointment of directors. The annual Statement of Intent identifies the activities and intentions of the Company for the year and the objectives to which those activities will contribute.

Company objectives

The objective of the company is to provide local authorities of the Waikato Region with a vehicle to develop shared services that demonstrate a benefit to the ratepayers and provide those services to local authorities.

Nature and scope of activities

The principal nature and scope of the activity for the company is to:

- Provide shared services to all local authorities within the Waikato Region.
- Sell processes and systems as set up under individual agreements to local authorities outside the region.
- Consider all opportunities to procure shared services that will benefit the community, either through enhanced services and/or reduced cost.
- Give consideration to developing shared services that local authorities of the region believe are of value. The objective is to

Consultation, Collaboration and Decision Making

Council Controlled Organisations

- provide the most effective access to regional information that may be of value to the community using modern technology and processes.
- Obtain a financial return from commercial users of information collected by councils.
- Explore all possible avenues to provide these services itself or contract them from other parties, each depending on a rigorous business case and risk assessment.
- Provide opportunities for development of systems and processes that utilises intellectual property developed by councils and on-selling data and services/systems to commercial users for a market based financial return.

The initial product developed was a shared valuation database. The Shared Valuation Database Service will continue to have incremental improvements made to the system and processes.

It is envisaged that the company will continue to develop new products to be made available to the local authorities within the Waikato Region. At the same time other opportunities may be explored in partnership with local authorities outside the region to develop new products such as geospatial data and information for stakeholders, the public and selling to the market where appropriate. Costs of selling this data to commercial users will be recovered where appropriate.

Performance targets

Performance targets relate to the levels of services that are current or under development. It is envisaged that these targets will change as new services are developed.

The performance targets are:

- Positive cash flow will be maintained so that the equity ratio is maintained at a minimum of 40%.

- The company will carry out an annual survey of shareholders to assist the Directors in developing improvements on behalf of shareholders.
- Expenditure shall not exceed that budgeted by more than 5% unless prior approval is obtained from the Directors.
- The Board will provide a written report on the business operations and financial position of the LASS on a six monthly basis.

Directors

The current directors of Local Authority Shared Service Limited are noted below:

Directors	Position	Council Director Represents
Langley Cavers (Chairperson)	Chief Executive Hauraki District Council	Thames-Coromandel, Hauraki and Matamata-Piako District Council
John Inglis	Chief Executive Officer Waipa District Council	Waipa, Otorohanga and Waitomo District Councils
Michael Redman	Chief Executive Officer Hamilton City Council	Hamilton City Council
Gavin Ion	Chief Executive Officer Franklin District Council	Franklin and Waikato District Councils
Peter Guerin	Chief Executive Officer Rotorua District Council	Rotorua, South Waikato and Taupo District Councils

Martha Trust

Nature and scope of activities

The Martha Trust is a body established to take stewardship of lands defined in the Martha Mine consents following the closure of the open pit mine and the cessation of all rehabilitation mining works. These lands do not encompass the open pit but are situated on the eastern edge of the pit.

Although some supporting mechanisms of the Martha Trust exist, such as the Trust Structure and Bond, the Trust will not actually become an operative entity until such time as the closure and rehabilitation conditions are finalised. This is estimated to be beyond the life of the Hauraki Community Plan 2009-19.

The Martha Trust currently has a paid up capital of \$10.00 and will be financed by way of a Capitalisation Bond that will allow on-going maintenance of the land in perpetuity.

The Martha Trust at present has no subsidiaries.

Council policies and objectives relating to CCO's

Due to the nature of the Martha Trust in its infancy stages, Council does not have any significant policies or objectives about ownership and control of the trust.

Performance

Council resolved on 30th November 2006, in accordance with section 7 (3) of the Local Government Act 2002, that it is not practical for accountability requirements and performance monitoring of the Martha Trust to take place until such time as it becomes operative, therefore Council has provided a dispensation from any form of accountability and monitoring processes. However this dispensation will be reviewed every three years, and is next to be considered by November 2009.

Trustees

Once the time comes for Martha Trust to become operative, it is appropriate for Trustees to be nominated. It is expected that Trustees will include representatives nominated by the Hauraki District Council, Waikato Regional Council and Tangata Whenua.