

Introduction and Overview

A VISION FOR HAURAKI



I matakite e ngā âhutatanga mô âpôpô.
I tuhituhi ana aua âhutatanga i ngâ wâ o mua.
Naianeî e marama ana i nga moemoea, i ngâ wawata o tatou tipuna.
I hapaitia e koe te wero.

The future has been seen,
it has been written in the past and now
we understand the dreams and desires of our ancestors.
We are ready for the challenge.

Na, Hare Koroneho

The Rangatira bronze statue is proudly displayed in Waihi

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Introduction

On behalf of the Councillors and staff of Hauraki District Council, we are very pleased to introduce the Hauraki Community Plan for the period 2009 to 2019. This is Council's third Hauraki Community Plan, and while a ten year planning period may seem a long time, it is essential for Council to enable it to manage Hauraki District's assets and operations in a cost effective and sustainable manner. The Plan also gives the community the opportunity to understand and provide feedback on Council's long-term works programme and goals.

The consultative processes surrounding this Plan took place predominantly during April, 2009. Council received 75 submissions, all of which were considered by Council during May, 2009. These submissions resulted in some amendments being made to the Hauraki Community Plan 2009-19 and these are summarised on page 8.

The recent and on-going turmoil in the world's financial markets and the predicted movement into a recession focussed economic outlook made the development of this Plan a particularly challenging exercise. Council has already seen a slow down in growth within the Hauraki District and expects this to continue into the short term future.

Setting the Scene

There are many challenges we face over the next few years including financial and credit volatility and constraints, increased costs, expensive infrastructure maintenance and replacement, the effects of a global economic slowdown and above all, ensuring that rates remain affordable while still meeting the expectations of the community and without significantly reducing services.

Another challenge that is faced by Council is the increasing environmental standards that it needs to meet, in particular the effect of having to meet the new Drinking Water Standards that are now mandatory.

Council also expects to see a number of new or amended policy directions and legislative amendments as a result of the 2008 general election. The new Government has already signalled a desire to reduce regulatory constraints on growth and development. It has also signalled a desire to see increased infrastructural development. This may or may not have an effect on local government.



Mayor
John Tregidga

Chief Executive
Langley Cavers

A wide ranging consultation with the community occurred in June/July 2008 on the levels of service provided by Council in its many operational activities, and received consistent positive feedback that the community wishes us to maintain the high standards in the delivery of core services and to ensure that the planning for modern and effective infrastructural assets continues.

We are very pleased to have seen the completion of the upgrading of the town centres for our main rural towns of Waihi, Paeroa and Ngatea, which gives a heightened feeling of pride and well-being in those communities and encourages visitors and economic prosperity.

While the financial climate is uncertain, this Council does not wish to stand still, retrench services or dramatically reduce maintenance. To do so would simply extend difficult times for everyone. We will, however, continue to concentrate on best value for money approaches to daily operational matters. We

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need to demonstrate strong leadership and draw on the confidence you have placed in us to deliver a high quality of service that is within the community's means.

Key Community Issues and Major Capital Works

Council has been pleased with the discussions held on the three key issues that will affect this District in the future: climate change, sustainability and the District's changing demographics. Council consulted on these matters of importance particularly in the development of this Plan and had a great response from submitters.

The major capital works issue contained in this Plan relate to the upgrading of Hauraki District's water supplies. The original programme was planned in order to meet increasing demand, increasing environmental standards and the Drinking Water Standards.

The programme has been increased in scope and scale as recent amendments to legislation now mean that all Councils have to ensure that water supplies meet the updated New Zealand Drinking Water Standards by certain dates.

The water capital works programme in this Plan has been staged to reduce the financial impact on the community. Council believes that considerations of affordability for the community outweigh the requirement to meet Drinking Water Standards deadlines. The new standards affect all local authorities, many of whom face the same problems. More detail on this can be found within the 'Key Community Issues' on page 17.

Other key capital works included in this Plan are: emergency reinstatement of parts of the roading network following the 2007/08 drought and an extension to the Waihi Library; and major redevelopment of the Hugh Hayward Domain.

This Hauraki Community Plan, while 10 years in scope, will focus closely on the next three years. You will see Councillors have approved only essential capital works projects for this period, with an emphasis on ensuring ongoing maintenance of the services and facilities Council provides to the wider community is efficiently and prudently carried out.

Council has reviewed its levels of service and has decided to delay expenditure in areas

where a proposed increased level of service was to be provided in 2009-19. Seal extensions of metal roads for example have been delayed for the 2008/09 and 2009/10 years with the programme recommencing in 2010/11 in order to reduce short-term costs.

Changes from the 2006 – 16 Hauraki Community Plan

- As signaled in the Hauraki Community Plan 2006–16, the urban areas of Waihi, Whiritoa, Ngatea, Kerepehi and Turua now have a separate rate for stormwater. These areas previously paid for stormwater as part of a Ward Rate in the case of Waihi and Whiritoa and a Land Drainage Rate in the case of Ngatea, Kerepehi and Turua. These changes have been made to ensure that those who benefit directly from the stormwater networks pay for them.
- Council will be reviewing the provision of public toilets in the District. In this Plan allowance has been made for the closure of the toilet at Speedy's reserve, and the closure of two toilets at Whiritoa over the winter period when there is low demand.
- The hours of the Paeroa refuse transfer station were changed following the hearing of submissions. As from 6 July, 2009 the Paeroa refuse transfer station will be open from 12:30pm to 5:30pm each day except Wednesdays when it will be closed.

Both the Waihi and Paeroa refuse transfer stations will be closed on public holidays.

The Waihi refuse transfer station hours remain open from 10:00am to 4:00pm each day, other than Tuesdays and Thursdays when it will be closed.

- Refuse disposal fees at the transfer stations have been increased to meet costs, including a new Government levy of \$10.00 per tonne of refuse disposed of to landfills.
- The Council has undertaken a major review of its Revenue and Financing Policy for this Plan. There have been some significant changes to the former policy which have changed the funding allocation of some activities. Details on

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the Revenue and Financing Policy are in Volume 2 in the 'Funding Statement' section of this Plan.

Damage to Roads from Drought

As a result of the very dry conditions during the summer of 2007/08 significant damage occurred to many roads on the Hauraki Plains, which it is estimated will cost \$4 million to repair.

Because of this extraordinary event, the work is classified by the New Zealand Transport Agency as emergency works and a subsidy of up to 88% is available for the majority of the work if the repairs are undertaken within two years.

Work has commenced and will be completed in 2009/10 at a cost to Council of just over \$660,000.

District Plan

Over the last two years, work has progressed on the background policy and legislative issues for the review of the Operative District Plan. Council plans to release the Proposed District Plan late in 2009 for public discussion and input.

Please keep your eye on Council's HDC News page published in the local newspaper, the Hauraki Herald, to see the opportunities you will have for input into the review.

Rates

District General Rate

The focus on reducing rates has been on the 2009/10 year.

The net increase in the District General Rate for the first year of the Plan is to be 3.2%. This was achieved by Council taking the unprecedented action of using \$160,000 of the investment income that would normally be applied to the District Community Project Assistance fund, to reduce the District General Rate.

Council has reviewed its Revenue and Financing Policy which resulted in some funding shifts from the Ward rates to the District General Rate (details can be found in

Volume 2 of the Hauraki Community Plan 2009-19 in the section titled 'Funding Statements').

Excluding the effects of the changes to the Revenue and Financing Policy, the District General Rate increased by 5.6%.

Council will consider, as part of its 2010/11 Annual Plan process, whether a further contribution from the Investment fund will be used to offset the General Rate, depending on the economic climate at the time.

Wastewater Rate

While the majority of the major capital works for the upgrades of our sewer infrastructure have been completed, the increased operating costs associated with these upgrades and the repayment of the debt has resulted in a need to increase the Uniform Annual Charge by \$30 per year for the next two years and \$40 per year thereafter.

Water Charges

When reviewing the Water Charges for this Plan the significant capital works and operational programme requirements to meet demand, environmental standards and Drinking Water Standards has required a significant increase in water charges over the next ten years.

Due to the high fixed costs associated with the provision of water supplies Council has determined that it is inequitable to continue with a flat per cubic metre rate for all users. High users of water – typically rural users – would be unfairly subsidising all other users.

In this regard a differential per cubic metre water charge has been applied between rural and urban consumers. The fixed charge has also been increased by \$10 per connection to also recognise the high fixed costs of water supplies.

Stormwater

As mentioned, Council has determined that the most appropriate funding of the stormwater activity is by those properties that are within the defined township stormwater catchments. Previously many of the rural towns were

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considered to be part of the land drainage network and in the case of townships of Waihi and Whiritoa the whole Ward funded its stormwater systems. This was considered inequitable as the rural areas were contributing to an activity that essentially served the urban areas.

This change in funding policy has resulted in slightly higher rates for stormwater for the urban areas.

Community Outcomes

Since the development of the last Hauraki Community Plan, and the identification of Community Outcomes, Council has been taking steps to focus on longer term planning and initiatives in the social service arena in a facilitation and advocacy role. Collaboration has been the key here, and Council has made a conscious effort not to significantly increase expenditure in order to progress this direction, as it sees itself supporting those organisations already in the field rather than creating a new service.

The integration of quality health and social services through the identification of the Community Outcomes has been a core focus of Council. In working collaboratively with many organisations, networks such as the Better Futures Hauraki Forum and the Labour Market Forum have been established. Feedback to date indicates improved services to families in the Hauraki District. Council's partnership involvement in these projects has been the key to bringing these agencies together, securing additional funding for grass roots projects and providing the necessary facilitation.

Over the next three years, Council will be taking the next step to identifying the community's priorities. Council will be facilitating the development of local Community Plans within the Hauraki District, and will be actively seeking your input into planning and priorities for your local community. Further details on this process will be released through Council's HDC News page, published in the local newspaper, the Hauraki Herald.

Final Thoughts

Thank you for taking the time to read this Plan and for helping assist in its formation through the consultation process. It sets the scene for the next 10 years and has a strong emphasis on delivery of core services, ensuring the provision of modern and sustainable networks and working with the community in planning for the future.

We look forward to working with you over the coming years.

J.P. Tregidga
Mayor

L.D. Cavers
Chief Executive

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Submission Process – What happened?

Submission Process – What happened?

Why is consultation required?

As required by section 84 of Local Government Act 2002, Council must consult on the Draft Hauraki Community Plan 2009-19 Statement of Proposal through the Special Consultative Procedure. The Special Consultative Procedure requires a formal consultation process be carried out where amongst a number of requirements, submitters have a month to submit on the proposals within the document.

The Draft Hauraki Community Plan 2009-19 opened for consultation on the 31st March and closed on the 1st May 2009.

Were submissions received?

Yes, 75 submissions were received which covered a range of 27 broad topics.

These submissions were considered by Council during a three day hearings meeting.

Each submitter had the choice of whether they would like their submission to be considered solely on the basis of what they submitted on paper, or if they would like to speak in person at the meeting in support of their submission. 31 submitters indicated they would attend the meeting to speak to their submission.

Each submission was individually discussed by Councillors and a decision made on each submission point. During June/July 2009 each submitter was contacted and made aware of the decision regarding their submission.

What changes were made to the plan following the consultation process?

In summary, the main changes made as a result of the submission process were as follows.

- Initial policy stances were adopted around the Right Debate topics of *Sustainability – the right approach for Hauraki District*, *Climate Change – the right approach for Hauraki District*, and *The Changing Demographics for Hauraki District*.

Council has established a working group that will consider how these policy stances will be developed and implemented.

- The Paeroa Domain Toilets are to remain open all year round.
- The Significance Policy was amended primarily for purposes of clarity.
- Council is supporting in principle the Waihi Social Development Village.
- Council will investigate the feasibility of being able to operate the Waihi College pool on the same basis as the Ngatea and Paeroa swimming pools.
- \$5,000 has been added for a contribution to the Go Waihi promotional brochure.
- \$6,000 has been added for the contribution to the Paeroa Historical Society History Book development.
- The budget allowed for the Life Education Trust has increased incrementally to \$15,000 by 2011/12.
- The Positive Paeroa budget increase to \$90,000.
- An increase of \$3,000 for the Waihi Information Centre, to assist with increased overheads and a new computer.
- The revenue sought for the Turua Hall for 2009/10 was corrected.
- A minor change was made to the Rate Remission of Multiple Dwellings on One Title Policy.
- The fees for reserves in the library fees and charges were reduced.
- The Development Contributions Policy was amended, particularly for water supply and sewerage and the per cubic metre of gross area calculation.
- The Sustainabiz programme has been removed from the budget.

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Submission Process – What happened?

- The hours for the Paeroa refuse transfer station have been altered to 12:30pm to 5:30pm each day, except for Wednesdays when it will be closed. It will also be closed on public holidays
- The budget of \$26,000 allowed for to improve environmental education in schools is to be spread between EnviroSchools and the Zero Waste Education Scheme programmes.
- Over the next 3 years, Council will be allocating its Conservation Initiatives fund to assist with in fill planting at the Tarariki Reserve.
- There were a number of changes to the funding statements and the financial statements as a consequence of the changes made.

Audit New Zealand's Report on the Hauraki Community Plan 2009-19

AUDIT NEW ZEALAND
Mana Arotake Aotearoa

Report to the readers of Hauraki District Council's Long-Term Council Community Plan for the ten years commencing 1 July 2009

The Auditor-General is the auditor of Hauraki District Council (the District Council). The Auditor-General has appointed me, Ben Halford, using the staff and resources of Audit New Zealand, to report on the Long-Term Council Community Plan (LTCCP), on his behalf.

The Auditor-General is required by section 94(1) of the Local Government Act 2002 (the Act) to report on:

- the extent to which the LTCCP complies with the requirements of the Act;
- the quality of information and assumptions underlying the forecast information provided in the LTCCP; and
- the extent to which the forecast information and performance measures will provide an appropriate framework for the meaningful assessment of the actual levels of service provision.

It is not our responsibility to express an opinion on the merits of any policy content within the LTCCP.

Opinion

Overall Opinion

In our opinion the LTCCP of the District Council dated 24 June 2009 provides a reasonable basis for long-term integrated decision-making by the District Council and for participation in decision-making by the public and subsequent accountability to the community about the activities of the District Council.

In forming our overall opinion, we considered the specific matters outlined in section 94(1) of the Act which we report on as follows.

Opinion on Specific Matters Required by the Act

In our view:

- the District Council has complied with the requirements of the Act in all material respects demonstrating good practice for a council of its size and scale within the context of its environment;
- the underlying information and assumptions used to prepare the LTCCP provide a reasonable and supportable basis for the preparation of the forecast information; and

- **the extent to which the forecast information and performance measures within the LTCCP provide an appropriate framework for the meaningful assessment of the actual levels of service provision, reflects good practice for a council of its size and scale within the context of its environment.**

Actual results are likely to be different from the forecast information since anticipated events frequently do not occur as expected and the variation may be material. Accordingly, we express no opinion as to whether the forecasts will be achieved.

Our report was completed on 24 June 2009, and is the date at which our opinion is expressed.

The basis of the opinion is explained below. In addition, we outline the responsibilities of the District Council and the Auditor, and explain our independence.

Basis of Opinion

We carried out the audit in accordance with the International Standard on Assurance Engagements 3000: Assurance Engagements Other Than Audits or Reviews of Historical Financial Information and the Auditor-General's Auditing Standards, which incorporate the New Zealand Auditing Standards. We have examined the forecast financial information in accordance with the International Standard on Assurance Engagements 3400: The Examination of Prospective Financial Information.

We planned and performed our audit to obtain all the information and explanations we considered necessary to obtain reasonable assurance that the LTCCP does not contain material misstatements. If we had found material misstatements that were not corrected, we would have referred to them in our opinion.

Our audit procedures included assessing whether:

- the LTCCP provides the community with sufficient and balanced information about the strategic and other key issues, choices and implications it faces to provide an opportunity for participation by the public in decision-making processes;
- the District Council's financial strategy, supported by financial policies as included in the LTCCP is financially prudent, and has been clearly communicated to the community in the LTCCP;
- the presentation of the LTCCP complies with the legislative requirements of the Act;
- the decision-making and consultation processes underlying the development of the LTCCP are compliant with the decision-making and consultation requirements of the Act;
- the information in the LTCCP is based on materially complete and reliable asset or activity management information;
- the agreed levels of service are fairly reflected throughout the LTCCP;
- the key plans and policies adopted by the District Council have been consistently applied in the development of the forecast information;

- the assumptions set out within the LTCCP are based on best information currently available to the District Council and provide a reasonable and supportable basis for the preparation of the forecast information;
- the forecast information has been properly prepared on the basis of the underlying information and the assumptions adopted and the financial information complies with generally accepted accounting practice in New Zealand;
- the rationale for the activities is clearly presented;
- the levels of service and performance measures are reasonable estimates and reflect the key aspects of the District Council's service delivery and performance; and
- the relationship of the levels of service, performance measures and forecast financial information has been adequately explained within the LTCCP.

We do not guarantee complete accuracy of the information in the LTCCP. Our procedures included examining on a test basis, evidence supporting assumptions, amounts and other disclosures in the LTCCP and determining compliance with the requirements of the Act. We evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information. We obtained all the information and explanations we required to support our opinion above.

Responsibilities of the Council and the Auditor

The District Council is responsible for preparing an LTCCP under the Act, by applying the District Council's assumptions and presenting the financial information in accordance with generally accepted accounting practice in New Zealand. The District Council's responsibilities arise from Section 93 of the Act.

We are responsible for expressing an independent opinion on the LTCCP and reporting that opinion to you. This responsibility arises from section 15 of the Public Audit Act 2001 and section 94(1) of the Act.

Independence

When reporting on the LTCCP we followed the independence requirements of the Auditor-General, which incorporate the independence requirements of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of New Zealand.

Other than this report and in conducting the audit of the Statement of Proposal for adoption of the LTCCP and the annual audit, we have no relationship with or interests in the District Council.



Ben Halford
Audit New Zealand
On behalf of the Auditor-General
Tauranga, New Zealand

Matters Relating to the Electronic Presentation of the Audited Long-term Council Community Plan

This audit report relates to the Long Term Council Community Plan of Hauraki District Council for the ten years commencing 1 July 2009 included on the District Council's website. Hauraki District Council is responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the District Council's website. We have not been engaged to report on the integrity of Hauraki District Council's website. We accept no responsibility for any changes that may have occurred to the Long Term Council Community Plan since they were initially presented on the website.

The audit report refers only to the Long Term Council Community Plan named above. It does not provide an opinion on any other information which may have been hyperlinked to or from the Long Term Council Community Plan. If readers of this report are concerned with the inherent risks arising from electronic data communication they should refer to the published hard copy of the audited Long Term Council Community Plan as well as the related audit report dated 23 June 2009 to confirm the information included in the audited Long Term Council Community Plan presented on this website.

Legislation in New Zealand governing the preparation and dissemination of financial information may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Council Overview

Hauraki District Council's Mission

To ensure the successful:

- Provision of services and facilities,
- Advocacy on behalf of the community,
- Use and management of resources,

.....for all who live in or visit the Hauraki District.

Hauraki District Council's Vision for the Future

- A range of services and facilities meeting the community's needs and realistic expectations.
- A positive climate which encourages balanced and sustained growth throughout the district.
- An environment which encourages vibrant communities and an enhanced quality of life.
- The wise use and management of all resources for the continued benefit of the district.
- A proactive Council that provides leadership, is results orientated and communicates effectively with all sectors of the community.

Customer Charter

Your needs, our focus

Your rights as a customer are:

- To be treated with respect.
- To receive a timely and accurate response.
- To have access to relevant information.

Our commitment to you

- We will respond to you promptly.
- Our staff will identify themselves.
- We will provide knowledgeable staff at first contact.
- We will fairly interpret and apply the laws, by-laws and regulations.
- Our service standards will be freely available.
- We will review feedback from our customers.

Customer feedback

- We welcome feedback about our service.
- Council has a formal feedback procedure. Ask for an information brochure, or check out the 'Suggestions' section of the website www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz to submit your feedback.

What is the Hauraki Community Plan 2009-19?

The Hauraki Community Plan 2009-19 is a Council document which sets out proposed short, medium and long-term priorities for the Council. At the draft stage, it is a Statement of Proposal for the community to comment on. However, once adopted it is the 10 year programme of works, projects and initiatives for Council to focus on.

The Hauraki Community Plan 2009-19 sets out how Council proposes to contribute to community well-beings over the life of the Plan and how Council will be involved with other agencies to contribute towards Community Outcomes. This Plan is required under the Local Government Act 2002, and must be prepared every three years.

The Local Government Act 2002 sets out the intended purpose of Long-Term Council Community Plans. They are to:

- Describe the activities of the Local Authority.
- Describe the community outcomes for the District and Region.
- Provide integrated decision-making and coordination.
- Provide a long-term focus for Council's decisions and activities.
- Provide a basis for accountability to the community.
- Provide an opportunity for public participation in decision-making processes.

The Hauraki Community Plan is Council's key planning document. It provides a framework for linking all of Council's other plans, such as the District Plan and Asset Management Plans. It is a way of demonstrating how Council's activities contribute to and support the Community Outcomes identified, and is a method to inform the community what Council

is proposing to do over the 10 years of the document.

The Annual Plan is now an annual budgeting statement for that year only and will next be prepared in 2010/11 and 2011/12.

Although the Hauraki Community Plan 2009-19 is Council's best estimate (at the time of publication) of what it foresees will take place in the coming ten years, Council is not legally obliged to undertake all works stated in the document. Decisions can be made which are inconsistent with the plan, providing the decision and the reasons are made fully known.

Any key changes, or the introduction of projects which are significant, will have full public consultation through a formal process at any time. If appropriate, a formal amendment to the Hauraki Community Plan 2009-19 will then be made.

Supplementary note to readers

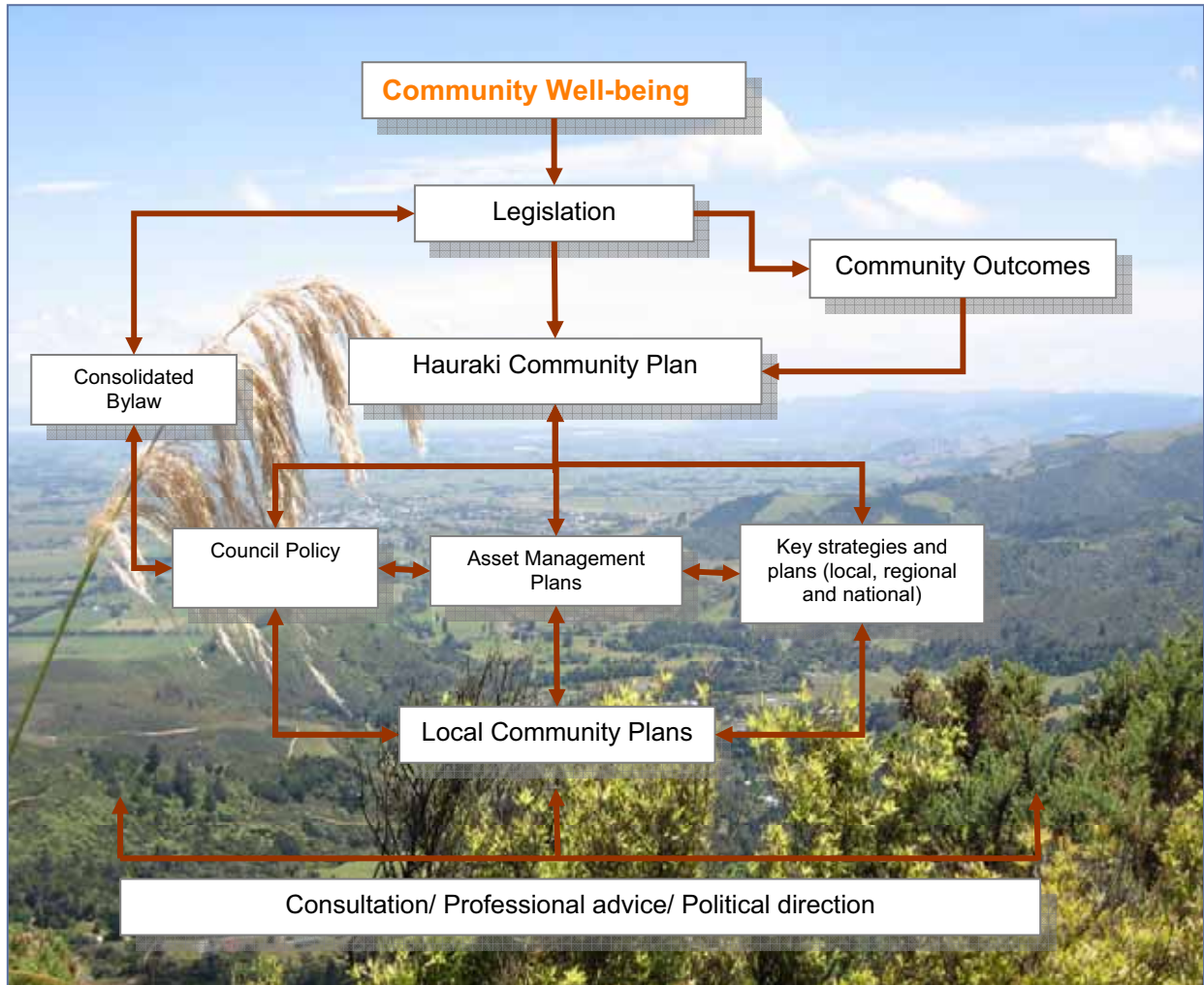
Readers are asked to note that the actual results Council achieves over the 10 year life of the Hauraki Community Plan 2009-19 are likely to vary from the information presented in this document. Changes in the economic climate, demand, external events and other unknown factors contribute to the need for Council to remain flexible. Any variations are likely to be minor. If they are not they will trigger Council's Significance Policy and community consultation will be undertaken. Readers are also asked to note that this document has been prepared to fulfil the requirements of the Local Government Act 2002, and the purpose of a Long-Term Council Community Plan. The information may not be appropriate for other purposes.

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How does this plan relate to other Council Documents?

How does this plan relate to other Council documents?

There are a number of Council bylaws, policies, strategies and plans which all feed into Council's Hauraki Community Plan 2009-19. Along with internal documents, external drivers such as National strategies, plans and legislation also have an effect on the decisions made by Council. The diagram below shows how these different documents help to form the basis for the Hauraki Community Plan 2009-19.



Councils overarching responsibility is to enhance community well-being through the implementation of the principles of the Local Government Act 2002 and through the implementation of the Hauraki Community Outcomes. It does this by ensuring all plans and strategies are developed and implemented with the overall community's wellbeing in mind. Examples of this include the internal operational plans such as Asset Management Plans and Business Plans and public policies such as Positive Ageing Strategy and Youth Policy.

The culmination of Council's policies, plans and strategies guide Council in its decisions and therefore are used in the Hauraki Community Plan 2009-19 as the core drivers for the ten year period. Councils own documentation however is only part of the strategic direction for the Hauraki Community.

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How does this plan relate to other Council Documents?

Council has legal obligations to ensure that the relevant initiatives and plans of Government and other agencies are taken into consideration in the formulation of the Hauraki Community Plan 2009-19. There are many examples of these including the Regional Transport Strategy; National Policy Statements; National Environmental Standards; amongst others.

An example of a national policy working its way down to Council would be that of the New Zealand National Transport Strategy, which in turn is adopted through a Regional Land Transport Strategy and then into Councils own Transportation Asset Management Plan. By adhering to the strategies at both a national and regional level Council is able to comply with the law, and ensure all available funding is negotiated for the District. In addition this means that the New Zealand Transport Agency is able to ensure a consistent approach to roading within New Zealand.

A list of the key national, regional and district plans and strategies are available in Appendix 2, on page 283. The key internal plans and strategies for each group of activities are listed at each of the Group of Activities beginning on page 139. Where a national or regional plan or strategy is a key driver for an activity, this is mentioned within the text of 'How Council provides this activity'.