

What is the Hauraki Community Plan?



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The Hauraki Community Plan Statement of Proposal (HCP) is a new forward planning process and document required by the Local Government Act 2002. It replaces the Long Term Financial Strategy. It sets out the proposed short, medium and longer term priorities and actions of the Council. A HCP must be produced by June 2004 and June 2006 and subsequently every three years thereafter.

The Plan covers a 10 year period and focuses on two aspects - community outcomes and sustainable development.

The HCP must identify the community outcomes the Hauraki District community wants to achieve. It must demonstrate how the Council will contribute to achieving these outcomes on behalf of the community. It is essential that all strategic planning and proposed development actions undertaken by Council will work towards achieving the sustainable development of resources, for today's generation and without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

The first Hauraki Community Plan

The 2004/05 HCP is a transitional document, which will be adopted by 1 July 2004. As there was restricted time from the introduction of the Local Government Act, 2002 to the time the transitional HCP was required to be compiled, there was only limited consultation undertaken to fully define current community outcomes.

For future HCP's, residents and stakeholders (including community organisations, government departments, Iwi and any other interested groups) will be invited to take part in the identification of community outcomes and how they could be involved with and contribute to achieving these.

What are community outcomes?

Community outcomes are strategic priorities that the community collectively has identified and that the community wants the Hauraki District Council and other individuals and groups to actively pursue over the next 10 years. Council needs to liaise and interact with the community and other agencies to achieve these outcomes.

How did the community identify these outcomes?

In September and October 2002, an independent survey was undertaken of the residents and ratepayers of the Hauraki District. The survey was carried out for a number of reasons, including seeking the community's perception of Council and the overall satisfaction with the Council services. The survey also asked people what the single most important issue was in the community. A proportionate number of surveys were carried out per ward, including out of district ratepayers.

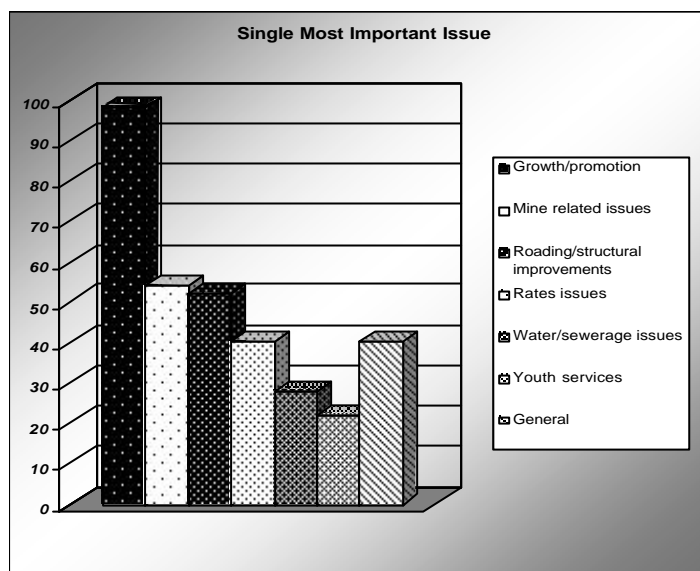


Figure 1.1

From these results the following four issues were identified, as shown in figure 1.1:

- District growth,
- Environmental concerns,
- Road improvements,
- The cost of services and facilities.

What are our community outcomes?

In October 2003, a confirming survey was undertaken to ensure that what the community saw as priorities in 2002, were still seen to be important. The survey results confirmed this to be so. The following community outcomes have been identified as shown in figure 1.2 below:

- Sustained economic growth
- Safe and Healthy Environment
- Safe and accessible roads
- Affordable services and facilities

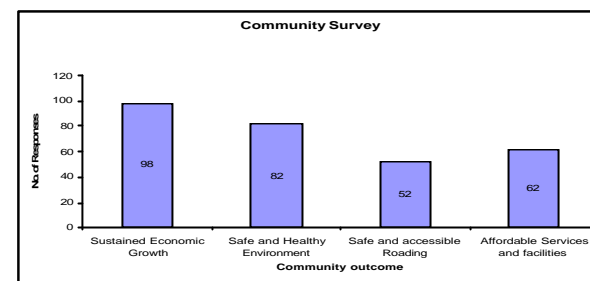


Figure 1.2

From these two surveys a number of methods by which the Council could progress these outcomes were identified. These are indicated in the following table.

Community Outcomes	HDC Proposed Actions
Sustained economic growth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Businesses attracted, assisted and sustained in the District. • Active promotion of the District. • The encouragement of employment opportunities. • An improved image created for the District.
Safe and healthy environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appropriate Council involvement in mining issues. • Effective communication on environmental activities occurring within the District. • Assured water quality and water supply. • Improved drainage in low areas. • Wastewater treatment complies with resource consent requirements.
Safe and accessible Land Transport system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compliance with roading standards. • Improved footpaths. • Planning intergrated with Regional Land Transport Strategy, Transit New Zealand and neighbouring local authority planning.
Affordable services and facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Affordable services and facilities provided by Council. • Provision of recreation and leisure services.

What will happen with these outcomes?

When providing services Council must now consider whether these services are contributing to the achievement of the community outcomes.

Community outcomes cannot be achieved by Council alone. Other organisations are required to be involved for this process to be effective. Over the next 18 months other individuals and organisations will be encouraged to identify how they can help the progress of achieving the community outcomes both in their everyday role and through working jointly with Hauraki District Council.

Council's role in achieving Community Outcomes

The Council assists the community and stakeholders to move towards achievement of community outcomes in the following ways:

Leading	To inspire community involvement in achieving practical decision-making in the best interests of the community.
Advocating	To promote and encourage progress towards achievement of community outcomes through working with interested parties.
Supporting	To contribute to and assist interested parties in achieving desired outcomes.
Implementing	To plan and undertake operational and capital works, and develop policy initiatives.

Who can help to achieve the community outcomes?

The Local Government Act clearly indicates that all residents and ratepayers and any organisation that is, or could be, involved in the community should be encouraged not only to help identify community outcomes but also to contribute towards their achievement.

These groups (stakeholders) would include:

- Residents and Ratepayers
- Environment Waikato
- Government Departments on a National, Regional and Local level
 - New Zealand Police
 - Work and Income New Zealand
 - Te Puni Kokori
 - Education Departments

- Social Services
- District Health Boards
- Department of Conservation
- Iwi and Maori organisations
- Sport Waikato
- Neighbouring local authorities
- Community Organisations
 - Social Service Groups,
 - Recreation and Leisure Groups,
 - Schools,
 - Churches.

How will Council work with these groups to achieve these outcomes?

The Council is already planning a collaborative approach with a number of these organisations and agencies towards development of the community outcomes for the 2006 HCP. Council is participating in a Waikato wide approach that will allow the sharing of resources, ideas and costs in working towards the 2006 HCP.

This wider group will be considering not only the identification of community outcomes on a regional and district level but also how each organisation or group can monitor and report on achievement of community outcomes in a coordinated manner.

The identification of community outcomes will be made easier if the many groups involved can develop positive and ongoing working relationships.

How will you know if the outcomes have been achieved?

As part of this process, methods of monitoring and reporting on achieving community outcomes will have been identified. This requires all involved in working towards the achievement of these outcomes to report publicly on their involvement and progress made.

Reporting on Community outcomes

The Council is required to report to the community in the 'Annual Report' how each council activity undertaken in that year has contributed or progressed

towards the achievement of community outcomes. The Council is also required to include a comparison between the actual levels of service provided and the levels of service that were intended to be provided for each group of activities.

In preparing the HCP every three years the Council will include a section where it reports on progress towards achieving community outcomes since the previous HCP.

However, more organisations and agencies than just the Council are involved in the achievement of community outcomes. Council will therefore be working with these groups to develop processes that allow reporting on achievement of community outcomes by these groups.

This reporting will assist in ensuring that the HCP remains a relevant document to the community, the Council and other groups involved in the achievement of community outcomes.

Can these outcomes be changed?

Yes, if you as a community think they need to be. Over the next two years, you will be asked again what you want to see happen in the Hauraki District. Your feedback, obtained through consultation, both at a regional and a district level, will establish the 2006 community outcomes for the 2006-2016 period.

This process must be repeated every six years to ensure that changes in community perspectives and desires are reflected in up to date outcomes.

This involves a consultation process of approximately 18 months. This consultation can involve a number of methods by which Council will interact with the community. They include meetings, surveys and workshops amongst others.

What is the relationship of the community outcomes to other Hauraki District Council plans?

The Council already has a number of policies and strategies to enable it to plan for the future. These have been developed through public consultation processes prior to the Local Government Act 2002, and have provided direction and information in drafting this transitional HCP.

The key strategic documents shown in figure 1.3 were developed over an extended period of time.

The 2004 transitional HCP contains many of the strategies and directions from these documents. This reflects the previous direction of Council in delivering agreed service levels.

When the 2006 HCP is produced it will contain the community outcomes developed in conjunction with the community and will provide the Council with goals and objectives to be pursued in the future.

From this point, when each strategic document is reviewed and updated, clear linkages between the HCP and the strategic documents will become further apparent. In particular, each strategic document will set the methods by which the Council will deliver agreed community outcomes.

The following hierarchical structure defines the plans and strategies that are associated with the Hauraki Community Plan. The table below shows the links between these plans.

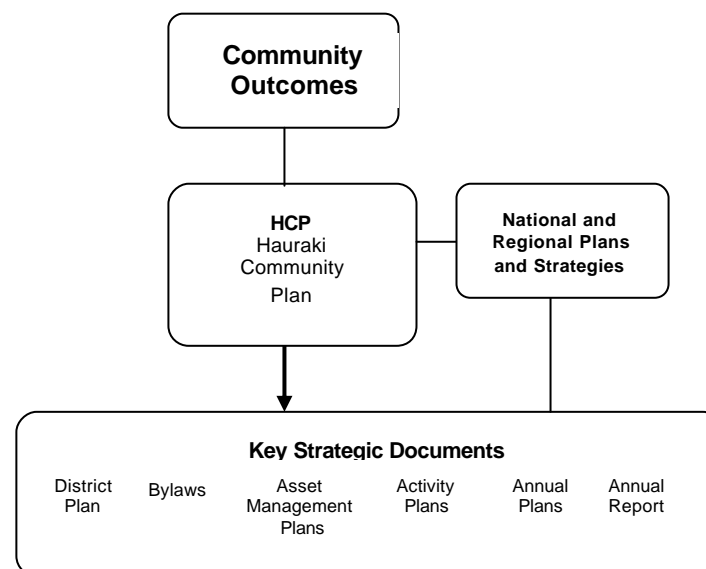


Figure 1.3

How Council activities contribute to achieving Community Outcomes?

Listed below are Council's activities which show the link to community outcomes and the community well-being's.

COUNCIL ACTIVITIES	COMMUNITY OUTCOMES				COMMUNITY WELL-BEINGS			
	Sustained Economic Growth	Safe & Healthy Environment	Safe & Accessible Roads	Affordable Services & Facilities	Social	Economic	Environment	Cultural
Leadership								
- Democracy	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
- Iwi Liaison		✓			✓			✓
- Policy Development	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Network Services								
- Roading	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
- Water	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	
- Wastewater	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	
- Land Drainage	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
- Stormwater	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	
- Solid Waste	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	
Community Services								
- Parks & Reserves		✓		✓	✓		✓	✓
- Libraries				✓	✓			✓
- Community Facilities		✓		✓	✓		✓	
Community Development								
- Community Growth	✓	✓			✓	✓		
- Community Initiatives	✓	✓			✓	✓		✓
Regulation								
- Building Services	✓	✓			✓			
- RMA Implementation		✓			✓	✓	✓	✓
- Community Protection	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
- Animal Control		✓			✓			

Summary of Council plans

District Plan	<p>The Hauraki District Plan is Council's plan that sets out objectives, policies and rules to provide for the use of the District's natural and physical resources in a sustainable manner, as required by the Resource Management Act, 1991.</p> <p>Council's first District Plan was adopted in September 1997.</p>
Asset Management Plans	<p>Council has developed basic Asset Management Plans for all infrastructural assets and these plans are maintained, reviewed and updated on an annual basis.</p> <p>Hauraki District Council is currently in the first year of a three year programme to develop its Asset Management Plans from a basic level to an advanced level. There is a focus on improving the knowledge of all infrastructural assets and ensuring that this is recorded on an on-going basis.</p> <p>Asset Management Plans provide the input into each HCP on the 10 year forecast level of maintenance, renewal and capital expenditure. This ensures assets are properly maintained and developed to deliver agreed levels of service.</p>
Activity Plans	<p>Council has many service delivery activities other than the delivery of infrastructural services.</p> <p>Council will be developing Activity Plans for these services that will act in the same way as Asset Management Plans.</p>

Annual Plan	<p>The Annual Plan informs stakeholders of the planned objectives, intended activities, performance, income and expenditure required for a period of one financial year. An Annual Plan is only required to be produced in years between the publications of HCP's.</p>
Annual Report	<p>An Annual Report is produced by 31 October each year and is designed to inform stakeholders of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achievement of financial and performance standards agreed to in the HCP or Annual Plan • Reasons for variations • Details on asset purchases or sales <p>The Annual Report is also required to report on progress towards achievement of community outcomes as detailed in the HCP and any identified effects on the social, economic, environmental or cultural well-being of the community.</p> <p>The Annual Report is audited each year prior to publication.</p>
Economic Development Strategy	<p>The Council adopted an Economic Development Strategy in May, 2002.</p> <p>This strategy identifies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The key district themes • Strategic goals • Key principles • Implementation plan <p>for economic development within the District.</p> <p>Council's goal is to recognise possibilities, develop initiatives and partnerships for economic development in a collaborative manner. This strategy will be reviewed in 2005/06.</p>

Land Transport Programme	<p>The Council prepares on an annual basis a Land Transport Programme. This is a maintenance, renewal and capital development programme for subsidised works spanning a 10 year period.</p> <p>This plan is considered by Transfund for its approval of funding. The funded works are then included in the following three years works programme with indicative costs included for the subsequent seven years.</p>
Solid Waste Management Plan	<p>Council adopted a Solid Waste Management Plan on 10th June 2002.</p> <p>It promotes the sustainable management approach of reduction, recycling, recovery, treatment, and finally disposal of solid waste.</p>

Are there external strategic documents that influence community outcomes?

There are a number of National and Regional Plans or strategies that the Council must take into account in its decision-making processes.

Some Plans and strategies are very detailed and place constraints on the decisions Council can make. Others are at a higher level and provide guidance or recommend particular approaches to the Council.

These plans and strategies amongst others include:

National

- N.Z. Biodiversity Strategy - Department of Conservation
- N.Z. Waste Strategy - Ministry for the Environment
- N.Z. Coastal Policy Statement - Department of Conservation
- N.Z. Tourism Strategy 2010 - Ministry of Tourism
- N.Z. National Transport Strategy 2002 - Ministry of Transport

Regional

- Regional Plan - Environment Waikato
- Regional Policy Statement - Environment Waikato
- Regional Coastal Plan - Environment Waikato
- Regional Land Transport Strategy - Environment Waikato

What is sustainable development?

Sustainable development is the process by which the provision and expansion of services is undertaken in such a way that it not only meets the needs of today's generation, but does so without comprising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

Under the Local Government Act 2002, there is a requirement for a sustainable development approach to decision-making when considering levels of services and new services.

The principles of sustainable development mean that Council has to take into account the effects of development on social, cultural, environmental and economic well-beings.

These four well-beings must be taken into account when making significant decisions as each reflects the well-being of generations today and in the future.

What do the 'four well-beings' mean?

Social well-being +	Contributes to sustainable development by providing opportunities for individuals, organisations and other stakeholders to actively participate in the functioning of the community through ongoing interaction.
Economic well-being +	Contributes to sustainable development by enabling the economy to generate necessary employment and wealth.
Environmental well-being +	Contributes to sustainable development by enhancing and improving the management of natural and physical resources within the community
Cultural well-being	Contributes to sustainable development by embracing individual and collective beliefs and values within the community as a whole.
= Community Well-being	

Significant strategic assets

The Local Government Act 2002 requires that Council identifies the strategic assets that it believes it needs to retain to maintain its capacity to provide for the current or future well-being of the community.

The Council has resolved that the following are considered to be its strategic assets:

- The Hauraki District Council roading network as a whole,
- The Hauraki District Council land drainage network as a whole,
- The Hauraki District Council wastewater network as a whole,
- The Hauraki District Council water network as a whole,
- The Hauraki District Council urban stormwater network as a whole,
- Reserves listed and managed under the Reserves Act,
- Solid waste handling facilities owned and operated by Hauraki District Council,
- Ngatea War Memorial Hall, Paeroa War Memorial Hall and Waihi Memorial Hall,
- Waihi Events Centre,
- Public library services.

The Council has also identified that while network assets are strategic their individual component parts may not be. The purchase or sale of these components is not seen to be a significant decision in terms of the policy.