

## 4.0 Cultural Outcomes

Key Objectives	Actions	Responsibility	By When	Possible Partners (WCC & Others)	Outcomes	Possible Funding Sources	
						Council	External
4.4 Promote creative ways for learning & as a key agent of change	Develop & implement creative learning methods such as arts, drama, literature etc for use at every opportunity	Programme Leader (Soc, Cul, Ec), Environmental Awareness Leader & Community Arts Co-ordinator	From May 2005	Other WCC Personnel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Creative learning opportunities are implemented on all occasions</li> <li>Creative learning generates a greater understanding of the issues across diverse sectors of the community</li> </ul>	WCC	Infrastructure Auckland, Sustainable Communities
	Develop a range of learning tools including experiential models, 3D catchment models, computer graphics etc	Environmental Awareness Leader & Programme Leader (Soc, Cul, Ec)	From March 2006		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A range of creative learning tools are available to increase understanding</li> </ul>		Infrastructure Auckland
	Develop ways for PTS to creatively tell its own stories	Cultural Learning Leader & Community Arts Co-ordinator	Ongoing from March 2006	Landcare Research, Other WCC personnel,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A variety of stories describe the PTS experience</li> </ul>		Infrastructure Auckland Sustainable Communities Landcare Research
	Develop & implement sustainable education & leadership opportunities that will benefit local young people	Environmental Awareness Leader	From March 2006	Youth Council, Untouched World, ARC, Schools, other WCC personnel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Young people exercise local leadership on sustainability</li> </ul>	WCC	Untouched World
	Influence school curriculum to expand integrated sustainable education programmes	Environmental Awareness Leader	From March 2006 ongoing	Schools, ARC, Ministry of Education, other WCC personnel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sustainable development programmes are increasingly developed and in operation in school curriculum</li> </ul>	WCC	

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Key Objectives	Actions	Responsibility	By When	Possible Partners (WCC & Others)	Outcomes	Possible Funding Sources	
						Council	External
	Explore options to create an urban environmental learning (including a mobile facility)	Programme Director & Environmental Awareness Leader	Dec 2006	Other WCC personnel, Iwi, ARC, Youth Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Young people and the community can experience &amp; learn from sustainable examples</li> </ul>	WCC	External Funding to be explored
4.5 Monitor & evaluate the effectiveness of using arts & culture to increase the understanding and uptake of local community & iwi	Develop & implement methods to monitor the effectiveness of using different tools & strategies	1 Programme Leader, Monitoring & Evaluation Leader & Environmental Awareness Leader	March 2006 onwards	Landcare Research, Sustainable Communities, External Consultants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information is provided on what methods, tools &amp; strategies are effective</li> <li>Build learnings into developing new tools &amp; strategies</li> </ul>	WCC	Infrastructure Auckland

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**Draft**  
**Waitakere Leisure Strategy**

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**Forward**

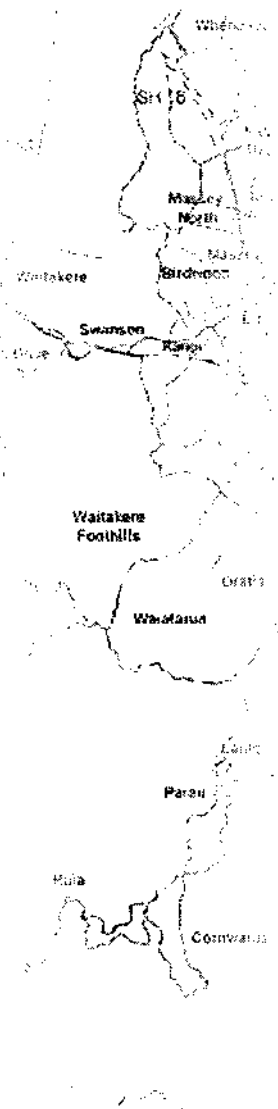
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## 1.0 Introduction

### 1.1 Background

Waitakere City is a dynamic and rapidly evolving city whose population is projected to increase from 169,000 in 2001 to 253,000 by 2021. These new residents will offer Waitakere a new vibrancy and variety of opportunities while at the same time creating a diversity of new challenges for Waitakere City Council and the community.

Leisure has increasingly been identified as a vital component in developing and maintaining the community's social fabric and well-being. It serves a vital role in maintaining physical and mental health, building a sense of place and belonging, breaking down social barriers, improving the quality of life and generating economic benefits.

In recognition of these facts Waitakere City Council has developed this 10 year strategy to guide both the development and delivery of leisure facilities and opportunities.

Although the current Leisure Strategy has a ten year time frame it has been designed to lay the foundation for leisure provision well beyond this period. The strategy has been designed as a dynamic document which is intended to evolve as the city's urban form changes and as new leisure research becomes available.

### 1.2 What is Leisure?

In its simplest form, leisure is defined as the freedom to perform a task that we do not have to do, but rather choose to do. It is a free time where we can step away from the daily chores of life, focusing on what really matters. True leisure in this sense is vital to the individual, allowing him or her to become restored and renewed in body, mind and spirit.

While a definition may at first seem easy to define, it is in actuality a complex issue, encompassing a wide range of activities and emotions. Leisure is very subjective, making it even more difficult to establish a firm definition. For example, what is a fun leisure activity for one person, such as riding one's bike,

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might be considered a necessary means of transport for someone getting to work. Leisure is experienced and enjoyed in many differing ways dependant upon age, sex, cultural differences and where one lives. What is universal, however, is the notion of leisure being any activity which one chooses to participate and enjoy outside of work and other commitments.

Leisure activities in this sense can involve both active and passive recreation. The benefits of leisure for individuals are numerous. For example, it is well documented that the benefits of physical activity contribute to health and mental wellbeing. Also passive recreation is equally beneficial to the mental state by providing an outlet for the mind. It may provide physical rest, tension release and opportunities to enjoy nature and escape from the daily routine.

Participation in leisure activities also has strong social benefits. It provides opportunities for socialisation and contributes to social cohesion through networking with others. It is also an important time for family bonding as families participate in fun activities together.

As can be seen leisure means many things to many people depending upon personal, family and community needs and wants however if leisure is to be defined in a neat sentence then it should be as follows:

"Leisure is any recreational activity one chooses to participate in, at times where the focus is on personal joy or fulfilment"

### **1.3 The Waitakere Leisure Vision**

**"Waitakere City will provide relevant active and passive leisure opportunities that develop and grow with the City's population"**

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#### **1.4 What is the Aim of the Leisure Strategy?**

The aim of the Leisure Strategy is to make Waitakere City a vibrant leisure environment which fulfils the ambitions of diverse population groups with a range of accessible leisure facilities and opportunities regardless of place of residence.

#### **1.5 Using the Strategy**

The Waitakere Leisure Strategy is designed to be an accessible working document for all those interested in improving passive and active leisure opportunities. The strategy is set out in a series of sections so the reader can find concise pertinent information and relevant strategic actions concerning specific topics of interest.

The strategy begins by outlining the legislative and statutory framework the strategy operates within, Waitakere's strategic direction and the strategy's 12 guiding principles. The methodological approaches employed to gather data to develop the strategy are then discussed.

Sections 6.0, 7.0 and 8.0 examine the research findings, future facility needs and research implications which underpin the development of specific objectives and strategic actions. These objectives and actions are contained in section 9.0 which comprises the body of the strategy.

Sections 9.1 to 9.8 outline general city wide objectives and strategic actions concerned with improving leisure networks, opportunities and physical activity patterns. Section 9.9 focuses on more specific built facility objectives which are set out under a series of facility category headings such as recreation centres and community halls.

Section 10.0 summarises strategies targeted towards specific geographic areas (or Financial Contribution Zones, FCZ's). Sections 11.0 and 12.0 summarise the strategy's implementation plan and prioritise each strategic action.

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## 2.0 Legislative and Statutory Framework

The provision and planning of leisure and open space within Waitakere are guided by a range of legislation and statutory requirements. The most significant of these are:

### Local Government Act, 2002

The Local Government Act describes the role of territorial local authorities in terms of the provision of community facilities and reserves. The Act has provisions for the levying of development contributions on new subdivisions and developments, including reserve contributions.

### Reserves Act, 1977

The Reserves Act outlines the process for protecting open space and for the development of reserve management plans. A variety of passive and active leisure activities take place within these environments.

### Resource Management Act, 1991

The Resource Management Act's core purpose is to promote the sustainable management of natural and physical resources. The Act is also the mandate for the District Plan with regards to the development of Parks and Reserves. These areas are important settings in which people undertake a range of leisure activities.

### Long Term Council Community Plan

The Long Term Council Community Plan (LTCCP) is a requirement of the Local Government Act 2002 and is designed to allow Council to develop a holistic ten year plan for the community. This plan outlines the development of a range of assets including leisure assets such as aquatic facilities and recreation centres.

The Leisure Strategy provides the basis for determining the projects and timelines that are included in the LTCCP for the public to comment on.

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#### Activity Plans

Associated with the LTCCP, activity plans provide business plans for each area of Council. These include service levels, asset management information and continuity plans.

#### Annual Plan

Based on the LTCCP the Annual Plan sets out the services and activities the Council will deliver, what it will cost and how it will be paid for. It is produced each year and runs from July to June.

### 3.0 Waitakere's Strategic Direction

#### 3.1 Strategic Platforms and Priorities

Waitakere City has set a vision whereby in the near future Waitakere will be known internationally as an ecologically sustainable city. Nine strategic platforms (outcomes) have been set to aid Waitakere's journey toward sustainability each with its own vision to 2020, supporting actions and objectives. These nine strategic platforms are:

- Urban and Rural Villages
- Integrated Transport and Communication.
- Strong Innovative Economy
- Strong Communities
- Active Democracy
- Green Network
- Three Waters
- Sustainable Energy and Air
- Zero Waste

This strategy is linked to all the Platforms. However, three of these platforms are significant drivers of the strategy as they discuss leisure issues directly. These platforms are Urban and Rural Villages, Strong Communities and Green Network.

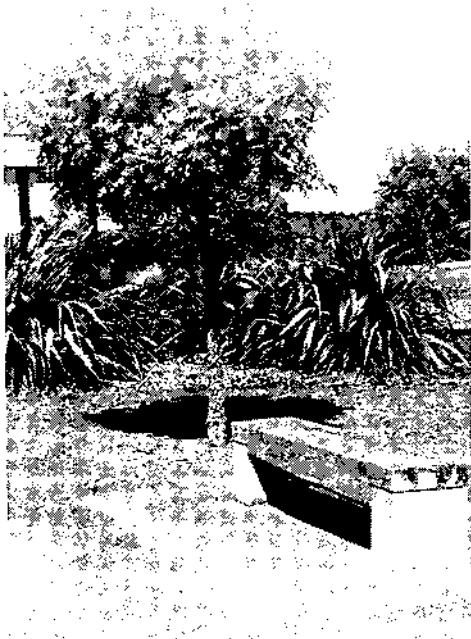
#### Urban and Rural Villages

The 2020 vision is for Town Centres to be thriving, providing exciting options for people to live, work and play. Public facilities, places and spaces teem with people; the streets are alive and busy.

The platform actions which directly relate to leisure are:

- Continue to bring working, living and playing closer together.
- Create vibrant, safe, accessible spaces for people to live, work and play.
- Ensure rural villages can provide for a range of living, working and leisure choices.
- Continue to work pro-actively with the community on design of park and reserves through the development of Reserves Management Plans.

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### **Strong Communities**

The 2020 vision is that people are active, healthy and content. They feel safe and there is a strong sense of community. Our City is a great place for children. We enjoy our diversity of lifestyle and people.

The platform seeks to develop the City as a renowned hub of social activity, arts, leisure, sports and recreation. Leisure, sports and recreation promote health, wellbeing and contentment and are highly valued by the community.

The platform actions which directly relate to leisure are:

- Energise the city through a range of festivals, arts events and arts activities.
- Provide high quality and people friendly activities and facilities, including cycle paths and walkways that support easy movement around the City.
- Develop more appealing places, spaces and activities for children and young people in particular, including centres/ hang out places for people and youth events.
- Respond appropriately to the changing cultural mix of the City, including a need for culturally appropriate services.
- Look creatively at how to foster community spirit and connection among people.
- Continue growing creative partnerships and local networks.
- Support people of all cultures to come together through arts, events, festivals and sports.

### **Green Network**

The 2020 vision for the Green Network is that streams and forests will be full of life. The Waitakere Ranges will be permanently protected and a Green Network will link the ranges and the sea, connecting the everyday lives of the people of Waitakere with the natural world.

The Green Network provides people with a range of settings in which to undertake a diversity of leisure activities.

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### Five Priorities

interweaving and strengthening the nine strategic platforms are five priorities each with their own objectives and actions. These five priorities are:

- A commitment to the *Treaty of Waitangi*
- Progressing towards *Sustainable Development*
- Ensuring our children are cared for in the *First Call for Children* programme
- Building a *Safe City* where people can live in freedom and without fear of violence
- Becoming a *Lifelong Learning City* where access to and opportunity for education is available to all.

Both the nine strategic platforms and five priorities are used to guide the development of the Leisure Strategy. Implementation of the Leisure Strategy will in turn bring Waitakere closer to it's long term Eco City vision.

### 3.2 Associated Strategies

The Leisure Strategy has a number of associated strategies which have been developed both externally and within Council. The two companion strategies to the Leisure Strategy are the Waitakere Parks and Open Space Strategy and the Waitakere Arts and Cultural Strategy. Important external strategies include the Auckland Regional Growth Strategy and the Auckland Regional Physical Activity and Sport Strategy. The relationship between these documents is illustrated in Figure 1 at the end of this section.

#### **Waitakere Parks and Open Space Strategy, 2005**

The Waitakere Parks and Open Space Strategy has two important functions. The first brings together a vision for how we want our parks to look in the future and the second sets out the key steps to reach this vision.

The Strategy details the approach for managing and developing parks over the next 10 years in Waitakere City. It also outlines the direction and establishes the long term vision for parks for the next 50 years and beyond.

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Alongside this is the issue facing the entire Auckland region. How do we meet the needs of a fast growing population with changing recreation habits and at the same time protect the ecosystems and biodiversity. And how can this be achieved within existing financial constraints.

Due to the importance of parks as settings for undertaking passive and active leisure activities the parks strategy is seen as an important companion strategy to the leisure strategy.

#### **Waitakere Arts and Cultural Strategy, 2003**

The Waitakere Arts and Cultural Strategy outlines a diversity of approaches to nurture the development of arts and culture across the myriad of different community sectors. The strategy aspires to make Waitakere a culturally and artistically inclusive city. The development of arts and culture are viewed as an essential method of expressing a strong sense of place and self.

For many Waitakere residents the division between arts and culture and leisure is highly subjective which underlines the importance of the arts and cultural strategy being seen as a companion strategy to the leisure strategy.

#### **Auckland Regional Growth Strategy, 1999**

The Auckland Regional Growth Strategy aims to accommodate growth within the region in a way that minimises adverse environmental impacts. In essence this Growth Strategy calls for the adoption of a compact city model which seeks to direct growth around transport hubs, along transport corridors and within developed areas.

As a signatory to the strategy Waitakere City is undertaking a range of actions to address growth related issues. Particular focus is being placed on long-term planning for community facilities, parks and recreational areas, infrastructure, finances and management.

#### **Auckland Regional Physical Activity and Sport Strategy, 2005**

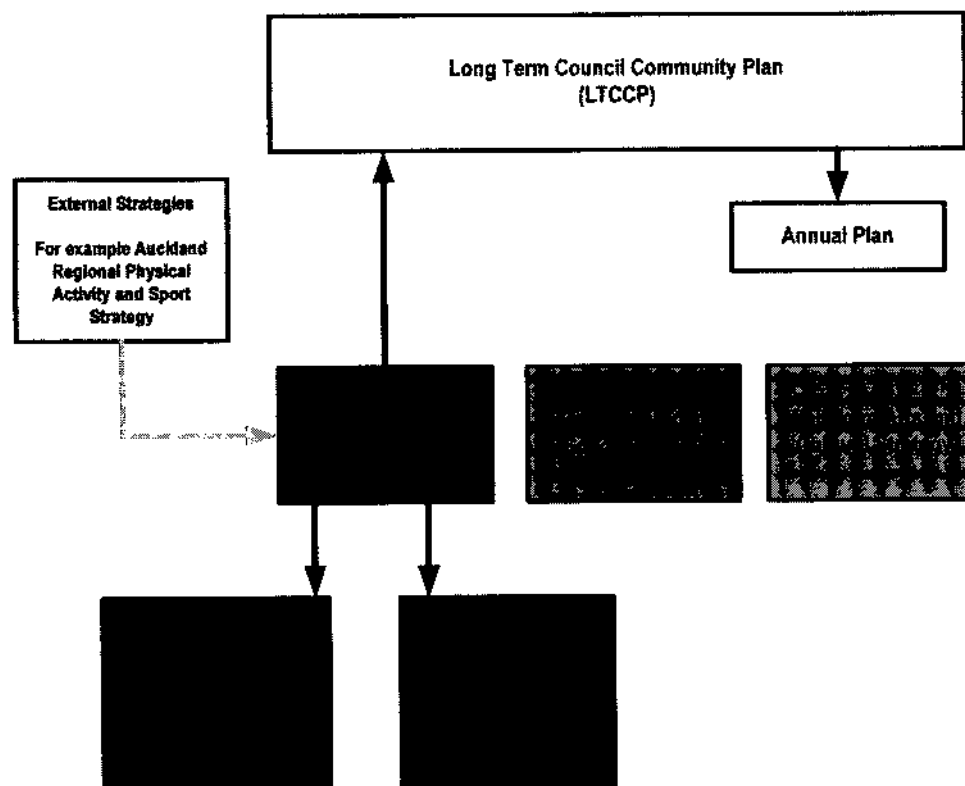
The Auckland Regional Physical Activity and Sport Strategy aims to improve a range of physical activity and sports outcomes across the region. The Strategy is the first regional strategy focused on sport and

physical activity and is supported by Waitakere City, the majority of Auckland's other territorial local authorities, the four regional sports trusts, Ministry of Health and SPARC.

### Additional Strategies and Policies

In addition to the strategies outlined above consideration has also been taken of a range of other documents. These include but are not limited to various SPARC strategies and the Council's own Community Facilities Plan (1990) and Wellbeing Report (2004).

Figure 1: Leisure Strategy Relationship Diagram



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## 4.0 The Leisure Strategy's Guiding Principles

The twelve guiding principles below form the basis for the Leisure Strategy and provide the framework from which the goals, objectives and strategic actions subsequently outlined rest. These principles both align with and are inspired by Waitakere's Nine Strategic Platforms and Five Priorities. These principles have also been guided by relevant strategies, community consultation and leisure research.

### 1. Social Inclusion

People throughout Waitakere regardless of their age, ethnicity, income or physical ability will have access to a variety of passive and active leisure facilities and activities.

Aligning Strategic Platforms: Urban and Rural Villages and Strong Communities.

Aligning Strategic Priorities: Treaty of Waitangi and First Call for Children.

### 2. Facility and Open Space Quality

Leisure facilities and open space within Waitakere will be of the highest quality.

Aligning Strategic Platforms: Urban and Rural Villages, Green Network and Strong Communities.

Aligning Strategic Priorities: Treaty of Waitangi, Safe City and First Call for Children.

### 3. Holistic Planning

Our community views leisure provision holistically and does not differentiate between different providers' roles. Therefore planning for leisure should also be viewed holistically with strong synergies and partnerships between the different Council departments, community agencies and community organisations.

Aligning Strategic Platforms: Urban and Rural Villages, Green Network, Integrated Transport and Communication, Active Democracy, Strong Innovative Economy and Strong Communities.

Aligning Strategic Priorities: Treaty of Waitangi, Safe City and First Call for Children.

#### 4. Sustainability

Leisure facilities will make use of sustainable design principles and practices in order to create healthy energy efficient facilities.

Aligning Strategic Platforms: Sustainable Energy and Clean Air.  
Aligning Strategic Priorities: Sustainable Development.

#### 5. Functionality

Leisure facilities will be functional and meet the needs of users.

Aligning Strategic Platforms: Urban and Rural Villages and Strong Communities.  
Aligning Strategic Priorities: Treaty of Waitangi, Safe City and First Call for Children.

#### 6. Safety

The community should feel free to participate in leisure activities without fear of crime. Active leisure should be seen as a tool to improve community safety by increasing surveillance through the greater use of urban areas.

Aligning Strategic Platforms: Urban and Rural Villages and Strong Communities.  
Aligning Strategic Priorities: Safe City and First Call for Children.

#### 7. Economic Vibrancy

Leisure activities should when ever possible be harnessed to deliver increased economic benefits to the wider community via indirect economic multipliers.

Aligning Strategic Platforms: Strong Innovative Economy, Urban and Rural Villages and Strong Communities.  
Aligning Strategic Priorities: First Call for Children and Lifelong Learning.

#### 8. Leisure Evolution

Leisure facilities and services will be designed so that they are capable of evolving over time as the needs of each of Waitakere's leisure catchments change demographically.

Aligning Strategic Platforms: Urban and Rural Villages and Strong Communities.  
Aligning Strategic Priorities: Treaty of Waitangi and First Call for Children.

#### 9. Innovation

Waitakere will be an innovator in the provision of leisure opportunities.

Aligning Strategic Platforms: Urban and Rural Villages and Strong Communities.  
Aligning Strategic Priorities: Treaty of Waitangi and First Call for Children.

#### 10. Participation

Increased participation in physical activity is important for the health of our community.

Aligning Strategic Platforms: Urban and Rural Villages, Green Network and Strong Communities.  
Aligning Strategic Priorities: Treaty of Waitangi and First Call for Children.

#### 11. Partnerships

Waitakere will meet it's leisure vision with the aid of strategic partners working together.

Aligning Strategic Platforms: Urban and Rural Villages, Green Network and Strong Communities.  
Aligning Strategic Priorities: Treaty of Waitangi and First Call for Children.

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## 12. Quality of Life

Leisure facilities, environments and activities help increase the community's sense of place and belonging and deliver a higher quality of life.

Aligning Strategic Platforms:      Urban and Rural Villages, and Strong Communities.  
Aligning Strategic Priorities:      Safe City and First Call for Children

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## 5.0 Methodology

The Leisure Strategy is underpinned by over four years of qualitative and quantitative research which focused on a variety of leisure issues. The research methodology which has been extensive and holistic incorporates the work of many organisations. The Waitakere community has also participated in the process directly through attendance at public workshops, participation research exercises, questionnaire surveys and focused interviews.

The findings from this research have been used in the development of the strategy's key strategic objectives and actions. There are twelve key research strands to the Leisure Strategy's methodology. These are:

### Community Resources Equity Modelling

The 'Community Resources Equity Model'\* assists the assessment of current and future facility supply inequities so new facilities can be located where they are most needed. The 'Community Resource Model' uses supply and demand data, together with geographical distance decay modelling techniques, to produce a relative equity measure for each facility type for each census meshblock within the city (e.g. a swimming pool or a recreation centre). The model is a relative equity model and assumes that certain areas of the city will be less adequately served by particular leisure facilities than others.

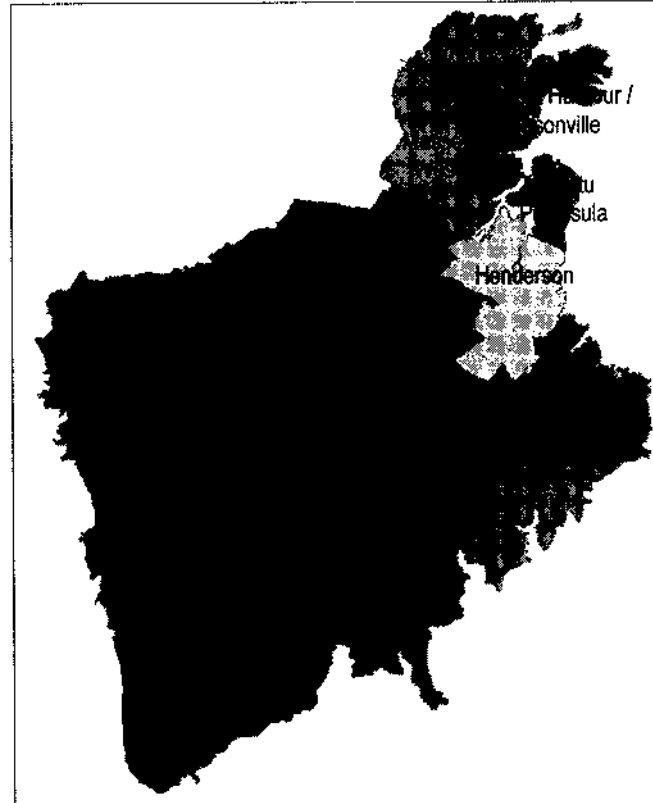
### Financial Contribution Zones (FCZ)

Waitakere City Parks developed nine Financial Contribution Zones (FCZ) based around catchments of common interest and specific geographic divisions. The nine FCZ discussed in the strategy are outlined in Figure 2.

\* The Community Resources Equity Model was developed by Market Economics Ltd.

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Figure 2: Waitakere Financial Contribution Zones (FCZ).



Source: Derived from Waitakere City Council Parks FCZ, 2004.

Notes:

- 1). The names used for each FCZ differ from the technical names used by Waitakere Parks although the boundaries remain identical.
- 2). FCZ are new constructs and may not necessarily share boundaries with existing suburbs or Wards.

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### **Population Projections**

Population projections were developed for each of the nine Waitakere Financial Contributions Zones using 'The Population Allocation Model'. The model allocates the quantum of growth projected by an external agency such as Statistics New Zealand within Waitakere City in a manner prescribed by Council. The research examined population, occupier type, age, sex and ethnicity projections. These data are essential to assist determining what leisure facilities and programmes will be required in the future.

### **Sport and Recreation New Zealand Research**

Sport and Recreation New Zealand (SPARC) in association with the Cancer Association undertook a wide ranging national research study ('Obstacles to Action, 2005') examining barriers to leisure participation. This research revealed data on Waitakere residents' activity patterns and their perceptions towards physical activity and health. These data will be used as a foundation for identifying and overcoming participation barriers and developing programmes which increase residents' rates of physical activity.

### **Leisure Inventory**

A leisure inventory was undertaken to geographically position all public leisure assets within each of the nine Financial Contribution Zones. These assets were mapped over a range of socio demographic variables to provide a base layer of relevant facility planning indicators. Strategic non public leisure assets were also included. These data were used to build up a picture of current leisure facility provision and to assist with interpreting data from other methodological approaches such as community workshop findings, population projections and community resource equity modelling.

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### **Catchment Analysis**

In order to determine how far residents were travelling to use specific leisure facilities (facility catchments) data were gathered using a series of pin map exercises. The exercise involved asking each patron visiting a participating facility to place a pin on a large map board to represent their place of residence. These data were overlaid on a selection of socio demographic variables and mapped to determine each facility's catchment.

Three facilities were surveyed: the West Wave Aquatic Centre, New Lynn Community Centre and Massey Leisure Centre. Patrons from both the Massey Leisure Centre and West Wave Aquatic Centre were separated into casual patrons and concession patrons to enable a greater degree of analysis.

Catchment data were used to inform the findings from other methodological approaches such as community resource equity modelling and community workshops. Data also assisted in determining the requirement for new facilities.

### **Best Practice Review**

Research was undertaken to determine what innovative domestic and international solutions were being implemented to improve leisure service delivery and quality. These data were compared against findings from other methodological approaches and used to guide the development of particular strategic actions.

### **Stakeholder Interviews**

Interviews were conducted with different stakeholder groups which play a direct role in assisting and shaping leisure activity in Waitakere. These organisations included Sport Waitakere, Charitable Trusts and leisure facility management organisations.

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### **Community Workshops**

A series of community workshops were held across Waitakere to discuss what activities participants were undertaking, their leisure vision for the future and how this vision could be fulfilled. Participants ranged from age five through to eighty-nine. In addition to general community workshops specialist workshops were held with the disabled, older adults, youth, Maori youth, Maori, Pacific Island peoples and migrants.

### **Sports Organisation Survey / Interviews**

A comprehensive questionnaire survey was distributed to all sporting organisations in Waitakere. The survey examined issues from membership trends through to governance and management. One third of all sports organisations in Waitakere participated in the questionnaire survey. The survey process was followed up with a series of face to face in-depth interviews with a cross section of different sports codes.

### **Secondary Research**

A selection of leisure research undertaken locally, nationally and internationally since 2000 was reviewed and where applicable taken into consideration during the development of the strategy.

### **Leisure Trends**

Research was undertaken looking at national and international leisure trends and cyclical changes across a variety of leisure activities.

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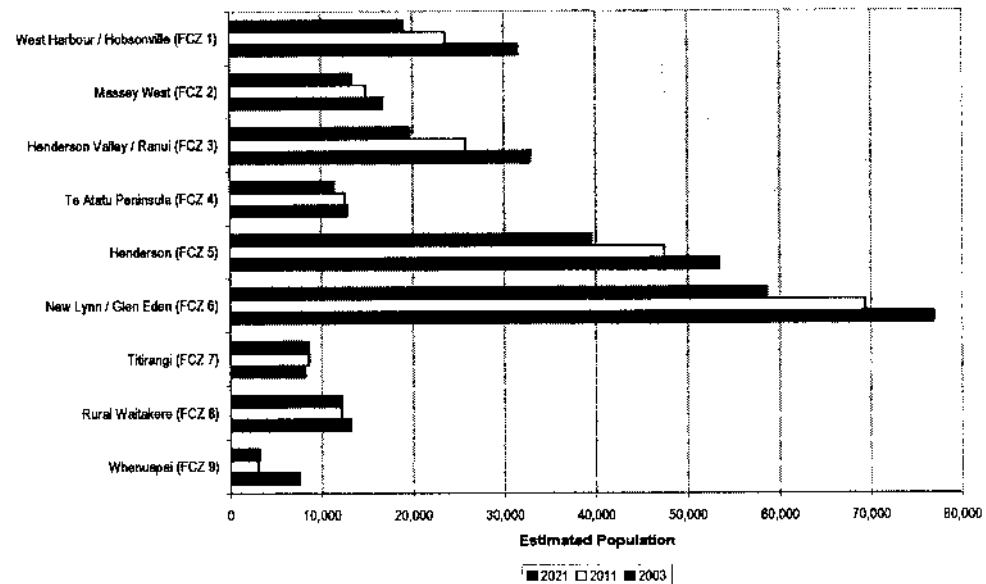
## 6.0 Research Findings

### 6.1 Population Projections

Waitakere City is projected to undergo a series of significant population changes up to 2021 and beyond. Not only will the number of Waitakere residents increase but the socio demographic composition of the community will also change.

Eight of the city's nine Financial Contribution Zones (FCZ) are projected to experience population increases up to 2021 (Figure 3). In percentage terms the most rapid growth over this period will be experienced in the north west of the City in 'Whenuapai', 'West Harbour / Hobsonville', 'Henderson Valley / Ranui' and 'Massey West'.

Figure 3: Population Projections for Waitakere City Financial Contribution Zones (2003-2021)



Source: Market Economics, 2005

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In terms of numbers of residents the largest increases are projected to occur in the 'New Lynn / Glen Eden', 'Henderson' and 'Henderson Valley / Ranui' FCZ's (Table 1). After 2021 growth rates are projected to continue to increase but at far slower rates as the areas of available land suitable for housing decrease.

Table 1: Projected Change in Financial Contribution Zone Populations by 2011 and 2021.

FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION ZONE	ESTIMATED BASE POPULATION 2003	ESTIMATED POPULATION CHANGE BY 2011	ESTIMATED POPULATION CHANGE BY 2021
West Harbour / Hobsonville (FCZ 1)	19,081	4,465	12,430
Massey West (FCZ 2)	13,364	1,555	3,393
Henderson Valley / Ranui (FCZ 3)	19,682	6,068	13,184
Te Atatu Peninsula (FCZ 4)	11,395	1,198	1,502
Henderson (FCZ 5)	39,524	7,944	13,922
New Lynn / Glen Eden (FCZ 6)	58,621	10,739	18,299
Titirangi (FCZ 7)	8,512	58	-301
Rural Waitakere (FCZ 8)	12,225	-101	939
Whenuapai (FCZ 9)	3,195	-138	4,329

Note: Estimated population changes are cumulative from the estimated 2003 base populations.

Source: Derived from Waitakere City Catchment Population Growth and Development Estimates, Market Economics, 2005.

By 2021 Waitakere's population will be considerably different from 2005. The under 15 age group will account for approximately 19% of the population in 2021 down from 24% in 2003. The proportion of the population aged between 15 and 24 is projected to be more stable at between 12% and 15%. Those aged 25 to 39 will experience a decline from 25% in 2003 to 21% in 2021. The proportion of those aged in their 40's and 50's will remain at approximately 25% of the population over this period. However, the proportion of the population aged over 60 will increase significantly from the current 13% to 20% in 2021. By 2051 28% of the Waitakere population is projected to be over 60.

In line with population projections household distributions in Waitakere will also change over the coming years with retired households increasing more rapidly than younger households. At a FCZ level a more uniform spatial distribution of household types is projected as areas currently under represented by older household types adjust.

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The ethnic composition of the community is also anticipated to change as Europeans decline from the current 71% to 58% by 2021. The strongest growth is anticipated to be amongst Asian (11% currently to 23% in 2021) and Pacific Island peoples (15% currently to 20% in 2021) while the Maori population will remain stable at approximately 10%.

These population projections will have a significant impact on future leisure needs. Particular implications include:

- Increased demand for facilities capable of accommodating older adults leisure activities within local neighbourhoods.
- Sustained demand for active youth orientated leisure facilities.
- Increased demand for leisure facilities and opportunities in high growth areas such as New Lynn / Glenn Eden, Henderson, Henderson Valley / Ranui and West Harbour / Hobsonville.
- Potential increased demand for leisure activities currently popular with specific minority ethnic groups.

## 6.2 Community Resources Equity Modelling

The modelling process identified a variety of areas of relative under provision of community facilities. New Lynn / Glen Eden showed the highest need for improved access to recreation centres. The need for more aquatic facilities was identified in both the North (West Harbour / Hobsonville and Massey West FCZ areas) and South (New Lynn / Glenn Eden FCZ).

Netball courts were identified as a need in pockets of the New Lynn / Glenn Eden FCZ and at high levels in the North (West Harbour / Hobsonville and Massey West FCZ areas). Concentrations of tennis court need closely resembled the patterns of netball court need although when school courts were factored into the modelling process this need diminished so that overall Waitakere was relatively well served.

Waitakere was also relatively well served with Halls when both Council and Community Halls were factored in. However, we know from additional Council research that many of these halls are currently operating at below optimum levels due to their lack of functionality, low comfort levels or poor condition.

Skateboard parks were identified as being in demand in the north of the City in either West Harbour / Hobsonville or Massey West, in Kelston and around Starling Park in Henderson Valley / Ranui.

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### 6.3 Sport and Recreation New Zealand Research

Research conducted by Sport and Recreation New Zealand (SPARC) in 2005 found that Waitakere has significantly fewer active people than in the nation as a whole. Relative to the New Zealand population Waitakere also has a higher proportion of obese people. This research also found that although awareness of the impact of physical activity on health was high, an understanding of the specific benefits was limited.

Compared to the national population Waitakere also contained more people in the 'target' group most likely to be encouraged into physical activity. This fact provides Waitakere with the opportunity to make significant inroads into reversing the current inactivity trend.

No single organisation has the resources to bring about meaningful change in SPARC's identified target group let alone across the entire population. Achieving greater physical activity levels will instead require a coordinated partnership approach involving many community organisations. Waitakere City will be one of the key partner organisations.

These partnerships will also need to adopt new approaches to increase physical activity rates.

### 6.4 Catchment Analysis

The catchment analysis research revealed that the Westwave Aquatic facility had a significantly larger catchment size than was anticipated with high numbers of casual visitors coming from well outside of 5km to swim. Observation revealed that the vast majority of these visitors drove to the facility. This runs counter the Urban Rural Villages Platforms aim of 'continuing to bring working, living and playing closer together'. Concession visitors were far less dispersed and tended to originate from within 3km of the facility.

New Lynn Community Centre had a relatively good catchment size with user numbers being concentrated within 2km of the facility. However, certain geographic pockets within this core catchment were underrepresented. Despite being close to the border with Auckland City the vast majority of users came from within Waitakere.

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Massey Leisure Centre had a comparatively small casual user catchment drawn predominantly from within 3km of the facility. The concession visitors were more numerous and were concentrated to the east and south within 3km of the facility.

The catchment research illustrated that facilities still have scope for further improvement to maximise use.

### 6.5 Community Workshops

The most striking feature of the community consultation workshops was the degree of convergence of opinions between the different workshop groups in respect to particular leisure issues. The three most common issues centred around:

- the perceptions of parks and how they could be improved,
- the importance of facility and park design,
- the need for trained and financially well supported leisure providers and programmes.

Workshop participants felt that Waitakere parks need to include a wider range of facilities for all age groups.

The majority of groups also highlighted the importance of holistic planning and implementation methods to achieve improved community leisure outcomes. In essence the vast majority of participants recognised that achieving improved leisure outcomes for Waitakere would involve many groups working together in coordinated partnerships. Waitakere City was perceived to have a core role to play in fostering and supporting these partnerships.

Maori workshop participants in particular aspired to see their people "healthier and stronger". Maori, Pacific peoples and migrants also stated that physical activity and leisure programmes that were targeted specifically towards their people were far more successful in bringing about positive outcomes. More general community programmes were perceived as being far less successful. Examples of successful programmes included Maori line dancing and Waka ama.

Some Maori participants identified problems in holding regular leisure programmes on marae because of the potential disruption caused by tangi. Council community facilities are therefore preferred.

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Participants also identified specific areas of leisure need within their local communities. Examples included improving local halls, marketing particular facilities and assisting local organisations. In the case of community halls participants often cited a lack of storage space, poor heating and the general run down appearance of facilities. These perceptions aligned strongly with findings from earlier Council research.

The older adults' workshops identified a range of functionality issues that needed to be addressed in existing and future community facilities. These primarily revolved around the need for suitable sized and comfortable rooms and adequate storage space. Storage space was perceived as being important as older adults could not lift large quantities of equipment into and out of facilities. Realistic hire costs were perceived as being another important requirement.

Both the youth and Maori youth workshops identified the need for more exciting leisure environments in the form of a youth centre and improved playground and sports facilities in parks. Boat ramps were seen as important waka ama launching sites.

#### **6.6 Sports Organisation Survey**

The main findings from the sports organisation survey were that many Waitakere clubs were in urgent need of management and governance assistance. Those clubs that were doing well tended to have well established strategic plans, governance, management and administrative systems. By contrast those clubs that were experiencing problems tended to be weaker in these areas.

Weak governance and management can have significant negative flow on effects into other areas of an organisation's operation such as facility maintenance and club memberships. These potential weaknesses come at the very time when the sector is required more than every by the community.

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## 6.7 Stakeholder Interviews

The overwhelming core finding from the stakeholder interviews conducted with organisations such as charitable trusts, Sport Waitakere and leisure programme providers such as the YMCA, was the need to work more holistically in coordinated partnerships. There was a belief that opportunities to improve

Leisure outcomes in Waitakere were being currently lost due to a lack of coordination and partnering. However, it was acknowledged that positive signs were emerging of closer coordination.

## 6.8 General Leisure Trends and Best Practice

An international and domestic survey of general leisure trends and best practice identified:

- Traditional physical leisure activities are now directly competing for people's free time with other forms of entertainment such as shopping, restaurants, cafes, DVD's, films and computer games. These latter forms of entertainment are aided significantly by mass marketing.
- The public's expectation for higher quality leisure experiences has increased significantly. The leisure market both domestically and internationally is now more sophisticated than it was in the 1980s and 1990s.
- The trend towards casual pay for play leisure activities has remained strong as many people prefer not to commit large periods of their leisure time to a single activity.
- Individual adventure activities such as kite surfing, sea kayaking, wake boarding, mountain biking, multi sport racing and Waka ama continue to grow in popularity. Many of these sports offer organised events to provide a social and competitive dimension for participants.
- The uptake of new adventure leisure activities is becoming more rapid due to mass media and marketing exposure.