

Community outcomes – our 2008 scorecard

It has been about three years since the community decided how it wanted the city to be. Since that time, some great strides have been made. It is also clear that we have plenty of work ahead of us in some areas.

This scorecard summarises some of the achievements we can be proud of, and highlights areas we need to focus on in the coming years.

Achieving the standards we set

It is gratifying to see that most Waitakere residents are satisfied with their quality of life and work-life balance. High and increasing numbers of people think that their leisure facility and activity needs are being met and residents rate the variety and location parks in the city well.

People are getting more involved in their communities, with high rates of public participation in environmental projects, for example, Project Twin Streams and tree planting.

Most people think Waitakere is a safe place to live in and recorded rates of crime are lower than the national average. Employment rates in the city are high.

On the education front, fewer students are leaving school with low NCEA qualifications, Māori participation and achievement in education is increasing and participation in early childhood education is increasing.

We are facing up to the challenges of a growing city with detailed plans for managing population growth and major initiatives to protect green spaces for future generations.

There has also been significant work and investment in public transport.

Where we can do better

On the other side of the ledger, it is concerning that town centres are not seen as safe at night, and family violence continues to be a significant problem.

People report more difficulty being able to see a doctor and there is a continuing decrease in the number of GPs per 100,000 residents. Physical activity rates are low.

Environmentally, there is room for improvement, with three quarters of the city's solid waste still going to landfill and water consumption per person remaining higher than targeted.

Large numbers of people continue to leave the city for work, and home ownership rates in Waitakere continue to decrease.

There is a number of initiatives in the planning or early stages that we hope will have a measurable impact on these troubling issues. These range from a mayoral taskforce on family violence and increased policing in town centres through to a collaborative effort with a number of agencies to get Waitakere people more active.

Read on to find more in-depth information on each of the outcomes and how they will be measured. Or if you are using this page as a standalone document – read the Waitakere Community Outcomes Progress Report 2007. And look out for regular updates on the council's website: www.waitakerepeople.net.nz

