

Maori Consultation

Summary of issues

Partnership and representation

The major issue that arose was that of partnership and representation. At times the viewpoints of participants on certain issues, in particular governance, differed, though what was expressed largely centred on a greater say in the decision-making. Most people felt that the current setup was not good enough. It was stated that Te Taumata Runanga were unable to make decisions; were not equal or of the same status as other committees of Council. Concern was also raised as to the level of Te Taumata Runanga's linkages to the people and its representativeness. There was a need expressed for the recognition of different Maori groups and concern was noted over the lack of recognition of Maori in the area including artwork, naming of roads, parks and buildings. Concern was also raised regarding the Treaty of Waitangi and the lack of any formal Council policy.

Education

Education was also an area of importance. Concern was raised regarding the disparity of funding for kohanga reo, the lack of Maoritanga in mainstream schools, and the insufficient support/resources for kura kaupapa. The need for support from Council to address the specific needs of child and youth was expressed, as well as the importance of integrating the services of other organisations. From the youth workshop a need for youth events and a centre or facility was clearly identified.

Other

Other areas of note were safety, transport and rates. What was clearly expressed during the day was that not enough time was allowed to fully explore the issues raised and that more hui were needed to fully represent peoples views.

How are the key issues allowed for in the Council's draft Strategic Plan?

Partnership/representation

This issue is captured under the Strong Democracy platform, notably within:

- Strengthen Te Taumata and encourage Maori leadership in the community
- Support greater Maori involvement in regional and local issues
- Change the electoral system to ensure the Council reflects community diversity

There is no specific provision for the Treaty of Waitangi within the draft Strategic Plan. A Treaty of Waitangi workshop for Councillors is to be held on 23rd of September 2002. The role of manuhenua within Waitakere City is

currently not acknowledged in the draft Strategic Plan. It is recommended that reference to this be added to the Strong Democracy platform.

Other ongoing work which support this issue include:

- The review of Te Taumata Runanga – consultation suggests that the relationship between Te Taumata Runanga and both the Council and the people they represent be a focus of this review.
- Discussions around the Local Elections voting system, including Single Transferable Vote (STV).
- The proposal for Maori Wards within the Local Government Act.

Recognition of Maori within the area is supported under the Strong Communities platform. Specifically in:

- Support Marae and cultural centres
- Increase bilingual visibility through signage
- Identify and develop sites and features of special heritage significance in the city

The development of the Council's Arts and Culture Strategy also provides significant guidance within this area.

Education

This issue again has emerged as a strong focus for many, though for Maori this focus is on the specific needs and resources of Maori schools. This, therefore, adds further weight to the call for Council to act as a strong advocate and broker within the education sector.

Youth Issues

The issues raised were very consistent with those raised in other youth consultation, namely the need for youth events and a youth centre or facilities. This is partially provided for under the Strong Communities platform. The need for partnerships and coordination of services with other organisations is recognised within the draft Strategic Plan.