



Waitakere City Council
Te Taiao o Waitakere

NOTICE OF MEETING

POLICY AND STRATEGY COMMITTEE

I hereby give notice that a meeting of the Policy and Strategy Committee will be held on:-

DATE: Thursday, 4 September 2008 **TIME:** 9.30 am

MEETING ROOM: Council Chamber

VENUE: Waitakere Central, 6 Henderson Valley Road, Henderson, Waitakere

to consider the business as set out herein and to take any necessary action connected therewith.

29 August 2008

Judith Moore
COMMITTEE SECRETARY

Telephone (09) 836 8000 extn 8950

MEMBERSHIP:

Deputy Mayor	PA	Hulse (Chairman)
Councillors	LA	Cooper, JP (Deputy Chairman)
	DQ	Battersby, JP
	BA	Brady, JP
	MFP	Chan, JP
	JM	Clews, QSO, JP
	RI	Clow
	AK	Corban, OBE, JP
	RP	Dallow, QPM, JP
	WW	Flaunty, QSM, JP
	MM	Jolley
	JP	Lawley, JP
	PG	Mitchell
	VS	Neeson, JP
	Mrs	M Te Huia

Mayor RA Harvey, QSO, JP (ex officio)

(Quorum 5 members)

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(Meeting Room could be subject to change)

(The reports and recommendations contained in all agendas are reports and recommendations only and are not to be construed, in any way, as Council policy until adopted.)

**AGENDA FOR A MEETING OF THE POLICY AND STRATEGY COMMITTEE TO BE HELD IN
THE COUNCIL CHAMBER AT WAITAKERE CENTRAL, 6 HENDERSON VALLEY ROAD,
HENDERSON, WAITAKERE, ON THURSDAY, 4 SEPTEMBER 2008
COMMENCING AT 9.30 AM**

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1 APOLOGIES



2 URGENT BUSINESS

Section 46A(7) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 provides that where an item of business is not on the agenda, it may only be dealt with at the meeting if:

- (i) the Committee by resolution so decides; and
- (ii) the Chairman has explained at the beginning of the meeting (when open to the public) that the item will be raised for discussion and decision, why the item is not on the agenda, and why it cannot be delayed until a subsequent meeting.

The Committee may make a decision on a matter determined to be urgent.

NOTE: Urgent Business need not be dealt with now and may be delayed until later in the meeting.



3 CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

The Council has acknowledged in its Code of Conduct that Elected Members need to be vigilant to stand aside from decision making when a conflict arises between their role as a member of the Council and any private or other external interest they might have. This note is provided as a reminder to members to check that no such conflicts arise in relation to any items on this agenda.



4 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Meeting Minutes - Thursday 4 September 2008

It is recommended that the Policy and Strategy Committee resolve to:

Receive the minutes of the meeting of the Policy and Strategy Committee held on Thursday, 7 August 2008, as circulated, and that they be taken as read and now be confirmed.



5 PRESENTATION - WAITAKERE BUSINESS AND ECONOMY 1997-2007

The Manager: Economic Development Strategy will provide a presentation on Council's annual business and economy publication. This report is produced each year examining the performance of the local economy versus regional, national, and historic trends. This year's report gives encouraging results and a press release will be issued later today describing the main conclusions..



6 AFFORDABLE AND SUSTAINABLE HOUSING INITIATIVES AND ACTIONS

GLOSSARY

Housing New Zealand Corporation (HNZC)
Housing Innovation Fund (HIF)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to detail key initiatives and actions that Waitakere City Council can commit to as the first steps towards improving housing affordability and housing (rental) security for Waitakere residents and households.

The timing of this report is appropriate for two reasons. Firstly the Government is determined to increase the supply of affordable housing through legislation. Secondly housing affordability, particularly home ownership in Waitakere, is getting worse and will continue to worsen in the foreseeable future despite the current slowdown in the property market. The 'House Price Increases and Housing in New Zealand Report' by the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet in March 2008 identified that longer-term structural factors have been the primary driver of high real property prices and that the current down turn in property prices is unlikely to provide affordable housing in the medium to long-term. Further, the Auckland region is experiencing a rapid slow down in house building activity which will compound even further the under supply of housing in the Auckland region.

In June 2007, a report to the City Development Committee identified Waitakere's main housing issues as being unmet housing need and demand; falling rates of home ownership and increasing demand for rental properties; a lack of affordable homes of an acceptable quality; increasing numbers of financially stressed households renting poor quality and (sometimes dangerous) accommodation such as garages and caravans and a lack of affordable housing owned by the not-for-profit sector. It was also apparent that the Council lacked a clear understanding of the magnitude of Waitakere's housing issues as a citywide housing assessment had not been conducted. Without an understanding of the magnitude of the housing issues it is difficult to plan the right housing responses with the right partners and stakeholders.

This report proposes a number of housing initiatives that will address the issues identified above. Whilst these initiatives are presented as separate actions they have been designed to be implemented together as part of an integrated programme to avoid the possibility of vulnerable households being unable to access housing appropriate for their situation.

The need for a Waitakere wide housing assessment is one of the actions recommended in this report, as the information it will provide will inform the type and scale of the actions behind the proposed initiatives, including, for example, developing a Citywide retrofitting housing action plan.

Overseas, central and local governments frequently part-fund the third (not-for-profit housing) sector in recognition of their ability to successfully provide a wide range of affordable housing solutions. While Waitakere has a small number of not-for-profit housing organisations, it is apparent the sector lacks a coherent voice and consequently the ability to advocate for appropriate housing investment by Government. With the Council partnering with the not-for-profit housing sector, the opportunity exists for the Council and the sector to agree on an affordable housing investment programme with Housing New Zealand Corporation (HNZC) and potential private sector developers.

One of the biggest inhibitors for the not-for-profit sector is a lack of access to affordable land for residential developments. The Council owns land held in Deed by Waitakere Properties Limited that might be suitable for affordable or mixed tenure housing developments. This paper proposes assessing their land holdings for possible affordable housing opportunities.

The not-for-profit sector has a role in assisting the Council and Government agencies to reduce and eventually halt the flow of households into Waitakere's poor quality and frequently unhealthy accommodation. Further consideration needs to be given to how poor quality housing could be upgraded or removed from Waitakere's housing stock.

The initiatives and actions described in this paper provide the Council with a platform from which it can work in partnership with the not-for-profit housing sector, local communities, private developers and Government to facilitate and deliver housing responses that will improve housing choice and affordability in Waitakere.

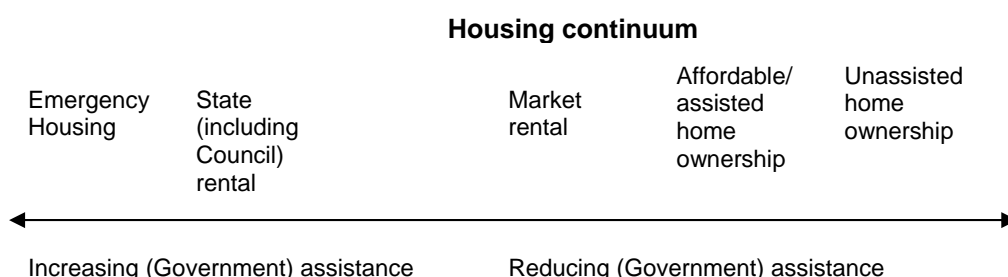
RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Policy and Strategy Committee resolve to:

1. **Receive** the Affordable and Sustainable Housing Initiatives and Actions report.
2. **Note** that the Affordable and Sustainable Housing Initiatives and Actions report proposes initiatives and actions which if implemented will improve the provision of and access to affordable housing in Waitakere.
3. **Note** the proposal to develop a Citywide retrofitting action plan which will be reported to Waitakere City Council at a later date.
4. **Note** that Waitakere City Council will work in partnership with Central Government, appropriate not-for-profit housing providers and local communities to ensure the provision of appropriate affordable housing solutions, including the consideration of a rental property Warrant of Fitness regime.
5. **Agree** to Waitakere City Council supporting and growing through leadership, advocacy and targeted assistance the not-for-profit housing sector in Waitakere.
6. **Agree** to the actions identified in the Affordable Housing Initiatives and Actions report as follows:
 - a) the assessment of housing stock in Waitakere.
 - b) the assessment of land owned by Waitakere City Council and in trust by Waitakere Properties Limited for possible affordable housing solutions.
 - c) the development of a housing impact assessment tool.

BACKGROUND

1. This report has been written following earlier reports to the City Development Committee in 2006 and 2007, where it was noted that access to affordable housing is a significant issue for Council and residents and that affordable housing is a key component of many of the Council's strategic priorities and platforms.
2. On 7 June 2007 the City Development Committee received a copy of the draft Waitakere Housing Action Plan. Officers were requested to identify a number of actions and initiatives that the Council could be responsible for and report back to the (then) City Development Committee in 2008 after consideration and consultation with key housing stakeholders across the City.
3. The development of a draft Waitakere Housing Action Plan was in response to housing affordability and adequacy issues in Waitakere, which if left unaddressed are likely to worsen over time. Waitakere has become increasingly less affordable for households on low to moderate incomes, as it becomes more attractive for higher income households and private investors searching for what they consider to be relatively affordable 'Auckland' housing. The draft Waitakere Housing Action Plan also identified a lack of adequate emergency housing and housing advocacy services in the City to support families and people with significant housing problems and issues.
4. Local surveys such as that conducted in Massey by the Massey Matters project and the "Child Health and Housing in the Waitemata District" report by Waitemata District Health Board have highlighted that a significant percentage of Waitakere's housing stock is of poor quality. This results in situations where households on low and even moderate incomes will have little option, but to rent substandard (and not always affordable) housing, exposing them to potentially significant health problems.
5. Housing affordability is considered a problem, when the housing costs of households in the lower 40% of the income distribution exceed 25% to 30% of their income (*"Building the Future: The New Zealand Housing Strategy"* HNZA 2005). It is a serious problem when it consumes more than 40% of the household income. Affordability becomes increasingly acute for low and fixed income households as they have little 'discretionary' income available for essentials such as food, clothes and heating once they have met their housing costs.
6. Affordable housing includes both rental and owner-occupier housing. In Australia, the USA, Europe and the UK it is usually owned and managed by not-for-profit housing organisations. It is housing that (through some form of subsidy) is priced lower than similar market properties. In New Zealand housing provided by HNZA is defined as social housing and is not counted as affordable housing.
7. Affordable housing is usually the missing element in the housing continuum. A classic housing continuum spans from emergency housing to state housing to affordable (below market) rental housing to private (market) rental housing to affordable (assisted) home ownership and finally to (unassisted) home ownership housing. This continuum can also be portrayed as below:



8. Affordable housing providers are usually from the not-for-profit sector (third sector) who provide affordable housing because they may receive:
 - Grants or gifts (including in kind such as land at discounted prices);
 - Associated housing service and supply contracts;
 - Discounted loans from central and local government;
 - Funding from charitable trusts; and
 - Revenue raised from their asset base and trading activities.
9. In comparison to Australia, the USA, Europe and the UK there is a dearth of not-for-profit housing organisations in New Zealand. Whilst there are some organisations currently operating in Waitakere, their ability to grow and provide more affordable housing options is constrained by the limited number of funding initiatives and opportunities available to them.
10. Since 2003, the Government has funded through the HNZC Housing Innovation Fund (HIF), the provision of affordable housing by local government, Iwi and not-for-profit housing organisations. Overall the impact of this funding has been small and unevenly distributed across New Zealand in relation to the relative levels of housing need. However, the Friendship Centre Trust, Monte Cecilia Housing Trust, Habitat for Humanity, the Challenge Trust and the New Zealand Housing Foundation have successfully obtained funding to supply a small number of affordable houses in Waitakere in the last few of years.
11. Housing affordability in the form of home ownership has become a key issue for Central Government and most major political parties. Rates of home ownership have fallen from a national high of 74% in 1991 to 67% in 2006 and are forecasted to drop nationally to 62% by 2016. Home ownership levels in the Auckland region are predicted to fall even faster. This trend is unlikely to be significantly affected by the current softening of the property market as Auckland does not have an over-supply of housing stock and the current decline in the supply of new homes will further reduce the number of homes available for people to rent or own.
12. The decline in home ownership and the lack of affordable homes for first time homeowners impacts significantly on people with no choice but to rent as they are competing against a greater number of households who are renting for longer and willing to pay higher rents until they can buy.
13. In response to falling home ownership the Government has initiated a number of housing actions across a range of ministries and agencies. One response is the 'Housing Affordability: Enabling Local Authorities Bill' which is designed to enable territorial authorities to specify that a developer must set aside a percentage of their new development for affordable housing, or provide an alternative site for affordable housing or provide financial contributions in lieu of affordable housing.
14. The Government has since introduced a shared equity scheme and is in the process of reviewing all Crown land in the Auckland region that might be suitable for housing. The Government is also considering how to streamline territorial local authority consenting processes for new "affordable" homes for first time buyers.
15. The Council's response to housing affordability issues has been to commit to the long term provision of affordable housing for older adults by jointly funding, with HNZC through its Local Government HIF programme, upgrades of its older adult villages.

DECISION MAKING

Issues

16. In 2007 officers drafted a Housing Action Plan which identified Waitakere's main housing issues as:
- a) Unmet housing needs such as:
 - Falling rates of homeownership;
 - Lack of affordable properties of an acceptable quality;
 - Increasing demand for rental properties and a demand for long-term tenure;
 - Increasing numbers of financially stressed households;
 - Lack of emergency housing; and
 - Lack of affordable housing owned by the not for profit sector.
 - b) Insufficient awareness as to what constitutes quality housing.
 - c) Insufficient use of sustainable building practices and energy efficiency measures.
 - d) The need for greater integration of housing with the City's social and physical infrastructure needs.

Identification of affordable housing initiatives

17. In June 2007 the City Development Committee agreed in resolution no. 982/2007 to the further development of the Housing Action Plan and to consult with key housing organisations on possible housing initiatives that will improve the supply of and access to affordable housing. As a result of this engagement and process of review, the following six priority initiatives and actions have been identified.

Undertake an assessment of the housing stock in Waitakere

18. In order to plan for Waitakere's future housing needs it is important to understand and know the quality and type of existing housing, what type of housing is being supplied, household demographics and identifying gaps between the housing supply and housing demand. This knowledge will enable the Council to better plan for Waitakere's future housing needs by providing robust detailed housing information for discussions between the Council and Government on the type of housing investment that is required to improve access to and increase the supply of affordable housing.
19. Council officers are discussing with Housing New Zealand Corporation and the North Shore City Council the practicalities and efficiency of conducting a North and West Auckland regional housing assessment, which will capture both local and regional information. The assessment is envisaged as being predominately desk based with the findings tested against a number of local housing surveys.

Identifying alternative funding opportunities for retrofitting programmes

20. It is thought that Waitakere has a large number of poor quality, damp and potentially mouldy houses. There is clear evidence that people living in houses that are cold, damp and mouldy are at a greater risk of respiratory illness and meningococcal infection than those living in healthier homes. Young children and older people are significantly more vulnerable to illness due to the amount of time they spend at home. The Waitemata District Health Board "Warm and Well" retrofitting programme focuses on energy retrofitting of such homes if a child under the age of 14 lives in the home. The proposed assessment of Waitakere housing stock will identify the scale and type of poor quality housing in Waitakere and quantify the scale of the appropriate response.
21. Waitakere is home to several retrofitting programmes, which the Council is in the process of co-ordinating to identify those capable of providing the best overall outcomes for Waitakere residents. In conjunction with, and informed by the housing assessment work officers are developing a citywide retrofitting action plan which will be reported at a later date to the Council.

Grow key not-for-profit housing organisations through partnering, supporting and resourcing

22. The not-for-profit sector is vital to the successful development and implementation of both local and Central Government housing initiatives. It is important therefore for the Council to show leadership and develop effective partnerships with not-for-profit housing organisations that are credible and have a history of working in this sector. This approach complements Government thinking, which is reviewing its funding of this sector with a view to targeting those organisations that are robust and most capable of making a difference.
23. A formal partnering arrangement with key not-for-profit housing organisations provides the Council with a framework for planning and negotiating a robust long-term Waitakere housing advocacy and affordable housing investment programme with HNZA and other funders. The Council would lead the development of the housing programme and with its partners identify the type of housing investment and response needed to address Waitakere's housing issues.
24. An example of the effectiveness of this approach would be the Council bringing these organisations together to plan how to address the issues identified from the housing needs assessment. For instance, a focus could be on how to improve Waitakere's limited supply of emergency housing or the provision of suitable housing for youth and young adults. Such a partnership enables responses to be properly planned and scarce resources prioritised. It also creates a logical and long term platform for lobbying Government, the private sector and other community and philanthropic organisations for appropriate and additional resourcing and support.
25. A more direct action for supporting not-for-profit organisations could be an assessment of how the Council can reduce their overhead costs. An example could be the introduction of longer term (three year plus) rate relief agreements on properties owned and rented at below market rates to vulnerable households. This will require a change to the Council's policy if it is considered to be an appropriate response. This approach also reduces Council's yearly rate relief transaction costs.

Identify land owned by the Council and Waitakere Properties Limited that could be made available for affordable housing

26. Strong growth in land prices has been a significant driver in property price increases. Offering (selling or leasing) residential development land at below market values reduces housing costs to a point where housing becomes more affordable. Usually such land is sold or leased to not-for-profit organisations to ensure the land (and subsequent home) is not on sold at market value. This is the most effective way of making land available at an affordable price for the not-for-profit sector.
27. The Commerce Committee reported to Parliament on 15 August 2008 its recommendations from its 'Inquiry in to Housing Affordability in New Zealand'. The Commerce Committee's first recommendation is:

"that steps be taken to ensure that local councils and landowners are encouraged to plan for, and release on to the market, a forward supply of suitable land for subdivision so that land supply meets land demand".
28. Such an approach when used in conjunction with a housing need assessment would enable Councils to develop more targeted and focused long term planned responses to the drivers of housing demand.
29. It is proposed that an analysis is conducted of Waitakere City Council land holdings including those currently managed by Waitakere Properties Limited to identify land that may be suitable for affordable or mixed income and mixed tenure housing developments (a mix of rental, affordable and outright home ownership). A report of the findings will then be presented to Council detailing the findings and identifying possible housing options.

Identify initiatives for improving security of rental tenure and examine the feasibility of developing an approved landlord database and a Warrant of Fitness regime for rental properties

30. The Tenancy Services of the Department of Building and Housing reports that nationally, the average rental tenancy lasts 12 months. Such a rapid turnover impacts negatively on a households' disposable income and on their ability to stay connected and build connections with the local community. It has a negative impact on educational achievements, as well as delivering poor health, social and cultural outcomes impacting on a person's ability to remain in stable employment. Unstable and short term tenancies also stop Central Government and voluntary agencies from effectively planning, resourcing and delivering their services.
31. Some members (Monte Cecilia Housing Trust, Waitakere Community Law Service, Citizens Advice Bureau and HNZC to name a few) of the Waitakere Housing Call to Action have identified a shortfall in the provision of housing advice, information and advocacy, particularly for vulnerable households, in Waitakere. This shortfall is not currently funded by Central Government and does not form part of their housing advice policy role or legislative requirement.
32. These members have established a community tenancy and advocacy service which is funded from the Wellbeing Project Discretionary Funding Pool for part of the year. The service is based in the Waitakere Community Law Service offices. It is proposed that Waitakere City Council supports and funds this service for three years 2008/2009 to 2010/2011 and during this period, works with the Government and Housing Call to Action to determine how this service can be sustainably funded and delivered regionally and nationally. Demand for this service has been strong so far.

33. As home ownership rates fall demand for renting increases; as demand increases the “housing” choice for the most vulnerable households’ decreases. Vulnerable households are likely to be families with children, young adults, old adults, people with mental health issues, homeless and people released from prisons and discharged from hospital. They frequently have little choice but to rent from landlords who may not demand bonds, but instead charge higher rents. These households are frequently offered poor quality (or substandard) unhealthy housing or other “accommodation” such as garages, caravans or garden huts. In times of economic stress it is not unusual for such households to also experience severe overcrowding and be exposed to potentially dangerous or deadly infectious diseases.
34. The Council has a regulatory role to ensure that the accommodation in Waitakere is suitable and appropriate for residents and supports the Councils vision for Waitakere. Part of our role is to work with local community (particularly not-for-profit housing) organisations and Central Government ministries and agencies to reduce and eventually halt the flow of people and households in to the poor quality accommodation and dangerous accommodation described in the above paragraph.
35. Such action could include the introduction of a Warrant of Fitness (a minimum rental housing standard) regime for rental properties. A similar proposal has been discussed, most recently by the Ministry of Social Development in 2000. This report proposes that the Council work with the Waitakere Housing Call to Action group and the Department of Building and Housing to determine the feasibility of a rental property Warrant of Fitness regime.

Develop a housing affordability impact assessment that evaluates how Council regulation, policy and actions impacts on housing affordability particularly in areas of change or intensification.

36. In order to have a better understanding of some of the drivers of housing need and affordability it is important for the Council to understand how its policies and regulations impact on housing supply and affordability in Waitakere.
37. Decisions to intensify will impact on housing affordability as the supply and type of new housing will be different to what was “originally” there. What is often less well understood is how this affects the existing households and the nature and magnitude of displacement outside newly intensified areas. Displacement can be caused by the supply of new smaller relatively more expensive more apartment type housing. Further, when intensification plans are developed the type of housing required to retain as well as attract people in to the area is not always considered.
38. It is proposed that the Council develops an assessment tool that evaluates the impact of intensification and other land use policies on households in the area affected by the policy. The purpose of the proposed assessment tool is to understand what happened to these households when such policies are implemented and how the more negative outcomes can be mitigated.

Assessment of Initiatives

A1-A6

39. Tables 1,2,3,4,5 and 6 assess the advantages and disadvantages for each initiative against each of the four wellbeings and are attached at pages A1 to A6 of the agenda. Each initiative is also assessed against how it promotes or helps achieve Waitakere’s Community Outcomes. The table also identifies resourcing requirements and possible risks for the Council.

Preferred Initiatives

40. The implementation of the proposed initiatives will improve access to affordable, sustainable and healthier housing. However, if the initiatives are implemented separately their impact will be diluted and Waitakere will suffer from not having a coordinated housing action programme. This paper proposes implementing all the initiatives together as they provide in combination the most effective means of addressing the causes of a lack of affordable housing. The assessment of Waitakere's housing stock, including its demographics and supply and demand needs to be quickly undertaken to enable the Council to plan and respond effectively to the assessment findings.

Consideration of Community Views

41. These initiatives reflect the views of Waitakere's communities as the supply and retention of affordable housing was identified through the Community Outcomes consultation process as a significant issue for Waitakere. Further consultation occurred in workshops and in one to one meetings with community organisations interested or involved in housing.

STRATEGIC CONTEXT

A1-A6

42. The Council recognises that housing and housing affordability is a strategic issue for the City, which is acknowledged in its strategic priority and strategic platforms of the Long Term Council Community Plan. Waitakere communities recognise the importance of affordable housing in their Community Outcomes. This information is also detailed in the tables attached at pages A1 to A6 of the agenda.
43. These housing actions and initiatives directly support the Auckland Sustainability Framework goals of 'A Fair and Connected Society' (goal 1) and a 'Quality Compact Urban Form (goal 6) and 'Effective Collaborative Leadership' (goal 8). The Auckland region's draft One Plan also recognises the importance of ensuring access to sustainable and affordable housing through its 'Building Communities' work programme.
44. The Council's Growth Management Strategy recognises the need for housing solutions that supports and encourages a sustainable lifestyle.
45. Affordable housing connects to the Council's strategic priority of "Sustainable Development" which demonstrates the Council's commitment towards a sustainable society.
46. Affordable housing connects to the Council's strategic platforms of:
- *"Urban and Rural Villages" with its links to Wilshire village, Hobsonville Village and city redevelopment capital projects. It also connects to the Policy Development and Planning functions of 'strategy development – social', 'sustainable development - programme of action', 'regional growth strategy' and 'urban growth management';*
 - *"Strong communities" with its links to 'housing for older adults projects' and developing and managing strategic relationships' to improve the health and well being of our residents and communities; and*
 - *"Sustainable energy and clean air" with its links to energy retrofitting projects in the City.*

47. Affordable housing also indirectly supports the “strong innovative economy” platform as it focuses on providing affordable homes for people to access work opportunities near to their home.
- A1-A6* 48. The importance of housing is reflected in the following Community Outcomes: Sustainable Environment; Urban and Rural Villages; Strong Communities; and Strong Economy. This information is also detailed in the tables attached at pages A1 to A6 of the agenda.
49. The role of the Government (in particular HNZC) and local not-for-profit housing organisations is crucial to the success of these housing initiatives. HNZC has a commitment to growing the not-for-profit housing sector as it wants it to make a difference in the delivery and retention of affordable housing. The approach of partnering and working with a selected number of committed and well resourced not-for-profit housing organisations is supported in general by HNZC as it fits with their planned approach for supporting and funding this sector.

CONSULTATION

50. The affordable housing initiatives and actions identified in this paper result from workshops held with various community organisations interested in or involved in, housing and with those organisations whose clients require stable and secure housing if they are to benefit from the services provided.
51. There has been significant consultation with members of the Waitakere “Housing Call to Action” group who have reviewed and agree with these housing initiatives and actions. Members of this group include HNZC, Friendship Centre Trust, Monte Cecilia Housing Trust, New Zealand Housing Foundation, Habitat for Humanity and Eco Matters Trust.
52. In addition Waitakere City Council ran a Housing Results Based Accountability workshop in October 2007 with strong representation from a wide cross-section of Waitakere community organisations. This workshop focused on Waitakere’s housing issues to identify the actions that will achieve the desired outcomes. Participating organisations included (as well as those outlined in paragraph 50) Community Waitakere, Community Law Centre, Te Whanau o Waipareira Trust, West Fono Pasifika Community Support, Walsh Trust, Work and Income, the Waitakere Pacific Board and the Auckland Regional Public Health Service. Actions identified from these workshops included the following:
- Central and local government providing or donating land to the affordable housing sector;
 - Promoting affordable inclusionary zoning through the district plan;
 - Real investment from central government in affordable housing initiatives;
 - Identify possible secure tenure tools;
 - Work with landlords to improve rental housing stock, through retrofitting programmes and promote the advantages of secure and stable tenancies; and
 - Identify organisations that may be able to released land for affordable housing.

53. In August 2007 a Council wide workshop provided officers with the opportunity to advise and provide input in to the draft Housing Action Plan. There has been since then further internal consultation with the:

- Project Manager Urban Design;
- Group Manager Consents;
- Strategic Advisor - Sustainable Catchments;
- Team Leader: Sustainable Management;
- Massey Project Consultant;
- Manager: Property Assets; and
- Social and Cultural Strategy Group staff.

RESOURCES

54. Initially the primary resourcing demands will be staff time to develop initiatives such as the housing impact assessment tool.

A1-A6

55. However, some initiatives require funding if they are to be developed. The identified costs are:

- Understanding housing needs in Waitakere requires the completion of an assessment of the housing stock in Waitakere. Costs are tentatively forecasted to range between \$40,000 to \$50,000. This work can be commenced this financial year using funding from the Social Development budget; and
- Funding the Waitakere community tenancy and advocacy service is estimated to cost \$60,000 per year. The service has been part funded for the 2008/2009 year, but it will require ongoing funding for the following three years, from 2009/2010 onwards. The funding for this service will be considered as part of the draft 2009-2019 Long Term Council Community Plan.

56. For further details regarding funding, please refer to attached pages A1 to A6 of the agenda.

IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES

57. The most significant issue is the potential use of land owned by the Council for affordable housing. This may require the Council to consult with its residents under the special consultative processes as well as agreeing processes and terms with Waitakere Properties Limited.

Report prepared by: Tony Rea, Group Manager: Social and Cultural Strategy.



7 PROPOSED LOCAL AREA PLAN FOR ORATIA

GLOSSARY

Local Area Plan(s)	(LAP(s))
Waitakere Ranges Heritage Area Act 2008	(the Act)
Long Term Council Community Plan	(LTCCP)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to outline to the Policy and Strategy Committee the process for undertaking the first Local Area Plan (LAP) to be prepared pursuant to sections 25 and 26 of the Waitakere Ranges Heritage Area Act 2008 (the Act).

A report considered by the Policy and Strategy Committee at their meeting held on 7 August 2008, proposed the following option for the Foothills, to:

“Prepare the first LAP for the foothills area with chapters on Henderson Valley, Oratia, Swanson and Anzac Valley (or prepare individual LAPs for each of these communities in sequence).”

Oratia is proposed to be selected as the preferred area for the first LAP.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Policy and Strategy Committee resolve to:

1. **Receive** the Proposed Local Area Plan for Oratia report.
2. **Agree** that the first Local Area Plan should be prepared for the Oratia Local Area, because this is a distinct local area where the Local Area Plan process will reveal many issues that are common to the wider “Foothills” area.
3. **Agree** that the process for undertaking the preparation of the Local Area Plan should include:
 - preliminary research on the characteristics and issues of the area;
 - definition of the local area, in consultation with the local and wider community; and
 - an informed but open and participative “enquiry by design ” process, similar to the process that has been used to develop plans for New Lynn and Westgate.

BACKGROUND

1. At its meeting on 7 August 2008, the Policy and Strategy Committee considered a comprehensive report on the preparation of LAPs and the selection of the first local area for the LAP provisions in the Act to be implemented.
2. The Policy and Strategy Committee resolved to:
 - “3. **Agree** to adopt the Local Area Plans under the Waitakere Ranges Heritage Area Act 2008 report for the purpose of engaging with communities on the purpose of Local Area Plans and the process of developing Local Area Plans.
 4. **Agree** that the priority area for an initial Local Area Plan under the Waitakere Ranges Heritage Area Act 2008 be the Foothills area as outlined in option 3 of the report and that a report regarding the process and priorities for this be reported back to the Policy and Strategy Committee meeting scheduled to be held on Thursday, 4 September 2008.”

1300/2008

3. The option identified in resolution 4 is “prepare for the first LAP for the Foothills area with chapters on Henderson Valley, Oratia, Swanson and Anzac Valley (or prepare individual LAPs for each of these communities in sequence).”

DECISION MAKING

Issues

Description of the Foothills

4. The Foothills are the undulating lower hills and valleys that separate the higher, steeper, more dissected and bush-clad Ranges from the lowland area that generally constitutes the metropolitan part of Waitakere. They extend longitudinally from Oratia in the south east, to Anzac Valley, in the north. There are distinct "local" development histories, communities of interest, landscapes and catchments predominantly rural in character, or at least peri-urban in character. Local distinctiveness apart, in the aggregate, they constitute "the Foothills" and are recognisably distinguished from other parts of the Heritage Area.
5. The different Foothills localities share many management issues identified in the Act, such as pressures of urban subdivision and sprawl, landscape management, catchment management, soil fertility and soil erosion, "wild" areas, low density settlement, rural uses in transition and change, and proximity to protected parkland and metropolitan urban Waitakere. While all these issues have micro-level variations and expression, it is anticipated that some learnings from the LAP process will be transferable or at least inform policy development from one locality in the Foothills to others.

Where to Start

6. To undertake the preparation of a LAP for the whole Foothills area is considered to be too unmanageably complex, and would carry risks of timeliness, loss of community confidence, and superficiality of consultation and policy development that was not specific to any local community. A better approach is the second alternative proposed in option 3 - "to prepare an individual LAP for one local area, but within the setting and frame of the whole Foothills area".

Options Identified

Area Selection

7. As recorded in resolution no. 1300/2008, the Policy and Strategy Committee had a preference for all or part of the Foothills as the locality for the initial LAP. In the discussion, all the areas within the Foothills were mentioned but Oratia was referred to most commonly:
 2. *Agree* priority areas for the initial Local Area Plans and adopt a sequence in which those plans will be developed.
 3. *Agree* to adopt the Local Area Plans under the Waitakere Ranges Heritage Area Act 2008 report for the purpose of engaging with communities on the purpose of Local Area Plans and the process of developing Local Area Plans.
 4. *Agree* that the priority area for an initial Local Area Plan under the Waitakere Ranges Heritage Area Act 2008 be the Foothills area as outlined in option 3 of the report and that a report regarding the process and priorities for this be reported back to the Policy and Strategy Committee meeting scheduled to be held on Thursday, 4 September 2008.

Assessment of Options

- A7-A8
8. Council officers have undertaken an evaluation of the different options which builds on the evaluation contained in the previous report on this matter. That report, in turn, drew on the results on targeted community consultation carried out this year. A summary of that evaluation is attached at pages A7 to A8 of the agenda.

Preferred Option

9. As a result of the evaluation, Oratia is the preferred and recommended local area for the preparation of the first LAP. This area:
- is relatively well researched in terms of issues, and public opinion on development needs (preparation, and submissions/evidence on the Oratia Structure Plan);
 - has experienced urbanisation pressures adjacent to the MUL;
 - is a formerly very productive rural area with existing and future rural potential;
 - has shown recent rural economic innovation and development;
 - has a strong identified community of interest focussed in part on the school, hall, historic and cultural associations, especially with orcharding, horticulture and smallholdings;
 - has existing landscape management issues;
 - retains a “rural character”, despite proximity to urban Waitakere and recent land use change;
 - illuminates many of the common issues of the Foothills; and
 - has a structure plan and catchment management plan.

Process Considerations

10. The Policy and Strategy Committee agreed with the process for developing LAPs, including consultation, as outlined in the Local Area Plans under the Waitakere Ranges Heritage Area Act 2008 report considered by the Policy and Strategy Committee on 7 August 2008. The Committee resolved to:
2. *Agree priority areas for the initial Local Area Plans and adopt a sequence in which those plans will be developed.*
 3. *Agree to adopt the Local Area Plans under the Waitakere Ranges Heritage Area Act 2008 report for the purpose of engaging with communities on the purpose of Local Area Plans and the process of developing Local Area Plans.*
 4. *Agree that the priority area for an initial Local Area Plan under the Waitakere Ranges Heritage Area Act 2008 be the Foothills area as outlined in option 3 of the report and that a report regarding the process and priorities for this be reported back to the Policy and Strategy Committee meeting scheduled to be held on Thursday, 4 September 2008.*
- 1300/2008
11. The process is intended to be as inclusive and participatory as possible. At every step attention will be paid to full communication with the local community and other affected interests.
12. The Act sets out detailed requirements about the purpose, process, content and outputs of the LAP process (sections 25 and 26).

13. There are matters of initial and ongoing research and information gathering that need to be completed prior to full-scale community engagement to inform consideration of matters such as:
 - the definition of the boundary of the local area;
 - the description of heritage features in the local area;
 - the identification of the distinctive natural, cultural and physical characteristics that contribute to amenity and future amenity;
 - the needs and wellbeing (including social and economic wellbeing) of the local community; and
 - the land use and land use capability of the area.
14. It is proposed to pursue a “enquiry by design” approach to the development of the LAP. This approach is well-known to Councillors through its application in charettes in the mid 1990’s to the long term future redevelopment of New Lynn Town Centre, and in other applications, for example, more recently in Westgate/Massey North. In this case the enquiry will be modified to suit the rural context and to build on previous consultation in the area. The focus of this process will be on place making or place shaping and sets consistent long term goals embedded within a framework of community participation and consensus building.
15. Essentially the enquiry will ask the community five questions:
 - What are the geographic, historic, community, economic, social and sensible planning boundaries of this place?
 - What should this place look like, feel like, and function like in 50 - 100 years time?
 - What do the objectives of the Act mean when applied to this place over that time period?
 - What are the unique as well as the generic opportunities for expressing the individual character of this place, and the Heritage Area character?
 - What needs to be done and by when, for those aspirations to be achieved?
16. Typically, the key engagement with the community will be in a locally-based charette process run over several weeks, allowing extensive and intensive participation. This process will build on engagement with key institutions, groups and stakeholders, and be underpinned with research and analysis of the local area. The Act requires specific consultation with tangata whenua, namely Te Kawerau A Maki and Ngati Whatua.
17. There will also be opportunities for input and participation by Councillors, and it is anticipated that local Ward Councillors and Community Board Members will play a prominent role.
18. The enquiry forms the basis for the LAP, which is then reported to Council for adoption and decision-making on any changes to be included in the District Plan, Long Term Council Community Plan (LTCCP) or other Council policies.

Timing

19. It is anticipated that the Oratia LAP should be completed within six months of commencement (excluding the Christmas period). Ideally the charette process will take place in November 2008, and if that target is achievable, then the draft LAP will be reported back well within this financial year.

STRATEGIC CONTEXT

20. The protection of the Waitakere Ranges and Foothills is a central objective of the “Green Network” Platform of the LTCCP 2006-2016. The restricted growth and protection of this area is part of the Draft Growth Management Strategy and the corollary to the urban intensification objectives of the Council. As the urban part of the City intensifies, the strategic importance of the unspoiled coast, the protected ranges and the rural Foothills will grow.
21. The Waitakere Ranges and Foothills Protection Project complements the Draft Growth Management Strategy for Waitakere, the Auckland Regional Growth Strategy, and policies in the Auckland Regional Policy Statement. The Act seeks to avoid unplanned creeping urban expansion, beyond the Metropolitan Urban Limits, that would destroy the rural and natural character of the Waitakere Ranges and Foothills. At the same time, the continued existence and sustainable development of the diverse local communities in the area is also an objective of the Act.
22. The eastern part of the Heritage Area is included in the drainage catchment of the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park. The purpose of the Act accords with the purpose and objectives of the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Act 2000.

CONSULTATION

23. Consultation has been undertaken across the Strategic Planning, Parks Planning and Public Affairs units, all of whom agree to their involvement in the LAP preparation.

RESOURCES

24. The LTCCP 2006-2016 has included provision for seven years to allow the development of LAPs in the various communities of the Heritage Area. Specific provision is made in the 2008-2009 Annual Plan.
25. Funding for implementation of LAPs will be considered on a year by year basis in the Annual Plan as the LAPs are developed.

IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES

26. The methodology for implementing the requirements of the Act in respect to LAPs is provided in paragraph 9 of this report and addressed in the “Local Area Plans under the Waitakere Ranges Heritage Area Act 2008” report received by the Committee on 7 August 2008.

Report prepared by: Graeme Campbell, Director: Strategic Planning.



8 TE ATATU PENINSULA TOWN CENTRE CONSULTATION UPDATE

GLOSSARY

Te Atatu Peninsula (TAP)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides an update to the Policy and Strategy Committee on recent consultation undertaken with Te Atatu Peninsula (TAP) community. This report is intended as an information update and no decisions on particular design concepts are sought. By providing this early update, Councillors and Community Board Members will be better informed of community expectations.

A9-A12

The consultation took place during the week of 14 July 2008 with a display in the library, a public meeting and a drop-in morning. The consultation sought feedback from the TAP community on two main issues. Firstly, how the town centre could develop and whether the draft Town Centre Concept Plan satisfactorily addresses all the issues raised. Secondly, which of the five options for the redevelopment of the Community Centre and Library best delivers the communities aspirations? A summary of the consultation responses is attached at pages A9 to A12.

It is intended that a further report on the redevelopment of the Community Centre and Library will be on the agenda for the Infrastructure and Works Committee in October 2008. This will bring together the technical analysis of the options (Quadruple Bottom Line), the community consultation and the budget implications and seek a resolution on which of the five options to progress.

An update on the Town Centre Concept Plan will be brought back to the Policy and Strategy Committee in the next few months.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Policy and Strategy Committee resolve to:

Receive Te Atatu Peninsula Town Centre Consultation Update report.

BACKGROUND

1. Two recent reports provide the technical background to the recent community consultation.

Te Atatu Peninsula Community Centre and Library Redevelopment

2. A report was presented to the Infrastructure and Works Committee on 4 June 2008. This report:
 - Explained the context for the TAP Community Centre / Library options development process as the first step in a multi-stage process to evaluate the most effective value for money option;
 - Explained how the TAP Community Centre / Library process has been aligned with the development of a Concept Plan for the town centre;
 - Introduced the five options for a range of capital costs, including two refurbishment options and three new build options, the latter of which proposed a commercial development in the form of an apartment block as a possible cross funding opportunity; and
 - Presented the proposed project reporting programme for the TAP Community Centre and Library Redevelopment project.

Te Atatu Peninsula Concept Plan Review

3. A report to the Policy and Strategy Committee on 3 July 2008 provided the context for the recent consultation. This report:

- Explained the history of planning for TAP town centre including past consultation;
- Attached the draft Concept Plan to be used for consultation; and
- Sought agreement to consult the community regarding options both for the TAP town centre and the Community Centre and Library.

DECISION MAKING

Community Feedback

4. The community consultation meeting on 16 July 2008 was attended by more than 100 local residents and business people. In addition 53 submissions have been received.
5. In summary, the feedback on the town centre was positive and in support of the council taking a pro-active approach. The key messages are:
 - Retaining the village feel - as a cohesive, integrated, comfortable, easy to get around place with no more than 4 levels of development;
 - Improve the retail mix and shop window of the town;
 - Improve ways for pedestrians and cyclists to access the centre;
 - Retain the park, gardens and green spaces;
 - Manage traffic flows and improve public transport; and
 - Don't reduce car parking or introduce pay parking.
6. In terms of the Community Centre and Library, the consultation feedback was mixed. There was some support for each of the options and there were competing viewpoints on most issues. Comments were:
 - In terms of budget, the views ranged from supporting the cheapest through to supporting the most expensive as this would provide a centre of the type the community deserves;
 - Support for and against a public private partnership;
 - Support for and against a mixed use development (incorporating a gym, a café and possibly residential);
 - Support for keeping the existing building considered by some to be iconic and with many years of useful life and support for demolishing this building as others consider it to be unsuitable and ugly; and
 - The majority of responses were in opposition to a high rise residential building as being inconsistent with the village feel. However, some in the community would support this form of development in this location as they consider that it could bring benefits to the town centre.
7. There were also a range of interesting ideas on design detailing and other matters which can feed into the future design stages, whichever option is progressed.

STRATEGIC CONTEXT

8. The TAP Town Centre is identified in the 2006 (draft) Growth Management Strategy as a town centre. Over the next 20 years significant growth is expected. Planning for this growth and supporting an expanding community, contributes to the following strategic platforms:

- **The Urban and Rural Villages Platform** - A concept plan and vision for the TAP Town Centre and the redevelopment of key community infrastructure within this Town Centre will provide a clear direction for any future development. This will ensure the area develops as a thriving place for people to work, live and play;
- **The Integrated Transport and Communication Platform** - Access and circulation around the Town Centre by walking, cycling and passenger transport in preference to private vehicle usage;
- **The Strong Innovative Economy Platform** - A vibrant and well connected Town Centre will promote investment in commercial activities within this Town Centre. The Community Centre and Library redevelopment has the potential to be a strong main street anchor, supporting the clustering of commercial and community services around this site;
- **The Strong Communities Platform** - The desire to create more active streets in the town centre, and to upgrade essential community infrastructure through the redevelopment of the Library and Community Centre will contribute to an improvement in the over all well-being of the community; and
- **The Green Network platform** - which seeks to retain and enhance the qualities of the natural environment within the areas that will be intensified and will rely even more on high quality and well connected green spaces.

CONSULTATION

9. The community consultation process and feedback received are outlined in the main body of the report.
10. No specific consultation has taken place with Te Taumata Runanga / iwi, although a local Iwi focus group meeting occurred on the 12 June 2008.

RESOURCES

11. Council officers from Strategic Projects, Strategic Planning and City Services are responsible for managing and providing input into these projects. Staff time is allocated across these teams to continue and complete this work.

IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES

12. There are no implementation issues arising from this report.

Report prepared by: Laura White, Team Leader: Strategic Planning and Projects.



9 UPDATE REPORT ON THE PARTNERING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ECOMATTERS ENVIRONMENT TRUST AND WAITAKERE CITY COUNCIL

GLOSSARY

EcoMatters Environment Trust	(EcoMatters)
Long Term Council Community Plan	(LTCCP)
Project Twin Streams	(PTS)
Sustainable Management Fund	(SMF)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to provide the Policy and Strategy Committee and EcoMatters Environment Trust (EcoMatters) Board with an update on the partnering relationship as outlined Annex 3 of the Partnering Statement between Council and EcoMatters, October 2007.

The Partnering Statement requires an update report to be prepared six monthly and reported to City Development Committee (now Policy and Strategy) and the EcoMatters Trust Board.

This is the first update report. It gives an overview of communication processes established to progress and maintain the partnering relationship; reports on the outcomes of programmes and contracts undertaken by EcoMatters and funded by the Council for 2007/2008 and outlines the draft funding and work programme between EcoMatters and the Council for 2008/2009. The report then highlights a number of issues and opportunities that have been identified for both EcoMatters and the Council to consider in progressing their joint objectives and to realise the potential of EcoMatters being a key partner organisation with the Council.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Policy and Strategy Committee resolve to:

1. **Receive** the Update Report on the Partnering Relationship between EcoMatters Environment Trust and the Council.
2. **Note** the outcomes achieved by EcoMatters Environment Trust for 2007/2008.
3. **Note** the draft funding and shared work programme between the Council and EcoMatters Environment Trust for 2008/2009.
4. **Agree** that options for progressing for a strategic relationship with EcoMatters Environment Trust be developed and reported back to the Policy and Strategy Committee.

BACKGROUND

1. On 6 September 2007 the City Development Committee resolved as follows:

- “1. That the Partnering Statement with EcoMatters Environment Trust report be received.
2. That it be recommended to Council that the Partnering Statement with EcoMatters Environment Trust be approved at its meeting scheduled to be held on Wednesday, 19 September 2007.”

3439/2007

2. It was identified that the previous informal relationships with EcoMatters presented a risk to the long-term sustainability of projects undertaken jointly by Council with EcoMatters because the relationship was largely based on ad hoc processes, such as annual contracts, annual plan submissions and grants. The relationship was also vulnerable to changes in personnel and was intensive to administer.

A13

3. The purpose of the Partnering Statement is to formalise the Council's current relationships with EcoMatters and to allow better long term planning. This will help build the strategic capacity within EcoMatters and provide a valuable partner that is able to liaise with other community groups. An overview of EcoMatters' Vision, Mission and Objectives is attached at page A13 of the agenda.
4. The Partnering Statement was signed between EcoMatters and Council on 5 October 2007.
5. The Relationship Sponsors for the Partnering Statement are the Chairperson of EcoMatters and the Director of Community Wellbeing. The Relationship Managers are the Chief Executive of EcoMatters and the Strategic Catchments Advisor, Environmental Strategy.

DECISION MAKING

Update

Establishing Effective Communication Processes

6. Regular meetings have been established to resolve any issues arising, identify joint goals and plan. These include:
 - Three-monthly meetings between key personnel in EcoMatters and the Council.
 - Regular meetings between the Relationship Managers.
 - Occasional meetings between the Relationship Sponsors.
7. A series of three workshops were held between key personnel of both organisations to define what the Partnering Statement means in practice; to formally review the partnering relationship and to identify what is required to progress it, including planning for the Long Term Council Community Plan (LTCCP).

Funding and Joint Work Programmes

8. Council funds EcoMatters through two different mechanisms:
 - Base funding is provided through the LTCCP. This funding is specifically intended for EcoMatters, acknowledging the work the Trust does towards delivering the Council's strategic objectives. This funding is a grant and is not contestable.
 - Project funding exists in various Council sections for projects that are currently delivered by EcoMatters. Such projects are covered by contracts or purchase orders and are subject to the Council's procurement policies. This means the funding is contestable.
9. EcoMatters also receives funding from a range of other sources for its programmes including Ministry for the Environment and Auckland Savings Bank Trust.
10. 2007/2008 was a successful year for EcoMatters. Funding from the Council contributed to:

- 8099 people accessing the services of the Sustainable Living Centre.
- The delivery of 41 workshops on topics ranging from composting to solar photovoltaic energy.
- A highly successful EcoDay event that was attended by more than 5000 people.
- The retrofitting of 362 houses, undertaken as part of the EcoWise West Programme.
- A programme to support schools and businesses to achieve water savings. This included the installation of water saving devices in 45 schools and 15 businesses implementing water saving measures;
- 93 homes in Ranui and Swanson receiving energy and water checks and the installation of water savings devices. This was delivered in collaboration with the Project Twin Streams (PTS) Sustainable Household-Sustainable Living Programme.
- The piloting of EcoMatters' Sustainable Homes Programme in Glen Eden and Massey. This resulted in home checks of 183 houses.
- The delivery of PTS Glen Eden in partnership with Glen Eden Primary School.

A14-A17 11. A copy of Project Briefs and Outcomes achieved for 2007/2008 is attached at pages A14 to A17 of the agenda.

A18-A21 12. The funding and joint work programme for 2008/09 is in the process of being confirmed. An overview of proposed funding and outcomes is attached at pages A18 to A21 of the agenda.

13. EcoMatters was successful in getting three years' funding (2008-2011) from Ministry for the Environment's Sustainable Management Fund (SMF) for its Sustainable Homes Project. The Sustainable Homes Project works with individual households on actions for behaviour change to live more sustainably. The funding from SMF depends on significant contributions from Council to support the programme. Council funding for this programme has been confirmed at \$80,000 for 2008/2009 for this programme; with the shortfall amount still being considered.

ISSUES

EcoWise West Programme

14. EcoMatters' Board made the difficult decision to close down the EcoWise West insulation retrofitting programme from 30 June 2008 (the end of the current contract period). This decision was made for a number of reasons:

- EcoMatters was the initiator of retrofitting for the last five years and the market has now opened up to commercial players resulting in increased competition;
- The EcoWise West programme was not totally subsidised and had a charge of \$225 per household. Other programmes were able to offer the programme with no charge to householders. EcoMatters therefore was not able to compete on a level playing field;
- Waitemata District Health Board awarded a commercial entity, rather than EcoMatters, the contract for the retrofitting of homes in Waitakere as part of its Child Health Strategy; and
- A change in Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority specifications for under floor insulation to a more expensive, bulkier product would have added both storage and transport problems to the programme.

Council Funding for EcoMatters - Looking Forward to the LTCCP

15. The Council has acknowledged that the current short term (one year) funding arrangements between the Council and EcoMatters make it difficult for EcoMatters to plan long-term and give assurance to employees, customers and suppliers on the long-term sustainability of their initiatives.
16. In recognition of EcoMatters' situation, EcoWater has moved to a three year contract with EcoMatters for the water demand management work it undertakes with schools, businesses and households.
17. As part of the planning for the LTCCP 2009-2019 it is being proposed that the non-contestable grant funding that EcoMatters receives from the Council be put together into three-year contracts. Options are also being considered for multi-year funding for other contracts EcoMatters delivers for the Council.

Resourcing for Relationships, Strategic Visioning and Joint Learning

18. To date work programmes include those projects that are supported by contracts. There is no funding for EcoMatters to invest time in the partnering relationship with the Council. Discussions have highlighted that for the learning, strategic and aspirational aspects of the partnering statement to be fulfilled they need to be translated into a work programme and funded so both parties can fully participate and benefit. The nature and extent of this work and associated funding are being investigated and will be reported back to the Policy and Strategy Committee.

Resourcing for Sustainability Initiatives

19. An area of tension between EcoMatters and the Council that was highlighted during the last year was the development of EcoMatters' Sustainable Homes Programme and the PTS Sustainable Household Sustainable Living Demonstration Programme. The tension was centred on whether the Council should resource community agencies other than EcoMatters to carry out community-led sustainability initiatives in the City. This was compounded by the programmes having similar-sounding names but being delivered by different community groups, possibly confusing residents. EcoMatters was also concerned that its programme would appear to be a duplication and this would jeopardise its ability to attract external funding.
20. EcoMatters initially saw the resourcing of locality-based initiatives for sustainable living as creating competition among community organisations for limited resources. Council officers believe that in creating a sustainable city it is good community development practice to invest in a range of organisations to undertake environmental/sustainability work. This includes funding and supporting community organisations that have strong community links but little historical focus on sustainability.
21. The Council acknowledges however that the processes in developing the PTS programme could have been better managed.
22. Over the last six months the two programmes have worked co-operatively to resolve differences and are developing complementary and collaborative ways of working that recognise:

- a) Different interventions work for different households.
- b) It is important to build the capacity of neighbourhoods and communities to develop and support actions towards living more sustainably.

Partnering within a Large Organisation

- 23. The Partnering Statement with EcoMatters has highlighted challenges for the Council in terms of internal processes, communication and staff training around what a partnering statement means for the way the Council relates to EcoMatters. It is proposed to have a workshop with key staff from the Council involved with EcoMatters during the coming year to discuss the relational aspects of the Partnering Statement and work programmes.

Supporting the Capacity Building and Networking of Community-based Environmental Groups in Waitakere

- 24. There is no community organisation in Waitakere that provides support and resources for community-based environmental groups, including facilitating the flow and dissemination of information between various groups, organisations and the Council. In the social sector Community Waitakere has a partnering agreement with Council and is resourced through its joint work programme with the Council to network and build the capacity of community and social organisations. In the economic sector Waitakere Enterprise is charged with this role through its statement of intent with the Council.
- 25. As a City-wide environmental organisation, EcoMatters is well placed to assist in the provision of this networking and support role. This could also involve bringing together the community environmental groups in Waitakere to advance Waitakere's capacity to respond to environmental challenges and opportunities in a collaborative way and ensure robust environmental input into the next Community Outcomes process.
- 26. Such a role could see EcoMatters expanding from service delivery to a new capacity building and networking role for community environmental groups. The expansion of EcoMatters' role into this domain requires more discussion.
- 27. It is important for the Council to actively promote collaboration among community organisations working in the sustainability arena and provide opportunities where all can come together to plan, share, learn and develop collaborative initiatives.

STRATEGIC CONTEXT

- 28. EcoMatters' activities relate to a number of the Council's Strategic Platforms. In particular these include Sustainable Energy and Clean Air, Zero Waste, Green Network and Three Waters.
- 29. They also give effect to the Community Outcomes of Green Network - *He tuituitanga kakariki*; Sustainable Environment - *Kauneke Tauwhiro Taiao*; and Waiora - *Environmental protection*.
- 30. EcoMatters is a unique organisation within Waitakere and the wider Auckland area. In the last six years it has played a key role in working towards environmental outcomes with the Council and other community partners. Organisations such as EcoMatters are critical to the achievement of Waitakere's Community Outcomes as they can reach elements of the community that are difficult for the Council to reach.

31. Partnering with EcoMatters Trust in a more formal way contributes to the Community Outcomes of Strong Communities - *He iwi kaha* and Working Together - *Te mahi tahi*.

CONSULTATION

32. In the preparation of this report consultation has been undertaken with:
- Staff from across the Council including Director Community Wellbeing; Deputy Director Strategic Planning; Group Manager Social and Cultural Strategy; Strategic Advisor Community Outcomes; key council officers involved in administering funding and contracts with EcoMatters.
 - Key personnel from EcoMatters including Chief Executive Officer, Gretchen Schubeck; EcoMatters Chairperson, Iris Donoghue; and the project managers.
 - The matters covered by the consultation with Ecomatters are addressed in the issues section of this report.

RESOURCES

33. There are no resource issues arising from this report. There are no additional resources within current budgets to resource EcoMatters for new work. Any additional resources will need to be considered as part of the LTCCP 2009-2019.
- A18-A21 34. A detailed statement of current funding and resourcing is attached at pages A18 to A21 of the agenda.

IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES

35. A number of matters raised in this report need further discussion within the Council. Further work will be undertaken to assess the implications of the issues raised and to identify options for progressing the Council's strategic relationship with EcoMatters. These will be reported back to the Policy and Strategy Committee.

Report Prepared by: Jenny Chilcott, Strategic Advisor, Sustainable Catchments and Kevin Healy, General Manager EcoMatters Environment Trust.



10 REGIONAL FUTURES LAND USE PLANNING EXERCISE

GLOSSARY

Regional Futures Land Use Planning Exercise	(RFLUPE)
Regional Growth Strategy	(RGS)
Regional Land Transport Strategy	(RLTS)
Auckland Regional Policy Statement	(ARPS)
Auckland Sustainability Framework	(ASF)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to inform the Policy and Strategy Committee of a Regional Futures Land Use Planning Exercise (RFLUPE) that is currently underway. This work builds on the recommendations of the recent evaluation of the Regional Growth Strategy (RGS).

The purpose of the RFLUPE is to identify the preferred long term land use pattern and transport package that best meets the goals and vision of the Auckland Sustainability Framework (ASF). This will involve identification and evaluation of a range of regional land use and transport options to accommodate future residential and employment growth. The preferred long term land use pattern and transport package is a key input to the review of the Regional Land Transport Strategy (RLTS) review and Regional Policy Statement (RPS).

It is likely that a summary of this work will be reported to the Regional Sustainable Development Forum (RSDF) at its next meeting on 19 September 2008, as it is this regional forum that has taken on the responsibilities of the former Regional Growth Forum.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Policy and Strategy Committee resolve to:

1. **Receive** the Regional Futures Land Use Planning Exercise report.
2. **Agree** that the work being undertaken at a regional level on future land use scenarios is essential to informing regional and city understandings and processes, including Long Term Council Community Plan provision of infrastructure, and the future review of the District Plan.

BACKGROUND

1. In September 2007, the Regional Growth Forum endorsed two significant strategic documents to progress the sustainable development of the Auckland region:
 - **Auckland Sustainability Framework** - A guiding framework for the proposed One Plan and the work programme of the Regional Sustainable Development Forum; and
 - **'Growing Smarter' Report** - an evaluation of the Regional Growth Strategy which identified those aspects currently being applied successfully and those areas with a need for improvement.
2. The Regional Growth Strategy (RGS), adopted in 1999, provided a vision for how future growth could be accommodated in the Auckland Region to 2050. At that time a population of 2 million people by 2050 was envisaged. Sector Agreements, for the North-Western, Central and Southern Sectors, were developed over the next few years to provide more detailed understanding of the form, location and sequencing of future growth (redevelopment and greenfields) out to 2020 and the infrastructure requirements.
3. The ASF updated the region's vision and goals for achieving a sustainable Auckland, and signals the shifts that must occur in our social values, expectations, systems and processes.

4. 'Growing Smarter' (2007), the evaluation of the implementation of the RGS highlighted the rapid growth rates and development trends experienced since 1999. It concluded that there is an urgent need to improve the implementation of the RGS, including providing greater certainty about the nature and timing of growth and the development and infrastructure outcomes sought.
5. Late in 2007 the Regional Classification Project, began to develop a more sophisticated understanding of the region's centres, business areas and corridors. Completed in March 2008, this technical exercise developed three Officer Working Papers on Centres, Business Areas and Corridors, and a revised classification for Auckland was proposed. This classification builds on and seeks to refine current policy in the ARPS.
6. It has become clear through work in the RGS evaluation and the Regional Classification project that the Sector Agreements are now out of date, that the region is growing faster than anticipated and that there is not have enough long term capacity for future growth to 2050 especially for 'large footprint' business land use. There is therefore a lack of certainty about planning in the region post 2020.
7. 'Moving Forward' the 10 year Auckland Regional Land Transport Strategy was adopted in November 2005. Its adoption highlighted the gap between the expenditure planned to improve Auckland's transport system, and the funds available for this improvement. The Auckland Strategic Alignment Project (ATSAP) was undertaken in response to this funding gap. The ATSAP project recognised the important and mutually reinforcing relationship between transport and urban development. Achieving the outcomes sought in the RGS (i.e. urban intensification and containment) will require support from the Auckland Land Transport Strategy, and vice versa.
8. The New Zealand Transport Strategy and Government Policy Statement were published on 5 August 2008 to provide targets and funding guidance for regional transport strategies and programmes.
9. The Government has focused the transport system on "moving people and moving freight" rather than vehicles. These targets provide a greater emphasis on reducing carbon dioxide emissions from transport, more freight movement by rail and sea, and a greater proportion of travel by passenger transport, walking and cycling rather than single occupant vehicle. This provides important direction for regional policies regarding land use and transport.
- A22-A25 10. In 20 June 2007, the Council considered a number of issues to include as input into the next Regional Land Transport Strategy. The Council authorised the letter to be communicated to the Auckland Regional Council as input into the next Regional Land Transport Strategy. This has been circulated to the Regional Transport Committee and is attached at pages A22 to A25 of the agenda.

DECISION MAKING

11. A culture of collaboration in planning the future development of the region has continued since the RGS was endorsed in 1999 and over time reporting lines and responsibilities have been refined and clarified. A number of Waitakere City Council officers are involved in the various working groups associated with the RFLUPE, RLTS review and ARPS review.
12. A new group known as the Regional Policy Steering Group (RPSG) has formed to oversee development of collaborative projects, made up of Directors from each of the Councils in the region and representatives from Central Government agencies who have a particular interest and stake-holding in the various work streams. The

RPSG report to the Chief Executive Forum. This ensures that work developed at an officer level receives two levels of scrutiny and the work is informed by the realities those who undertake urban development and redevelopment and is therefore ultimately more robust.

Issues

13. Projections of the region's future growth are currently being updated in the Growth Allocation Study. This is the starting point for this work. It will provide information on projected employment and residential growth in the region, trends and take-up and compare supply with demand, by TA area. A level of growth will be identified for each TA area based upon the assumption that future regional growth needs to be accommodated. Similar projects have been undertaken overseas by comparable cities such as Sydney, Melbourne, SE Queensland, Vancouver and Toronto.
14. It is expected that this work will arrive at a number of land use options; these can be tested through the RLTS model through a number of iterations to October. Joint meetings with the Regional Growth Strategy Working Group and the Transport Advisory Committee are proposed to progress this work.
15. The draft RLTS requires a preferred land use scenario to be agreed by December; therefore the focus of the work through October and November will be on evaluating the options for the Regional Land Transport Committee to consider. It should be noted that the land use option chosen for the RLTS does not preclude any changes that may need to be made in light of the RPS review.
16. The benefits of undertaking the Regional Futures Land Use Planning Exercise are numerous:
 - Each Council has an opportunity to incorporate its own longer-term strategic thinking into transport modelling;
 - Longer term thinking is shared between Councils;
 - It ensures that future planning is based upon consistent growth assumptions;
 - It examines whether regional growth targets (demand) can be met;
 - It provides for the integration between land use and transport decisions; and
 - It moves the region towards a preferred longer-term land use position.

STRATEGIC CONTEXT

17. The Waitakere City District Plan must "give effect to" the ARPS. The Waitakere City Transport Strategy will need to be updated to align with the next Regional Policy Statement and Regional Land Transport Strategy. The Waitakere City Growth Management Strategy should also align with the Auckland Regional Growth Concept.
18. RFLUPE will influence regional transport investment and land use planning in the short to long term. It is therefore critical that the RFLUPE has significant input from Waitakere City Council.
19. RFLUPE will also have a significant impact on the following key community outcomes:

- **Sustainable and Integrated transport, Kauneke Tauwhiro me te Whakauranga Waka**
The RFLUPE will set the future land use pattern for the region and influence transport investment over the short to medium term. To support a sustainable transport system it is critical that RFLUPE provides local employment opportunities and promotes for intensification around key transport nodes and along corridors.
- **Urban and rural villages, Nga kainga taone, tuawhenua**
It is important that regional strategies focus on compact urban form, urban intensification around rapid transit corridors and town centres in a way that supports Waitakere's long-standing strategic direction.
- **Strong Economy, He tupuranga kaha ihi wana**
The location of business land in the region, the connections along supply chains and the transport investment decisions that support growth in the region are vital to a strong innovative economy in Waitakere and the region. A successful approach to future land use planning would focus on reducing overall trip lengths and promoting employment closer to where people live.
- **Strong Communities, He iwi kaha**
Regional planning of land use and transport will need to support building stronger communities, reduce social exclusion and allow deprived communities in particular better access to facilities, services and employment.
- **Sustainable Environment, Kauneke Tauwhiro Taiao**
Regional planning of land use and transport can have a strong positive influence on this priority with a substantially more sustainable and resilient energy sector and large reductions in pollution from transport, and commensurate reductions in carbon dioxide emissions.

RESOURCES

20. There are no resource implications other than officers' time, which has been budgeted for.

Report prepared by: Rose Leonard, Senior Advisor: Strategic Governance.



11 ONE PLAN FOR THE AUCKLAND REGION CONSULTATION AND FEEDBACK

GLOSSARY

Regional Sustainable Development Forum	(RSDF)
Long Term Council Community Plan	(LTCCP)
Auckland Sustainability Framework	(ASF)
Draft One Plan (Version 1)	(One Plan)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to seek the Policy and Strategy Committee's views on, and invite feedback on the draft One Plan (Version 1) (One Plan) for the Auckland region, its components, and future intentions.

The One Plan for the Auckland region was considered and adopted as a draft for consultation by the Regional Sustainable Development Forum (RSDF) on 27 June 2008. The One Plan is now subject to the first phase of consultation. This report is an opportunity for the Policy and Strategy Committee to provide feedback on consideration of the draft document. That feedback will be included in a report back to the RSDF by officers as part of the first phase of the One Plan consultation process.

It is anticipated that there will be several iterations of One Plan. The document presented to the Policy and Strategy Committee today is the first draft version of what is likely to require at least three further iterations over a number of years to incorporate action and co-ordination across all wellbeings and to deliver on the goals and shifts outlined in the Auckland Sustainability Framework 2007(ASF).

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Policy and Strategy Committee resolve to:

1. **Receive** the One Plan for the Auckland Region Consultation and Feedback report.
2. **Agree** that a submission be prepared by Council officers to reflect the points that were raised in the discussion at this and other Council committee meetings. In particular:
 - i) Agree with the overall approach of the One Plan.
 - ii) Agree that the programmes contained in the One Plan are considered to reflect the region's current priorities.
 - iii) Agree that the Digital Auckland and Destination Auckland programmes need to be updated incorporate recent developments.
 - iv) Agree that the Completing the Network programme commentary should include:
 - The joint Crown & Waitakere City Council investigation into the future use of Whenuapai airport.
3. **Agree** that further consideration needs to be given to the planning for infrastructure in Auckland. The next version of One Plan should include a section on the principles of infrastructure planning which will deliver on the 'Resilient Infrastructure' and 'Quality, Compact Urban Form' goals within the Auckland Sustainability Framework. Thereafter, a staged approach to detailed infrastructure planning should be taken where each version of One Plan considers one additional element of infrastructure.
4. **Agree** that the Auckland Sustainability Framework goals and shifts are the agreed driver of One Plan and that future versions should be framed around delivering on all of the goals of the Framework. Therefore, when deciding on priorities for the next version, signature projects should be developed that deliver on goals not currently covered in version 1.
5. **Agree** that version 2 should contain as new areas, social development, energy and climate change and open space in addition to the further development of programmes in version 1.

6. **Agree** that the existing connected initiatives should be extended to include the projects listed in paragraph 7 of this report.
7. **Agree** that linking up connected initiatives under each of the programmes of action will be resource-intensive and that this endeavour should be given sufficient time to gain the leverage that is expected. In general, effort needs to be directed to the effective implementation of version 1 prior to embarking on version 2.
8. **Agree** that the Chair of the Policy and Strategy Committee is delegated to sign off this Committee's submission.
9. **Agree** to work closely with other Regional Sustainable Development Forum members prior to 19 September 2008 to build support for this package of recommendations.

BACKGROUND

1. On 5 June 2008 the Policy and Strategy Committee resolved to:
 - “1. *Receive the One Plan for Auckland - Overview and Progress Report.*
 2. *Agree that Council's representative on the Regional Sustainable Development Forum endorse One Plan for stakeholder consultation at the 22 June 2008 meeting of the Regional Sustainable Development Forum.*”

909/2008
2. Progress on One Plan has also been reported to the NorSGA committee on 18 August 2008. The following resolutions were made:
 - “1. *Receive the One Plan for Auckland - Overview and Progress Report.*
 2. *Agree to provide comments and feedback to the Policy and Strategy Committee regarding Council's endorsement of the One Plan .*
 3. *Agree to support the inclusion in the One Plan of the development of the Western Route, as a signature project, and urges the Council to advocate for the business, employment, residential and tourism development opportunities related to the completion of the State Highway 16/18 NorSGA links.*
 4. *Agree to recognise the value to the NorSGA development, the Skills, Digital and Destination Auckland programmes in the One Plan, and seeks to have these new NorSGA opportunities recognised in the One Plan.*
 5. *Agree to seek the inclusion of an investigation into the Whenuapai Airport as an infrastructural asset for the Auckland region.*”

1385/2008
3. Progress on One Plan was reported to Te Taumata Runanga on 14 July 2008 and a workshop was held on 18 August 2008 to discuss One Plan. The Taumata representative on the Policy and Strategy committee will provide a report back to the committee on the outcomes of the workshop.
4. Over the last decade central, regional and local authorities have increasingly worked together on nationally and regionally significant issues for Auckland's future. Examples of this work include the Regional Land Transport Strategy and successive reviews, the Joint Officials Group on Transport (JOG,2003), the Auckland Transport Strategic Alignment Project (2006-08), the Auckland Regional Growth Strategy (1999), the Auckland Metro Action Plan (2006), the Auckland Regional Economic Development Strategy (AREDS, 2003), the Sustainable Cities Programme (2003-06) and many others.

5. One Plan has its origins in the Sustainable Cities Programme, the Auckland Metro Action Plan and the Strengthening Auckland's Regional Governance project (2007) which stated that:

"The One Plan for Auckland will promote social, economic, cultural and environmental well-being through prioritised action plans".

- A26-A27 6. A brief chronology of its development is attached at pages A26 to A27 of the agenda.

DECISION MAKING

- A28-A68 7. The attached One Plan attached at pages A28 to A68 of the agenda contains three main sections:

- Seven interrelated programmes of action each of which is intended to focus on a "signature project" with connected initiatives:
 - **Improving public transport - signature project:** building on the electrification of the region's railway;
 - **Completing the network - signature project:** the Western Ring Route and associated land development and redevelopment;
 - **Digital Auckland - signature project:** an open-access fibre network for the Auckland region;
 - **Destination Auckland - signature project:** Rugby World Cup 2011, and thereafter positioning Auckland as a major events destination;
 - CBD/Waterfront development;
 - **Building communities - signature project:** the social and economic transformation of the Tamaki area; and
 - **Growth through skills - signature project:** still under discussion and awaiting central government details on priorities for announced funding.
- An inventory of currently identified regional infrastructure priorities to assist with the development of the regional infrastructure plan scheduled for completion in August 2009;
- Those areas identified for further development through future One Plans:
 - Ongoing implementation of the Regional Growth Strategy;
 - 3 Waters (storm water, wastewater and potable water);
 - Social development;
 - Energy and climate change;
 - Maori aspirations;
 - Pacific prosperity;
 - Open space; and
 - Built cultural heritage.

8. One Plan focuses on a few regionally significant projects and programmes and seeks to add value by leveraging existing investment in the programmes to create opportunities for increasing efficiencies and value for money. Above all, One Plan offers a new way of working by gathering regional agreement on regional priorities. Through working across the region's councils, and a number of key central government departments, One Plan seeks to link up previous independent actions and projects into a more comprehensive package. It is also anticipated that by adopting a collaborative approach to regional priorities skills and relationships will be formed, to offer wider benefits across other significant areas for the region.

9. Council officers have considered a range of additional projects that could leverage greater gains for the City and the region if harnessed to One Plan as connected initiatives.
- **Improving public transport - proposed connected initiative:** building support for urban intensification by developing resources that display good examples and benefits to the public. In order to engage positively with the public these resources would be best in audio visual rather than written format;
 - **Completing the network - proposed connected initiative:** The joint Crown/Waitakere City investigation into the future use of Whenuapai airport;
 - **Digital Auckland - proposed connected initiative:** adding urban Marae into priority targets for fibre-optic ducting along with government buildings, universities, schools and hospitals;
 - **Destination Auckland - proposed connected initiative:** developing Waitakere's tourist attractions including the Corban Estate Arts Centre;
 - **CBD/Waterfront development - proposed connected initiative:** advocacy for protection of the CBD rail loop tunnel route to enable future enhancement of rail services to Waitakere residents;
 - **Building communities - proposed connected initiative:** Development of a Regional Social Wellbeing Forum for officers and community leaders to share lessons learnt from community development initiatives such as the Tamaki project, 'Massey Matters' and Hobsonville. Within this forum, priority areas for similar intervention should be identified for implementation after the Tamaki project is sufficiently underway; and
 - **Growth through skills - proposed connected initiative:** a number of regional projects have been identified such as a skills observatory (mapping skills shortages and training opportunities) and/or workforce literacy and numeracy programmes. Choosing which initiative is the best candidate will depend on the focus of central government funding.
10. Due to the short time frame for the development of version 1, it has necessarily focussed on signature programmes that already had significant agreement. Added to this were central and regional government objectives that meant that programmes had to be nationally and regionally significant. These criteria have meant that programmes included in version 1 have only delivered on a narrow range of ASF goals.
11. The ASF is the agreed driver of One Plan. The final version of One Plan should ultimately deliver across all of the goals of the Framework. Therefore, when deciding on priorities for the next version, signature projects should be developed that deliver on goals not currently covered in version 1. Therefore, version 2 should focus on the 'Unique Outstanding Environment' goal through the development of a network of open spaces and the shifts of 'Reducing our Ecological Footprint' and 'Building a Carbon Neutral Future' in order to address energy and climate change challenges.

12. Further consideration also needs to be given into the planning for infrastructure in Auckland. The next version of One Plan should include a section on the principles of infrastructure planning which will deliver on the ASF. In addition, a staged approach to detailed infrastructure planning should be taken where each version of One Plan considers one additional element of infrastructure. This will require a concerted effort by many regional officers and should not be unduly pressured by unrealistic timeframes.
13. Recent events on a joint regional approach to bidding for Rugby World Cup events (Destination Auckland programme) and also for Broadband infrastructure funding (Digital Auckland programme) have stretched regional capacity, collaboration and vision. One Plan should be updated to reflect more detail on the agreements reached thus far within these two programmes.

Issues

14. The Policy and Strategy Committee is asked to consider the following issues for feedback to the RSDF on 19 September 2008 (questions in italics - report commentary following questions):

“A) The goal of the final version of the One Plan process will be the integrated, long term, sustainable development of the Auckland region.

Is this One Plan, as a first step, taking us in the right direction to fulfil this vision?”

Council has previously agreed with this proposition, and should continue to support it.

“B) The One Plan programmes of action are based on current priorities.”

Are there any priorities missing that you would like to see addressed in version 2?

Priorities should seek to deliver across **all** goals and shifts of the Auckland Sustainability Framework.

“Is greater emphasis or further development needed on the current priorities? “

Commentary on Broadband and Rugby World Cup 2011 should be updated to reflect the latest regional agreements

Consideration should be given to branding and promoting the Western Ring Route as ‘the regions second economic corridor’.

“C) In considering version 2, regional officers have been asked to develop a regional infrastructure plan to integrate, prioritise and apply sustainability to infrastructure investment.

Do you support the proposal to include energy, transport and water in this plan?”

Generally, but consideration needs to be given to the effective implementation of version 1 prior to scheduling, funding and embarking on version 2.

“Would you like to see other types of infrastructure included in the first attempt at this plan?”

Infrastructure should not dominate One Plan process. One additional item of infrastructure should be added in each successive version beginning with telecommunications.

Note that further revision of Broadband needs to be undertaken in version 2 within the infrastructure plan.

Ultimately, high level sequencing of infrastructure projects is desirable.

“D) In considering future versions: One Plan intends to address future priorities through the development of new programmes, by building priority areas into major policy reviews, and through the infrastructure plan.

Are there any gaps in the areas for future priority?

Are there other ways of addressing these priorities?”

Infrastructure should not be a separate process but should be built into One Plan.

Consideration of Community Views

15. One Plan is based on projects that have existing commitment and the significant actions that are included in the plan have already been subject to some form of community engagement and consultation. Furthermore, version 1 of One Plan is intended to build on existing regional strategies which have also been subject to required consultation processes. Therefore, at the 27 June meeting the RSDF approved a three stage approach to consultation on One Plan outlined below:

Phase 1	One Plan stakeholder engagement and feedback in the period 27 th June to 19 September 2008
Phase 2	Public consultation on the first One Plan in late 2008 and the first half of 2009 through to completion of Long Term Council Community Plans
Phase 3	Longer term public engagement

16. Phase 1 consultation on One Plan is now underway and being officially considered by each council and also by central government. Feedback will be collated for reporting to the RSDF on the 19 September 2008. In the second phase, public consultation will occur in late 2008 and in the first half of 2009 as contributing agencies begin their decision making and prioritisation in response to version 1 of One Plan. This will include public consultation undertaken through Waitakere’s Long Term Council Community Plan (LTCCP). Consultation will take place at this point as the LTCCP process will require each partner to identify and consult on their financial commitments to projects which may form the One Plan programmes. The third and longer term phase responds to the ongoing form and content of future versions of One Plan.
17. Engagement with Maori is also occurring during the June to September 2008 period through the functions of each council, and also through discussions with the Mana Whenua Establishment Group. During the drafting of One Plan Mana Whenua have been focussed on the establishment of the Mana Whenua Forum.

STRATEGIC CONTEXT

18. One Plan demonstrates ongoing progress towards a sustainable Auckland region and as such contributes significantly to Council's Sustainable Development priority. Through its links to the ASF, One Plan will take a longer term view of the development of the region, considering social, economic, cultural and environmental wellbeings.

CONSULTATION

19. Te Taumata Runanga and the NorSGA Committee have received reports on the progress of One Plan and resolved to provide advice to the Policy and Strategy committee today.

RESOURCES

20. There are no resource implications other than officers' time, which has been budgeted for.

IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES

21. Council should continue to be involved in the leadership of the process and contribute to the broad regional view to One Plan, ensuring that in seeking to advance nationally and regionally significant projects Waitakere's objectives are also advanced. This package of recommendations will require support from other members of the RSDF and their officers. Steps should be taken to work with them to forum consensus on these issues.

Report prepared by: Rose Leonard, Senior Advisor: Strategic Governance.



12 WORKING DRAFT GROWTH MANAGEMENT STRATEGY FOR WAITAKERE CITY UPDATE

GLOSSARY

Metropolitan Urban Limit	(MUL)
Working Draft Growth Management Strategy for Waitakere City	(WDGMS)
2009-2019 Long Term Council Community Plan	(LTCCP)
Local Government (Auckland) Amendment Act	(LG(A)AA)
Northern Strategic Growth Area	(NorSGA)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report seeks endorsement to update the Working Draft Growth Management Strategy for Waitakere City (WDGMS). In particular, the inclusion of vision, goals, pathways, and targets to the front end of the WDGMS is proposed to align with the strategic framework of the Council approved by the Policy and Strategy Committee in June 2008.

Further city and regional employment and population projection work has been undertaken which allows the WDGMS to have a clearer 50 year view. This work will allow population and employment targets and area profiles to be updated. The projection work has signalled the need for an additional 200-400ha of industrial land north of State Highway 18 at Whenuapai. It is anticipated that this will be signalled in the WDGMS so and tested through the Regional Future Land Use Planning exercise and will be consulted on as part of the 2013 review of the District Plan.

It is envisaged that the WDGMS will be brought back for final endorsement as the Growth Management Strategy for Waitakere City in December 2008 following proposed amendments outlined above and Policy and Strategy endorsement of the Council's Economic Strategy in November 2008. This will allow Council's key strategies to be aligned prior to finalisation.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Policy and Strategy Committee resolve to:

1. **Receive** the Working Draft Growth Management Strategy for Waitakere City Update report.
2. **Agree** to ratify the vision, goals, pathways and targets of the Working Draft Growth Management Strategy for Waitakere City;
3. **Agree** to Council Officers updating the strategy to reflect 2006 Statistics New Zealand data and 2008 projections and revised city employment and population forecasts out to 2057.
4. **Agree** to signal that the inclusion of 200-400ha of additional business land north of State Highway 18 at Whenuapai is required post 2021.
5. **Agree** that a final Growth Management Strategy for Waitakere City will be brought back to the Policy and Strategy Committee for endorsement in December 2008.

BACKGROUND

1. The preliminary draft of the Growth Management Strategy for Waitakere City was developed in late 2004/early 2005 to support the Councils Plan Changes at Massey North/Hobsonville (Plan Changes 13-15), New Lynn (Plan Change 17) and City Growth (Plan Change 16) as part of the Local Government (Auckland) Amendment Act (LG(A)AA) 2004 regional and District Plan change process. At the time it was recognised that further work needed to be completed to progress towards a finalised strategy. This included further population and employment capacity modelling, a broadening of the strategy to consider wider growth issues and a re-branding to appeal to a wider audience.
2. Between March 2005 and July 2006 the Draft Growth Management Strategy was updated to include those matters outlined above. On 1 August 2006 a Councillor workshop was held to discuss the Working Draft Growth Management Strategy for Waitakere and the strategy was endorsed at the 8 August 2006 meeting of the Planning and Regulatory Committee.

“3. That the Planning and Regulatory Committee endorses the June 2006 Working Draft Growth Management Strategy for Waitakere City.”

1506/2006
3. Copies of the current WDGMS will be circulated to the Policy and Strategy Committee separately.

4. As the WDGMS was considered a reflection of existing regional and local policy (including Plan Change 16 which was going through a formal public hearing process) it was decided by the Planning and Regulatory Committee not to undertake further separate public consultation. The WDGMS was then successfully utilised to support Waitakere's evidence in the LG(A)AA hearing process - in particular the movement of the Metropolitan Urban Limit (MUL) at Hobsonville /Massey North and the District Plan Growth Chapter (Plan Change 16). While the WDGMS does not specifically include policies and objectives, these are included in Plan Change 16 and have been debated through the LG(A)AA hearing process and ultimately endorsed by Waitakere City Council, and all the other Councils in Auckland.
5. When the WDGMS was endorsed by Council it was signalled that it should remain a working draft as further regional and city growth planning work and 2006 census data was to be added. This is also reflected in the WDGMS itself (refer page 3). A significant amount of regional capacity (Auckland Regional Council Capacity Study) and strategic planning work (e.g. The Auckland Sustainability Framework) has been carried out over the intervening period. This work is being completed to, amongst other things, inform the review of the Auckland Regional Policy Statement and the Auckland Regional Land Transport Strategy in 2009. Statistics New Zealand Census Area Unit projections have also been recently released which means the WDGMS can be updated.
6. In addition to involvement in regional work Council officers have also been working to update the City population and employment projections with a 50 year view. This has involved incorporating 2006 census projections and commissioning employment projections, along with a peer review of the methodology to ensure that the model is robust to be utilised for the LTCCP 2009-2019.
7. At the same time the Council is moving to consolidate Council's strategies in a framework of seven strategies based on the four wellbeings, growth, transport, and governance.
8. At its meeting on 5 June 2008, the Policy and Strategy Committee resolved to:

“2 Approve the move to a framework of seven strategic directions configured around the areas of social, economic, cultural, environmental, transport, growth management and governance. “

900/2008
9. The release of Statistics New Zealand Census Area Unit projections and meshblock data, the completion of regional and Council projection and capacity work, the culmination of the LG(A)AA hearings, and the review of Councils strategic direction to inform the 2009-2019 LTCCP means that it is timely to update the WDGMS with a view to endorsing a final Growth Management Strategy for Waitakere City in December 2008.

DECISION MAKING

Issues

10. Local and regional strategic planning work has highlighted a short term shortage of industrial land in the City. This shortage will be rectified through the inclusion of some 200ha of business land provided as part of Plan Changes 13-15 at Massey North and Hobsonville with the potential for additional land in the second stage of the Hobsonville corridor being developed pre 2021. However, long term city and regional projections are signalling that the City and the wider north-west sector will face similar issues post 2021.
11. The WDGMS has as a core principal the need to reverse the trend of approximately 56% of the workforce leaving the City to work. Population and employment projections indicate that an additional 200ha of industrial land is necessary to meet this City target post 2021. This is in addition to significant intensification of business land within our existing town centres, corridors, and general business areas. Given that North Shore City Council has no capacity to expand and Rodney District Council has limited potential there is the possibility that Waitakere may need to accommodate an additional 200ha of industrial land (a total of 400ha) between 2021 and 2057. The logical location for this additional industrial land is at Whenuapai north of proposed State Highway 18. This would support the proposed transport and infrastructure investment and development in the Northern Strategic Growth Area (NorSGA) and the potential for the Whenuapai airport to be utilised as a commercial airport as proposed in Plan Change 22.
12. The addition of between 200-400ha of industrial land north of State Highway 18 at Whenuapai is considered a significant issue that moves away from Council's current WDGMS of containing growth at Massey North/Hobsonville. This issue was confirmed in the "Lets Get Down To Business" workshops held with northern and western sector partners and key stakeholders in 2005 and culminated in a number of agreed principles with our sector partners. However, the addition of this land and its location at Whenuapai would necessitate further consultation. Accordingly it is proposed to signal this issue in the update to the WDMGS and identify the need to commence consultation with key stakeholders, including Northern and Western Sector Partners. This consultation will be undertaken with key stakeholders as part of the Regional Future Land Use Plan development in late 2008 early 2009. Consultation with effected landowners will then be undertaken in the lead up to the District Plan review and the update of the Growth Management Strategy for Waitakere City planned for 2013.
- A69-A108 13. The remainder of the vision, goals and pathways are entirely consistent with the WDGMS and Plan Change 16 but have been re-branded to be less technical and more easily understood. A copy of the Plan Change 16 objectives and policies is attached at pages A69 to A108 of the agenda. The proposed vision, goals, pathways are outlined below.
14. The draft vision for the WDGMS is:

"Waitakere will transform from a dormitory suburb of greater Auckland to a self sustaining City in its own right – A sustainable development leading light in the region. Waitakere will be a dynamic place with a network of vibrant town centres and neighbourhoods with a social, physical and natural fabric that binds the city together, providing housing choice and employment opportunities for all. Waitakere will be a place where Aucklanders want to come and live, work and play."

15. The draft Goals of the WDGMS are:
- The City grows within the same urban footprint including future growth areas in Massey and Hobsonville (to 2021) and Whenuapai, Redhills and Scotts Point (to 2050);
 - Town centres are high density, vibrant, safe and well connected to their local place and to each other;
 - Rural areas retain their rural character and foster rural economic development;
 - Everyone has well designed/low energy housing, workspaces, and neighbourhoods;
 - Everyone can easily access goods and service needs in their neighbourhood or closest Town Centre;
 - Workers have opportunities to work locally;
 - The City is connected by sustainable social and physical infrastructure; and
 - Our rich natural and cultural heritage is protected and enhanced.
16. The draft pathways of the WDGMS are:
- Coordinate Urban expansion and intensification with growth needs;
 - Promote quality compact and connected urban environments;
 - Provide local access to core services;
 - Protect, restore, and enhance highly valued and sensitive natural areas and landscapes;
 - Foster economic development of the right type, at the right place, and at the right time; and
 - Plan neighbourhoods, town centres, and corridors with key infrastructure providers and stakeholders.
17. The vision is what we aspire to be, the goals are what we want to achieve and the pathways are how we get there. For example - in order to transform from a dormitory suburb with employment opportunities for all where Aucklanders want to come and work the City needs to provide sufficient employment land to retain its own workforce and attract workers to the city. The goal is therefore to give workers the opportunity to work locally and the pathway is to foster economic development of the right type (that matches local workforce needs) at the right place (is highly accessible to workers) and within time (to meet projected growth needs). Similarly if the goal is to retain rural character and foster rural economic development and then the right type of employment would be things like the Oratia farmers market, the right place would be the lower foothills of the Waitakere Ranges and the right time is when there is sufficient demand for the service.
18. A good example of something that exemplifies all the pathways of the strategy is the new Civic Centre. The building promotes the urban intensification by locating a significant workforce in our main City Centre. The building is high quality as it incorporates sustainable building measures, compact as it accommodates 500 employees per hectare, is located next to a key transport interchange and well connected via the air bridge to our main City Centre. Intensification within the city centre ensures that we are not putting additional pressure on our sensitive natural areas. We are fostering appropriate economic development within our main town centre and have worked with key infrastructure providers such as ARTA to co-ordinate services.
19. A number of specific targets have also been developed to ensure that the goals can be achieved and monitored. They are as follows:

- **60% internal employment by 2021** - 70 000 jobs within the city an increase of approximately 30 000. For comparison the Auckland Central Business District has 80 000 jobs (2006 census);
- **95% of population growth (1996-2021) accommodated within the urban and future urban areas** - This equates to 95,000 people
- **City and Town Centre Concept plans completed by 2010** - Includes Henderson, New Lynn, Westgate, Glen Eden, Te Atatu Peninsula;
- **Waitakere Ranges Local Area Plans developed by 2013** - This will be timed to align with the District Plan review in 2013;
- **Local Centre Concept plans completed and Hobsonville Corridor urbanised by 2021** - Includes Ranui, Glendene, Kelston, Te Atatu South, Fruitvale, Sturges, Sunnyvale, Swanson;
- **Urbanisation of Redhills, Scotts Points, and Whenuapai post 2021;** and
- **Achieve Population and employment targets for key growth areas** - (See P31 of the WDGMS).

- A108-A109
20. As noted, longer term population and employment projections have been developed for the City and 2006 census data has now been released by Statistics New Zealand. These revised projections will also require amendments to the WDGMS particularly to the population and employment targets outlined on page 31 (see revised growth targets attached at pages A108 to A109 of the agenda) and area profiles (page 33-108) in the WDGMS that will be circulated to the Policy and Strategy Committee separately.
21. As noted, the development of the WDGMS is being undertaken in conjunction with a number of Council strategies in accordance with the approved strategic framework for Council. The Draft Social and Environment Strategies have recently been endorsed for consultation and it is anticipated that the Economic Strategy will be reported to the Policy and Strategy Committee by November 2008. It is therefore proposed that the WDGMS will be brought reported back to the Policy and Strategy Committee in December 2008 for final adoption so that alignment with these key strategies can be achieved.

STRATEGIC CONTEXT

22. The WDGMS will be utilised to inform all aspects of Council work ranging from supporting the Community Outcomes outlined in the LTCCP to detailed asset planning for the City and potentially the District Plan review in 2013. The WDGMS has been developed in light of regional and sub-regional growth strategies and the LG(A)AA 2004 principles to support quality urban consolidation in a manner that better integrates land use and transport planning, provides opportunities to maximise local employment, and protects highly valued and sensitive natural areas such as the Waitakere Ranges.
23. Key Community Outcomes which relate to the WDGMS are:
- The *Urban and Rural Villages* priority, which seeks to deliver thriving town centres and connected places;
 - The *Strong Economy* priority, which seeks to provide quality local employment for Waitakere City residents;
 - *Sustainable Environment Priority*, which seeks sustainable growth management with access to key resources and infrastructure;

- The *Green Network* priority, which seeks to retain and enhance the qualities of the natural environment within the areas that are proposed to be urbanised, while seeking the relief of development pressure on the non-urban areas such as the Waitakere Ranges and foothills; and
 - The *Sustainable and Integrated Transport* priority, which seeks to deliver sustainable urban form integrated with passenger and other transport networks in a way that reduces vehicle trips, reduces the dependence on private motor vehicles, and supports alternative transportation modes such as public transport, walking and cycling.
24. The WDGMS is considered consistent with the Transport Strategy and the Draft Social and Environment Strategy. It is proposed that the WDGMS will be adopted as a final strategy in December 2008 to align with the Draft Economic Strategy that is planned to be reported by November 2008.
25. The WDGMS is also intended to give effect to Auckland's Sustainability Framework. In particular the draft WDGMS goals are entirely consistent with the Quality Compact Urban Form, Resilient Infrastructure, Prosperity Through Innovation, Unique and Outstanding Environments, and Connected Society goals.

CONSULTATION

26. As noted the WDGMS has been through a consultation and hearing process in support of Council's LG(A)AA District Plan changes and MUL applications. The draft vision, goals, pathways, and targets are considered entirely consistent with these documents apart from the inclusion of an additional 200-400ha of employment land north of State Highway 18 in Whenuapai to be included post 2021. Consequently it is proposed to signal that further consultation with key stakeholders will be undertaken with key stakeholders in the review of the District Plan and the update of the Growth Management Strategy for Waitakere City in 2013.

RESOURCES

27. Staff time and resourcing have been allocated to the development of the WDGMS along with work programmes to deliver on the key targets identified in the strategy.

IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES

28. It is anticipated that once adopted the WDGMS will guide and be implemented through relevant Activity Plans in the LTCCP.

Report prepared by: Matt Heale, Team Leader: Sustainable Management.



13 DRAFT INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS FRAMEWORK

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to seek approval from the Policy and Strategy Committee on the draft International Relations Framework, which provides the strategic underpinning to the International Programme.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Policy and Strategy Committee resolve to:

1. **Receive** the Draft International Relations Framework report.
2. **Approve** the draft International Relations Framework, dated August 2008.

BACKGROUND

1. Council has had a substantive international programme since the advent of the first sister city relationship with Huntington Beach in 1984. Subsequent relationships were entered into with Kakogawa (1992), Ningbo (1998) and Galway (2002). In parallel to these civic relationships, Council has also engaged with international industry and non-government organisations. However, historically, international engagement has been *ad hoc* in nature, without reference to any underlying strategic framework, particularly with respect to strategies based on facilitating economic development.
2. The Council has embarked on an international programme of development as distinct from local international initiatives and a linkage needs to be made between the two. Local business success often relies on succeeding in international markets and Council is in a position to leverage its existing international relationships to assist local businesses engage internationally. Furthermore, with reference to key sectors of importance to Waitakere (film, marine, wine, education, tourism), as well as key international markets identified, Council is capable of developing new international linkages to support the local business community. Future international linkages need not be in the form of traditional sister city relationships, but rather a “strategic partnership” focussed on a key activity(ies) designed to promote mutually beneficial economic development. Similarly, international relations need not be exclusively with other local governments, but might also be with strategically important industry groups and non-government agencies. Attracting targeted investment, tourists and students is an increasingly valuable product of operating in the international context.
3. In April 2006 the position of International Relations Manager was created to facilitate the transition of Waitakere’s international activities into a strategically focussed and organisationally coordinated economic development programme. Activity audits of existing international programmes were undertaken, as well as research into the potential of other beneficial activities. Emphasis was placed on the development of commercial outcomes in line with the City’s economic development agenda.
4. Council held an International Relations Workshop on the 16 July 2008 to discuss views on the development of and activities of the international relations programme, as well as to have input into the draft International Relations Framework prior to submission to the Policy and Strategy Committee.

DECISION MAKING

Issues

Activity Audits of Existing Sister City Relationships

5. Over the last two years, all current sister cities were visited in order to establish first-hand relationships and knowledge concerning the potential for expanding respective programmes beyond historical activities. As a result, new activities designed to facilitate economic outcomes were trialled. Notable programmes and subsequent achievements were:
- **Korean Film Festival in Waitakere (December 2006)** - A multifaceted activity incorporating cultural, civic and economic objectives. Waitakere's profile firmly established in the minds of Korean government film agencies and industry as a centre for screen and TV production. Governor General agrees to be patron of the festival. Festival opened by the Prime Minister;
 - **Film Trade Mission to China and Korea (June 2007)** - Strengthening of key relationships with Chinese and Korean government and film industries sufficient to facilitate future co-productions. Leadership of largest New Zealand film delegation to ever visit China or Korea. Brokering of MOU between Film Auckland and the Korean Film Producer's Association. Subsequent return visits to Waitakere from senior Chinese and Korean film delegations. Waitakere takes lead in the successful advocacy for NZ/China and NZ/Korea Film Co-production Agreements (government-to-government). Beijing Film Academy progresses strategic alliance with Unitec; and
 - **Huntington Beach Main Street Programme (December 2007)** - Promotion of Waitakere Tourism and Food & Beverage Industries. Establishment of private sector partners sufficient to fund ongoing festivals. Visits by Huntington Beach business and tourist delegation planned for 2008. Huntington Beach Restaurant Association members introducing New Zealand dishes and wines to respective menus. Self-funding US beachhead created for Waitakere businesses looking for cost effective vehicles to lift their profile in the US market. Promotion of Waitakere as an investment destination.

Draft International Relations Framework

- A110-A136* 6. Over the last two years the City has benefited from increased commitment and attention to its International Relations programme. It is timely for the Council to now review its priority and commitment to the International Relations programme. A draft International Relations Framework is attached at pages A110 to A136 of the agenda, has been developed to provide a structure that links organisational objectives with international activities. Such a framework is required in order to provide the criteria from which appropriate areas of international activity can be identified, prioritised and/or measured. This process will assist with the selection of International Relations programme activities integrated with foundational City objectives.
7. The draft International Relations Framework recommends that the essence of the International Relations Programme be:

“To proactively create, and strategically manage, opportunities for Waitakere’s stakeholders to learn, experience and engage with international communities, especially in support of local businesses and the advancement of sustainable development, as well as to enhance Waitakere’s reputation as an active and appreciated member of the international community.”

8. Objectives of the draft International Relations Framework are broken down into the following priorities:
- Cultural - Waitakere’s community is strengthened through greater awareness, understanding and appreciation of different cultures;
 - Economic - Waitakere is fully engaged with the global economy;
 - Development - Waitakere contributes to international development, environment, democracy and peace initiatives; and
 - Civic - Waitakere is positioned and branded as a thriving, sophisticated and multicultural global city.
9. The Council needs to provide ongoing direction regarding the appropriate level of organisational commitment towards international relationships, particularly with respect to programme prioritisation.

Organisational Structure

10. The continued transition of the historic sister cities programme towards a more centralised and strategically focussed International Relations Programme would:
- Maximise organisational efficiency via inter-departmental communication/coordination of international activities;
 - Explore international relations beyond the historic sister city model - especially “low cost” options;
 - Focus international activities towards a more (although not exclusive) sustainable economic agenda; and
 - Harmonise international activities with key city infrastructure projects, for example, the Henderson Valley Studio and Hobsonville Marina expansions, as well as with the business plans of Waitakere Enterprise (based on their feedback from the business community).

Consideration of Community Views

11. Consideration of the community in relation to the International Relations Framework took place as part of the 2008/2009 Annual Plan process.

STRATEGIC CONTEXT

12. The International Relations programme supports the 2006-2016 Long Term Council Community Plan strategic platforms for a Strong and Innovative Economy, Active Democracy and Strong Communities and is designed to leverage international opportunities to contribute towards the attainment of Council objectives.
13. Adoption of the International Relations Framework gives effect to Strong Communities, Strong Economy and Vibrant Arts and Culture community outcomes.

CONSULTATION

14. Consultation with key officers across Council has, and will continue to take place. Representatives from the Director's Group and Waitakere Enterprise have been involved in ongoing discussions on the development of an International Relations programme.
15. No direct consultation has recently taken place with Te Taumata Runanga / iwi, although the draft International Relations Framework has received input from the Maori Relationships team.

RESOURCES

16. Current activities are provided for within the 2008/2009 Annual Plan - International Relationships (\$70,000) and Sister Cities (\$56,000).

IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES

17. Further reports will be presented to the Policy and Strategy Committee outlining future International Relations programme activity plans.

Report prepared by: Richard Duncan, International Relations Manager.



14 2008/2009 INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS WORK PROGRAMME

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to present to the Policy and Strategy Committee the proposed International Relations Work Programme for 2008/2009. In concert with the International Relations Framework, as well as previous year's activities, associated activity weighting for 2008/2009 continues with an emphasis on economic objectives.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Policy and Strategy Committee resolve to:

1. **Receive** the 2008/2009 International Relations Work Programme report.
2. **Approve** the 2008/2009 International Relations Work Programme.

BACKGROUND

1. Historically, international activities undertaken by local government have centred on two primary areas. Firstly, organisational learning and capacity has been augmented via city representation at international conferences and/or international secondments. Secondly, programmed international activities have had both their genesis and emphasis on the sister city model. It should be noted that this report is independent of the sister city programme, which has its own budget and is administered via the Culture and Community Committee. Nevertheless, cooperation between the International Relations and Sister City programmes is routine.
2. In April 2006 the position of International Relations Manager was created to facilitate the transition of Waitakere's international activities into a strategically focussed and organisationally coordinated economic development programme. Emphasis was placed on the development of commercial outcomes in line with the City's economic development agenda.

3. It is not the intention of this report, or the programme to take into account all international activities of the City. Council officers of the City travel international for the purposes of work exchanges and conferences/training. Such travel is at the discretion of the particular directorates, authorised by the Chief Executive, as they are the best placed to ascertain the relative merit of such international activities.
4. Due to the emphasis on the generation of economic outcomes, Waitakere Enterprise is a regular contributor and participant in the International Relations programme.
5. A draft International Relations Framework has been submitted to the Policy and Strategy Committee for endorsement. The framework is required in order to provide the parameters from which areas of international activity can be identified, prioritised and/or measured. These criteria have been utilised in the selection of activities included in the 2008/2009 International Relations Work Programme.
6. Categories of the International Relations Framework are:
 - **Cultural** - Waitakere's community is strengthened through greater awareness, understanding and appreciation of different cultures;
 - **Economic** - Waitakere is fully engaged with the global economy;
 - **Development** - Waitakere contributes to international development, environment, democracy and peace initiatives; and
 - **Civic** - Waitakere is positioned and branded as a thriving, sophisticated and multicultural global city.
7. Council held an International Relations Workshop on 16 July 2008 to discuss views on the development of international activities, as well as to have input into the draft International Relations Framework prior to submission to the Policy and Strategy Committee. While endorsing the activities of the international programme to date, particularly the movement towards a greater weighting on economic activities, there was also support for the retention, albeit at a lesser weighting, of the other dimensions. Similarly, support was also given for plans extend activities to include other geographic regions such as India and the Pacific Islands. Lastly, workshop discussion also supported the development of international activities in support of Waitakere's investment requirements.

DECISION MAKING

Issues

2008/2009 International Relations Work Programme

8. In addition to the ongoing work associated with the hosting of visiting delegations, representing Waitakere at relevant onshore diplomatic, cultural and business meetings, the 2008/2009 International Relations Work Programme has specifically targeted areas of development:
 - **July 2008** - Waitakere/New Zealand element included in the Galway International Film Festival (Fleadh);
 - **September 2008** - Ningbo trade delegation including the signing of a civic level Trade and Investment Agreement (Memorandum of Understanding);
 - **September 2008** - Huntington Beach "Taste of New Zealand" Main Street Festival;
 - **October 2008** - Film delegation to Korea;
 - **November 2008** - Indian Business Awards hosted in Waitakere;

- **December 2008** - Korean Film Festival in New Zealand;
- **December 2008** - Chinese film delegation visit to Waitakere/New Zealand;
- **January 2009** - Research strategy for the establishment of strategic civic and business linkages in India;
- **February 2009** - Research establishment of Waitakere migrant business community linkages;
- **March 2009** - Research the potential for strategic civic and business linkages with Abu Dhabi;
- **April 2009** - Research the potential for a Pacific Island connection – initial discussions have been with Niue;
- **June 2009** - Trade and tourism event in Ningbo;
- **June 2009** - Film delegation to China;
- **June 2009** - Environmental technology business event in Singapore.

Consideration of Community Views

9. Consideration of the community in relation to the International Relations Programme took place as part of the 2008/2009 Annual Plan process.

STRATEGIC CONTEXT

10. The 2008/2009 International Relations Work Programme supports the 2006-2016 Long Term Council Community Plan strategic platforms for a Strong and Innovative Economy, Active Democracy and Strong Communities and is designed to leverage international opportunities to contribute towards the attainment of Council objectives.
11. Development of the 2008/2009 International Relations Work Programme gives effect to Strong Communities, Strong Economy and Vibrant Arts and Culture community outcomes.

CONSULTATION

12. Consultation with key staff across Council has, and will continue to take place. Representatives from the Director's Group and Waitakere Enterprise have been involved in ongoing discussions on the development of the 2008-2009 International Relations Work Programme.
13. No direct consultation has recently taken place with Te Taumata Runanga / iwi, although the underlying International Relations Framework has received input from the Maori Relationships team.

RESOURCES

14. No additional resource implications as current activities (including associated travel costs) are provided for within the 2008/2009 Annual Plan and Budget - International Relationships and (\$70,000).

IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES

15. Further status reports will be presented to the Policy and Strategy Committee updating International Relations programme outcomes.

Report prepared by: Richard Duncan, International Relations Manager.



15 NEW ZEALAND TRANSPORT STRATEGY TARGETS

GLOSSARY

New Zealand Transport Strategy	(NZTS)
Government Policy Statement	(GPS)
Long Term Council Community Plan	(LTCCP)
Carbon Dioxide	(CO ₂)
Auckland Regional Transport Authority	(ARTA)
New Zealand Transport Agency	(NZTA)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Government released the New Zealand Transport Strategy (NZTS) and the Government Policy Statement on Land Transport Funding 2009/10 – 2018/19 (GPS) on 5 August 2008. The NZTS sets medium to long-term targets for the transport sector through to 2040, while the GPS sets short to medium-term targets for the next ten years. The GPS sets funding priorities based on the targets in the NZTS.

The purpose of this report is for the Policy and Strategy Committee to consider a proposed ten-point plan of key actions that the Council may wish to consider committing to in order to contribute to the vision and targets of the NZTS.

The decision for the Policy and Strategy Committee is whether or not to recommend that officers prepare a budgeted programme to implement the ten-point plan, or a revised version, for consideration by the Long Term Council Community Plan (LTCCP) and Annual Plan Committee in relation to the draft LTCCP 2009-2019.

The proposed ten-point plan comprises a mix of projects that are in the existing LTCCP and new projects which have been identified as those most likely to contribute to the NZTS and GPS.

It is important that a budgeted transport programme is assessed in relation to community outcomes, not solely on transport outcomes and also in terms of affordability for ratepayers and transport users.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Policy and Strategy Committee resolve to:

1. **Receive** the New Zealand Transport Strategy Targets report.
2. **Agree** that the proposed ten-point plan contained in the New Zealand Transport Strategy Targets report would assist with Waitakere contributing to the targets of the New Zealand Transport Strategy and Government Policy Statement and the Council's target to reduce carbon dioxide emissions per capita from the transport sector by 40 per cent by 2021.
3. **Direct** the Chief Executive Officer to report back to the Long Term Council Community Plan and Annual Plan Committee by December 2008 with a further report addressing the costs and impacts of a programme to implement the proposed ten-point plan contained in the New Zealand Transport Strategy Targets report.
4. **Invite** the Long Term Council Community Plan and Annual Plan Committee to consider a programme to implement the proposed ten-point plan in relation to the draft Long Term Council Community Plan 2009-2019.

5. **Direct** that Council officers engage with the New Zealand Transport Agency expressing significant concern about the inequities in financial assistance rates and evaluation criteria for local roading projects that makes it difficult for the Council to fund improvements to the pedestrian network and pedestrian safety, emphasising the importance of achieving compact, pedestrian-friendly, mixed-use town centres in achieving shared city, regional and national strategic outcomes.

BACKGROUND

1. The Government released the NZTS and the GPS on 5 August 2008. The Government's vision for transport in New Zealand is that "people and freight in New Zealand have access to an affordable, integrated, safe, responsive and sustainable transport system." The Government has focused the transport system on "moving people and moving freight" rather than vehicles. The Government has also signalled that it wishes to fill the gap between the high-level aspirations 2002 NZTS and the investment and strategic decisions that need to be made by all transport agencies, regional councils, regional transport committees, and territorial authorities in order to achieve those aspirations. The NZTS sets the scene for all modes of transport in New Zealand for the next 32 years, and will be subject to regular updating for the shorter term actions. It has identified a number of long term and intermediate targets and which are aimed to achieve the vision and objectives for transport in New Zealand, the most significant of which for the Council are listed below:
 - The Government has set a high level target to halve the per capita domestic greenhouse gas emissions by 2040;
 - To reduce the kilometres travelled by single occupancy vehicles, in major urban areas on weekdays, by 10 per cent per capita by 2015;
 - In relation to identified critical routes, to improve reliability of journey times and to reduce average journey times;
 - To increase rail's share of freight to 25 per cent of tonne-kilometres by 2040;
 - To increase public transport to seven per cent of all trips by 2040 (i.e. from 111 million boardings in 2006/2007 to 525 million boardings in 2040);
 - To increase walking, cycling and other active modes to 30 per cent of total trips in urban areas by 2040;
 - To reduce road deaths to no more than 200 per annum by 2040;
 - To reduce serious injuries on roads to no more than 1,500 per annum by 2040;
 - To reduce the number of people exposed to health-endangering concentrations of air pollution in locations where the impact of transport emissions is significant; and
 - To reduce the number of people exposed to health-endangering noise levels from transport.
2. In 2006, the Council adopted ambitious goals to address global warming by reducing greenhouse gas emissions within Waitakere. On 6 April 2006, the City Development Committee resolved as follows:
 - “1. *That the Communities for Climate Protection Programme - Milestone 2 report be received.*
 2. *That the following draft goals be adopted in principle to inform the development of the Action Plan:*

Community emissions (base year 2001):

Reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by 15% per capita by 2010 (this would lead to a stabilisation of total emissions);

Reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by 40% per capita by 2021 (to 3 tonnes per capita);

Reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by 80% per capita by 2051 (to 1 tonne per capita).

Corporate emissions (base year 2001):

Stabilisation of total greenhouse gas emissions by 2010;

Reduction of total greenhouse gas emissions by 50% by 2021.”

516/2006

3. These targets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Waitakere are even more ambitious than the Government's target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 50 per cent over 2007 levels by 2040. The Council's targets were designed, based on international research, to stabilise the climate in the long term. These targets were confirmed by the City Development Committee at its meeting on 7 September 2006 (minute no. 1777/2006). According to the GPS "Carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions from land transport increased by 64 per cent between 1990 and 2006. They are expected to increase a further 30 per cent by 2030, if nothing is done to reduce them." According to the NZTS, "in Auckland, each year, around 45 per cent of all fine particulates (PM₁₀) emissions, 85 per cent of all CO₂ emissions, 80 per cent of all nitrogen oxide (NO_x) emissions and 65 per cent of all sulphur dioxide (SO₂) emissions come from transport." However, the Council's own inventory for the Waitakere Action Plan on Climate Change and energy indicated that in Waitakere, transport accounted for 44 per cent of greenhouse gas emissions; followed by 20 per cent from waste; 17 per cent from industrial sources and 13 per cent from the residential sector. The rate of growth in greenhouse gas emissions, combined with the high contribution of transport to those emissions in the Auckland region, underscores the importance of a more sustainable transport system in contributing to combating climate change.

- “1. That the Waitakere Action Plan on Climate Change and Energy and Work Programme report be received.
2. That the Climate Change and Energy Action Plan attached at pages A32 to A57 to the Agenda and the goals contained in the Plan be adopted.
3. That the Climate Change and Energy Work Programme attached at pages A58 to A63 to the Agenda be approved.
4. That expenditure of the \$150,000 Climate Change Projects budget is approved to include:
 - a) Up to \$10,000 to pilot the purchase of 'green power' for some of Council's operations.
 - b) \$80,000 for a solar hot water campaign, including the waiving of the Building Consent fee for solar and heat pump hot water systems.
 - c) \$10,000 for educational activities around climate change
 - d) Up to \$50,000 for a demonstration project, subject to separate approval.
5. That Council officers be required to report on the progress of the Climate Change and Energy Work Programme and on proposed expenditure of the Climate Change Projects budget in March of each year.

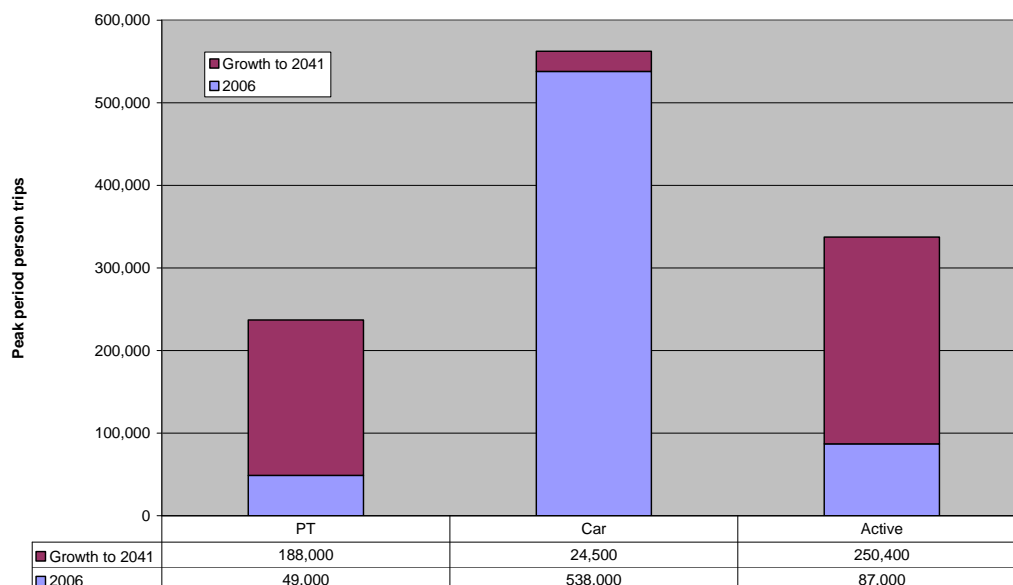
6. *That a small working group comprising of Crs Chan, Gilmour, Cooper, Stone and Hulse, as well as senior management, be established to provide Council officers with feedback on Climate Change and Energy actions.*
7. *That a Councillor be nominated to represent Waitakere at the Communities for Climate Protection Forum, 25 October 2006."*

1777/2006

4. The GPS sets the short-term targets for 2009/2010 through to 2014/2015 which are the first stages of implementing the targets in the NZTS. According to the GPS, "the message from the NZTS is that the transport system needs to change. Government is seeking gradual, but accelerating change to give the transport sector, businesses and individuals time to adapt. Major changes are anticipated in order to meet the challenges ahead and small preparatory changes need to be made now." The short-term targets are:
 - To reduce kilometres travelled by single occupancy vehicles, in major urban areas on weekdays, by 10 per cent per capita by 2015;
 - No overall deterioration in travel times and reliability on critical routes by 2015 (note that there is no definition of critical routes in the document);
 - To increase patronage on public transport by three per cent per annum through to 2015;
 - To increase number of walking and cycling trips by one per cent per annum through to 2015;
 - To reduce fatalities and hospitalisations from road crashes by 2015; and
 - To increase the mode share of transporting freight by coastal shipping and rail by 2015.
5. Council officers have analysed the targets to identify what changes in travel behaviour would be required in Waitakere to meet the GPS targets to 2015. The proposed increase in walking, cycling and use of public transport will not be enough to meet the targeted reduction of single occupant vehicle travel. The following outcomes will also need to be considered:
 - Ride-sharing (for example, work-based carpooling, community vans, community hitching posts and spontaneous carpooling);
 - In order to reduce the distance travelled by single occupant drivers, trips would need to be local or organised to carry out multiple activities rather than a single purpose trip. An increase in local employment; the intensification of town centres and corridors; and the availability of goods and services closer to where people live would all be very effective at reducing average trip lengths by all modes;
 - Fewer trips (which may arise from more people working from home or choosing not to travel). The number of trips is also dependent on the level of economic activity;
 - An increase in walking and cycling above the one per cent per annum target. This is likely to be a significant challenge as active modes have been in decline for a sustained period. It would be crucial to effectively address the key barriers to increased walking and cycling to meet or exceed this target. It is worth noting that recent regional cycle monitoring counts have indicated an increase in cycling numbers in the region; and

- An increase in passenger transport patronage above the three per cent per annum target, if funding could be available to provide for the additional trips. In the 2007/2008 financial year, patronage increased by 4.4 per cent, with rail patronage increasing by 18.5 per cent and bus patronage by just under three per cent. The rail network is suffering significant overcrowding at peak times due to a sustained period of record patronage. As buses will continue to carry the vast majority of passenger transport trips in Waitakere, the implementation of the Auckland Regional Transport Authority's (ARTA) review of Waitakere's bus services, planned for the 2009-2010 financial year, will be crucial to contributing to this mode shift.
6. It is likely that only a combination of the above outcomes, working together, will deliver the sort of mode change needed in Waitakere to deliver on the GPS targets.
 7. It is worthy of note that the vast majority of decisions about transport are made by private individuals and companies responding to their own personal and business requirements (in which sustainability usually only plays a small role). Private sector investment is targeted at achieving an economic rate of return on assets. While the private sector may want to be seen as being environmentally responsible, their investment decisions are, in the main, largely driven by business economics. This means that for the Government's targets to be achieved, changes in the transport sector will need to be aligned with delivering value for private individuals and companies. It follows that public-sector led infrastructure investment will only succeed if the infrastructure delivers value and utility to those private individuals and companies.
 8. The implication of this is that for the NZTS and GPS targets to be achieved, transport sector investment decisions will need to achieve dramatic changes to personal travel behaviour and corporate decisions about transport. The only way this will take place in practice is if infrastructure investment, price signals and provision of all alternatives to single-occupant car driving converge to deliver the change that meets both the needs of private individuals and companies and also delivers on the Government's strategic goals. ARTA has identified that the NZTS mode share targets for 2041 require peak period travel in the Auckland region to significantly increase for passenger transport and active modes, but to only marginally increase for motor vehicle trips:

Morning peak Period Person Trips 2006-2041 UNZTS Targets



Source: Auckland Regional Transport Authority modelled data for 2006 and 2041 Morning peak period travel demand – Updated NZTS Mode Share Targets

9. At its meeting on 7 February 2008, the Policy and Strategy Committee received the Government Sustainable Transport Discussion Paper report and approved a submission on the Updated NZTS. The Committee resolved:

- “1. That the Government Sustainable Transport Discussion Paper report be received.
2. That the Council endorses the contents of the Government Sustainable Transport Discussion Paper report as its policy position but seeks more direct action on transport/land use integration, especially in relation to Government-funded public infrastructure in Waitakere.
3. That, based on the contents of the Agenda report and its conclusions, a submission be prepared on the Government Sustainable Transport Discussion Paper, to be signed off by the Chairman of the Policy and Strategy Committee.
4. That the Transport Strategy and Transport Assets teams report back to the Policy and Strategy Committee at its June 2008 meeting with a ten-point plan of key actions that Council should commit to in order to enact the vision of the Government Sustainable Transport Discussion Paper in Waitakere.”

51/2008

10. It was originally planned to present the report referred to in the fourth paragraph of the above resolution to the Policy and Strategy Committee in June. However, owing to the fact that the final NZTS and GPS were due to be released around this time, officers felt it better to defer the report until the NZTS had been finalised and the targets confirmed. Otherwise, there would have been a risk of reporting on targets that could have changed in the final NZTS.
11. The Transport Strategy and Transport Assets teams held a workshop to identify a range of actions that were considered to contribute to the vision and targets of the NZTS. Officers at the workshop identified the key actions which they believed would make the greatest contribution. The most commonly identified actions have been incorporated into a proposed ten-point plan, which has also been the subject of discussion with Urban Design and Development; Corporate Sustainability and Sustainability Initiatives staff.
12. It is also worthy of note that the current strategic direction of the Council is generally well-aligned with the achievement of the GPS and NZTS outcomes. For example, the Council's Transport Strategy states that: “The Council will consider road widening on strategic local roads to improve the flow of buses and high-occupancy vehicles or to add a cycle lane. Generally, road widening that is mainly for improving private vehicular traffic will not be undertaken. Exceptions to this may be in the context of safety, town centre development, connectivity, and when there is considerable improvement to the whole route, i.e. more than localised benefits are achieved.”

DECISION MAKING

13. The following ten-point plan sets out key actions that the Council could consider in order to contribute to the vision and targets of the NZTS:

Point 1: Integrating Land Use and Transport

- The Council has proven experience in integrating transport and land-use planning. An example of this is the Growth and Transport Integration Project for District Plan changes in the Northern Strategic Growth Area and New Lynn;
- There are opportunities to further improve this level of integration. An example would be to do corridor management planning for arterial roads as integrated transport and land use exercises, rather than separating the transport and land use elements as is the conventional practice; and
- This contributes to the GPS and NZTS targets concerning passenger transport, active modes, a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and a reduction in vehicle kilometres travelled by single occupant vehicles.

Point 2: Increased local employment

- The Council has strong aspirations to increase local employment in Waitakere to reduce the need for Waitakere residents to leave the city to work. Currently 56 per cent of Waitakere residents work outside of Waitakere. The Council's aspiration is to have 60 per cent of all Waitakere residents employed within the city. There are a range of initiatives which are contributing to Waitakere attracting more investment and employment. These initiatives need to be recognised as making an important contribution to the GPS targets;
- The Council is planning for significant new employment areas in Massey North and the Hobsonville corridor as well as the regeneration of brownfields employment areas in New Lynn and Henderson South. The Council needs to programme over the next 10 years the implementation of concept plans for places such as Corban Estate, Glen Eden and Lincoln Road where employment is expected to be generated; and
- Increased local employment contributes to the GPS and NZTS targets concerning passenger transport, active modes, a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and a reduction in vehicle kilometres travelled by single occupant vehicles.

Point 3: Improve passenger transport infrastructure and advocate for improved services

- The Council has made significant progress in this area in recent years, including the provision, in partnership with ARTA, of timetable information at the majority of the city's bus stops over the past three years; the closure of significant gaps in bus stop coverage, especially in Massey and West Harbour and a rolling programme of park and ride facilities at railway stations. Real-time information signs are currently being rolled out by ARTA at key bus stops in Henderson, Great North Road and Lincoln Road;
- One option to further improve passenger transport infrastructure would be to accelerate the installation of bus shelters throughout Waitakere. Currently, the Council installs ten new bus shelters per year and upgrades a further 16 shelters. The Transport Assets section is proposing to double the bus shelter installation programme to 20 shelters per year in order to ensure key boarding stops have shelter for bus customers;
- The completion of timetable information provision at bus stops would also be a very cost-effective way for the Council to contribute to the passenger transport target;

- The Council is energetically advocating with ARTA for much improved bus services in Waitakere. ARTA staff have indicated a significant budget is available for improved bus services in Waitakere from the 2009-2010 financial year with bus service frequencies planned to double or more for significant parts of Waitakere; and
- This contributes to the GPS and NZTS targets concerning passenger transport, a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and a reduction in vehicle kilometres travelled by single occupant vehicles.

Point 4: Manage the demand for travel

- Managing the demand for travel can be achieved through a range of initiatives including travel plans, encouraging work from home, parking management, buy local campaigns, ride sharing, and land use planning;
- The Council contributes to this target through its own travel plan which has reduced single-occupant car travel by Council staff from nearly 89 per cent at its former premises to 61 per cent at Waitakere Central - a mode shift of 28 per cent. Improvements could be achieved by expanding workplace travel planning to other large employers in Waitakere. Carpooling and train use have been particularly popular options for Council staff. In addition, the Council works with schools across the city on travel plans which have, on average, reduced car trips to schools by around 10 per cent;
- The Council is also investing \$5 million in the 2008-2009 Annual Plan in the Waitakere Information Access Project for broadband and fibre infrastructure. Officers are currently exploring business models and partnerships to achieve the best possible outcome for the Council's investment. This project will facilitate an increased ability to telecommute; encourage appropriate home-based businesses and improve Waitakere's attractiveness as a business location; and
- Travel demand initiatives contribute to the GPS and NZTS targets concerning passenger transport, active modes, a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and a reduction in vehicle kilometres travelled by single occupant vehicles.

Point 5: Improve access for pedestrians

- The Council has a backlog of footpath maintenance and a significant list of areas requiring new footpaths. Major barriers to improving pedestrian access are current New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA) funding rules and evaluation criteria. Footpath maintenance and new footpaths are not currently subsidised by the NZTA. Traffic signal installations, which can be very effective if properly designed at improving pedestrian accessibility, often perform poorly on current funding criteria as traffic signals share delay rather than achieve travel time savings. Unless an intersection has a particularly poor crash history, it can be difficult to get NZTA funding for their installation. It is also difficult to get funding for street lighting improvements on local roads. 70 per cent of local roads in Waitakere have street lighting levels for pedestrians below the New Zealand standard. The Council is planning to energetically engage with the NZTA to address these funding anomalies;

- Key areas that deserve more attention are improving key pedestrian connections in town centres and around railway stations. Waitakere's bus fleet is nearly 100 per cent accessible to people with reduced mobility, but many bus stops in Waitakere are not yet able to be accessed by everyone. An ageing population in Waitakere, combined with the Government's plan to introduce free off-peak travel for senior citizens from mid-2009, makes it increasingly important to address this issue; and
- Improved access for pedestrians would contribute to the GPS and NZTS targets concerning passenger transport, active modes, a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and a reduction in vehicle kilometres travelled by single occupant vehicles.

Point 6: Improve access for cyclists

- The current LTCCP provides for the completion of 30 per cent of the regional cycle network in Waitakere by 2016. This is short of the goal in the Regional Land Transport Strategy for 50 per cent of the regional cycle network to be completed by 2016. The future level of investment in cycling is a key decision for the Council through the LTCCP process as implementing the regional cycle network in Waitakere is the key tool the Council has for meeting the GPS target for increased cycling; and
- Improved access for cyclists would contribute to the GPS and NZTS targets concerning a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, an increase in cycling, and reduction in vehicle kilometres travelled by single occupant vehicles.

Point 7: Improve transport safety

- The Council remedies problems identified in its accident investigation studies and is proactive in creating a safe city through measures including good speed management; providing safe passage for pedestrians at all crossing points; designing roads that are safe for all road users, especially pedestrians and cyclists, and working in partnership with the community and central government agencies to achieve better safety outcomes;
- Another important aspect of transport safety is considering the safety of pedestrians and public transport customers through the continued use of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design and Injury Prevention Through Environmental Design tools to improve levels of safety and perception of safety. This is critical for increasing passenger transport use; walking and the Council's aspirations for 18-hour-a-day activity in main town centres; and
- Safety improvements contribute to the GPS and NZTS targets concerning passenger transport, active modes, and reduction in vehicle kilometres travelled by single occupant vehicles.

Point 8: Improve the environmental sustainability of the transport system

- Many of the steps noted above contribute to environmental sustainability by reducing the build up of vehicle trips. However, it is important to focus on stormwater runoff from the road network. Council officers are considering a “sustainable streets” demonstration project where a street with some strategic significance is comprehensively treated to address a whole range of quadruple-bottom line outcomes such as improving pedestrian and cycle access; improved social connectivity to key destinations; and improved management of stormwater run-off into receiving waterways. This type of project has significant potential to address some of the environmental effects of transport and could be used as a model for other streets; and
- This would contribute to the NZTS target to reduce resource use and local environmental effects of transport.

Point 9: Reduce the energy intensity of the transport sector

- The Council is working with a number of businesses regarding fleet management and better information about fuel efficiency of vehicles. The Council has supported electrification of passenger trains and has the opportunity to advocate for more energy efficient buses. There is potential for more effective advocacy of optimal fleet management - including improved fuel efficiency, optimal fleet size, and preventive maintenance - to large fleet users in Waitakere. This would both improve business bottom lines and environmental sustainability. The Council's vehicle fleet makes up 19 per cent of its corporate greenhouse gas emissions;
- The Council is also investigating more climate-friendly street lighting that has longer life; lower energy use (and hence CO₂ emissions); and less light spill. Street lighting makes up 28 per cent of the Council's corporate greenhouse gas emissions; and
- This would contribute to the NZTS target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, resource use and local environmental effects of transport.

Point 10: The Council leads by example

- The Council's shift to Waitakere Central, a building modelling sustainable building practices, and adjacent to a bus/rail interchange, has demonstrated how transport land-use integration can be achieved;
- The Council has also been successful in achieving a reduction in its own carbon footprint through such measures as a more fuel-efficient vehicle fleet. There is still potential to further improve the sustainability of the Council's vehicle fleet by ensuring that the fleet is the right size for its needs. The planned implementation of an improved booking system for Council pool vehicles will be a key tool to monitor fleet performance. Other potential tools include in-vehicle Global Positioning System navigation to guide staff to the shortest (and hence most fuel-efficient) route and optimal trip linking to minimise vehicle kilometres travelled. This is one example in the Council's Corporate Sustainability programme which can influence other organisations and contribute to the GPS and NZTS targets; and
- Improved fleet management would contribute to the GPS and NZTS target to reduce resource use and local environmental effects of transport.

14. Many of these steps are currently being taken by the Council and some will be new. It is important that a budgeted transport programme is assessed in relation to community outcomes and not solely on transport outcomes and also in terms of affordability for ratepayers and transport users. The proposed ten-point programme would need to be considered in relation to the rest of the Council's programme. This depends on:

Issues

15. NZTS and GPS need to provide clear direction to NZTA in relation to its funding of transport programmes and to the Auckland region in its development of transport strategies and transport programmes. The NZTA requires actions to be taken by local authorities as well as a range of organisations and individuals in order to achieve its targets. It also provides an opportunity for the Council to incorporate these actions into its draft LTCCP 2009-2019 in order to deliver on its community outcomes and the direction provided by the Government. The existing Waitakere City Transport Strategy and LTCCP cover a period of ten years to 2016 and need to take into consideration changes in Government policy and funding.
16. Significant changes in funding priorities will be needed longer term so that funding is allocated to the types of projects that will deliver the GPS and NZTS targets. The council advocates for actions by central government that will make significant contributions to the targets, such as commitments to electrification of the Auckland urban rail network; upgrading the national rail network; raising the minimum age for driver's licensing; regulation of fuels and the vehicle fleet; consideration of a regional congestion charge or alternative road pricing scheme; road safety programmes and support for more integrated transport and land use outcomes in the region. The council works with the community and in partnership with the private sector to achieve shared outcomes.

Options Identified

17. This report outlines a range of actions that the Council could take to assist Waitakere in contributing to the vision and targets of the GPS and NZTS. The broad options for the Policy and Strategy Committee to consider include:
- a) Approve the proposed actions or a revised set of actions which the Committee considers would best contribute to the GPS and NZTS. The Committee could give direction on a revised set of actions or request officers to assess alternatives.
 - b) Give direction that an approved ten-point plan of actions be added to or prioritised into a budgeted transport programme that officers will present to the Long Term Council Community Plan and Annual Plan Committee when considering the draft LTCCP 2009-2019.
 - c) Defer consideration of the ten-point plan of actions.

Assessment of Options

18. In addition to the contribution to the targets of the GPS and NZTS, an approved ten-point plan would need to be assessed in terms of:
- i) the benefits and costs of the actions in terms of the present and future social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of the City.
 - ii) the extent to which community outcomes would be promoted or achieved in an integrated and efficient manner.

- iii) the impact of the actions on the Council's capacity to meet present and future needs in relation to its statutory responsibilities.
 - iv) other factors such as affordability, significant requirements of Maori, residents and ratepayers, timing of developments, improvements to passenger transport and other external influences.
19. A transport programme which contributes to the NZTS and GPS targets is likely to result in changes in travel behaviour and achieving the Council's vision for a target for a sustainable multi-modal transport system that is integrated with land use and contributes to Waitakere as an eco city. Although the NZTA is responsible for funding projects which contribute to the NZTS and GPS targets, there is still uncertainty about funding for improvements to pedestrian access and a remote chance of funding for land use and employment initiatives.
20. If a decision is made to defer consideration of a ten-point plan, there is a risk that parts of the proposed ten-point plan will not be implemented and Waitakere's contribution to the GPS targets will be reduced. There is a risk that other projects will be approved which are still important may not provide the most contribution to the NZTS and GPS targets. This would be an appropriate approach if the Committee considers that the NZTS or GPS will be amended by the Government after the election.

Preferred Option

21. The Government released the NZTS and GPS in August 2008. The NZTS will have a significant influence on the development of the Auckland Regional Land Transport Strategy and potentially future funding for transport projects. The NZTS and GPS provide direction for the Council in the preparation of the budgeted transport programme for the draft LTCCP 2009-2019. Accordingly, it is suggested that the proposed ten-point plan provide a basis for further analysis and consideration when officers prepare a budgeted transport programme for the Council to consider in relation to the draft LTCCP 2009-2019.

STRATEGIC CONTEXT

22. Integrated transport and communication, *Te Whakaurunga Waka Te Whakawhiti korero* - should the Government's targets be achieved, the transport sector will look very different to what it is today with a wider range of attractive, sustainable transport choices.
23. Urban and rural villages, *Nga kainga taone, tuawhenua* - a successful approach to achieving the Government's targets would focus on urban intensification around rapid transit corridors and stations and would support the city's long-standing strategic direction.
24. Strong innovative economy, *He tupuranga kaha ihi wana* - greater transport access and a reduction in single occupant vehicle travel would make a positive effect on congestion, which is a significant barrier to Waitakere's economic development. A successful approach to sustainable transport would focus on reducing overall trip lengths and promoting employment closer to where people live.

25. Strong Communities, *He iwi kaha* - the achievement of the Government's targets would deliver a wider range of sustainable transport choices which would support building stronger communities. It would reduce social exclusion and allow deprived communities in particular better access to facilities, services and employment.
26. Sustainable energy and clean air, *He kaha motuhake, He hau ora pai* - the achievement of the Government's targets would have a strong positive influence on this platform with a substantially more sustainable and resilient energy sector and large reductions in pollution from transport, and commensurate reductions in carbon dioxide emissions.
27. The Waitakere City Transport Strategy's vision for transport in Waitakere City is "a sustainable multi-modal transport system that is integrated with land use and contributes to Waitakere as an eco city". The Waitakere City Transport Strategy provides policies to support a balanced transport programme for the ten years to 2016 and to provide people with a choice to use different modes of travel. The Council subsequently set a target for Waitakere City to reduce greenhouse gas emissions per capita by 40 per cent by 2021.
28. The next Auckland Regional Land Transport Strategy, for which work is well underway, will take into account the NZTS and the GPS.

CONSULTATION

29. The Transport Strategy and Transport Assets teams have jointly identified the proposed ten-point plan. In addition, staff from Strategic Projects; Sustainability Initiatives; Urban Design and Development; and Corporate Sustainability have been involved in the preparation of this report. A wider input of staff would be required in the next stage of developing the projects to implement the plan. Consultation with key stakeholders and the public would be required at a later stage if the budgeted programme were to be incorporated into the draft LTCCP 2009-2019. Some projects that were suggested by officers that did not make the proposed ten-point plan included:
 - Defer road projects that increase capacity;
 - Publicity, education and information to the public so people are up to date on new improvements and choices available, education of secondary school children and nurture respect for infrastructure and other people;
 - Carless days; and
 - Obtain the ability to amalgamate titles to ensure high density development can proceed in town centres and growth corridors.

RESOURCES

30. The Transport Strategy and Transport Assets teams have considered a range of projects in the development of the Transport Activity Plan and ten-year budgeted programme. Existing resources are available to develop a ten-year budgeted transport programme that delivers on the Council's vision for transport and the community outcomes. This involves consideration of a range of options for projects and programmes, including the costs and benefits of those projects and programmes.

31. External funding from NZTA for a programme that implements the proposed ten-point programme is an important issue in terms of affordability. A change in the current criteria would be required in order to redirect subsidies towards projects that would be more effective at delivering on the targets. For example, the NZTA does not currently fund footpath maintenance or broadband projects.

IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES

32. The ten-point plan proposed in this report requires further analysis of the costs and impacts. A programme to implement the ten-point plan needs to be prioritised and considered in relation to the full transport programme being developed by officers in relation to the draft LTCCP 2009-2019.

Report prepared by: Darren Davis, Principal Advisor: Transport.



16 SMOKE FREE PARKS POLICY

GLOSSARY

Smoke Free Parks Policy (the Policy)
Long Term Council Community Plan (LTCCP)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report responds to requests from the Cancer Society and Health Sponsorship Council to promote smoke free park policies in Waitakere. It suggests a new policy of encouraging smoke free areas commonly used by youth and children in parks. The Smoke Free Parks Policy (the Policy) is based on an educational and awareness programme rather than a legal approach.

It is timely for the Policy and Strategy Committee to consider this Policy as the Manukau City Council, through its Policy and Activities Committee, is scheduled to consider a similar policy at its meeting today (4 September 2008).

This provides an opportunity to gain increased media promotion through a joint approach with Manukau City Council, Cancer Society, Health Sponsorship Council and Waitakere City Council. As the proposed Policy is education and awareness based this is a unique opportunity.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Policy and Strategy Committee resolve to:

1. **Receive** the Smoke Free Parks Policy report.
2. **Agree** to
 - (a) do nothing in regards to a Smoke Free Parks Policy; or
 - (b) establish and adopt a Smoke Free Parks Policy of encouraging no smoking around areas dedicated for children which includes facilities and open space around playgrounds; or

- (c) establish and adopt a Smoke Free Parks Policy of encouraging no smoking around areas dedicated for children, youth and active recreation which includes facilities and open space around:
- Playgrounds;
 - Skate parks and half courts;
 - Sports fields and facilities (e.g. courts); and
 - Event areas.
3. **Agree** that the Chairman of the Policy and Strategy Committee is delegated to sign off a finalised Smoke Free Parks Policy based on the option approved in resolution 2 above.
4. **Agree** that Council officers coordinate a joint promotion to launch the Smoke Free Parks Policy with Manukau City Council, Cancer Society and the Health Sponsorship Council.
5. **Invite** the Finance and Operational Performance Committee and the Long Term Council Community and Annual Plan Committee to consider allocation of budget towards the Smoke Free Parks Policy during the half yearly review and 2009/2010 Annual Plan respectively.

BACKGROUND

1. Elected Members and Council officers have been approached by the Cancer Society and Health Sponsorship Council to consider smoke free park policies in Waitakere.
2. The initiative is based on education rather than through a legal approach. This is usually achieved through signage, for example, “please do not smoke in our parks” creating a moral ban on smoking and encouraging voluntary adherence.
3. As an educational initiative it requires no legal bylaws or enforcement. Note that legal smoking bans on reserves, through bylaws, would likely be difficult to put in place as the bylaw making powers under the Reserves Act and Local Government Act 2002 are unlikely to be wide enough to justify such action. Furthermore, there would be difficulties in enforcement.

DECISION MAKING

Issues

4. Information provided by the Cancer Society and the Health Sponsorship Council to support the initiative includes:
 - The principle of the initiative is to denormalise smoking by reducing the amount of smoking that occurs, particularly around children and young people, reducing the likelihood of them becoming addicted smokers.
 - Evidence suggests that:
 - Teenagers exposed to smoking restrictions in the home and other environments are less likely to take up smoking.
 - The more frequently young people observe smoking, the more socially acceptable and normal they perceive it to be.

- A smokefree environment reduces exposure to role modelling of negative health behaviour and reduces the visibility of smoking.
 - Young people who have parents who smoke are more likely to smoke themselves.
 - The longer the onset smoking is delayed, the less likely a person is to become addicted.
- 2006 census data show that 21% of people in Waitakere smoke on a daily basis, just above the national average. Nationally 22.1% have stopped smoking. In Waitakere, rates are slightly lower with 19.9% have stopped smoking.
5. The main actions of a smoke free policy are to promote it through the media and similar avenues, and the installation of signage on areas that are to be encouraged as 'smoke free'.
6. A number of councils in New Zealand have adopted smoke free policies such as South Taranaki District Council (parks and playgrounds); Upper Hutt City Council (all parks); Wairarapa District Council (playgrounds); Queenstown Lakes District Council (playgrounds and swimming pools); Gisborne City Council (all parks); and Ashburton District Council (Friedlander Park).
- A137 7. Examples of similar signage used by other councils are attached at page A137 of the agenda.
8. Although most Council's did not undertake formal monitoring, anecdotal evidence generally indicated high levels of voluntary compliance, and limited negative feedback.

Options Identified

9. The options identified include:
- Do nothing
 - Smoke free playgrounds
 - Smoke free child and youth areas
 - Full smoke free parks policy.

Assessment of Options

10. The following table provides a discussion on various policy options. The signage requirements have been based on:
- 1 sign per playground (option 2, and option 3);
 - 2 signs per active recreation park (option 3); and
 - 1 sign per local park (option 4).

Option 1	Do nothing
Disadvantages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No encouragement to stop smoking in parks and open spaces
Advantages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No resource requirements • Smokers retain open privileges to smoke
Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No budget required • No internal resources required

Option 2	Smoke Free Playgrounds
Disadvantages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does not include other areas children use frequently • Does not target youth
Advantages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key target group focused on (children) • Widely supported, and highest support, by public in principle • Retains degree of smokers freedom while also encouraging adjustments to habit
Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approximately 143 signs • Approximate sign cost: \$10,000 • Approximate install cost: \$25,000 • Staff resources for planning and contract management
Option 3	Smoke Free Child and Youth Areas (e.g. playground, sports, and events areas)
Disadvantages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional cost
Advantages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All target groups included • Stronger statement • Widely supported by public in principle • Retains degree of smokers freedom while also encouraging adjustments to habit
Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approximately 213 signs • Approximate sign cost: \$13,000 • Approximate install cost: \$37,000 • Staff resources for planning and contract management
Option 4	All Parks and Open Spaces Are Smoke Free
Disadvantages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raises issues of individual freedom • Less support by public in principle • Expected increase in issues and less compliance expected. • Less practicable, excessive signage and more expensive approach
Advantages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strongest statement and support to discouraging smoking
Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approximately 399 signs • Approximate sign cost: \$24,000 • Approximate install cost: \$70,000 • Staff resources for planning and contract management

Consideration of Community Views

11. Smokers will be negatively affected by introducing this Policy through moral encouragement not to smoke in certain areas. 2006 Census data indicates that 21% of people in Waitakere are daily smokers.
12. Those that dislike smoking around their children will gain a benefit, as well as long term well-being and health benefits to the community with reduced smoking.
13. 2008 survey results from the Health Sponsorship Council show that the majority of people surveyed believe it was not appropriate to smoke around sports fields (51.4%) or playgrounds (76.4%).

Preferred Option

14. The preferred option is to establish a policy of encouraging no smoking around areas dedicated for children, youth and active recreation. This includes facilities and open space around:
 - Playgrounds,
 - Skate parks and half courts,
 - Sports fields and facilities (e.g. courts),
 - Event areas.
15. This option provides the most well-being benefits, aligns with public support in principle, and aligns with Council's LTCCP and Strategic Platforms.
16. This option aligns closely with the proposed policy to be considered today (4 September 2008) by Manukau City Council Policy and Activities Committee. This provides a unique opportunity to have joint promotion with Manukau City Council, Health Sponsorship Council, and the Cancer Society, which may attract regional and national media attention. As this initiative is education based, this provides a significant advantage and opportune time.
17. The negative aspects of this option are the increased costs associated with more areas requiring signage.
18. With more sites there is also a greater risk of the perception that Council is encroaching on people's rights. This suggested Policy is aligned with public opinion, but if Council sought to reduce this risk, a ban around playgrounds has the strongest support from public surveys.
19. Where possible, signs would be placed on existing posts to reduce installation costs and reduce visual clutter.

STRATEGIC CONTEXT

20. As an initiative being promoted by external agencies it has not been specifically identified in a Council Strategy; however it aligns with the following Council Strategic Priorities, Platforms, and Community Outcomes:
 - **Strategic Priorities: First Call for Children:** A city where children and youth; participate in the development of the city; play and hang out safely; have good health care, education and housing; are free from violence; develop their own cultural identity and enjoy the city's diversity; access integrated transport systems; enjoy clean air water and green spaces; are free from poverty. This priority requires that consideration is given to the needs and rights of children in all council activities and planning, and that the Council advocates for and supports the prioritisation of the wellbeing of children.
 - **Community Outcomes: Toiora; Healthy Lifestyles;** Good health, education and increased participation in a healthy and positive lifestyle.
21. During the 2007 Wellbeing Summit one of the initiatives identified for improving healthy and active lifestyles was to "promote smoking cessation programmes and smoke-free environments alongside other strategies such as media campaigns and taxes known to impact on smoking rates".

22. The Smoke-free Environments Act 1990 requires that all internal workplaces (with some limited exceptions) must be 100 percent smoke free. The Smoke-free legislation does not apply to outdoor areas, other than grounds of schools and early childhood centres. This initiative does not seek any legal 'no smoking' ban or enforcement.

CONSULTATION

23. The proposed Policy aligns with wider public support as reported through the Health Sponsorship Council 2008 survey. However, it is noted that no specific consultation has been undertaken with Waitakere residents, and is not proposed, as this is not a significant issue (e.g. bylaw/enforcement approach) and remains an educational programme to improve health and well being in Waitakere.
24. The initiative has been proposed by the Cancer Society and the Health Sponsorship Council. Ongoing consultation has been undertaken with these groups.

RESOURCES

25. As outlined in the options assessment the costs of implementing a new smoke free policy is in the order of \$35,000 for option 2; or \$50,000 for option 3. The costs are mostly in relation to providing and installing signs.
26. These costs estimates are based on the sign quotes provided by suppliers of similar smoke free signs to other Councils. Note that these are rigid PVC signs rather than Council's standard aluminium signs as these are significant cheaper. These installation cost estimates include full installation costs which are based on engineers estimates (half based on placing signs on existing posts, and half installed on new posts).
27. This project was not identified in the Annual Plan or Long Term Council Community Plan, and therefore has no allocated budget. Budget could either be sought through cost savings during the half yearly review, or be considered as part of the 2009/2010 Annual Plan.
28. The Health Sponsorship Council is likely to contribute to costs. It is expected that they will contribute to the signage costs of approximately \$10-13,000, while Waitakere City Council's contribution would be to manage and fund the installation costs.
29. Monitoring to assess the success of the Policy is not planned and is not included in the above resources. Costs associated with vandalism will be managed within existing parks budgets.

IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES

30. This report focuses on aligning implementation with Manukau City Council to maximise the promotional aspect of the project. As noted above, there is no funding immediately available to implement the installation of signage. It may be possible to allocate some funding through the half yearly review to begin a roll out of the signs.
31. If the Policy and Strategy Committee wishes to adopt the Policy, and align it with Manukau, the following implementation programme is suggested:
 - Adopted policy in principle 4 September 2008 (finalised policy to be signed off by the Committee chair by 31 September 2008).

- Order signage September 2008 (funded externally).
- Co-ordinated media promotion with Manukau, Health Sponsorship Council and Cancer Society from October 2008.
- Install signage roll out from January 2009, subject to budget availability through the half yearly review, with priority afforded to installing at playgrounds.
- Remaining signage installation budget, if required, can be requested through the 2009/2010 Annual Plan to continue and complete remaining sign installation from June 2009.

Report prepared by: Gyles Bendall; Strategic Parks Planner, Parks Planning



17 **ROYAL COMMISSION - ISSUES AND UPDATES**

Provision is made in the agenda for a 30-minute update from Council officers on the Royal Commission of Inquiry into Auckland Governance.

