



COMMUNITY WAIKATO

"Supporting strong communities"

Hei tautoko kia tuu pakari ai ngaa haapori

15 May 2015

Hamilton City Council
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Submission Due: Friday 15 May 2015, 4.00pm

Submission on the Hamilton City Council – Long Term Plan 2015-2025

1. Community Waikato appreciates the opportunity to make a submission on the consultation document concerning the Hamilton City Council Long Term Plan 2015-2025.

Background about Community Waikato

2. The core business of Community Waikato is supporting strong communities – we are a charitable trust that provides capacity building and strengths-enhancing services for community organisations¹ throughout the Waikato region, including Hamilton City.
3. Our work involves strengthening the capacity of community organisations so that they can be effective and sustainable to maintain social wellbeing within their own communities and suburbs. Such wellbeing underpins and enhances community development and the achievement of economic, cultural, environmental and social wellbeing that positively impacts on the whole City.
4. We support community organisations with their capacity needs, provide training, and advise about: governance, management, planning (operational, strategic, financial and funding), accountability, legal structures, risk management, compliance and employment-related matters. Our services enhance the knowledge and skills-base of community personnel and their service provision; in turn that helps increase the social capital of Hamilton City.
5. We work one-to-one and facilitate and/or support community networks to share information, advice, ideas and experiences and that helps encourage strong relationships amongst peers.

¹ "Community organisations" includes: charitable trusts, incorporated societies, not-for-profit organisations, marae and community centres, as well as, tangata whenua, voluntary and community-based social service, health, disability, education, community development and environmental organisations of the greater Waikato region.

Also, we often support collaborative projects that may arise from community networks. As a Tindall Foundation regional funding manager, we contribute to the economic wellbeing of community organisations, and in turn, this City. We gain insight into the work and needs of organisations, which informs our knowledge and sector overview, and awareness for advocating for the sector.

Community Waikato in Hamilton City

6. Community Waikato actively supports community organisations throughout Hamilton City. We have worked with over 500 of Hamilton City's community/social services organisations, and such work engagement continues to increase.
7. Key demographics impacted by the work and advice we provide include community houses/centres, health and welfare, families/whanau, women, the aged, youth, social services, ethnic communities, Maori, iwi and local government. We undertake, and welcome opportunities to work with community, voluntary social service sector organisations and tangata whenua throughout Hamilton.

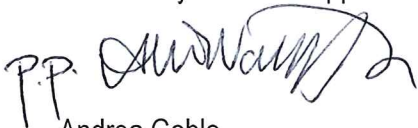
We submit as follows:

Comment on Long Term Plan (LTP) consultation document

8. We note the Council's focus and statement that '*core infrastructure comes first*'. As well we note that references to community development and community projects are focused on tangibles such as the Hamilton Gardens development, Founders Theatre, Hamilton City River Plan, Recycling wheelie bins, Indoor Recreation Centre, Sports fields and Swimming Pools.
9. Rejuvenating the Hamilton Municipal Pools has been brought to our attention, and so it is mentioned here as an aspect to fully consider in terms of its health and fitness elements, and as a locally renowned site that generations of families have socialised at, and grown-up knowing and attended, as an inner-city sports and social/community orientated attraction.
10. We draw attention to the importance of ensuring that community funding remains accessible and sizeable so that 'capacity and capability' of organisations and community events remain supported throughout our suburban communities. We query the reduction of any community focused funding, throughout the duration of the 10 years and beyond, as such change impacts and creates a domino effect on community organisations in terms of additional strain to deliver services with a 'diminishing' resource or investment base.

11. We are aware of the importance of ensuring investment occurs fairly throughout the City. Similarly, with regard to proposed rate charges and which projects such funds will be invested in, these need to be equitably considered.
12. We encourage the Council to ensure its strategic development activities specifically includes and indicates the cultural, environmental and social influences, values and needs of marae, whānau, hapū and iwi of Kirikiriroa/Hamilton. We support and encourage the Council to exercise its decision-making in a manner that is informed by these communities, particularly when decisions impact on 'key identity features' such as wai, awa, whenua, waahi tapu and buildings of cultural importance.
13. We acknowledge the importance of promoting economic development and funding investment, especially when it's essential for achieving a long term vision – in this case, a vision for Hamilton City. Although apparently unstated in the Long Term Plan, we highlight the importance of sharing an inclusive vision that is communicated widely with all its community citizens, so that it can be embraced, or at least, known, as a positive undertaking in the interest of the whole City.
14. We reiterate the importance of supporting and investing in social well-being opportunities. Mindful the social services sector employs or has volunteers comprised of a significant population of this city; we submit that social wellbeing and strengthening community development is in fact a key growth contributor in Hamilton City. Therefore, supporting job maintenance and job creation in the community sector is encouraged for the greater, long-term well-being Hamilton City.

We thank you for this opportunity to submit, and welcome any opportunity to speak to our submission.



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