



**COMMUNITY
WAIKATO**

"Supporting strong communities"
Hei tautoko kia tuu pakari ai ngaa haapori

29 May 2015

Otorohanga District Council
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Submission Due: Friday 29 May 2015

Submission on the Otorohanga District Council – Long Term Plan 2015-2025

1. Community Waikato appreciates the opportunity to make a submission on the consultation document concerning the Otorohanga District 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 the Otorohanga district.
3. Our work entails strengthening community organisations so that they can be effective and sustainable to maintain social wellbeing within their own communities. Such wellbeing underpins and enhances the development and achievement of economic, cultural, environmental and social wellbeing of communities and its wider district.
4. We work alongside community organisations to build their capacity, provide training and support, and provide one to one advice about: governance, management, planning (operational, strategic, financial and funding), financial systems, funding applications, accountability, legal structures, risk management, compliance and some employment matters. Our services add to the knowledge and

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.

skills of community personnel to enhance local service provision and, in turn, increase the district's social capital.

5. We work one-to-one with community organisations and facilitate and/or support community networks to provide opportunities for sharing information, advice, ideas and experience so that strong relationships amongst peers are encouraged. We also support collaborative projects where organisations work together on a common issue towards a viable solution. Such projects are intended to benefit communities in the districts, and at times, for the whole Waikato region.
6. Community Waikato provides vital information across the region's social services sector, which includes over 1500 organisations. We provide scholarships for social service workers and volunteers to do further study and as a Tindall Foundation regional funding manager, we contribute to the economic wellbeing of community organisations, and in turn, their district. We also gain insight into the work and needs of organisations, which informs our overall knowledge and sector overview, and our awareness of issues to advocate for the sector.

Community Waikato in the Otorohanga District

7. Community Waikato actively engages with community organisations of the Otorohanga district who request our support and advice. Key demographics impacted by the support we provide include families/whanau, women, health and welfare, community support house and social services/counselling organisations. As well, we have delivered monthly "Awesome Organisations" workshops at Otorohanga which support community sector managers and coordinators in their operational practices.
8. We undertake, and welcome opportunities to work with community and voluntary social service sector organisations across the Otorohanga district. Also, one-on-one engagement continues to occur with various community organisations in the Otorohanga area.
9. We believe the capacity building support we provide within the district is vital and contributes towards the strengthening of capacity and capability of social sector organisations.

We submit as follows:

Comment on Long Term Plan (LTP) consultation document

10. We note the Council's vision statement of "Otorohanga – where kiwis can fly" and that "emphasises the desire of Council to help create a district where residents can achieve success in all the aspects of their lives".²
11. We note the five key issues identified as being:
 - Support Young and Old
 - Using resources efficiently
 - Enabling Economic growth
 - Retaining the District's identity
 - Planning for the Future.
12. We support the commitment to supporting younger and older residents as it acknowledges the significant contribution of both – that being, the potential that youth can contribute towards the economic, cultural and social growth of the district; while the older residents and their decades of life experience, work and contribution is respected and valued.
13. We are particularly mindful that the issues of depopulation and job creation are significant to your community populations too. We express concern for the experience of youth depopulation and/or the working demographic due to challenging prospects for jobs or training.
14. We emphasise the importance of investing in the work carried out by social sector organisations throughout the district, because their contribution to maintaining the social fabric and wellbeing of the wider population is vital and significant.
15. We encourage the Council to ensure its strategic development activities consider the cultural, environmental and social influences, values and needs of marae, whānau, hapū and iwi throughout its district. It can be important too for decision-making to be informed by marae communities, particularly when decisions impact on 'key identity features' such as wai, awa, maunga, whenua, waahi tapu and buildings (e.g., such buildings as wharenuī/whare tupuna; whare kai; whare iti etc) including access to, and the infrastructure of, these places.
16. We are aware of the importance of ensuring investment occurs fairly throughout the district. Similarly, with regard to proposed rate charges and which projects such funds will be invested in, these need to be equitably considered.

² Consultation Document, For Council's Long Term Plan 2015-2025, Otorohanga District Council.

17. We acknowledge the importance of *adopting a business friendly approach* that both supports and attracts business development and enterprise, and in turn promotes economic development and funding investment.
18. We reiterate the importance of supporting and investing in social well-being opportunities. Mindful that with over 36 social services organisations in Otorohanga district this sector is an important employer group. There are also a significant number of volunteers learning from and supporting the social services. We submit that social wellbeing and strengthening community social services and development would be a key growth contributor to the Otorohanga district. As well, we encourage job maintenance and job creation in the social services sector, for the wider betterment of the district.

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



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