

## Community Summary Long Term Plan Waikato District Council

Arts, culture and creativity contributes to thriving communities. When arts, culture and creativity is supported, strong and visible communities are strong and visible.

Arts, culture and creativity is woven through all aspects of life. It has a key role to play in creating thriving and liveable towns and cities. The creative activation of public spaces supports the preservation of council assets, and promotes social cohesion and community connection. Sustainable creative career opportunities attract and retain workers and innovative businesses.

Arts culture and creativity supports community and individual wellbeing. In Waikato, those who report being highly engaged with arts, culture and creativity have 5% higher overall wellbeing as compared to those with little or no engagement.<sup>1</sup> Research has shown that recreational arts can support mental wellbeing. ‘Those who engaged in 100 or more hours/year of arts engagement (i.e. two or more hours/week) reported significantly better mental well-being than other levels of engagement.’<sup>2</sup>

Councils are currently seeking community feedback around their long term plans (LTPs). Long Term Plans outline Council’s activities and how they are managed, delivered and funded<sup>3</sup>. Under the Local Government Act, Councils must consult with their communities on the LTP (or 10 year plan) every 3 years.<sup>4</sup> A common theme across these consultations is the need to be strategic around prioritising investment.

It is important that investment in community wellbeing is prioritised and protected. The core role of council, as outlined in the legislation, is to promote the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of communities. This is the required (or statutory) purpose of council.

We have a role to play in supporting council in this work, by letting them know that we will support them to deliver these wellbeings. We can share

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<sup>1</sup> Huber Social, ‘Wellbeing and Arts, Culture and Creativity in Waikato’ (Sydney: Huber Social, 2022), p.22, <https://creativewaikato.co.nz/advocacy/researchandreports>.

<sup>2</sup> Christina Davies, Matthew Knuiman & Michael Rosenberg, ‘The art of being mentally healthy: a study to quantify the relationship between recreational arts engagement and mental well-being in the general population, BMC Public Health, vol.16, <https://bmcpublihealth.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12889-015-2672-7>.

<sup>3</sup> Waikato District Council

[https://www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/your-council/plans-policies-and-bylaws/plans/long-term-plan#:~:text=The%20Long%20Term%20Plan%20\(LTP,\(including%20proposed%20rate%20increases\).](https://www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/your-council/plans-policies-and-bylaws/plans/long-term-plan#:~:text=The%20Long%20Term%20Plan%20(LTP,(including%20proposed%20rate%20increases).)

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

with the council and with others in our community that we know and care about more than solely economic concerns. It is important that we share about the other things that we value in our lives.

This can be as simple as writing an email or letter to council about the things that you care about.

### **Consultation closes Friday 26 April 2024**

This year, rather than update its Long Term Plan, Waikato District Council has decided to consult on an Enhanced Annual Plan 2024/25, as it needs more certainty around central government funding and waters legislation.

[Here](#) is a link to the council's resources for the Enhanced Annual Plan feedback process. It is important to know that you do not need to answer every question, or go into great detail. You can speak from your own experience, and share about what you really value and care about. Anything you can do to add your voice to the chorus is powerful. You can find the consultation document, supporting documents, and feedback portal here: <https://shape.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/2024-25-annual-plan>

You can either submit a submission form online or fill in a written submission form, which can be found at the links above.

We have pulled out some key moments where arts, culture, creativity and community are mentioned. You might want to mention some of these, and what you want to happen with regard to these. Feel very free to copy and paste from here, and make any edits or additions you would like.

The following sections outline Waikato District Council's Vision, Community Outcomes and Strategic Priorities. It is important to keep these in mind when making your submission, as they set the overall direction of the Council when they are making decisions. We have italicised and/or made bold some key words and/or sentences you may wish to use.

## **Waikato District Council's Vision and Community Outcomes.**

### **Liveable, Thriving and Connected Communities**

#### **He noohanga aahuru, he iwi whai ora, he hapori tuuhono tahi**

*Liveable* communities are well-planned and people friendly, providing a range of social infrastructure, walkways and open spaces.

*Thriving* communities participate in Council decision-making and community-led projects.

*Connected* communities have fit-for-purpose infrastructure to create liveable, thriving communities.

### **Community outcomes**

#### **Ngaa putanga aa-hapori**

#### **Cultural *Ahurea***

We celebrate who we are | Ka whakanui maatou i too maatou katoa

We **celebrate all cultures**. We **treasure our diverse communities and acknowledge our cultural rights and obligations**. We **honour, understand and implement Te Tiriti o Waitangi** and **acknowledge the relationship with mana whenua of our district**.

#### **Economic *Ohaoha***

We support local prosperity | Ka tautoko maatou i te houkura aa-rohe

We champion sustainable growth in our local economy. **We support local enterprises and encourage innovation and socio-economic prosperity for all** while managing regulatory processes to **protect and promote our unique district**. We acknowledge our rural and Maaori economies as key contributors to our district's prosperity and sustainability.

#### **Environmental *Taiao***

Our environmental health underpins the health of our people | Ka taunaki too maatou oronga o oo taatou iwi

We want health waterways that create connections. We protect and enhance our soils, water, and native biodiversity and **take care of our Taiao (natural environment) for the health and wellbeing of our people, our communities, and future generations**.

## **Social Paapori**

We have well-connected communities | He hononga whitake katoa o oo maatou hapori

Our communities are connected, safe, accessible and resilient. We put **community wellbeing at the heart of our decisions**, and we **embrace partnerships** to get things done to improve people's lives.

## **Strategic priorities**

These six priorities represent the areas Council wants to focus on over the next three years. They will help Council prioritise investment to ensure it is meeting the immediate needs of its communities.

### **Building community resilience | Te whakatupu i te manawaroa aa-hapori**

### **Improving Council responsiveness | Te whakawhanake i te urupare a te Kaunihera**

### **Building relationships | Te whakatupu whanaungatanga**

### **Improving connectivity | Te whakawhanake aaheinga**

Consistent delivery of core services | Te tuku tonu i ngaa ratonga maataamua

Supporting sustainable growth | Te tautoko i te whanaketanga toituu

## **Council's Draft Capital Works programme 2024-25**

### **Page 12 of consultation document**

### **Services, Projects and Activities for 2024/25**

We have highlighted sections which have arts, culture, creativity and community implications, and have provided bullet points for wording or thoughts you may wish to consider.

### Increased investment for ongoing work with Waikato Tainui and Mana Whenua

Increased investment is planned as part of the Council's Joint Management Agreement commitments and alignment with Te Tiriti o Waitangi's principles for a land history and investigation.

- Aligning this kaupapa is essential when considering regional strategic activation of arts, culture and creativity ([Waikato Arts Navigator document](#), p 15)
- It is also important to note that since the 2021-31 Long Term Plan Waikato District Council has introduced a strategic advisor to focus specifically on Maaori strategies and hapuu and iwi management plans in areas where resources are scarce. This new role ensure meaningful support for the District's Maaori communities.

#### Additional resources for Council's community halls portfolio

Additional resources are also planned to manage the Council's community halls portfolio and is the primary liaison for hall communities.

- Community halls provide places for social interaction and connection. They are the social hubs of communities.

#### **Capital expenditure changes for 2024/25**

We have highlighted sections which have arts, culture, creativity and community implications, and have provided bullet points for wording or thoughts you may wish to consider.

Council's capital works programme has been revised and the following projects have been prioritised:

Renewal of the Greenslade Road playground and upgrade of the Buckland Road sports field and playground.

- Including art within playgrounds i.e., incorporating local history or other elements that represent the community, can not only provide an interactive and engaging experience for users but also provides opportunities to tell local stories.

A feasibility study for the Ngaaruawaahia Library will explore the possibility of replacing the current small and outdated facility with a new community hub.

- Community hubs are a logical and most effective way of investing and delivering robust community facilities and services.
- Often hubs are centred around libraries. They are a key vehicle through which Councils can support the social, cultural, economic, and environmental wellbeing of their diverse communities. It's important to consider community spaces as well as involving artists in the design of the hub itself.

## Development contributions

Development contributions ensure that any new development that places additional demand on local infrastructure contributes to the additional capital cost that it imposes on the community. This is done to avoid the burden being placed on general rates or other indirect funding sources.

The 'Draft development contributions charges' document can be found in the 'Document Library' on the [consultation](#) page.

In this section, you might share something like:

'I support the collection of development contributions which include community infrastructure. Community spaces and the support of the people who activate them are important to the growth of this place. Some of my favourite community spaces are \_\_\_\_\_. As Waikato District grows, I support community infrastructure growing too'

## Fees and charges

Many Councils charge users for some Council services such as swimming at Council pools. These are usually referred to as user charges.

Councils can also fix reasonable charges for a range of regulatory services, such as issuing permits and licences, undertaking inspections (such as building inspections) and issuing parking infringement notices.<sup>5</sup>

References to pages related to the 'Draft Fees and Charges schedule' can be found in the 'Document Library' on the [consultation](#) page.

- **Library:** fees for DVDs are now free of charge (page 5 of Fees and Charges document)
- **Community facilities:** Halls and Meeting Rooms fees and charges remain the same (page 7 to 9) as do open spaces (page 9)
- **Community events:** the structure for charging for community events has been reviewed to better categorise the impact the event is having on Councils reserves. There has been no change to the charge per event, but Council has updated the number of people criteria for

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<sup>5</sup> Local Government NZ - <http://www.localcouncils.govt.nz/lqip.nsf/wpgurl/About-Local-Government-Local-Governme nt-In-New-Zealand-Council-funding#:~:text=Fees%20and%20charges,-Many%20councils%20charge&text=These%20are%20usually%20referred%20to,and%20issuing%20parking%20infr ingement%20notices>.

each event category and added a new category for a major event with over 2,000 people attending (pages 10 to 11).

### **Economic development, grants and donations**

From the 2024/25 year onwards, Waikato District Council is proposing to reduce its annual funding to Hamilton Waikato Tourism from \$150,000 in the 2021-31 Long Term Plan to \$75,000 per annum.

Hamilton Waikato Tourism contributes to the sustainability of creative organisations who deliver events and tourism outcomes, as well as contributions to national audience engagement for local creativity. If you think it is important that Hamilton Waikato Tourism should be funded at previous rates, then let the Council know.

### **Council's services and activities**

Although Council will be reviewing its services as part of its Long Term Plan process next year, it has asked a question as part of this year's consultation process, which services you think should be reduced.

We have highlighted sections which have arts, culture, creativity and community implications, and have provided bullet points for wording or thoughts you may wish to use.

These services are depicted on page 18 of the [consultation document](#).

There are many services and activities that relate to arts, culture, creativity and community, these include:

- Community and recreational facilities
- Community centres
- Community engagement
- Events
- Libraries
- Playgrounds
- Planning
- Town Halls
- Community grants
- Parks and reserves
- Walkways
- Sport and *recreation areas*

- Consultation

If you think some or all of these services are important, then please mention these in your submission if you don't want to see these reduced in next year's Long Term Plan.