

Section 4 - Community Outcomes

Section 4 - Community Outcomes

COMMUNITY OUTCOMES PROCESS

What are Community Outcomes?

Section 91 of the Local Government Act 2002 sets out the process for identifying community outcomes. These are defined as being "*the things that the community thinks are important for its wellbeing*". An outcome is a desired end result – it is not a specific good or service. Accordingly outcome statements tend to be quite broad. The Council's role in this process is to:

- Facilitate the process;
- Promote or achieve the outcomes (being one of the parties that is capable of doing so and to the extent that the elected Council deems appropriate to the LTCCP); and
- Monitor and report on progress towards the achievement of community outcomes.

The desired purpose of identifying community outcomes is to allow communities the opportunity to participate in the development of their economic, social, environmental and cultural wellbeing. Accordingly the Council does **not** adopt/approve the outcomes in the sense that it adopts an LTCCP. It does not necessarily even have to agree with the outcomes. The outcomes identified are intended to guide the planning processes of local authorities, but are not binding on them. Therefore the Council is required to identify what, if any, role it will have in achieving the identified community outcomes.

The process required to identify the community outcomes for any local authority is quite involved. There is an obligation in the Act for Councils to engage all sectors of the community as well as organisations (e.g. government departments). Special provisions in this regard also apply to the engagement of the Māori community. The likely lengthy nature of the process was recognised when the Local Government Act 2002 was drafted. Under the provisions of section 279(2), the Council may, in adopting the LTCCP for 1 July 2004, use such information concerning

community outcomes that it holds or can obtain in the time available, and is not required to first identify community outcomes as required under section 91 of the Act.

This is the approach that the Whakatane District Council resolved to use for the 2004-14 LTCCP.

How the Community Outcomes were identified

Seven community outcomes have been developed from consideration of existing information available to the Council and any additional information the Council could obtain in the time available. This included:

- the results of previous Council consultation, for example, submissions to annual plans;
- existing research and reports, for example, the Whakatane District Community Safety Profile;
- focus groups were held to look at some of the strategic issues facing the District; and
- consideration of any other issues that may influence the future wellbeing of Whakatane.

The Council will be facilitating a community process in the next two years to help identify the community outcomes and long-term priorities the community want to work toward in the following decade. Once the community has identified its own long-term priorities they will be recorded in the 2006 plan.

Measuring Progress

Once the 2006 LTCCP has been completed, the Council must carry out the process of identifying community outcomes every six years. Progress in terms of achieving the community outcomes are to be reported on every three years.

Council's Role in Progressing Community Outcomes

The Council can contribute to the community outcomes in a number of different ways:

- **Lead agency** – being largely responsible for action in a particular area
- **Joint lead agency** – managing a programme in conjunction with other organisations
- **Supporting** – providing support to leading agencies
- **Monitoring or influencing** – looking to influence other players
- **No direct influence** – being aware of the programme

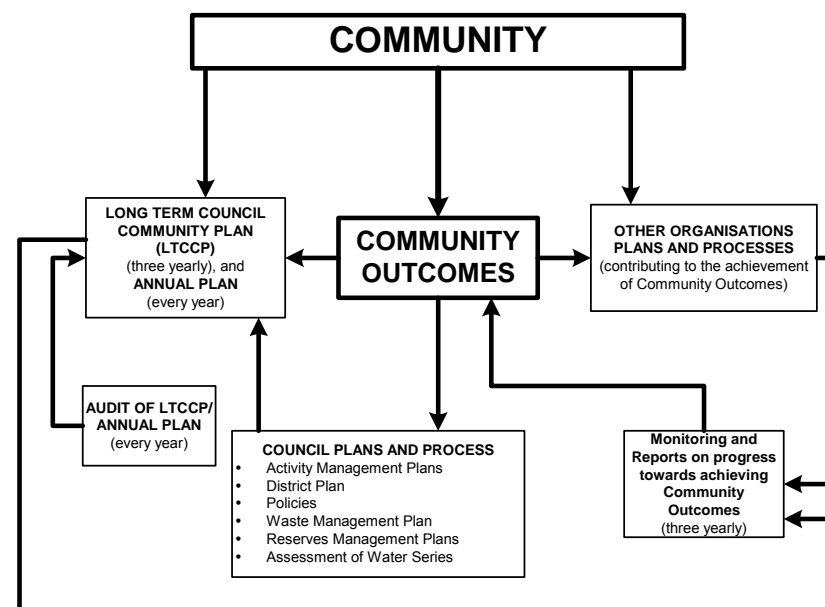
When the Council takes on a role, it can also be involved in a number of different ways:

- **Provider** – carrying out the programme using our own resources. This is most common when the Council is the leading agency
- **Funder** – making a financial investment in the programme
- **Regulator** – developing and enforcing rules as appropriate
- **Promoter and facilitator** – encouraging progress by organising interested parties or securing financial support from other sources
- **Advocate** – expressing support publicly

In some cases the Council may be involved in more than one way for an individual programme.

How the Community Outcomes relate to other Plans and Processes

Community outcomes provide the foundations for the planning processes of the Council and other organisations who can contribute to achieving them.



COMMUNITY OUTCOMES FOR 2004-2006

Community

People enjoy living in the Whakatane District because it has a supportive community that recognises shared values while appreciating and celebrating the differences within its diverse communities.

A supportive community will be achieved because:

- people work together to improve community wellbeing;
- the important place and role of the tangata whenua of the District and the value of Māori culture has been recognised, is valued and supported;
- the heritage of our District is valued and protected;
- there is a strong sense of community identity;
- there is strong community leadership;
- cultural diversity of the District is recognised and celebrated;
- young people feel valued within the community; and
- the needs of senior citizens are considered.



Natural Environment

A community that actively values and protects the outstanding natural attributes it has for future generations.

Our natural environment will be both valued and sustainable because:

- issues that may adversely impact on the natural environment have been systematically addressed;
- natural resources are managed to allow their use by future generations;
- development embodies the natural context;
- people are able to access, experience and enjoy the natural environment; and
- the understanding of environmental issues has been increased through education programmes.

Built Environment

The Whakatane District will change in a sustainable manner which complements the natural environment and enhances the lifestyle that residents and visitors value.

The District's built environment will be of a high quality because:

- planning processes are in place to foresee and manage change using sustainability principles;
- sustainable growth is planned within the context of serviceability, and the natural features, lifestyle and character valued by our communities;
- activities minimise adverse impacts on the environment;
- processes are in place which manage the pressure and demand to develop by the coast and harbour environs;
- infrastructure development is planned to support sustainable growth; and
- efficient, effective and high quality transportation and communication networks exist within the District and link with other strategic places outside the District.



Health

Residents of the Whakatane District enjoy good physical and mental health and general wellbeing.

Residents of our district will have good health because:

- quality health services are available, accessible and affordable;
- people enjoy a healthy and active lifestyle;
- services are provided to promote, support and improve overall health and wellbeing; and
- the current levels of hospital services have been retained and enhanced.

Education

People will have access to the educational opportunities that develop skills and confidence to be able to contribute positively to both their own social and economic wellbeing and that of the community to which they belong.

Educational achievement levels of our residents will increase because:

- quality education at all levels can be accessed within the District;
- youth value education and actively seek high levels of achievement;
- improved opportunities are provided for access to good quality and affordable tertiary education in the District;
- educational training opportunities support the economic development of the District;
- educational opportunities that foster cultural identity are available; and
- life long learning is valued and supported.



Safety

The Whakatane District is a place where people feel safe and secure.

Residents and visitors to our district will be safe and secure because:

- people feel safe within their homes and their communities;
- services provided promote, support and improve community safety;
- effective crime prevention initiatives are in place to develop safer communities;
- people work together to improve the safety of their community;
- infrastructure is provided and maintained using best practice safety features and standards; and
- services have been provided to promote safety in rural areas.

Prosperity

The Whakatane District is a highly sought after place to live because there are quality business and job opportunities that are sustainable.

Our district will be prosperous because:

- involvement is encouraged and promoted in our District;
- existing businesses are growing and developing;
- jobs are available that retain youth in our community;
- employment and business opportunities attract people to our District;
- employment is available for the residents of the District; and
- the District has a diverse economic base that will support the community through the ups and downs of business cycles within different business sectors.

