

**Notice of Meeting:**

I hereby give notice that an ordinary Meeting of the Community Committee will be held on:

**Date:** Thursday 3 April 2025

**Time:** 9:30 am

**Meeting Room:** Council Chamber and Audio Visual Link

**Venue:** Municipal Building, Garden Place, Hamilton

Lance Vervoort  
Chief Executive

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## **Community and Natural Environment Committee**

### ***Te Roopuu Haapori me te oranga o te Taiao***

## **OPEN AGENDA**

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**Membership**

**Chairperson** Cr Kesh Naidoo-Rauf  
*Heamana*

**Deputy Chairperson** Cr Anna Casey-Cox  
*Heamana Tuarua*

<b>Members</b>	Mayor Paula Southgate	Cr Louise Hutt
	Deputy Mayor Angela O'Leary	Cr Andrew Bydder
	Cr Maxine van Oosten	Cr Geoff Taylor
	Cr Moko Tauariki	Cr Sarah Thomson
	Cr Ewan Wilson	Cr Emma Pike
	Maangai Olly Te Ua	Cr Tim Macindoe
		Cr Maria Huata

**Quorum:** Two monthly

**Meeting Frequency:** Six weekly

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Amy Viggers  
*Mana Whakahaere*  
Governance Lead

**25 March 2025**

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## Purpose

The Community and Natural Environment Committee is responsible for:

1. Guiding and monitoring the provision of strategic community infrastructure and services to meet the current and future needs of the city and the enhanced wellbeing of its communities.
2. Governance of recreational, community facilities, amenities, and events.
3. Facilitating community and stakeholder involvement and discussion on community infrastructure, community safety, and community wellbeing matters.
4. Ensuring Hamilton is performing to the highest standard in the area of civil defence and emergency management.
5. The execution of Council's infrastructure and operational plans and strategies across Community asset classes.
6. Funding to benefit the social, cultural, physical, and arts wellbeing of communities in Hamilton.
7. Governance of strategies, policies and plans relating to the wellbeing, protection, enhancement, and sustainability of Hamilton's natural environment as identified in this terms of reference.

***In addition to the common delegations on page 10, the Community and Natural Environment Committee is delegated the following Terms of Reference and powers:***

### Terms of Reference:

8. To provide direction on strategic priorities and resourcing for community infrastructure aligned to city's overall development and oversight of strategic projects associated with those activities.
9. To develop policy, approve community-related strategies and plans, and monitor their implementation.
10. To receive and consider presentations and reports from stakeholders, government departments, organisations, and interest groups on community development and wellbeing issues and opportunities.
11. To monitor Hamilton's social demographics and social climate to assess current and future impacts on the Council and Hamilton communities.
12. To monitor the performance of Hamilton's civil defence and emergency management response against Council's requirements under the Civil Defence Emergency Management Act including:
  - a) implementation of Government requirements;
  - b) contractual service delivery arrangements with the Waikato Regional Group Emergency Management Office
13. To determine the funding priorities for the Community Grants Allocation Committees, in line with the Community Assistance Policy, Long Term Plan and Annual Plan.
14. To determine the priority of Council projects suitable for contestable and philanthropic funding, excluding NZTA funding.
15. To coordinate and make decisions on proposals, applications for external funding, and the distribution of Council funding and funding provided to Council for public art, recreational and community facilities, and amenity.

16. To develop policy, approve, and monitor implementation of plans and strategies in relation to the performance of Council's investments in the Domain Endowment Fund and strategic property.
17. To develop policy, approve strategies and plans for the sustainable use of Hamilton's natural resources, and to monitor their implementation as identified in this terms of reference.
18. To develop policy, approve strategies and plans for Council's corporate environmental sustainability, and to monitor their implementation.
19. To develop policy, approve strategies and plans for Council's biodiversity, and to monitor their implementation.

**Special Notes:**

- The Committee may request expert external advice through the Chief Executive as necessary.

**The Committee is delegated the following powers to act:**

- Approval of Reserve Management Plans.
- Performing the Council's functions, powers, and duties (excluding those matters reserved to the Council by law, by resolution of the Council or as otherwise delegated by Council) under the Burial and Cremation Act 1964 and the Reserves Act 1977.
- Approval of purchase or disposal of land for parks and reserves required for designated works or other purposes within the Committee's area of responsibility which exceeds the Chief Executive's delegations and is in accordance with the Annual Plan or Long Term Plan.
- Approval of applications for Council projects suitable for contestable and philanthropic funding.
- Approval of funding for recreational and community facilities and amenities in accordance with the Long Term Plan.
- Approval of public art proposals put forward by the community and/or Council in accordance with the Public Art Development Process and approved budget.
- Approval of the Heritage Fund grant allocation in line with the Heritage Plan.
- Approval of matters determined by the Committee within its Terms of Reference.
- Approval of acquisition or sale or lease of properties owned by the Domain Endowment Fund consistent with the Domain Endowment Fund Investment Policy, for any endowment properties. Note that if the Mayor and Chair consider that a final decision is more appropriately made by Council due to its significance, they may direct that and decision remains recommendatory, requiring ratification by Council.

**The Committee is delegated the following recommendatory powers:**

- The Committee may make recommendations to Council.
- The Committee may make recommendations to other Committees.

**Recommendatory Oversight of Strategies:**

- Nature in the City
- Open Spaces Strategy
- Play Strategy
- Arts and Culture Strategy
- Age Friendly Plan
- He Rautaki Whakawhanake Hapori - Community & Social Development

**Recommendatory Oversight of Policies and Bylaws:**

- *Alcohol Control Bylaw*

- *Animal Nuisance Bylaw*
- *Citizens Initiated Referenda Policy*
- *City Honours Policy*
- *Class 4 Gambling Venue Policy*
- *Community Assistance Policy*
- *Community Occupancy Policy*
- *Cemeteries and Crematorium Bylaw*
- *Cultural and Recreational Facilities Bylaw*
- *Disability Policy*
- *Dog Control Bylaw*
- *Dog Control Policy*
- *Domain Endowment Fund Policy*
- *External Funding Applications Policy*
- *Monuments and Memorials Policy*
- *Naming of Roads, Open Spaces and Council Facilities Policy*
- *Open Space Provision Policy*
- *Parks, Domains and Reserves Bylaw*
- *Permanent Public Art Policy*
- *Provisional Local Alcohol Policy (if developed)*
- *Psychoactive Substances (Local Approved Products) Policy*
- *Prostitution Bylaw*
- *Public Places Bylaw*
- *Trading in Public Places Policy*
- *Safety in Public Places Bylaw*
- *Smokefree and Vapefree Outdoor Areas Policy*
- *TAB Board Venue Policy*

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**1 Apologies – *Tono aroha***

**2 Confirmation of Agenda – *Whakatau raarangi take***

The Committee to confirm the agenda.

**3 Declaration of Interest – *Tauaakii whaipaaanga***

Members are reminded of the need to be vigilant to stand aside from decision making when a conflict arises between their role as an elected representative and any private or other external interest they might have.

**4 Public Forum – *Aatea koorero***

As per Hamilton City Council's Standing Orders, a period of up to 30 minutes has been set aside for a public forum. Each speaker during the public forum section of this meeting may speak for five minutes or longer at the discretion of the Chair.

Please note that the public forum is to be confined to those items falling within the terms of the reference of this meeting.

Speakers will be put on a Public Forum speaking list on a first come first served basis in the Council Chamber prior to the start of the Meeting. A member of the Council Governance Team will be available to co-ordinate this. As many speakers as possible will be heard within the allocated time.

If you have any questions regarding Public Forum please contact Governance by telephoning 07 838 6727.

# Council Report

Item 5

**Committee:** Community and Natural Environment Committee

**Date:** 03 April 2025

**Author:** Ash Rawiri

**Authoriser:** Amy Viggers

**Position:** Governance Advisor

**Position:** Governance Lead

**Report Name:** Confirmation of the Community and Natural Environment Open Minutes 18 February 2025

<b>Report Status</b>	Open
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## Staff Recommendation - *Tuutohu-aa-kaimahi*

That the Community and Natural Environment committee confirm the Open Minutes of the Community and Natural Environment Meeting held on 18 February 2025 as a true and correct record.

## Attachments - *Ngaa taapirihanga*

Attachment 1 - Community and Natural Environment Committee Open Unconfirmed Minutes 18 February 2025



**Community and Natural Environment Committee**  
***Te Komiti Haapori me te oranga o te Taiao***  
**OPEN MINUTES**

Minutes of a meeting of the Community and Natural Environment Committee held in Council Chamber, Municipal Building, Garden Place, Hamilton on Tuesday 18 February 2025 at 9:30 am.

**PRESENT**

**Chairperson**  
***Heamana***

**Deputy Chairperson** Cr Anna Casey-Cox  
***Heamana Tuarua***

**Members**  
Mayor Paula Southgate  
Deputy Mayor Angela O’Leary  
Cr Maxine van Oosten  
Cr Moko Tauariki  
Cr Ewan Wilson  
Cr Louise Hutt  
Cr Andrew Bydder  
Cr Geoff Taylor  
Cr Sarah Thomson  
Cr Emma Pike  
Cr Maria Huata  
Cr Tim Macindoe  
Maangai Olly Te Ua

*The Deputy Chair assumed the role of Chair*  
*The meeting was opened with a karakia (prayer) from Dr Rehman Anis (Waikato Muslim Association)*

- 1. Apologies – Tono aroha**  
**Resolved:** (Cr Wilson/Maangai Te Ua )  
That the Community and Natural Environment Committee accepts the apologies for absence from Cr Donovan and from Cr Naidoo-Rauf and for lateness from Mayor Southgate.
- 2. Confirmation of Agenda – Whakatau raarangi take**  
**Resolved:** (Cr Wilson/Cr Thomson)  
That the agenda is confirmed noting that Item 9 (Animal and Dog Control review programme - Deliberations and request for approval (Recommendation to Council) will be taken after Item 7 (Nature in the City Progress Update) at the request of staff.
- 3. Declarations of Interest – Tauaakii whaipaaanga**  
No members of the Council declared a Conflict of Interest.



4. **Public Forum – Aatea koorero**

**Andrea Greaves** spoke to Item 6 (Chairs Report) – in support of a Urban Jungle Trial.

5. **Confirmation of the Community and Natural Environment Committee Open Minutes 12 November 2024**

**Resolved:** (Cr Casey-Cox/Cr Wilson)

That the Community and Natural Environment Committee confirm the Open Minutes of the Community and Natural Environment Meeting held on 12 November 2024 as a true and correct record.

6. **Chair's Report**

The Deputy Chair spoke to the report highlighting progress in the community sector and urban jungles programme education.

**Updated Recommendation:**

**Resolved:** (Cr Casey-Cox /Cr Thomson)

That the Community and Natural Environment Committee

- a) receives the report;
- b) notes that staff will report back with findings regarding the partner pools programme in time for consideration for the 2027-37 Long Term Plan; and
- c) notes that staff will identify an appropriate location within the parks network to trial the 'urban jungle' approach to utilising green waste, including use of the waste minimisation funding for any potential resource requirements, and update the committee as part of the Nature in the City reporting.

7. **Nature in the City Progress Update**

The Parks & Recreation Manager outlined the report Staff responded to Members concerning volunteering events, ecological inventory and Kids in Nature programme

**Resolved:** (Cr Casey-Cox/Deputy Mayor O'leary )

That the Community and Natural Environment Committee receives the report.

*Mayor Southgate joined the meeting (10.02am) during the discussion of the above item. She was present when the matter was voted on.*

*Item 9 (Animal and Dog Control review programme - Deliberations and request for approval) was taken after item 7 (Nature in the City Progress Update) at the request of staff.*

**The meeting was adjourned 10.07am to 10.11 am**

9. **Animal and Dog Control review programme - Deliberations and request for approval**  
(Recommendation to the Council)

The Strategy and Policy Advisor introduced the report and noted the initial draft consultations documents presented in 2024, Staff responded to questions from Members concerning limitations set by legislation, menancing animals classification process, the role of animal control officer's and a potential future cat management plan.

**Staff Action:** *Staff to undertook further recommendations for Members in regards to central legislative change to the Dog Control Act and how that affects bylaw implementation.*

**Resolved:** (Cr Wilson/Cr Tauariki)

That the Community and Natural Environment Committee:

- a) receives the report; and
- b) recommends the Council adopts:
  - i. the Hamilton City Animal Nuisance Bylaw 2013 (amended 2025) (Attachment 1) in force from 31 March 2025;
  - ii. the Hamilton City Dog Control Bylaw 2015 (amended 2025) (Attachment 2) in force from 1 July 2025; and
  - iii. the Dog Control Policy (Attachment 3) effective from 1 July 2025.

**The meeting was adjourned 10.48am -11.09 am**

8. **Outdoor Dining in Public Places**

The City Safe Operations Manager took the report as read Staff responded to questions from Members concerning compliance and education of businesses and fees and charges process.

**Staff Recommendation - Tuutohu-aa-kaimahi**

That the Community and Natural Environment Committee:

- a) receives the report; and
- b) approves the continued application of the current fees and charges for Outdoor Dining in Public Places.

**Resolved:** (Cr Wilson/Cr Taylor)

That the Community and Natural Environment Committee:

- c) recommends that the Council approves the 2025/26 fees and charges for Outdoor Dining and Outdoor Signage in Public Places be applied for three years, noting the lost budget revenue of \$36,790 in 2026/27 and \$40,129 in 2027/28
- d) undertakes that fees and charges in future years to be considered as part of the review of the Trading in Public Places Bylaw and Policy scheduled for 2026/27.

10. **Resolution to Exclude the Public**

**Resolved:** (Cr Casey-Cox/Deputy Mayor O'leary )

**Section 48, Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987**

That the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely consideration of the public excluded agenda.

The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution follows.

General subject of each matter to be considered	Reasons for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution
C1. Pukete Neighbourhood House Construction Contract Award	) Good reason to withhold ) information exists under ) Section 7 Local Government	Section 48(1)(a)
C2. Artificial Turf Funding Applications	) Official Information and ) Meetings Act 1987	

This resolution is made in reliance on section 48(1)(a) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest or interests protected by Section 6 or Section 7 of that Act which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public, as follows:

Item C1.	to enable Council to carry out commercial activities without disadvantage to enable Council to carry out negotiations	Section 7 (2) (h) Section 7 (2) (i)
Item C2.	to enable Council to carry out commercial activities without disadvantage to enable Council to carry out negotiations	Section 7 (2) (h) Section 7 (2) (i)

**The meeting moved into a public excluded session at 11.35 am**  
**The meeting was declared closed at 12.05 pm**

# Council Report

**Committee:** Community and Natural Environment Committee

**Date:** 03 April 2025

**Author:** Ash Rawiri

**Authoriser:** Amy Viggers

**Position:** Governance Advisor

**Position:** Governance Lead

**Report Name:** Chair's Report

<b>Report Status</b>	<i>Open</i>
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## Recommendation - *Tuutohu*

That the Community and Natural Environment committee:

- a) receives the report;
- b) approves the establishment of a 'Garden Place Working Group' consisting of Cr Anna Casey-Cox (Lead), Cr Maria Huata, Cr Tim Macindoe, Cr Ewan Wilson and Maangai Olly Te Ua to determine Council's role and proposed action in supporting street whanau and reducing antisocial behaviour in Garden Place;
- c) notes that the Garden Place Working Group will report back to a future Community and Natural Environment Meeting with a recommendation of future work in this space; and
- d) requests staff report back with further information on the impact that population growth and intensification has on community houses and organisations supported via Council's Community Grants Programme in time for consideration in the 2027-37 Long Term Plan.

## Attachments - *Ngaa taapirihanga*

Attachment 1 - Chairs Report



## Chair's Report

### Introduction

An essential aspect of being an Elected Member is staying connected with our community and actively listening. This report includes:

- An update from our community centres
- A report from Deputy Mayor and Creative Ambassador, Angela O'Leary, based on visits with many people involved in our arts sector
- Our next steps in supporting street whanau and addressing antisocial behaviour in Garden Place

### Community Centre Update

Recently, I have visited five of our city's neighbourhood community centres to hear about local needs. Most centres reported a rise in demand for food from their free kai stores. They suggest this increased demand is due to more pensioners, diverse ethnic communities, recently unemployed whaanau, and working people struggling to make ends meet across the City.

*"Our kete kai programme has grown. When we were at Sare crescent there was 18 food parcels on average, up to a maximum of 24, the following year the average was 24 up to maximum of 28, the next year 28 up to a maximum of 32. This year, there is an average of 35, with a maximum of 46. Lots of the whaanau are pensioners."*  
(Manager, Te Whare o te Ata)

*"There have been some job losses. We see more men and they are pretty embarrassed and find it hard to ask for help (food). Sometimes their partner comes in. There has definitely been a rise in financial stress."* (Manager, Waimarie: Hamilton East Community House)



Kete Kai at Pukete Neighbourhood House

Community Centres highlighted the connections and support networks formed among people accessing kai.

All centres noted an increase in single males sleeping in their cars, parking in centre car parks, or couch surfing. Some unhoused whaanau have also accessed vacant homes awaiting redevelopment. A few centres provide showers which are utilised by unhoused community at times.

*"We had one man - he was sleeping in his car. He came from Tauranga and he said, 'I have nowhere else to go.' He was here for 5 days. He probably used the toilets. They are open 9am-8pm, so I hope he coped with that, but we have no shower."* (Manager, Te Whare o te Ata)



The majority of centres noted an increase in demand due to intensified housing and more people living in their local neighbourhoods. They work to connect and welcome whaanau. Unfortunately, not all planned housing has been built, leaving vacant, rundown properties that attract illegal dumping. Te Papanui, Enderley Community Centre, has developed a unique rangatahi led initiative to help manage vacant lots and improve their upkeep.



Rangatahi Yard Maintenance Team - Enderley

*"There have been 115 new KO (Kāinga Ora) houses built in our Hamilton South community, I want to say over the past 18 months. Tipi Haere (centre caravan) has been mobilised to go out to these housing developments and welcome whaanau to our community. We are having conversations with KO about hosting events to connect and educate the whaanau. We notice tamariki from KO and Emerge Aotearoa housing are joining our Creative Arts in the Neighbourhood initiative."* (Manager, Glenview Community Centre)



Tipi Haere and Glenview Community Centre welcoming new community

*"They need to do what they said they would do. When they moved everyone out, they said they were going to build homes. They need to stick to the plan. In the past, they said the same down Shakespeare.... There is building now, finally, but how many years was that? We have only known what it looks like out there (pointing to boarded up vacant houses)." (Manager, Te Papanui, Enderley Community Centre)*

*"New families in our community means more demand. Where there was one house, now there are six...this means we are busier at reception, which if we were a business would be great because we would have all these new customers, but we're not" (Manager, Western Community Centre).*

All centres offer a range of social services. Western Community Centre and Pukete Neighbourhood House provide staff to advocate to Work and Income. They note that it's becoming harder for whaanau to access support from Work and Income. Due to rising demand, all centres are offering more support to our community, with the same staff and resources.



Front Page, Western Community News 2017

Te Papanui and Western Community Centre raised concerns about dirt bikes in parks and have explored and implemented solutions, such as activating park spaces with positive activities. Both centres support the return of community constables because this enables relationship and a preventative approach to such issues. Safety in the community is a top concern for Te Papanui. They are advocating for speed bumps to curb speeding dirt bikes and cars on local streets.

Te Whare o te Ata, Waimarie and Te Papanui highlighted community struggles with waste. Te Whare o te Ata and Te Papanui support waste minimisation education, especially for residents with stickered bins. Our Council staff are working to deliver this education.

Overall, centres observed that rising prices for essentials have increased frustration and stress. Our community houses provide a space to connect, offering support that helps diffuse anger and anxiety. Te Whare o te Ata noted that community relationships, including those formed through the neighbouring Council-funded skatepark, have reduced vandalism and violence.

*"Vandalism of the hall and fighting in skatepark, or in the park, we don't see that much, it seems to have evaporated. I think the community realise that Council has provided and upgraded the facility (skatepark, toilets and water fountain). It is more friendly, whaanau sitting around the table, kids will be on the skatepark and nana will be sitting in the car waiting."* (Manager, Te Whare o te Ata)

*"I thank people for coming in. They have the courage to ask for help. We try not to speak MSD, we speak community - we are not disabling people, we are enabling people."* (Staff member, Waimarie)

*"The big thing in our team is no assumptions. You are welcome and we don't assume your story...Often I find if people are quite elevated, if we can just meet with some calmness...it can be surprising how deescalating that can be for people. We meet people with kindness and empathy and a bit of banter here and there."* (Manager, Pukete Neighbourhood House)

*"If it was not for community centres then there would be a lot more people in town. People come in for cup of tea, they can have a shower, hop on the computer...we give them encouragement to help them feel a little bit better about life."* (Manager, Western Community Centre)

Community Centres are supported in a number of ways by Council including through our grants programme. However, increased demand and a growing population mean they are doing more on less. There is a motion at the end of this Chair's report that seeks information on the impacts of population growth and intensification on community houses and organisations supported by the community grants programme to inform the next Long Term Plan.

**Ngaa mihi,**

**Deputy Chair, Anna Casey-Cox**



## Creative Ambassador Update: Update on Activities and Insights Gained as Creative Ambassador

### Introduction

As Hamilton's Creative Ambassador, my role is focused on promoting and supporting the city's creative sector, with an emphasis on fostering growth, collaboration, and visibility. My appointment has allowed me to connect with a wide range of stakeholders within the creative community, providing a unique opportunity to gather insights, understand challenges, and identify opportunities for enhancing our city's creative landscape.

The role serves as a bridge between local artists, creative organizations, and the City Council, championing Hamilton's creative initiatives. It involves advocating for the sector and ensuring that the city's infrastructure supports creative growth in areas such as the visual arts, music, theatre, and other creative industries.

### Key Insights and Observations

Since my appointment, I have engaged with a broad spectrum of organizations and individuals within the creative sector. These discussions have provided valuable insights into both the challenges and opportunities within the sector. Below are some of the key issues that have emerged, along with opportunities for the future.

#### Key Issues:

1. **Lack of Accessible and Affordable Spaces:** The number one issue across the creative sector is the ongoing challenge related to space – both for rehearsal and performance. Many organizations, including the **Hamilton Live Music Trust**, the **Rivertones** choir, and **Hamilton Playbox**, have emphasized the lack of accessible, affordable, and purpose-built spaces for their activities.



Despite having some venues, these organizations often struggle with capacity, cost, or the suitability of spaces. **The need for a dedicated creative space, particularly a physical creative hub, has become clear.** Cities like Tauranga and New Plymouth already have established hubs for creative industries, which offer valuable models for us to follow. With the upcoming opening of the Waikato Regional Theatre, there is hope that some of these challenges will be alleviated, but further attention must be given to ensuring the availability of a broader range of venues across the city.

2. **Event Red Tape:** A significant barrier for the creative sector is the bureaucratic hurdles that make it difficult to organize and execute events. This issue has been raised by multiple organizations, including the **Hamilton Live Music Trust** and **Hamilton Citizens Band Inc.** In response, I put forward a proposal in the last Long-Term Plan (LTP) to address this issue by streamlining the processes and reducing the red tape involved in organizing events. This proposal is progressing, and I am optimistic that it will result in a more user-friendly system. However, it is vital that the outcome of this work delivers on its promise to make Hamilton the easiest city in which to host events.
3. **Funding Constraints:** While Hamilton has some multi-year funding mechanisms for the creative sector, there is a clear need for a dedicated funding stream that is separate from social organizations. The current system places arts organizations in competition with other sectors, which can lead to underfunding for creative projects. A dedicated stream for the





creative sector would ensure that these organizations are adequately supported without being overshadowed by other funding priorities.

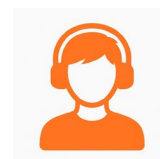
4. **Coordination and Communication:** A lack of a coordinated and centralized calendar for arts events is a recurring theme. Organizations such as Hamilton Playbox and the Hamilton Live Music Trust have pointed out that better communication could help avoid event scheduling conflicts and foster more collaboration. A creative hub that brings together all creative organizations could be an ideal solution for this, providing a central point of contact for all creative-related activities in the city.

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## Opportunities for the Future

While the challenges are significant, the insights gathered also highlight several exciting opportunities for growth and development in Hamilton's creative sector:

1. **Creative Infrastructure Policy:** The policy I proposed in the last LTP to address the integration of arts into city infrastructure has already been put in place. Staff are progressing this work, and I look forward to the Council adopting this policy soon. This will ensure that arts are considered in all city development projects, from public spaces to everyday infrastructure like playgrounds and footpaths, making Hamilton a truly creative city.
2. **Creative Hub and Networking:** One of the most exciting opportunities is the creation of a physical creative hub for the city. The concept of a creative hub has been suggested by various organizations, and cities like Tauranga have successfully implemented similar initiatives. A central, accessible space where artists and organizations can collaborate, share resources, and coordinate events would go a long way in addressing many of the sector's challenges. This space could serve as a shared venue for performances, exhibitions, rehearsals, and meetings, reducing the pressure on individual organizations and fostering a more cohesive creative community.
3. **Dedicated Funding Stream for the Creative Sector:** As mentioned, while some multi-year funds exist, there is a pressing need for a dedicated funding stream specifically for the creative sector. This would ensure that arts organizations are not competing with social organizations for funding, allowing them to thrive and develop. It is critical that we establish a mechanism that acknowledges the importance of the creative industries to our city's identity and economic development, ensuring that funding is adequate and accessible.
4. **Youth Engagement and Skills Development:** Many of the organizations I have spoken with have emphasized the importance of engaging youth in the arts and providing opportunities for skills development. This includes everything from technical training for theatre production to providing platforms for young musicians. By supporting educational initiatives and collaborating with local institutions like Wintec, we can build a stronger pipeline for future creative talent.




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## Organizations Engaged With

Since my appointment as Creative Ambassador, I have had contact and met with a range of organizations and individuals within the Hamilton creative sector. These include:

1. Creative NZ
2. Creative Waikato
3. Clarence Street Theatre
4. Waikato Regional Theatre
5. Meteor Theatre
6. Waikato Society of Arts (WSA)

7. Arts for Health
8. Hamilton Film Society
9. Orchestral Central
10. Riverlea Theatre
11. Hamilton Operatic Society
12. Hamilton Live Music Trust
13. Hamilton Playbox
14. Hamilton Caledonian Pipe Band
15. FreeFM
16. Hamilton Citizens Band Inc
17. Society of Potters
18. Re-creators
19. Equal Voices Arts
20. Disability Arts Festival Trust
21. Opus Orchestra
22. Rivertones Choir
23. Waikato Rocks
24. Waikato Screen
25. Dance and Arts Therapy NZ

Since the writing of this report, I have also met with additional organizations, further broadening my understanding of the sector's needs and potential.

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### **Conclusion**

The Creative Ambassador role has provided an invaluable opportunity to engage deeply with Hamilton's vibrant creative sector.

The insights gained have underscored both the challenges and exciting opportunities that lie ahead. By continuing to address issues related to space, funding, and coordination, while promoting infrastructure and a creative hub, we can ensure that Hamilton becomes a leading center for creative industries in the region.

I look forward to working with the City Council and stakeholders to bring these opportunities to fruition, strengthening our city's creative future.

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### ***Future Recommendations for Council Consideration***

1. Establish a Physical Creative Hub: Develop a dedicated creative hub for Hamilton that provides shared spaces for rehearsal, performance, exhibitions, and community engagement.
2. Create a Dedicated Funding Stream for the Creative Sector: Implement a specific, separate funding stream for the creative sector to ensure it is not competing with social organizations for resources.
3. Streamline Event Processes: Continue progress on the current proposal to reduce red tape and simplify the processes for organizing and hosting events in Hamilton.
4. Support Youth Engagement and Skills Development: Expand initiatives that foster youth involvement in the creative industries and provide access to technical and artistic training.
5. Adopt and Implement the Creative Infrastructure Policy: Ensure the successful adoption of the creative infrastructure policy to integrate arts considerations into city planning and development.

**Ngā mihi**

**Angela O'Leary**

**Deputy Mayor – Hamilton**

**Hamilton Creative Ambassador**

### **Support for street whaanau in Garden Place**

At the briefing on March 19th, our Community and Natural Environment Managers presented Elected Members with ideas to support street whaanau in Garden Place and reduce antisocial behaviour. They shared information on the Council's current work in several areas, including facilitating networks of community and social support, enabling activation in Garden Place, and city safe and enforcement approaches. Inspector Andrea McBeth was also present to answer questions and provide advice. The session outlined a range of possible actions, which will be further explored by a working group of Elected Members and staff.

### **Recommendaton**

That the Community and Natural Environment committee:

- a. receives the report;
- b. approves the establishment of a 'Garden Place Working Group' consisting of Cr Anna Casey-Cox (Lead), Cr Maria Huata, Cr Tim Macindoe, Cr Ewan Wilson and Maangai Olly Te Ua to determine Council's role and proposed action in supporting street whanau and reducing antisocial behaviour in Garden Place;
- c. notes that the Garden Place Working Group will report back to a future Community and Natural Environment Meeting with a recommendation of future work in this space; and
- d. requests staff report back with further information on the impact that population growth and intensification has on community houses and organisations supported via Councils Community Grants Programme in time for consideration in the 2027-37 Long Term Plan.

### **Ngaa mihi**

**Cr Kesh Naidoo-Rauf**, Chair, Community and Natural Environment

**Cr Anna Casey-Cox**, Deputy Chair, Community and Natural Environment

# Council Report

**Committee:** Community and Natural Environment Committee

**Date:** 03 April 2025

**Author:** Rebecca Whitehead

**Authoriser:** Helen Paki

**Position:** Unit Director - Customer & Community Services

**Position:** General Manager Customer and Community

**Report Name:** Sport Waikato Update July-Dec 2024

<b>Report Status</b>	<i>Open</i>
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## Purpose - *Take*

1. To inform the Community and Natural Environment Committee of how Sport Waikato achieved against agreed outcomes over the July to December 2024 period. An update from Sport Waikato is attached to this report.

## Staff Recommendation - *Tuutohu-aa-kaimahi*

2. That the Community and Natural Environment Committee received the report.

## Executive Summary - *Whakaraapopototanga matua*

3. Sport Waikato and Hamilton City Council work in partnership to increase the physical activity levels of people and communities in Kirikiriroa Hamilton.
4. The update from Sport Waikato (**Attachment 1**) provides an overview of the achieved outcomes from this partnership during the July 2024 to December 2024 period. The past year been successful in elevating an increase community physical activity participation, particularly enhancing the level of satisfaction children and young people experience in play, active recreation, sport, and physical education.
5. Staff confirm that the matters covered within this report comply with the Council's legal and policy requirements.

## Background - *Koorero whaimaarama*

6. Sport Waikato is contracted by Council to achieve outcomes in play, active recreation and sport within and across the Hamilton City boundaries.
7. There is an agreement between Sport Waikato and Council that Sport Waikato will focus its delivery of services to the aligned strategic priorities and outcomes of Council and Sport Waikato.
8. The outcomes of the collective agreement include;
  - i. Our People: growing participation in play, active recreation and sport to increase health outcomes.

- ii. Building Communities: working with the deliverers of play, recreation and sport to ensure sustainability and provision of quality experiences.
  - iii. Regional Leadership: growing stakeholder relationships and supporting sound decision-making about play, active recreation and sport.
- 9. In addition to these outcomes Sport Waikato activity also supports and aligns with the outcomes of the Play Strategy.
- 10. In 2024 Sport Waikato achieved several key outcomes in partnership with Hamilton City Council including: the development of a Regional Aquatic Facilities Plan, informing the development of Youth Action Plan, administration of Tu Manawa funding resulting in \$625,000 investment within Hamilton City and the delivery of several professional development opportunities for educators, administrators and clubs,
- 11. Sport Waikato provides an outcome focused update report to Council annually, which provides an overview of how it has progressed against key focus areas. See Attachment 1.

### **Discussion - *Matapaki***

- 12. Sport Waikato and Hamilton City Council work in partnership to increase the physical activity levels of people and communities in Kirikiriroa Hamilton.
- 13. In recent years Sport Waikato shifted to a new way of working, replacing a large delivery-based workforce with a smaller team of expert strategic advisors working in collaboration with key stakeholders in the play, active recreation and sport system of the Waikato region, including Hamilton City Council and the nine other Council's within the Waikato region.
- 14. In 2024 Sport Waikato achieved these key outcomes in partnership with Hamilton City Council:
  - i. 'Actively' a new activity directory website went live in December 2024, providing information active opportunities within the city. Currently 260 activities and locations within Hamilton City are listed on the digital platform.
  - ii. Increased access and participation to physical activity programmes for tamariki and rangatahi who may not easily be able to access these experiences (2,467 participants). Delivered through the Tū Manawa project.
  - iii. Targeted engagement with groups to gain key insights into community needs, issues and barriers. This has included a Voice of Tamariki survey, Moving Youth survey, and Voice of the Coach survey.
  - iv. Collaboration with secondary school representatives in Hamilton to identify needed initiatives.
  - v. Professional development with 30 Primary Schools.
  - vi. Support to sporting codes and sports administrators to enhance capacity
  - vii. Funding and advocacy for improvement of local facilities projects.
- 15. Further information regarding the progress of agreed outcomes by Sport Waikato is available in the attached report.

### **Options**

- 16. No options are available for Council to consider in relation to the matters in this report.

### **Financial Considerations - *Whaiwhakaaro Puutea***

- 17. Sport Waikato receives funding from several sources including all Waikato Councils.

18. The value of the agreement between Sport Waikato and Hamilton City Council is \$50,000 per annum. This is fully funded through the Long-Term Plan and forms part of the standard operational budgets of the Customer and Community Group.

### **Legal and Policy Considerations - *Whaiwhakaaro-aa-ture***

19. Staff confirm that this report complies with the Council's legal and policy requirements. The Sport Waikato update supports the following Council plans and policies:
- i. He Pou Manawa Ora – Pillars of Wellbeing Strategy
  - ii. Open Spaces Strategy
  - iii. Play Strategy
  - iv. Hamilton Aquatics Strategy

### **Climate Change Impact Statement**

20. Staff have assessed this option against the Climate Change Policy for both emissions and climate change adaptation. Staff have determined no adaptation or emissions assessment is required.

### **Wellbeing Considerations - *Whaiwhakaaro-aa-oranga tonutanga***

21. The purpose of Local Government changed on the 14 May 2019 to include promotion of the social, economic, environmental and cultural wellbeing of communities in the present and for the future ('the 4 wellbeings').
22. The subject matter of this report has been evaluated in terms of the 4 wellbeings during the process of developing this report as outlined below.
23. The recommendations set out in this report are consistent with that purpose.

### **Social**

24. Play, active recreation, and sport have the potential to develop important social skills, strengthen social networks, bring communities together and increase sense of belonging.
25. Specifically, participation in sport and recreational physical activity, particularly when it takes place in teams or groups, can help foster improved social cohesion, community connectedness, and community identity

### **Economic**

26. Sport and active recreation have both direct and indirect benefits to the economy. The sport and recreation sector generates employment (2.5% nationally). Participation in physical activity can have a positive impact on population productivity due to improved health outcomes, quality of life, and reduced sickness.

### **Environmental**

27. The provision of well-designed green spaces for play, sport and active recreation can provide urban environments with spaces that can support to combat climate change and contribute to keeping urban environments cool.

### **Cultural**

28. Participation in play, active recreation, and sport provides opportunities to strengthen feelings of cultural identity and belonging, especially where the participation may be in traditional games, sports or activities.

**Risks - *Tuuraru***

29. There are no known risks associated with the decisions required for this matter.

**Significance & Engagement Policy - *Kaupapa here whakahira/anganui***

30. Staff have considered the key considerations under the Significance and Engagement Policy and have assessed that the recommendation(s) in this report has/have a low level of significance.
31. Given the low level of significance determined, the engagement level is low. No engagement is required.

**Attachments - *Ngaa taapirihanga***

Attachment 1 - Sport Waikato Update



## Hamilton City Council - Sport Waikato Report – December 2024

Date Range: July – December 2024

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### ORGANISATIONAL UPDATE/S – Steve Dalgety: Sport Waikato GM Regional Leadership

The work of Sport Waikato staff is guided by the Regional Strategy for Sport and Recreation in the Waikato – Moving Waikato – which is underpinned by a focus on 3 key areas: Our People; Building Communities; and Regional Leadership.



As we conclude what has been a busy 2024, I would like to take the time, on behalf of Sport Waikato, to thank the Council for their longstanding support of our organisation and the work that we do. Over the past year, we have been hugely successful in elevating some of our organisational goals to increase community physical activity participation, particularly enhancing the level of satisfaction children and young people experience in play, active recreation, sport, and physical education.

As we work towards our goal of 'Everybody Out There and Active,' ensuring our region's population is active enough to positively impact their wellbeing, we recognise that quality, regular delivery of physical activity and participation satisfaction are key measures of the likelihood of sustained participation among young people.

Our continued focus into 2025 will be on working within priority communities that do not have the same opportunities to be physically active, thereby impacting their wellbeing into the future. In this challenging fiscal environment, strong partnerships within the community and with Council are essential to ensure everyone has access to being physically active.

The insights we have collected and will continue to refine into 2025 and beyond will be critical to inform decision-making in the future and understanding how to support everyone to be out there and active, thereby having long-lasting impacts on their wellbeing and enabling the building of strong communities.

Thank you again for your support and partnership. We look forward to continuing to work together in 2025 and beyond to increase the number of people in our community being active in ways that positively impact their wellbeing.





## HAMILTON CITY COUNCIL PLAY STRATEGY PROJECT UPDATES

Focus Areas	Progress	Targeted Outcomes & Future Considerations
<b>Opportunities for activity in the district are promoted via a central digital hub that is accessible to the community</b>	<b>Actively</b> ( <a href="https://www.actively.co.nz/">https://www.actively.co.nz/</a> ), our new activity directory website, went live the week ending 13 <sup>th</sup> December. Sport Waikato is working with clubs and providers to add their activities to the site. The website will provide quality information for the Hamilton Community to inform them of what's happening in the city as well as activity information such as cost, location, age and suitability. It will be fully searchable by number of different fields such as indoor/outdoor, district, types of activities, etc.	Having a searchable online directory for individuals and whaanau to find suitable activities (type, location, cost, accessibility) helps with expectations and overcoming barriers to participation. For example, research suggests that 80% of females will research activity options before engaging. Currently, 260 activities and locations from within Hamilton City are listed, and Sport Waikato is looking to grow this database to support District outcomes.
<b>Support activity deliverers in the district to better understand the needs of the participant (with a particular focus on target groups of children and young people, women and girls, and deprived communities)</b>	<p>Sport Waikato champions access to quality physical activity for children and youth within Hamilton and supports local education, community, and sport &amp; recreation sectors through Tū Manawa funding. This initiative provides resources for delivering programmes, activations, and play opportunities for tamariki (5-11 years old) and rangatahi (12-18 years old), with a particular focus on those who may be missing out on these experiences.</p> <p>Within the Hamilton City during this reporting period, \$102,225 has been allocated to key initiatives including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Heke Consultants</b> – Knees of Fury</li> <li>• <b>ConnectEd Dance</b> – Dance Classes 2025</li> <li>• <b>Eastlink Community Hub</b> – Physical Activity for Primary Schools</li> <li>• <b>EquiPotential</b> – Equine Assisted Services enhancing well-being for people with physical, cognitive, behavioural or emotional challenges</li> <li>• <b>Live Better</b> – Multi Sports and Recreation programme for Asian, Ethnic, migrants</li> <li>• <b>Turn &amp; Gymnastic Circle</b> – Waikato Gymnastic Coaches in Schools</li> <li>• <b>Waikato Badminton Association</b> – Para-Badminton Sessions for All</li> <li>• <b>Waikato Catholic Kahui Ako</b> - I like to move it!</li> </ul> <p>Additionally, \$160,490 has been allocated to projects taking place across the Waikato region:</p>	41 Tū Manawa projects in the previous 2023-2024 financial year received a total of \$624,439 in funding, averaging approximately \$15,200 per project. Of the 15 projects that have completed reporting, 2,467 participants have been involved. In terms of targeted programmes, the majority of participants are female (68%) and of rangatahi age (12-18 years old, 53%). Maaori and Pacific communities are well-represented, comprising 48% and 15% of participants, respectively.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Swimming Waikato</b> - SwimSafe</li> <li>• <b>Waikato Water Polo</b> - Waikato Primary School's Splash Polo</li> <li>• <b>Multi-Sport Holiday Programme</b></li> <li>• <b>The Trike Programme</b></li> <li>• <b>Topspin Pickleball NZ</b> - Empowering Active Play through Pickleball</li> </ul>	
	<p>A Waikato Secondary Sport Forum was held in October 2024. Representatives from Hamilton City Council, Fraser High School, St Paul's Collegiate, and Hillcrest High School attended.</p> <p>From this forum, several collaborative projects and initiatives were identified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cross-code/multi-sport seasons</li> <li>• Alternative models of participation</li> <li>• Cross-code referee, official, and coach training and support</li> <li>• Community access to school infrastructure</li> </ul> <p>We continue to support Ngā Taiātea Wharekura with the <b>Active As</b> project as it nears the end of its first year. Funding has been leveraged to purchase equipment to encourage students, particularly those who are least active, to be more active during school breaks. Additionally, sensory pathways are being developed, Sport Waikato will continue to support year two of this initiative.</p>	Working groups will be established to advance the projects identified at the Sports Forums, with the overarching goal of creating more equitable access to quality sporting opportunities, improving sideline behaviours and sports pathways which will have a positive impact on District outcomes.
	<p>In July, we held a Regional Sport Forum featuring presentations on the new Sport Pathways Framework (Sport NZ and High-Performance Sport NZ) and key community funders (Trust Waikato and Grassroots Trust).</p> <p>In November, we hosted secondary schools that have chosen to support the <b>Positive Vibes Only (PVO)</b> experience to enhance their students' sporting experiences. Hamilton Girls' High School, Rototuna High School, Hamilton Christian School, Fraser High School, Hillcrest High Schools, St John's College, and Fairfield College are early adopters. The Waikato Secondary School Sport Association has partnered with us to provide funding support to schools implementing PVO.</p>	Council staff in attendance were able to get a detailed understanding around the future of the sport system and what it meant for general community participation.
<b>Grow local sector capability through the provision of targeted</b>	<p><b>Professional Learning in Primary Schools</b></p> <p>Kaahui Ako in Northeast and Northwest Hamilton with 30 Primary Schools continue to thrive. PLD's are well attended, and initiatives include</p>	This project focuses on enhancing professional learning opportunities for primary school teachers in Hamilton City. By supporting Kaahui Ako and individual schools, the aim is to:

<b>workshops and education initiatives</b>	implementation of the Voice of Tamariki surveys, and a review of Rototuna Primary School's sport programme to engage with coaches and volunteers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Upskill teachers with the knowledge and skills to implement effective teaching strategies that cater to the diverse needs of their students.</li> <li>Enhance student outcomes by improving teacher practice, through more evidenced-based practice, engaging, relevant, and effective learning environments.</li> <li>Strengthen and support schools (and Kaahui Ako) in implementing initiatives like the Voice of Tamariki survey and Tū Manawa projects, which can positively impact student wellbeing and engagement in physical activity.</li> </ul> <p>Ultimately, this work aims to contribute to a more equitable and high-quality education system for all students in the Hamilton region. We will begin engaging with two new Kaahui Ako in Hamilton: <b>Hillcrest Kaahui Ako</b> and <b>Mangakotukutuku Kaahui Ako</b>. In 2025, will see individual contact with schools within these Kaahui Ako to initiate a strength and needs analysis process.</p>
<b>Drive key outcomes, alongside District Council staff – including and with specific attention to local facilities projects</b>	<p>Sport Waikato continues to work closely with Council staff and user groups to assist with data collection and facilitate discussions promoting engagement, collaborative solutions, which lead to successful funding applications. Some examples are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Waikato Hockey – successful WEL applications for new LED lighting. This investment will enable the Hockey Centre to extend its operating hours.</li> <li>- Sport Waikato has assisted in directing funding towards lighting projects at Waikato Tennis (Lugton Park), Fred Jones Park, Flagstaff Park, Gower Park, and the Waikato Hockey Centre.</li> <li>- Facilitating collaboration to find shared solutions and optimise the use of existing facilities through hubbing concepts such as Eastlink</li> </ul> <p>Advocating for infrastructure such as artificial turf fields and lighting, to improve the quality and accessibility of sports facilities.</p>	<p>Sport Waikato's work in these areas aligns with the principles of the <b>Waikato Regional Active Spaces Plan</b>, which emphasises the importance of creating accessible, inclusive, and sustainable spaces for physical activity. By:</p> <p>Coordinating investment to ensure that limited resources are allocated strategically to maximise their impact on the community.</p>
<b>Provide stakeholders with district specific insights to support decision-making and enable community conversations</b>	<b>Voice of Tamariki</b> - The Voice of Tamariki survey is being completed by the following schools: Aberdeen Primary, Fairfield Intermediate, Fairfield Primary, Insoll Avenue, St Andrews Middle, St Columba's Catholic, St Joseph's Catholic, St Pius, Vardon, Endeavour, Te Totara, and Woodstock Primary Schools.	We use these surveys and additional data sources to gain a comprehensive understanding of community needs, including those issues and barriers that may not be immediately apparent. In conjunction with Geographical Priority Community identification, we assess the effectiveness of targeted interventions to provide



	<p><b>Additional Surveys</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Voice of Rangatahi survey will be completed at Ngā Taiātea Wharekura</li> <li>A homeschool-specific survey is currently under development</li> <li>The Moving Waikato community and facilities survey is ready for 2025 and will collect key data</li> </ul> <p><b>SportsEye</b> - Sport Waikato's partnership with data intelligence company ActiveXChange is progressing positively. This partnership aims to assist with regional-wide infrastructure, participation, and community profile mapping. To date, 8 Regional Sporting Organisations have signed up to the platform, with a total of 28,000 members entered. This data will help Sport Waikato and council partners with future supply and demand mapping.</p>	<p>support, improve overall well-being, and strengthen community connections.</p> <p>Data and insights gathered, will support Council with informing future play, active recreation and sport strategies, including the revised Play Strategy which continues to be a nationally leading strategy for the sector.</p>
<p><b>Contribute to Council conversations about play, active recreation and sport via regular meetings and collaboration on key projects</b></p>	<p>Sport Waikato has supported council staff with the following key projects and sector conversations, by providing insights, knowledge and expertise advice:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Hamilton Youth Action Plan</b></li> <li><b>HCC Sport Field Handbook</b> – focusing on equitable access to maintain a balanced and sustainable sporting network, supporting the growth and development of various sports</li> <li><b>Sport Code Meetings</b> – Supported council staff with multiple stakeholder meetings to better understand current landscape and potential for future growth within sports</li> <li><b>Outdoor Fitness Areas Pilot Project</b> – Sport Waikato, along with council staff and Xyst consultants, collaborated on developing an interception survey. This survey will be used at outdoor fitness areas like those found in Innes Common in early 2025</li> </ul> <p><b>Play Trail</b> – Contributed to the development of the Play Trail through a staff field trip. We provided feedback on the included features and activities, ensuring a more engaging experience for future users. Sport Waikato also facilitated an open discussion with the disability network to understand from the users, what would make a more accessible Play Trail.</p>	<p>Evidence highlights young people in Hamilton do not participate in as much physical activity as they would like to, due to barriers such as cost, time constraints, and a lack of motivation.</p> <p>Hamilton should continue to focus on creating safe, inclusive, and connected spaces for play and active transport, while also focusing on inclusive and equitable access to recreational spaces ensures that all youth, regardless of socioeconomic status. Promotion of local, low-cost, fun, and spontaneous recreation opportunities with flexible programmes designed to meet the needs of participants is a must.</p> <p>Sport Waikato's involvement in these projects has helped council to understand the views of users and non-users of district wide assets. By understanding participation trends council can make informed decisions to enhance the quality, accessibility, and overall user experience of these spaces.</p>



<b>Increase collaboration and connection between key stakeholders in play, active recreation and sport in the district through community partnerships</b>	<b>Connecting Sport and Recreation Groups with Funding Opportunities and Strategic Advice including</b> - TopSpin Pickleball, Waikato Tennis and local clubs, Waikato Ultimate Frisbee, Waikato Rugby Union, Waikato Disc Golf, Waikato Rugby League, Waikato University, Baseball NZ, Hamilton Raiders, Equipotential, Waikato Softball, Hamilton Malayalee Badminton Club, Fraser-Tech Rugby, Frankton Rugby, Eastlink, Waikato Touch, and Rototuna Primary School.	Continue to work alongside key stakeholders and providers who activate play, active recreation, and sport opportunities across the district.
	<b>School-Community Access Arrangements</b> - Sport Waikato is developing a plan/vision to increase community access to school facilities. This initiative aims to promote and enable collaborations between schools and other parties, such as councils, to overcome barriers to participation. This idea was introduced at the Sport Waikato Spaces & Places and Sport Waikato Secondary School Sport and the concept will be explored further in 2025.	A significant number of Waikato's play, sport, and recreation facilities, approximately 43%, is located within educational institutions. By increasing community access to these facilities, we could enhance local recreation opportunities and optimise the use of existing infrastructure.
	<b>National Play Week 2024</b> was celebrated across the region with prize and voucher giveaways at Lake Rotorua, Claudelands, and Glenview. We announced the locations of these prizes on our social media channels. We received nearly 200 donated physical and voucher prizes, including pool passes, Waitomo Caves tours, Chris Jolly tours, and Ninja Valley passes. It was fantastic to connect with our communities and support local play. This is the first time we've run a physical prize giveaway, and we thank council for their support.	
<b>Identify opportunities to appropriately celebrate positive sport and recreation outcomes</b>	<b>Try Something New Waikato campaign videos</b> have recently returned, showcasing local activities like boxing, walking, Pilates, and underwater hockey. In 2025, we plan to increase outreach to districts and spend more time filming activities directly in these areas.	These videos highlight opportunities, providing a visual representation of what different activities look and feel like. They help overcome barriers like cost, location, and uncertainty about what to wear, bring, or the activity level.





## REGIONAL SPORT WAIKATO PROGRAMME UPDATES

Programme	Locally Specific Programme Updates
<b>Waikato Regional Aquatic Plan</b>	<p>Sport Waikato has updated the Regional Aquatic Plan to align with the new National Aquatics Facilities Strategy. This will guide future investment decisions for aquatic facilities across the Waikato, highlighting priority focus areas and addressing supply and demand imbalances.</p> <p><b>Key Findings for Hamilton City:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are 53 public pools with an average age of 47 years</li> <li>• There is a shortfall of approximately 1800m<sup>2</sup> of water space for leisure</li> <li>• There is a shortfall of 1,137m<sup>2</sup> of total aquatic water space</li> </ul>
<b>Waikato Regional Active Spaces Plan – Council Forum</b>	<p>Sport Waikato facilitated the Regional Spaces &amp; Places Forum for Council partners in September 2024. This forum featured presentations on collaborative and partnership approaches to sport and recreation infrastructure, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A community-led hub approach - Hauraki District Council</li> <li>• The Peak (School-Community Partnership) - The Peak Trust, Sport Waikato</li> <li>• Thames-Coromandel Bike Strategy - Thames-Coromandel District Council</li> <li>• School Access and Hub Opportunities Region-Wide - Sport Waikato</li> </ul> <p>Feedback from attendees was positive, and we continue to advocate for connection and partnerships across territorial authority boundaries. Sharing regional learning creates opportunities for districts to learn from each other and implement proven ideas to increase physical activity.</p>
<b>Moving Waikato Youth Survey 2024</b>	<p>The Moving Waikato Youth Survey 2024 provided valuable insights into the engagement of Waikato youth from years 7 to 13, in physical activity, sports, and physical education.</p> <p>The survey revealed that only:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 23% of respondents enjoyed physical activity experiences at school</li> <li>• 22% were satisfied with physical education</li> <li>• 28% found value in participating in organised sports</li> </ul> <p>Notably, peers and whānau were identified as the top two factors influencing youth engagement in physical activities and sports.</p> <p>Key recommendations included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Offering a variety of activities can encourage broader participation</li> <li>• Experienced and approachable coaches and instructors significantly impact youth engagement</li> <li>• Providing opportunities for skill development allows young people to learn and grow</li> <li>• A balance between competitive and social activities caters to diverse interests</li> <li>• Build supportive networks of peers and whānau for supporting youth participation</li> </ul>
<b>Voice of the Coach</b>	<p>The Voice of the Coach survey provided valuable insights into the experiences, challenges, and development needs of sports coaches in the Waikato region.</p> <p>The survey of 699 coaches revealed that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 52% had been coaching for more than five years</li> <li>• 84% prioritised holistic player development</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>However, 53% of coaches felt unprepared to coach players with diverse needs, including those with physical, intellectual, or neurodiverse challenges</li> </ul> <p>Key challenges identified included parental involvement, time constraints, player engagement, and inclusivity. New coaches faced challenges such as a lack of confidence, knowledge, and support.</p> <p>Key Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Build strong coaching communities: Foster mentorship and peer learning</li> <li>Enhance inclusivity: Equip coaches to support diverse needs</li> <li>Strengthen resource availability: Provide adequate facilities, equipment, and financial support</li> <li>Balance development and fun: Prioritise holistic player development and enjoyable experiences</li> <li>Engage parents: Educate parents on their role in supporting young athletes</li> </ul>
<b>PVO: Sport Waikato &amp; How to Dad (Jordan Watson)</b>	In September 2024, we partnered with New Zealand social media influencer Jordan Watson (How to Dad) to create a video highlighting the impact of sideline behaviour on young athletes. This campaign aligned with our Positive Vibes Only initiative. The video generated significant reach, views, and positive comments, successfully bringing attention to the issue. The video continues to gain traction, with over 500,000 views on Facebook alone.
<b>Neurodiversity Project</b>	Research suggests that up to 25% of students may have challenges related to neurodiversity. We are currently undertaking a project to work with schools to create positive physical activity opportunities to support these students. With increasing social, emotional, and learning needs, it is crucial to ensure all students have equitable access to positive physical activity opportunities.



# Council Report

**Committee:** Community and Natural Environment Committee

**Date:** 03 April 2025

**Author:** Kelvin Powell

**Authoriser:** Helen Paki

**Position:** Safety and Resilience Unit Director

**Position:** General Manager Customer and Community

**Report Name:** Civil Defence Emergency Management (CDEM) Quarterly Report

<b>Report Status</b>	<i>Open</i>
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## Purpose - *Take*

1. To inform the Community and Natural Environment Committee of the progress on the shared service arrangement with Waikato Regional Council for delivering Civil Defence Emergency Management (CDEM) activity on behalf of Hamilton City Council for the period November 2024 to March 2025.

## Staff Recommendation - *Tuutohu-aa-kaimahi*

2. That the Community and Natural Environment Committee receives the report.

## Executive Summary - *Whakaraapopototanga matua*

3. This report covers the period November 2024 until March 2025 and outlines the achievements in the yearly workplan. Priority has been placed on areas identified in the most recent external monitoring and evaluation reports and national reviews.
4. Updates are included on the following issues:
  - i. Exercise Wha
  - ii. Internal 'We are all CDEM' Plan
  - iii. Group Plan Development
  - iv. Government Emergency Management Reform
  - v. Service Level Agreement Update
  - vi. Community engagement update
5. The 17 March simulated earthquake exercise (Wha) was hugely successful with over 100 staff taking part testing our CDEM response.
6. Staff consider the matters in this report to be low significance and that the recommendations comply with the Council's legal requirements.

## Discussion – *Matapaki*

7. In August 2016, the Council approved a service level agreement with Waikato Regional Council (via the Waikato Group Emergency Management Office) to deliver Hamilton City Council's Civil Defence Emergency Management (CDEM) for a term of six years and nine months.



8. In early 2024 the service level agreement with Waikato Regional Council was extended for a further two-year period and a condition of the contract is that CDEM reports six-monthly to the Community and Natural Environment Committee on the performance and delivery of the CDEM work plan and updates on other deliverables

### Exercise Wha

9. The annual Hamilton City Council Civil Defence Emergency Management Exercise (Exercise Wha) took place on 17 March. CDEM Groups must conduct an externally assessed major exercise annually unless they respond to a real emergency.
10. Exercise Wha simulated a sudden earthquake, with two shifts of staff working four hours each on emergency response, including activating a Welfare Centre for displaced persons. The exercise aimed to test our response capabilities, engage key partners, and transition from response to recovery.
11. These exercises evaluate our people, systems, and processes, identifying areas for improvement. It also exposed newly trained staff to the demands of a CDEM exercise. External assessors will provide a final performance grade.
12. The exercise was supported by mana whenua, maata waaka, emergency services, welfare agencies, and the Deputy Mayor (acting as Mayor and declaring an emergency).
13. Over 100 staff took part in the exercise this year and was the largest exercise we have been involved in during the past ten years.

### Internal 'We are all CDEM' Plan

14. The 'We are all CDEM' internal development plan, which has a focus on CDEM awareness, planning and development, is resulting in increased numbers of staff participating in CDEM training. Key objectives include:
  - i. **Goals:**
    - **100% Foundation Course Completion:** All staff to complete the CDEM Foundation course.
    - **25% Intermediate Course Completion:** Aiming for 25% of staff to complete the Intermediate course.
    - **Mandatory Foundation Course:** Required for all new hires.
  - ii. **Awareness Efforts:**
    - **Presentations:** Educating staff on city hazards and emergency preparedness at various levels (personal, whanau, street, suburb, and organisational).
    - **Intranet Profiles:** Featuring key CDEM staff, sharing their journeys and resilience tips.
  - iii. **Training Progress (Nov 2024 - Mar 2025):**
    - **Foundation Training:** 72 additional staff completed the Foundation course, increasing trained staff from 22% to 29%.
    - **Intermediate Training:** 20 additional staff completed the Intermediate course, increasing trained staff from 9% to 11%.
    - **Upcoming Courses:** The next two Intermediate courses are fully booked with 48 placements.

### CDEM Group Plan Update

15. The CDEM Act 2002 mandates the creation of a CDEM Group Plan, which sets the strategic direction for regional CDEM delivery and strengthens resilience efforts. The Plan requires a review and public consultation every five years. The review of the 2018-2023 Group Plan began in 2021 but was paused due to post-event government reviews following the North Island Severe Weather Event.
16. Planning was recommenced in early 2024 and a draft Group Strategic Plan 2025 has now been prepared and is expected to be approved by the Joint Committee on 24 March for consultation commencing on 7 April 2025.
17. The draft Group Plan's vision is for 'A disaster resilient Waikato' and in a change with previous Group plans, the draft Group Plan creates the requirement to develop yearly Action Plans to support the delivery of the overall objectives and outcomes of the plan.
18. A copy of the draft Plan will be shared with elected members once the Joint Committee has approved the final version of the Plan for consultation.

### Government Emergency Management Reform

19. In early 2024, the Minister of Emergency Management halted work on the Emergency Management Bill, deeming it inadequate for providing the integrated, fit-for-purpose emergency management framework New Zealand needs.
20. The government has adopted a 'rolling policy' approach, making policy decisions through Cabinet papers to draft the new Bill concurrently with finalising the policy. This method incorporates feedback from the previous Bill and the North Island Severe Weather Event (NISWE).
21. The aim of this legislative reform is to ensure there is a whole-of-society approach to emergency management. To achieve this, the objectives for the new bill are to:
  - i. Strengthen the participation of communities and iwi Māori in emergency management.
  - ii. Provide for clear responsibilities at the national, regional, and local levels.
  - iii. Enable a higher minimum standard of emergency management.
  - iv. Minimise disruption to essential services.
  - v. Ensure agencies have the tools to do their jobs effectively when an emergency happens.
22. To support this intended work, in late 2024 the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) released a document [Strengthening Disaster Resilience and Emergency Management](#). This document outlines the Government's emergency management direction for the next five years. Public consultation will start mid-2025, with a discussion document on legislative reform options released in the first half of 2025.

### Service Level Agreement Update:

23. In February 2024 Council extended the Service Level agreement with Waikato Regional Council for a further two-year period, expiring in February 2026.
24. In the interim, the Council is exploring cost-effective options for future Emergency Management in Hamilton, including potentially bringing all services back into Council.

### Community Engagement Update:

25. Civil Defence launched a community preparedness social media campaign in November with a focus on flooding preparedness, gifting readiness, and creating an emergency plan, reaching over 350,000 people.

26. The Grab bag giveaway posts in December and February were highly engaging, with over 2,500 comments. February's "What's the Plan Stan?" campaign emphasised the importance of having an emergency plan **before** disaster strikes. Hamilton-specific topics, like bridge closures due to earthquakes, sparked some great online discussions.
27. A citywide emergency preparedness survey in January had around 500 responses, with insights currently being drafted to guide future engagement.

### Options

28. There are no options are available for Council to consider as no decision is sought.

### Financial Considerations - *Whaiwhakaaro Puutea*

29. The total cost of the shared service contract approved by Council in 2016 was \$3.1 million spread over the six years and nine-month life of the contract at an annual contract cost of \$480,000. This has been allocated through operational budgets.

### Legal and Policy Considerations - *Whaiwhakaaro-aa-ture*

30. Hamilton City Council is obligated by section 64 of the Civil Defence Emergency Management Act to 'plan and provide for civil defence within its district'. Staff have assessed the decisions required in this report have no impact on climate change.

### Wellbeing Considerations - *Whaiwhakaaro-aa-oranga tonutanga*

31. The purpose of Local Government changed on the 14 May 2019 to include promotion of the social, economic, environmental and cultural wellbeing of communities in the present and for the future ('the 4 wellbeings').
32. The subject matter of this report has been evaluated in terms of the 4 wellbeings during the process of developing this report as outlined below.
33. The recommendations set out in this report are consistent with that purpose.

### Social

34. CDEM activity is intended to build resilience within communities and to assist in developing preparedness within the community to be able to respond to an emergency; therefore, it has a direct benefit to the social wellbeing of the city.

### Economic

35. Significant emergency events can greatly impact the city's economic wellbeing. Investing in reduction and readiness activities, and focusing on resilience across all groups, can mitigate this impact. A key focus is encouraging the development and testing of business continuity plans within the business community.

### Environmental

36. CDEM activity is premised upon understanding the environmental wellbeing of the city and how emergency events – both natural and man-made – could significantly impact on and change the future wellbeing state. Reduction activity is designed to lessen or minimise the impact of such events.

## Cultural

37. Emphasis is placed on working in partnership with Kirikiriroa-Hamilton's mana whenua and migrant community to enhance the understanding and application of emergency management at an individual, family (whaanau) and group (hapuu and iwi) level and how to prepare for and respond to an emergency event.

## Risks - *Tuuraru*

38. The shared service contract with the Group Emergency Management Office for the method of service delivery does not release Council from its obligations and accountability for the implementation and integration of civil defence services.

## Significance & Engagement Policy - *Kaupapa here whakahira/anganui*

39. Staff have considered the key considerations under the Significance and Engagement Policy and have assessed that the recommendation(s) in this report has/have a low level of significance.
40. Given the low level of significance determined, the engagement level is low. No engagement is required.

## Attachments - *Ngaa taapirihanga*

There are no attachments for this report.

# Council Report

Item 9

**Committee:** Community and Natural Environment Committee

**Date:** 03 April 2025

**Author:** Joanna van Walraven

**Authoriser:** Helen Paki

**Position:** Programme and Planning Manager

**Position:** General Manager Customer and Community

**Report Name:** Tree Policy - Request to Consult

<b>Report Status</b>	Open
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## Purpose - *Take*

1. To seek approval from the Community and Natural Environment Committee to consult on the Draft Tree Policy.

## Staff Recommendation - *Tuutohu-aa-kaimahi*

2. That the Community and Natural Environment Committee:
  - a) receives the report;
  - b) approves the Draft Tree Policy (**Attachment 1**) and the Draft Statement of Proposal (**Attachment 2**);
  - c) approves public consultation to occur 19 May to 16 June 2025; and
  - d) notes that verbal submission will be heard by the Regulatory and Hearings Committee 22 July 2025, with recommendations from the Committee being provided to the 18 September 2025 Council meeting for deliberations and approval.

## Executive Summary - *Whakaraapopototanga matua*

3. Staff have developed a Draft Tree Policy (**Attachment 1**) for public consultation following direction from Members at a Information Session in November 2024. The Draft Statement of Proposal and Engagement Plan are included as **Attachment 2** and **Attachment 3**.
4. The Draft Tree Policy enables effective and consistent decision making in respect to public trees. It relates to operational works, including tree maintenance, tree planting, tree removal and working around trees.
5. Trees on private land and those listed on the Hamilton Operative District Plan are out of scope for the Draft Policy.
6. If members of the public wish to speak to the proposals in the Draft Policy a hearing will be scheduled for 22 July 2025.
7. Staff recommend **Option 1**, approve the Draft Tree Policy for consultation.
8. Staff consider the matters in the report have low significance and that the recommendations comply with the Council's legal requirements.

## Background - *Koorero whaimaarama*

9. Hamilton City Council manages a network of over 100,000 trees on reserves, parks and berms. The Draft Tree Policy has been developed to provide a framework for the management of these trees.
10. Changes to the makeup of the city, including an increase in infill housing developments on private land, will result in net loss of canopy coverage as competition for land increases.
11. Currently there is no policy which covers the management of Council trees that are not covered by the District Plan.
12. Staff identified a need for a policy to give clear guidance when engaging with the public over tree related matters, to prevent unnecessary damage or loss to good quality trees, and to improve processes around the developments that effect Council tree assets.
13. A staff working group was established on 30 June 2023 to work through issues relating to a city-wide tree policy.
14. An Information Session was held in November 2024, where Members supported the Draft Principles and Purpose of the Draft Policy.

## Discussion - *Matapaki*

15. Trees are an essential part of the landscape of Kirikiriroa Hamilton. In addition to aesthetic and cultural values, trees provide a range of benefits including:
  - (i) Improving air quality by absorbing pollutants like carbon dioxide, sulphur dioxide, and nitrogen oxides
  - (ii) Mitigating the "urban heat island" by providing shade and releasing water vapor through their leaves, thereby more effectively reducing heat than built structures
  - (iii) Supporting wildlife and biodiversity
  - (iv) Enhancing mental and physical wellbeing, being close to trees and nature has been shown to reduce stress, improve mood, and enhance overall mental well-being
  - (v) Trees can increase property values and reduce energy costs by providing natural cooling and insulation
  - (vi) Helping to mitigate climate change through Carbon Sequestration by absorbing and storing carbon dioxide
16. Trees also create management challenges including:
  - (i) Potential health and safety issues, particularly during severe weather events
  - (ii) Competition for space in urban environments
  - (iii) Maintenance costs, including costs to remove leaf litter
  - (iv) Potential of added costs from damage to pavements, roads, and underground utilities
17. The Draft Policy takes a balanced, principle-based approach to help mitigate the loss of tree canopy on public land while improving processes and minimising risks associated with Council's tree network.
18. The Draft Policy outlines under what circumstances Council trees will be removed. For example, Council will remove trees that are in a state of irreversible decline, dead and/or structurally unsound, or to avoid serious damage to people, property or infrastructure.
19. Council will also assess and allow removal of trees that pose an unacceptable safety risk that cannot be mitigated through pruning or other engineering solutions.

20. The purpose of the policy is to:
- (i) Provide guidance for the planning, planting, maintenance, and retention or removal of Council owned trees.
  - (ii) To manage risks resulting from Council owned trees, including risks to health and safety.
  - (iii) To protect trees which have high amenity, botanical and ecological value and to encourage, whenever possible, development practices that avoid damage to trees.
  - (iv) To ensure Council tree planting and management is appropriate, financially sustainable, and contributes to positive community and environmental outcomes.
  - (v) Provide consistency, clarity and transparency around service requests and Council decision making.

### Scope and Policy Alignment

21. The Draft Policy does not apply to Notable Trees and trees in Significant Natural Areas as they are addressed through rules in the Hamilton City Operative District Plan, and the Draft Policy does not supersede these rules.
22. The Draft Tree Policy does not apply to trees on private land or outside of Hamilton City Council boundaries (excluding the cemetery, Taitua Arboretum, and any other Council owned land). It also does not apply to notable trees or trees in Significant Natural Areas, which are protected through the District Plan.
23. The major proposals included in the Draft Tree Policy are outlined in the attached **Statement of Proposal (Attachment 2)**.
24. If the Draft Tree Policy is not approved for consultation, there may be inconsistencies in decision-making around trees, and opportunities to improve processes around tree management may be missed. The decision to approve the Draft policy for public consultation is consistent with Council's Plans and Policies, in particular:
- i. Open Spaces Strategy
  - ii. Our Climate Future Strategy
  - iii. The Nature in the City Strategy
25. The Draft Policy aligns with the objectives and policies in the Operative District Plan that respond to climate change; enabling continuous tree canopies in public realm areas and along transport corridors that enhance both user and land-use amenity, contribute to the local ecology, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. For example:
- (i) Chapter 20.2.3 Objectives and Policies: Significant Trees
  - (ii) Chapter 25.14.2 Objectives and Policies: Transportation – 25.14.2.1b Climate Change
  - (iii) Chapter 25.14.2 Objectives and Policies: Transportation – 25.14.2.1q Biodiversity in Transport Corridors
  - (iv) Chapter 25.5.2 Objectives and Policies: Landscaping and Screening

### The Streetscape Beautification and Verge Maintenance Policy

26. In conjunction with the development of the Draft Tree Policy, the 'Streetscape Beautification and Verge Maintenance Policy' and the 'Gateways Policy' are being reviewed and amalgamated to form a Draft 'Streetscape and Gateways Policy'.
27. Issues relating to Council trees in the transport corridor, previously part of the 'Streetscape Beautification and Verge Maintenance Policy', have been transferred to the Draft Policy to ensure simplicity and consistency in tree-related policies.

28. Proposed changes to the Streetscape Beautification and Verge Maintenance Policy do not meet the threshold for consultation under the Local Government Act 2002, however, relevant feedback from the Tree Policy consultation will be shared and incorporated into the Streetscape and Gateways Policy before seeking adoption at the Infrastructure and Transport Committee later in 2025.

### Options

29. Staff have assessed that there are two reasonable and viable options for the Committee to consider.
- i. **OPTION 1:** Approve the Draft Policy for Consultation.
  - ii. **OPTION 2:** Do not approve the Draft Policy for consultation.
30. Staff recommend **Option 1** because a policy for the management of trees is needed to provide consistency around decision-making, and to ensure that tree planting, and management is appropriate, financially sustainable, and contributes to positive community outcomes.
31. If the Draft Policy is approved for consultation the next steps are as follows:
- i. **19 May- 16 June 2025** - Public Consultation
  - ii. **22 July 2025** - Hearing
  - iii. **18 September 2025**- Deliberations and Adoption

### Financial Considerations - *Whaiwhakaaro Puutea*

32. This is a regular operating activity funded through the Long-Term Plan.
33. The costs incurred to date (including consultation costs) are covered within current operational budgets. These costings include 300 staff hours to progress the work, engagement and consultation costs (\$5,000), which include design, public notice, media placements, and printing.
34. Initial modelling indicates that costs of implementing the Draft Policy would have minimal negative financial impacts - however due to the number of variables effecting the management and growth of live assets, this is difficult to quantify.
35. There are likely to be long term positive implications relating to cost recovery provisions in clause 39 and 40 of the Draft Policy which would create cost efficiencies and reduce the number of staff hours. This would also enable better quality control around tree planting, resulting in better long-term outcomes.
36. If further changes to the Draft Policy are identified through the consultation process, economic modelling will be undertaken to better understand potential future costs and will be presented to Committee with the deliberations report.

### Legal and Policy Considerations - *Whaiwhakaaro-aa-ture*

37. Staff confirm that the staff recommendation complies with the Council's legal and policy requirements.



## Climate Change Impact Statement

38. Staff have assessed this option against the Climate Change Policy for both emissions and climate change adaptation.
39. An adaptation assessment has been undertaken and the project adequately responds to climate change risk.
40. An emissions assessment has been undertaken, and the project reduces greenhouse gas emissions.

## Wellbeing Considerations - *Whaiwhakaaro-aa-oranga tonutanga*

41. The purpose of Local Government changed on the 14 May 2019 to include promotion of the social, economic, environmental and cultural wellbeing of communities in the present and for the future ('the 4 wellbeings').
42. The subject matter of this report has been evaluated in terms of the 4 wellbeings during the process of developing this report as outlined below.
43. The recommendations set out in this report are consistent with that purpose.

### Social

44. Trees have a significant impact on the physical and mental and wellbeing of communities. The presence of trees has been linked to reduced stress levels, improved mental health, and encouragement of physical activity, all of which contribute to overall well-being.
45. Trees create natural gathering spaces that foster social interactions and community bonding. Parks and tree-lined streets provide places for people to meet, relax, and enjoy nature.

### Economic

46. Attractive, tree-lined streets and parks can boost local areas by drawing people and businesses.
47. Trees absorb carbon dioxide, helping to mitigate climate change. This environmental benefit also has economic implications, as it can reduce costs associated with climate change impact.
48. Trees provide shade, reducing the need for air conditioning in the summer and acting as windbreaks in the winter, which lowers heating costs. This can lead to significant savings on energy use.

### Environmental

49. Trees provide a range of positive environmental impacts including shading and cooling, improving air quality by absorbing pollutants, helping to mitigate climate change through Carbon Sequestration, supporting wildlife and biodiversity.
50. Trees can reduce the need for cooling systems in homes, lowering energy consumption and reducing emissions.
51. Tree roots anchor soil, reducing erosion and preventing landslides. They also help to retain water, reducing runoff and recharging groundwater supplies.

### Cultural

52. Trees have cultural significance to many groups including Māori. Trees have spiritual symbolism and have traditionally been used widely as a resource and in cultural practice.
53. Native and indigenous planting, including trees, are used as part of interpretation and storytelling.

### **Risks - *Tuuraru***

- 54. There are no known risks associated with the decision to consult on the Draft Policy.
- 55. There are risks associated with not progressing the Draft Policy, these include continued health and safety, reputational and legal risks associated with tree management. There is also a lost opportunity to improve replacement processes that create better long-term outcomes for the tree network.
- 56. Trees are an emotive issue, and there is a risk that consultation could invoke a high level of public interest, which may extend the length of time to adopt the policy
- 57. The Draft Policy takes a balanced approach to tree management, therefore presents a low risk in terms of increased operational costs. However, if the consultation indicates a preference for stronger protections, there may be an expectation for Council put more resource to trees.
- 58. There are no known risks associated with the decision to consult on the Draft Policy.
- 59. There are risks associated with not progressing the Draft Policy, these include a continued health and safety, reputational and legal risks associated with tree management.

### **Significance & Engagement Policy - *Kaupapa here whakahira/anganui***

- 60. Staff have considered the key considerations under the Significance and Engagement Policy and have assessed that the recommendation(s) in this report has/have a low level of significance.
- 61. Early engagement on the policy with Mana Whenua did occur and feedback was minimal at that time. Detailed engagement is due to occur after this report is due, however previous interaction indicates general support for the Draft Policy. An update on our most recent engagement will be provided at this meeting
- 62. Further engagement on the draft policy is proposed as indicated in this report.

### **Attachments - *Ngaa taapirihanga***

Attachment 1 - Draft Tree Policy

Attachment 2 - Statement of Proposal

First adopted:	August 2024
Revision dates/version:	
Next review date:	August 2027
Engagement required:	
Document Number	D-
Associated documents:	
Sponsor/Group:	Parks Services Manager

## Tree Policy

Trees are an essential part of the landscape and natural infrastructure of Kirikiriroa Hamilton. In addition to aesthetic and cultural values, trees provide a range of benefits including cooling through shade, carbon sequestering, wellbeing support, improving air quality, supporting wildlife and resilience to effects of extreme events.

### *Ko te Puutaketanga*

### Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to:

1. Provide guidance for the planning, planting, maintenance, and retention or removal of Council owned trees.
2. To manage risks resulting from Council owned trees, including risks to health and safety.
3. To protect trees which have high amenity, botanical and ecological value and to encourage, whenever possible, development practices that avoid damage to trees.
4. To ensure Council tree planting and management is appropriate, financially sustainable, and contributes to positive community and environmental outcomes.
5. Provide consistency, clarity and transparency around service requests and Council decision making.

### *Ko te Whaanuitanga*

### Scope

6. This Policy applies to trees:
  - a) On Council owned and/or managed open spaces (including transport corridors (roads and the road reserve), parks, reserves, cemeteries, Council facilities, and service corridors).
  - b) Managed through the Hamilton Gardens Management Plan, Stadia Reserve Management Plan and Te Kaaroro (Hamilton Zoo and Waiwhakareke).
7. This Policy does not apply to:
  - a) Trees on private land or outside of HCC boundaries (except for the Hamilton Park Cemetery, Taitua Arboretum, and any other HCC owned land).
  - b) Notable Trees listed in Schedule 9D of the Hamilton City Operative District Plan and trees in Significant Natural Areas listed in Schedule 9C of the Hamilton City Operative District Plan.

**Note:** Rules and standards pertaining to Notable Trees and Significant Natural Areas are provided in the Hamilton City Operative District Plan.

- c) Planting and maintenance of other vegetation in the transport corridor, which is covered by the 'Streetscape and Gateways Policy'.

### *Ko ngaa Tikanga Whakahaere Kaupapahere*

### Principles of Policy

8. The guiding principles of this policy are:
  - i. The tree canopy of Hamilton Kirikiriroa is essential to community, economic and environmental wellbeing, and Council owned trees are managed and prioritised as critical, long-term public assets.
  - ii. Council will prioritise public health and safety over the amenity, ecological or historical value provided by individual trees.
  - iii. Council will take a balanced approach to tree management to achieve the best possible community, economic and environmental outcomes.
  - iv. Council will seek opportunities to plant new trees of appropriate types in suitable locations to maximise the canopy cover of the city and deliver ongoing benefits.
  - v. Tree planting and management is future focussed, financially sustainable and provides value for money in the long-term.

### *Ko ngaa Tikanga Policy*

#### Tree Species Selection and Planting

9. Council will take a “right tree in the right place” approach to tree planning and planting to ensure tree species are appropriate for their particular location and context and will contribute long term benefits to the city.
10. All tree planting on Council land (including berms) must be approved by Council and follow standard Council procedures.
11. Council will select a diverse range of native and exotic tree species to strengthen and enhance ecological resilience.
12. Council tree planting will be prioritised in areas where shade is desirable, (for example in playgrounds and high pedestrian and cycle routes) or in areas where there are few trees.
13. Succession planting will be undertaken to ensure there is a wide range of species and maturity in parks and open spaces.
14. To ensure that all trees are fit-for-context, Council must consider whether the location and species of a tree will compromise both the current and planned function, safety, efficiency and operation of the road corridor (including its role as a corridor for infrastructure). In particular:
  - i. Overhead, and underground infrastructure (e.g. power, water, utility services).
  - ii. Operating speeds and traffic safety (e.g. speed limit, visibility of signs and driver sight lines).
  - iii. Accessibility and clearance requirements of the corridor (e.g. freight route, over-dimension route, Bus Rapid Transit).

### Pruning and Maintenance

15. Council undertakes maintenance on street trees to keep trees healthy and minimise risk to people or property. Inspections and maintenance are carried out using Council approved risk management practices and are in accordance with accepted arboricultural standards.
16. Only Council approved persons may undertake pruning or maintenance of Council owned trees.
17. Council will prune trees that obstruct powerlines, footpaths and roads, street lighting, vehicle access to public areas, traffic signage and road visibility.
18. Council will generally not undertake pruning to reduce shading or manage debris, or for the establishment, retention, or enhancement of views.
19. Council will investigate and may seek compensation or take enforcement action for any damage caused by pruning under the appropriate legislation, including the Hamilton City Parks, Domains and Reserves Bylaw 2019, the Local Government Act 2002, and/or the Reserves Act 1977.
20. Where appropriate in natural reserve areas, unhealthy, dead, or felled trees will be left in place to decompose for ecological benefit.

### Working around trees

21. Appropriate care must be undertaken to avoid potential damage to Council trees during construction works or any other activity.
22. Council must be notified during the early stages of development design of any development, work, or activity proposed near a Council owned tree (e.g. concept design stage). An **Application for Tree Owner Approval** should be submitted to Council no less than **two weeks** before any works commence that includes vehicle crossings (driveways), installation of services and infrastructure, buildings or other developments that could impact any Council trees.
23. All works on Council land must comply with Council health and safety procedures and the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015.
24. Council may seek compensation or take enforcement action for any damage or loss to Council trees under the appropriate legislation, including the Hamilton City Parks, Domains and Reserves Bylaw 2019, the Local Government Act 2002, and/or the Reserves Act 1977.
25. Damage or loss may include but is not limited to:
  - a) Death or decline of tree(s) health.
  - b) Damage to the structure of the tree(s).
  - c) Damage to the tree(s) roots and/or rooting environment including compaction or contamination of the soil.

### Tree Removal

26. Good quality, mature trees are of significant value to the city and removal will only be considered when all other options have been explored and are determined by Council to not be viable.

27. Council trees that are in a state of irreversible decline, dead and/or structurally unsound may be removed at any time by Council if required for public safety or to avoid serious damage to property or infrastructure.
28. Council will assess and allow removal of trees that pose an unacceptable safety risk that cannot be mitigated through pruning or other engineering solutions.
29. Council may remove a tree on a case-by-case basis if it is causing, or is likely to cause, serious damage to buildings, services, property, or infrastructure (both public or privately owned) and the damage cannot be reasonably rectified or mitigated except by removing the tree.
30. Council will **not** consider the removal of a tree in the following circumstances:
  - a) To provide better views,
  - b) To reduce leaf and fruit litter or debris from trees,
  - c) To reduce nuisance from native fauna that may be inhabiting the tree,
  - d) To reduce shading,
  - e) To allow for the installation of solar panels,
  - f) For unjustified property damage claims,
  - g) For causing minor allergenic or irritant responses,
  - h) If there are practical means for canopy or tree retention.
31. There will be no removal of trees on Council land unless approved by Council in writing.
32. Any removal of trees on Council land will only be considered by Council following submission of an Application for Tree Owner Approval.
33. Council may consider the removal (and replacement) of trees on a case-by-case basis to allow for an activity or development where no other alternative design option is available.
34. An Application for Tree Owner Approval must be submitted for consideration during the early stages of development design (e.g. concept design stage).
35. Removal of trees must be undertaken by, or under the supervision of, a suitably qualified arborist employed, approved, or contracted by Council, or a network utility operator in accordance with accepted arboricultural standards.
36. If Council approval is given, tree removal shall include stump grinding to a minimum depth and the ground must be left in a reasonable condition for replanting.
37. Tree removal approval will be subject to tree replacement requirements (as per clause 43).
38. In sites where trees are identified as likely containing protected indigenous fauna (e.g. bats, lizards or native bird species) an ecological assessment will be required to be provided alongside any Application for Tree Owner Approval.
39. Council will endeavour to consult with impacted communities prior to the removal of trees. However, in the event of emergency or urgent removal, notification may not be possible.

#### **Tree Replacement**

40. Council will require the planting of a minimum of two new trees for every Council tree removed for development.

41. The cost of tree replacement, including all relevant costs, will be calculated, and paid to Council prior to tree removal being approved.
42. For removals within the road corridor, the location of any replacement trees will be on the same site, or on a designated place as chosen by Council.
43. Tree replacement planting will occur at the next appropriate planting season.

#### **Vandalism**

44. Council will investigate and may seek compensation or take enforcement action for deliberate acts of vandalism that result in the death of, or damage to, a Council tree, under the appropriate legislation, including the City Parks, Domains and Reserves Bylaw 2019, the Local Government Act 2002 and/or Reserves Act 1977.

#### **Community plantings**

45. Council encourages and supports community engagement and involvement in tree planting projects and will consider requests for community planting projects in Council owned open space through volunteer programmes.
46. While making every effort to retain community planted trees, Council reserves the right to move or remove trees, if necessary, in accordance with this policy.

#### ***Ko te Aroturukitanga me te Whakatinanatanga***

#### **Monitoring and Implementation**

47. Implementation of this policy will be monitored by the General Manager Customer and Community.
48. This policy will be reviewed every three years, at the request of Council, or in response to legislative changes and statutory requirements (whichever occurs first).

#### ***Ko ngaa Whakamaaramatanga***

#### **Definitions**

<b>Term</b>	<b>Policy Definition</b>
Amenity	The natural or physical qualities and characteristics of an area that contribute to people's appreciation of its pleasantness, aesthetic coherence, and cultural and recreational attributes.
Canopy cover	The total area that leaves, branches and stems of trees shade the ground.
Council	Means the Hamilton City Council and includes any committee, subcommittee or person acting under delegated authority.
Exotic trees	Means trees which do not occur naturally in New Zealand.

Invasive species	Species that spread rapidly throughout large areas of the country, often displacing native species or causing significant environmental harm.
Irreversible decline	The decline of a tree's health which is to such an extent that it is unlikely to recover.
Mature Tree	A tree reaching its ultimate potential size, whose growth rate is slowing down, with limited potential for any significant increase in size.
Native trees	Trees that occur naturally in New Zealand or arrived in New Zealand without human assistance.
Notable trees	Individual or groups of trees identified in Schedule 9D of the District Plan that are located on either public or private land and have been assessed as 'notable' because of their link to the community, scientific importance, species type, age and/or the contribution they make to the city.
Other vegetation	A plant that does not have the potential to grow taller than 3 metres in height and have a stem diameter of, or exceeding, 100mm measured at 1.4 metres above ground.
Road Corridor	Means whole corridor that provides for road carriageway, berms, services and any adjoining pedestrian or cycle paths, landscaping and lighting, and includes roads and access segregation strips.

### *Ko ngaa Tohutoro*

### References

- The Local Government Act 1974
- The Local Government Act 2002
- The Reserves Act 1977
- The Crimes Act 1961
- Hamilton City Operative District Plan
- Waikato Regional Infrastructure Specifications (RITS)
- Hamilton City Council Bat Management Plan
- Hamilton City Council Streetscape and Gateways Policy
- Trees on Development Sites, New Zealand Arboricultural Association Inc. (NZ Arb)
- Tree Protection Fencing, New Zealand Arboricultural Association Inc. (NZ Arb)
- Amenity Tree Pruning Guide, New Zealand Arboricultural Association Inc. (NZ Arb)



# Tree Policy

## STATEMENT OF PROPOSAL

[Consultation dates 19 May- 16 June 2025]

Hamilton City Council (the Council) is seeking feedback on the Draft Tree Policy.

Why are we developing a Tree Policy?

Trees are an essential part of the landscape of Hamilton Kirikiriroa. In addition to aesthetic and cultural value, trees provide a range of environmental benefits including cleaning air by absorbing carbon dioxide, cooling through shade, and managing storm water.

Council does not currently have a policy that addresses the management of trees, outside of Notable Trees protected through the District Plan.

The proposed Tree Policy will ensure:

- all trees on Council-owned land are managed in a balanced way
- there are clear guidelines around decision making regarding trees
- tree planting and management is appropriate, financially sustainable, and contributes to positive community outcomes.

Council is seeking feedback on the proposal from people in the community who may be affected by, or have an interest in, the proposed policy.

Proposal

Council is proposing to create a Tree Policy to provide guidance around the planting, maintenance and retention or removal of Hamilton’s trees in Council owned spaces, including parks and streets.

Introducing the policy will guide tree risk assessments, maintenance and protection across the city, and ensure that the benefits trees provide will be maximised and retained for the future.

Purpose	Purpose	Policy
Health and safety	To prioritise public health and safety and safe working practices are followed when working on trees.	Council undertakes maintenance on street trees to ensure health and minimise risk. Council will not prune trees to reduce shade, manage debris, or to enhance views.
Tree planting	Maximise canopy cover across the city, select species that are appropriate for the location and ensure new planting supports biodiversity targets.	Council will take a ‘right tree in the right place’ approach to planning and planting. Clear guidelines about planting will ensure what is planted can withstand changing weather, supports biodiversity targets, and is appropriate for the location.
Tree removal	Trees with high amenity and ecological value are protected. Clear guidelines around replacement value of trees to ensure sufficient mitigation to offset the loss of established trees.	Good quality, mature trees have significant value to the city, and thier removal will only be considered when all other options are exhausted. Tree removals must be approved by Council.
Tree replacement	Mitigate the loss of street tree canopy through developments. Ensure trees being planted are fit for place and purpose. Streamline processes for the replacement	Council will require at least two new trees planted for every Council tree removed for development. The cost of tree replacement, including all relevant costs, will be calculated, and paid to

	of street trees through land use consenting.	Council prior to tree removal being approved.
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## Reasons for the proposal

The key reasons for the proposal are:

- The tree canopy of Hamilton Kirikiriroa is essential to community, economic and environmental wellbeing, and it is important Council owned trees are managed and prioritised as critical, long-term public assets.
- The proposed policy provides guidance for the planting, protection, maintenance and removal of trees on Council land. This will create clarity for decision making while maintaining consistency in the approaches taken by Council.

## TELL US YOUR THOUGHTS ON THE PROPSAL

Before making any final decisions, we'd like to have your input. You can give us feedback from 19 May to 16 June 2025 online at [hamilton.govt.nz/haveyoursay](https://hamilton.govt.nz/haveyoursay), or fill out the feedback form included in this Statement of Proposal.

For any queries please ring 07 838 6699 or email: [haveyoursay@hcc.govt.nz](mailto:haveyoursay@hcc.govt.nz)

## NEXT STEPS

Council staff will collect and analyse all feedback at the close of the submission period.

The analysis of this feedback will be presented to the 14 August meeting of the Hearings and Engagement Committee. At this meeting, submitters who want to speak to their written submission will be able to do so.

The Council will then consider all the views and make a decision.

FEEDBACK FORM

Tree Policy Consultation25 May to 16 June 2025.

Hamilton City Council is proposing to adopt a draft Tree Policy.

FEEDBACK FORMS CAN BE:

- Completed online at [hamilton.govt.nz/haveyoursay](https://hamilton.govt.nz/haveyoursay)
- Posted to: Freepost 172189, Hamilton City Council, Communication and Engagement team, Tree Policy, Private Bag 3010, Hamilton, 3240.
- Delivered to the Municipal Building. 260 Anglesea Street or any branch of Hamilton City Libraries.
- Email the completed form to: [haveyoursay@hcc.govt.nz](mailto:haveyoursay@hcc.govt.nz).

Privacy statement:

The Local Government Act 2002 requires submissions to be made available to the public. Your name and/or organisation may be published with your submission and made available in a report to elected members and to the public. Other personal information supplied will be used for administration and reporting purposes only. Please refer to Council’s Privacy Statement at [hamilton.govt.nz](https://hamilton.govt.nz) for further information.

\*Ask your topic specific questions here, e.g. Do you agree with the Council’s proposal to \_\_\_\_\_?

[Add questions here]

☐ Yes ☐ No

[Prompt a discussion]

Reasons / Why/Why not? / Which option do you prefer? Can you please explain why? (Please print clearly):

Run out of room? Feel free to attach additional pages.

Would you like to make a verbal submission?

Note: A verbal submission is around 5 - 10 minutes and is a chance for you to strengthen the key points in your written submission at the Council meeting.

☐ Yes  
☐ No

Verbal submissions will take place [ Date (confirmed by Governance) ] and we will contact you to arrange a time.

## ABOUT YOU:

\*The questions in this section are required for all online and hardcopy consultations.

This section tells us a bit more about you. By capturing this information, we will be able to better understand who is, and isn't providing feedback.

### Contact details (Please print clearly)

We will use this to get in touch with you if you would like the opportunity to make a verbal submission.

Name: (required) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: (required) \_\_\_\_\_

### Are you giving feedback on behalf of an organisation?

- ☐ No, these are my own personal views  
☐ Yes, I am the official spokesperson for the organisation

If yes, what is the name of the organisation? \_\_\_\_\_

### Where do you live?

I live in Hamilton, my suburb is: \_\_\_\_\_

I live outside Hamilton city:

- ☐ Waipaa District ☐ Waikato District ☐ Elsewhere in New Zealand ☐ Overseas

### What is your age group? (at your last birthday)

- |                                   |                                |                                |                                |                                |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Under 16 | <input type="checkbox"/> 16-19 | <input type="checkbox"/> 20-24 | <input type="checkbox"/> 25-29 | <input type="checkbox"/> 30-34 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 35-39    | <input type="checkbox"/> 40-44 | <input type="checkbox"/> 45-49 | <input type="checkbox"/> 50-54 | <input type="checkbox"/> 55-59 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 60-64    | <input type="checkbox"/> 65-69 | <input type="checkbox"/> 70-74 | <input type="checkbox"/> 75-79 | <input type="checkbox"/> 80+   |

### Which ethnic group do you identify with? (tick all that apply)

- |  |                                   |                                 |  |  |
|--|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> NZ European                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Maaori   | <input type="checkbox"/> Indian | <input type="checkbox"/> Chinese       | <input type="checkbox"/> Samoan              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> British   | <input type="checkbox"/> Filipino | <input type="checkbox"/> Tongan | <input type="checkbox"/> South African | <input type="checkbox"/> Cook Islands Maaori |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify if you wish): _____         |                                   |                                 |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> If Maaori – what iwi/hapu do you belong to? _____ |                                   |                                 |  |  |

### Which of the following best describes your household situation?

Optional - In some cases, you may want to find out about a resident's household situation. If so, follow this layout.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Living alone                           | <input type="checkbox"/> Household with dependants (e.g. children/other family)          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Living with others that are not family | <input type="checkbox"/> Household with no dependants (e.g. no children/no other family) |

Please get your feedback to us by Monday 16 June 2025.

(Template: statement of proposal and feedback form for non-policy/bylaw)

COMPLETION MESSAGE:

Thank you .....

# Council Report

Item 10

**Committee:** Community and Natural Environment Committee

**Date:** 03 April 2025

**Author:** Philippa Clear

**Authoriser:** Janet Carson

**Position:** Community Advisor & Grants Manager

**Position:** General Manager Partnerships, Communication & Maaori

**Report Name:** Accessible Properties 2024 Annual Report

**Report Status**

*Open*

## Purpose - *Take*

1. To inform the Community and Natural Environment Committee on the last 12-months activity of Accessible Properties New Zealand Limited (Accessible Properties) in relation to the former Council pensioner housing portfolio.

## Staff Recommendation - *Tuutohu-aa-kaimahi*

2. That the Community and Natural Environment Committee:
  - a) receives the report; and
  - b) notes that:
    - i. Council staff have reviewed two 6-monthly reports attached for the period ending 30 June 2024 and 31 December 2024; and
    - ii. the reports show compliance with the agreed encumbrances and other clauses in the agreements between the Council and Accessible Properties.

## Executive Summary - *Whakaraapopototanga matua*

3. On 7 March 2019 Accessible Properties completed the financial obligations connected to the 2016 purchase of Council's pensioner housing portfolio.
4. Conditions of sale require Accessible Properties to submit ongoing 6-monthly activity reports to the Council.
5. The attached reports for the previous 12-months (January-June 2024 and July -December 2024) show that Accessible Properties met the agreed encumbrances within the sale and purchase agreement.
6. Council staff have reviewed the attached reports and summarised the information in the discussion section below.
7. Staff consider the matters in this report are of low significance and that the recommendations comply with the Council's legal requirements.

### Background - *Koorero whaimaarama*

8. Accessible Properties is a registered charity and a class one Registered Community Housing Provider. They supply affordable rental homes for people with social support needs and have expertise in the housing needs of people with disabilities or mobility difficulties or who are elderly. They also provide housing management services for community organisations.
9. Accessible Properties purchased Hamilton City Council's Pensioner Housing Portfolio of 344 units on 7 March 2016 for \$23,000,000.
10. The conditions of sale require Accessible Properties to provide six-monthly reports until no original tenant (in occupation at sale date 7 March 2016) is in occupation of any part of the land.
11. Information contained in the attached reports include:
  - i. The number of units occupied during the period
  - ii. How many units were occupied by original tenants and how many were utilised for social housing purposes
  - iii. The rental paid for each unit during the period
  - iv. Any rent increases made during the period, and the basis on which such rent increases were calculated
  - v. The maintenance spent on the properties during the period.
12. Council staff have reviewed two 6-monthly reports attached for the period ending 30 June 2024 and 31 December 2024. Staff confirm that the reports show compliance with the agreed encumbrances and other clauses in the agreements between the Council and Accessible Properties.

### Discussion - *Matapaki*

13. On 31 December 2024 all 341 of the 344 units Hamilton City Council sold to Accessible Properties were occupied. Of those, 73 units were occupied by the original tenants. This was a reduction of eight over the last 12 months.
14. The average rent across the portfolio of one-bedroom units is \$280.18 per week.
15. There were no changes to rent during the January to June 2024 period. However, a scheduled rent increase in November 2024 saw rents rise 7.5% from \$263 to \$280 per week. This rental increase was capped at \$20.
16. For the period 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2024, Accessible Properties total maintenance spend was \$1,363,121. This included \$115,000 spent on property improvements including the Healthy Homes Programme.
17. Accessible Properties have received resource consent for the development of 12 new units in Sullivan Crescent, Claudelands. Construction is expected to begin mid-2025. Six of the units will be one bedroom, and six will be two bedrooms units. All units will be fully accessible to Lifemark 4-star standard.
18. Accessible Properties have been working on growing the social networks and support for residents. The following initiatives have been worked on over 2024:
  - i. Te Wahi Coffee Cart sessions at various complexes each month over spring and summer
  - ii. Conducted an annual tenant satisfaction survey
  - iii. Hosted a winter vegetable garden competition
  - iv. Staff met with external agencies to strengthen their relationships across the sector



- v. Investigated community safety initiatives with community policing team resulting in the intention to conduct a health and safety assessment.

### **Financial Considerations - *Whaiwhakaaro Puutea***

- 19. There are no financial implications to the Council in relation to this report

### **Legal and Policy Considerations - *Whaiwhakaaro-aa-ture***

- 20. Staff confirm that this report complies with the Council's legal and policy requirements.

### **Climate Change Impact Statement**

- 21. Staff have assessed this report against the Climate Change Policy for both emissions and climate change adaptation. Staff have determined no adaptation or emissions assessment is required.

### **Wellbeing Considerations - *Whaiwhakaaro-aa-oranga tonutanga***

- 22. The purpose of Local Government changed on the 14 May 2019 to include promotion of the social, economic, environmental and cultural wellbeing of communities in the present and for the future ('the 4 wellbeings').
- 23. The subject matter of this report has been evaluated in terms of the 4 wellbeings during the process of developing this report as outlined below.
- 24. The recommendations set out in this report are consistent with that purpose.

#### **Social**

- 25. Accessible Properties is New Zealand's largest non-government registered and accredited community housing provider. They operate nationwide, managing more than 2,777 properties around the country. Accessible Properties manage 376 properties in Hamilton.
- 26. They are a social and disability housing provider committed to providing housing that meets tenants' needs and tenancy services that support long-term successful inclusive living in a community.
- 27. Accessible Properties aim to help tenants feel settled in their homes and more connected with their community. Tenancy Managers work in the communities in which properties are located, to help tenants and their families' access services, and have opportunities to be included and participate in the communities in which they live.
- 28. Accessible Properties engage with tenants as appropriate to ensure they can access support services such as budgeting and financial assistance, employment support, mental health and disability services.

#### **Economic**

- 29. Rental charges are considered on a cost recovery basis and when rent is reviewed, any increases are capped having regard to affordability and benchmarking against the lower quartile of the market rental index for similar local properties.
- 30. Accessible Properties are focused on achieving positive outcomes for tenants, which goes beyond the interests of a private landlord or property investor. Accessible Properties acknowledge that for many people they provide economic wellbeing in the form of a warm, dry, secure home that enables people to stabilise this aspect of their lives and build a platform for their future.

### **Environmental**

- 30. Accessible Properties ensure that the quality of the homes they provide are fit for purpose, warm, dry, safe, secure and in a well-functioning community. This is fundamental to people's wellbeing and their life choices.
- 31. They build and modify homes for an aging population, people with disabilities and can accommodate changing housing needs in an environmentally considered fashion.

### **Cultural**

- 32. The Accessible Properties housing complexes within Hamilton are designed and managed in a way that allows residents to retain and share their values, customs and identities.
- 33. Currently there are approximately 20 different ethnicities among the people residing in their Hamilton units.

### **Risks - *Tuuraru***

- 34. There are no known risks associated with the decisions sought by this report.

### **Significance & Engagement Policy - *Kaupapa here whakahira/anganui***

- 35. Staff have considered the key considerations under the Significance and Engagement Policy and have assessed that the matter(s) in this report has/have a low level of significance.
- 36. Given the low level of significance determined, the engagement level is low. No engagement is required.

### **Attachments - *Ngaa taapirihanga***

Attachment 1 - Accessible Properties Report January-June 2024

Attachment 2 - Accessible Properties Report July-December 2024

## Accessible Properties Six-Monthly Report for Hamilton City Council

1<sup>st</sup> January 2024 – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2024

- a) The number of units occupied during the period:
  - As at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2024, all units were occupied
- b) How many units are still occupied by current tenants, and how many utilized for Social Housing Purposes.
  - As of 30<sup>th</sup> June 2024, 75 grand-parented tenants remain.
  - Between Jan – June 2024, six original tenants vacated.
- c) The rental paid for each unit during the period
  - The average rent across the portfolio for a one-bedroom unit is \$263 a week for a one-bedroom unit
- d) Any rent increases made during the period. And the basis 'upon which such rent increases were calculated.
  - There were no changes to rents during the January to June 2024 period. There is a rent increased schedule for November 2024.
- e) The maintenance spend on the land during the period.
  - For the period 1 January 2024 to 30 June 2024, the total maintenance spend was \$863,771. This including \$51,383 spend on the Healthy Homes Programme.
- f) Such other information:

### Tenant Engagement

We continued our “To Wāhi – Your Place” tenant engagement sessions in 2024 with a large turn out at our Comries Road/Chequers Avenue morning tea on 14<sup>th</sup> February and at 24 Gibson Road on 20<sup>th</sup> March. Our elderly tenants have appreciated the positive experience (and meeting staff outside of their Tenancy Relationship Manager) in their own ‘backyard’ and of course the complimentary coffee. We paused these sessions after March in acknowledgement of the cooler months approaching and will re-start again in September.

By engaging in informal conversations, we have uncovered specific needs, preferences and general feedback that otherwise may have been missed. Building relationships with community services and providers is now underway to ensure our tenants have access to valuable resources and opportunities.

With additional resource in the Inclusive Communities team, we are now able to spend more time in Hamilton, building on and nurturing what we have started creating with tenants and community stakeholder relationships.



### **Healthy Homes Programme**

The Healthy Homes Programme for Hamilton Pensioner Housing properties have been completed at the end of June 2024.

### **Development**

Accessible Properties now has Resource Consent approval for the Sullivan Crescent complex in Claudelands and currently working through pricing with contractors with construction expected to start approximately mid-2025. This project will deliver an additional 12 new units, being 6 x 1 and 6 x 2 bedroom, with all units to be fully accessible and to a Lifemark 4-star standard.



## Accessible Properties

### Six-Monthly Report for Hamilton City Council

1<sup>st</sup> July 2024 – 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024

a) The number of units occupied during the period:

- On 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024 there were three vacant units.
- Between July and December 2024 there were 26 new tenancies started.

b) How many units are still occupied by current tenants, and how many are utilised for Social Housing Purposes:

- On 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024 73 grand parented tenants remained.
- Between July and December 2024 two original tenants vacated.
- 75 tenancies receive Income Related Rent Subsidies.

c) The rental paid for each unit during the period

The average rent across the portfolio is \$280.18 per week for a one-bedroom unit.

d) Any rent increases made during the period. And the basis 'upon which such rent increases were calculated.

In November 2024, rents across the Hamilton pensioner portfolio increased by an average of 7.5%.

Rental assessments are based on alignment with MBIE's "lower quartile market rental" or a minimum of 85% of market rents, as determined by the latest QV rent valuation. However, to acknowledge the vulnerability of pensioner tenants and minimise financial hardship, a rental increase cap of \$20.00 was applied during this period.

We have also made a concerted effort to support and educate Market Renters on financial assistance options available through the Ministry of Social Development, such as the Accommodation Supplement and Temporary Additional Support, ensuring tenants receive their full entitlements.

e) The maintenance spend on the land during the period.

From 1 July 2024 to 31 December 2024, the total maintenance expenditure was \$550,733, comprising:

- \$368,000 on urgent, emergency, and small reactive maintenance jobs.
- \$68,000 on routine maintenance, such as gutter cleaning, heat pump servicing, and house washes.
- \$115,000 on planned property improvement projects, including \$51,383 allocated to the Healthy Homes Programme.

f) Such other information:

## Inclusive Communities Engagement in Hamilton

The Inclusive Communities team has undertaken a range of engagement and connection activities in Hamilton, working closely with both tenant communities and external agencies that provide advice and support as needed.

### Sullivan Crescent Development Engagement

We hosted an engagement session for the Sullivan Crescent development, bringing together existing tenants, the development team, and build partners. This session provided an opportunity to collaborate and allowed tenants to provide input on the project.

Following this session, we distributed a feedback questionnaire to Sullivan Crescent tenants to gather their thoughts on the use of common areas. This initiative, undertaken in collaboration with the development team, ensures that tenant perspectives are considered in future decisions regarding communal spaces. The feedback will help shape the next steps to align the development with tenant needs.

### Community Engagement Initiatives

**Te Wāhi Coffee Cart Sessions:** These sessions resumed in spring, with events held at one complex per month throughout late spring and summer. These informal gatherings provided tenants an opportunity to connect with the team in a relaxed setting.

**Annual Tenant Survey:** Our annual tenant survey saw strong participation from Hamilton tenants. The results were overwhelmingly positive, with a **99% satisfaction rate for property maintenance services and a 98% satisfaction rate for tenancy relationship management services.**

**Winter Vegetable Garden Competition:** We launched our inaugural winter vegetable garden competition across all APL portfolios. A Hamilton tenant was awarded first place, receiving a \$50 Mitre 10 gift card, and was featured in our quarterly newsletter.

**Engagement with External Agencies:** We held a series of meetings with various agencies and community organisations in Hamilton. This included establishing a relationship with local iwi, who will conduct a blessing of the Sullivan Crescent site before construction begins in the first quarter of **2025.**

**Community Safety Initiatives:** We met with the community policing team to discuss areas where police are frequently called upon. In the first quarter of 2025, we will engage an external organisation to conduct a security and health and safety assessment of all Hamilton complexes. Alongside police recommendations, the findings from this review will help us prioritise measures that enhance tenant safety and well-being within their homes.



## Development

### 1 Sullivan Crescent

1 Sullivan Crescent currently comprises 19 homes. Accessible Properties has obtained Resource Consent to construct 12 additional units, consisting of six one-bedroom and six two-bedroom units, along with additional parking. These units are being built to a Lifemark 4-Star standard, with construction targeted for completion by March 2026. Tenanting will commence upon obtaining the Code of Compliance Certificate. Civil works are scheduled to begin in mid to late March.



Area 01

*Artist impression only*  
LAND USE RESOURCE CONSENT FOR TWELVE UNITS  
ON PART LOT 18 DPS 4558  
1 Sullivan Crescent Hamilton / REF:15859



## Resolution to Exclude the Public

### Section 48, Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987

The following motion is submitted for consideration:

That the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely consideration of the public excluded agenda.

The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution follows.

General subject of each matter to be considered	Reasons for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution
C1. Momentum Waikato Proposal	) Good reason to withhold ) information exists under ) Section 7 Local Government ) Official Information and ) Meetings Act 1987	Section 48(1)(a)

This resolution is made in reliance on section 48(1)(a) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest or interests protected by Section 6 or Section 7 of that Act which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public, as follows:

Item C1.	to avoid the unreasonably, likely prejudice to the commercial position of a person who supplied or is the subject of the information	Section 7 (2) (b) (ii)
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