

Notice is hereby given that an ordinary meeting of the Horowhenua District Community Wellbeing Committee will be held on:

Date: Wednesday 22 May 2024
Time: 10:00 am
Meeting Room: Council Chambers
Venue: 126-148 Oxford St
Levin

Community Wellbeing Committee

OPEN AGENDA

MEMBERSHIP

Mayor	His Worship The Mayor Bernie Wanden	
Councillors	Councillor Nina Hori Te Pa	Councillor Clint Grimstone
	Di Rump	Mandy Fryer
	Renée Regal	Patrick Rennell
	Jacqui Moynihan	Sam Fergusson
	Joanne Parker	Tracey White
	Dr Betty-Lou Iwikau	Angela Rainham
	Grant Congdon	Angelina Tuialii
	Amarjit Maxwell	Mike Fletcher
	Reihana Adlam	Mark Cookson
	Neville Heihei	Sheryll Hoera
	Patricia Jacobs	David Jermey
	Paul McMillan	Amber Moffitt
	Maria McKenzie	Yumiko Olliver
	Beth Purcell	Scott Harvey
	Tyrone Kemp	Brianna Tekii
	Kylie Turuwhehua-Tapsell	Kate Aldsworth

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Horowhenua District Council Service Centre, 126 Oxford Street, Levin

Note: The reports contained within this agenda are for consideration and should not be construed as Council policy unless and until adopted. Should Members require further information relating to any reports, please contact the Chief Executive Officer or the Chairperson.

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Karakia

Whakataka te hau ki te uru	Cease the winds from the west
Whakataka te hau ki te tonga	Cease the winds from the south
Kia mākinakina ki uta	Let the breeze blow over the land
Kia mātaratara ki tai	Let the breeze blow over the ocean
E hī ake ana te atakura	Let the red-tipped dawn come with a sharpened air.
He tio, he huka, he hau hū	A touch of frost, a promise of a glorious day.
Tīhei mauri ora!	

1 Apologies

2 Public Participation

Notification of a request to speak is required by 12 noon on the day before the meeting by phoning 06 366 0999 or emailing public.participation@horowhenua.govt.nz.

3 Late Items

To consider, and if thought fit, to pass a resolution to permit the Council to consider any further items which do not appear on the Agenda of this meeting and/or the meeting to be held with the public excluded.

Such resolution is required to be made pursuant to Section 46A(7) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, and the Chairperson must advise:

- (i) The reason why the item was not on the Agenda, and
- (ii) The reason why the discussion of this item cannot be delayed until a subsequent meeting.

4 Declarations of Interest

Members are reminded of their obligation to declare any conflicts of interest they might have in respect of the items on this Agenda.

5 Confirmation of Minutes

5.1 Meeting minutes Community Wellbeing Committee, 27 March 2024

Recommendations

That the meeting minutes of Community Wellbeing Committee, 27 March 2024 be accepted as a true and correct record.

File No.: 24/314

7.1 Community Wellbeing Committee Network Report

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To give an update and overview of the activities and actions undertaken by the current Wellbeing Network Committees.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That Report 24/314 Community Wellbeing Committee Network Report be received.
- 2.2 That this matter or decision is recognised as not significant in terms of S76 of the Local Government Act.

3. Our Committees

Horowhenua Youth Services Network

- 3.1 The Horowhenua Youth Services Network has not met since the last Community Wellbeing Report, as they do not meet during the school holidays.
- 3.2 However, two initiatives that were born out of the Network have taken place. They are:
- Mau Rākau – Traditional Māori Martial Arts. Started on 4 May 2024 with over 25 registrations from students between 12-18 years old. The training runs for 10 weeks at the Village Green and Levin Memorial Hall and is being led by well-known Mau Rākau trainer Karanama Peita.
 - Building an Awesome Whānau with Pio Terei. This session was about the opportunity parents have to enhance the mana of their whānau and strengthen relationships. Held at Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō, with child care provided and a sausage sizzle to encourage attendance.

Horowhenua Older Person's Network

- 3.3 An Older Person's Network meeting was held on 28 March 2024. The following points were discussed:
- Grey Power is collating a database of all services that are available to older persons. This will be distributed to the other groups so it can be used to share information with the community.
 - Discussion about the importance of knowing your neighbours for safety. An opportunity to do some placemaking so neighbours can get to know each other.
 - Collecting our local group's pamphlets and flyers for the library to showcase what support and services are available in the community.
 - Muaūpoko Tribal Authority is going out into the community with hauora services including pop up clinics in spaces that are harder for people to access e.g. Hokio Beach.

Horowhenua Access and Inclusion Network

- 3.4 The Access and Inclusion Network has met twice since the last Community Wellbeing Report.
- 3.5 From the meeting held on 26 March 2024, the following updates were provided:
- Companion Card is live in the Horowhenua with three people already registered. We will start promotion this month. Manawatū and Palmerston North City Council are following our lead in using the Smarty Grants program. We are hoping that all three councils will align and become consistent so the Companion Card is accepted across the rohe. We have local businesses that have already come on board, offering the companion free admission or half price.
 - All Terrain Mobility Aids: Aquatics staff has been trained on the booking process and how to fold down the mobility aids. They are available to be booked free of charge through Levin Aquatics.
 - The Network is looking at the priorities for 2024. What is the purpose of the Access and Inclusion network? Engaging people with disabilities and enabling good lives.
- 3.6 From the meeting held 7 May 2024:
- The Government has cut funding for people with disabilities and their supporters. We discussed what implications this could have for people in our community.
 - Connectors are self-employed and need to learn what is required to ensure they remain in business. We are looking at running workshops to help them with contracts, IRD etc.
 - While the Network is still looking at their priorities, it is clear that they are here to support people with disabilities. The name Access and Inclusion doesn't feel like it encompasses what they are here for, therefore, a variety of names have been put forward for consultation.
 - Lael Marshall, is a youth member of the Network who wants to create a Youth Group for people with disabilities. There is a small support group helping Lael to make this possible. A fun event is organised for the 23 May, 5.30 – 8pm where people can get together to brainstorm ideas for the group and make pizza.
 - Christina Price is a parent with two children with autism. She is creating a support group for families that live with autism.
 - Erin Bourke is another parent with two children who have autism and other conditions. She has found that there is very little support for children between the age of 5 – 17 with a range of disabilities (not just autism). She is looking at creating a support group for the families/adults to navigate through the different system processes and forms that are required to ensure families get the support they need.

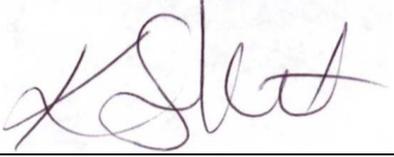
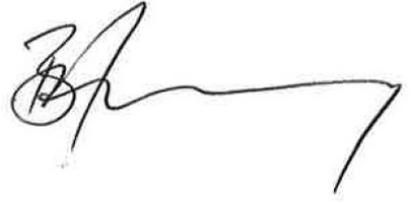
Education Horowhenua

- 3.7 The Education Horowhenua Network has met once since the last Community Wellbeing Report.
- Muaūpoko Tribal Authority shared the surprising answers from rangatahi when they were asked what are the priorities for them – Access to showers, washing machine, dryer and food. They want to look clean when they go to school. There is not always a washing machine at home.
 - Muaūpoko Tribal Authority has a new clinical space which will provide hauora services to the community (the old physio on Oxford street).
 - Community Development Team presented on the Community Wellbeing Strategy priorities and got feedback from the Network.

- Te Tomokanga Programme: supporting children and youth with trauma. Presentation to the Community Wellbeing Committee to seek endorsement and next steps.

4. Attachments

There are no appendices for this report

Author(s)	Kim Stewart Community Development Advisor	
Approved by	Mark Hammond Community Facilities and Services Manager	
	Brent Harvey Group Manager - Community Experience & Services	
	Monique Davidson Chief Executive Officer	

File No.: 24/296

7.2 Outcome from Workshop and Committee Direction

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide final feedback and summary on the direction of the Community Wellbeing Committee following their workshop at their last meeting on 27 March 2024.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That Report 24/296 Outcome from Workshop and Committee Direction be received.
- 2.2 That this matter or decision is recognised as not significant in terms of S76 of the Local Government Act.
- 2.3 That the Committee endorse the proposed Terms of Reference for the Community Wellbeing Committee, as highlighted in this report and request that Council adopt those Terms of Reference.

3. Background / Previous Council Decisions

- 3.1 At their meeting on 13 December 2023, the Community Wellbeing Committee (The Committee) resolved that *“the Committee endorses the Community Wellbeing Committee Suggested Actions listed in this report, and supports the recommended timeframes”*.
- 3.2 One of the actions listed in that report was to work with the Committee to understand the priorities, including the work programme that aligns with Council Long Term Plan and also each agency’s area of focus. By doing so, meeting content and reports will be consistent and by way of a workshop discussion.
- 3.3 That workshop was held on 27 March during the last Committee meeting and was facilitated by an external facilitator.

4. Discussion

- 4.1 Key themes, ideas and issues raised during the session were as follows:
- The role of the Committee is not in line with the purpose of the Committee.
 - There needs to be some work on clearly identifying the vision of the Committee and ensuring that the vision allows for some tangible outcomes.
 - Members of the Committee are keen to share information but need to understand what information is important to assist both the Committee and Council in their decision making that can have a valuable impact on the community.
 - Clarifying the logistics of the Committee to understand how they operate effectively.
- 4.2 There needs to be some work to understand how we are going to receive genuine community feedback on the work of the Committee and Council.
- 4.3 A need to receive reporting at each meeting to fully understand what Council is doing that contributes to enabling positive community wellbeing outcomes.

- 4.4 The idea of a community wellbeing dashboard that brings together all of the up to date statistics and data pertaining to community wellbeing to help inform decision making and focus areas.
- 4.5 Creating an environment at the table that allows for members to want to speak about their mahi rather than forcing conversation. Members participate and contribute their ideas and feedback freely.
- 4.6 Officers have reviewed the discussion items above and are able to provide some further analysis to the Committee, allowing for greater understanding and to assist them with their decision making:
 - It is the intention of this report and workflow, to help realign the Committee's purpose with the role that it plays within the Council Committee framework. Work has already happened and by the Committee supporting the content of this report, will assist in that alignment.
 - What information members brings to the Committee table requires more work and is something that can be discussed as part of this paper discussion. Council welcome any information from members and agencies that will assist in understanding key trends and issues. Essentially, during Committee meetings, any information that seems relevant to helping the wider Committee understand what people are hearing, seeing and doing, is helpful. This also assists in the area of working better together.
- 4.7 In the past the Committee has fluctuated in attendance. Part of the reason why is due to the lack of purpose and direction, of which this report and work programme works towards addressing. Officers now have a robust process in place to ensure that members are well aware of scheduled meetings and now have a process to ensure that correct membership is maintained and monitored, making sure we have the right people around the Committee table. Additionally, for future meetings, a digital link will be provided to allow for remote participation by members.
- 4.8 The need for genuine feedback from the Community is crucial to ensure that the Committee is responding to the most up to date information. By expanding the representation model to allow for Community Networks to sit at the table, allows for grassroots community engagement to be fed up into the Committee which in turn allows for that feedback to be heard at the Council table. Additionally, Officers will ensure that any information and/or feedback that they are aware of, is shared with the Committee at their meeting through the Community Network report that is tabled at each meeting.
- 4.9 Likewise to the above, Officers will, moving forward be able to inform the Committee on work that the Council is doing through the Community Wellbeing Strategy Monitoring Report. This will be an opportunity for Officers to advise the Committee on key pieces of work that Council is or will be undertaking, identifying any areas of partnership and collaboration.
- 4.10 Officers are currently in the process of designing and understanding what a Community Wellbeing Dashboard could look like for Horowhenua. This dashboard will highlight six key areas such as education attendance, social welfare stats, displaced people as only a few examples. It is the intention of Officers to have this in place for the next Committee meeting.
- 4.11 Whilst formal, the Committee is encouraged to raise any ideas, issues, good news or concerns at each Committee meeting when appropriate. Through the Chair, dialogue will continue to be encouraged and facilitated and each member is expected to attend the meeting willing to provide some high level updates or feedback that is in line with the terms of reference for the Committee.
- 4.12 Part of the purpose of the workshop was to update the terms of reference (TOR) for the Committee. There was general consensus from members that the TOR could be reduced, making it more concise, specific and deliverable. This motion was supported by the facilitator.

- 4.13 It is proposed that the 'Area of Focus' that accompanies the TOR would read "The Community Wellbeing Committee oversees the Community Wellbeing Strategy's progress, receiving reports and advising the Council on priority areas. They monitor community wellbeing data, receive feedback from Community Network Groups, and provide strategic advice to the Council. They also seek agency alignment to enhance existing work programs".
- 4.14 Council Officers have reviewed the feedback from the workshop session and are proposing the following TOR for the Committee. The draft TOR document is attached to this report and shows by way of tracked changes, the proposed amendments.
- 4.15 **Terms of Reference:**
- Actively monitor, receive and review reports including:
 - Specific statistics and data associated with community wellbeing provided by Committee Members to inform and support our areas of focus in the form of a regular community wellbeing dashboard.
 - Council's Monitoring Report on actions taken under its Community Wellbeing Strategy and its associated Action Plan.
 - Other Reports from Council that consider community wellbeing and community development needs, data and issues.
 - Reports from Community Network Groups, taking into consideration ideas or opportunities that could enhance general community wellbeing for Horowhenua.
 - Provide expert strategic advice when necessary to Council on matters pertaining to community wellbeing, influencing public policy.
 - Proactively build member relationships to enhance agency alignment, empowering the Committee to partner on work programming to optimise the work already underway.
 - Share information freely between organisations and communicate Community Wellbeing Committee initiatives widely – both within member organisations and to the wider public - to increase the chance of programme success.

Community Wellbeing

- 4.16 The entirety of the paper allows for enabling the Community Wellbeing Committee to consider how they can operate and in turn enhance community wellbeing.

5. Consultation

- 5.1 No consultation is required on this matter.

6. Legal Considerations

- 6.1 There are no legal considerations on this matter

7. Financial Considerations

- 7.1 There are no financial considerations on this matter as any changes in approach is allowed for in existing operational budgets.

8. Iwi Considerations

- 8.1 Our iwi and hapū partners perform an important role within the structure of the Community Wellbeing Committee. They bring a voice that is critical, alongside other members and agencies at the table. To date, their involvement in the Committee has assisted the

Committee in their decision making. Iwi and hapū are invited to attend each meeting and have representation on the Committee.

9. Climate Change Considerations

9.1 There are no climate change considerations.

10. Environmental Considerations

10.1 There are no environmental considerations.

11. Health & Safety Considerations

11.1 There are no health and safety considerations.

12. Other Considerations

12.1 Council is currently undertaking a refresh of the Community Wellbeing Strategy. The work that is taking place with the Committee has been strategically linked and aligned as both pieces of work compliment one another and strengthens their respective purposes.

13. Next Steps

13.1 Officers will continue to work closely with the Committee on strengthening the Committee's vision and purpose. As each meeting progresses, more progress is being made and feedback received from some members is positive.

13.2 If the Committee supports the proposed TOR, Council will formally adopt them and they will come into effect. The Committee will be informed when that happens.

14. Attachments

No.	Title	Page
A	Draft Terms of Reference - Tracked Changes	15

Author(s)	Mark Hammond Community Facilities and Services Manager	
Approved by	Brent Harvey Group Manager - Community Experience & Services	
	Monique Davidson Chief Executive Officer	

1.1. Community Well-being Committee

COMIUNITY WELL-BEING COMMITTEE	
Elected Members	Up to Three
External Membership	Various
Quorum	An elected member as Chair of the meeting. There is no set quorum for this meeting, other than an elected member as Chair, as it is a non-decision making body.
Meeting Frequency	12 weekly
Reports to	Council

1.1.1. Area of Focus

The Community Wellbeing Committee brings together representatives from Council, government and non-government organisations, and community forums. The Committee will focus on population level results and indicators (rather than specific programme deliverables or client level results) and key action plans.

The Community Wellbeing Committee oversees the Community Wellbeing Strategy's progress, receiving reports and advising the Council on priority areas. They monitor community wellbeing data, receive feedback from Community Network Groups, and provide strategic advice to the Council. They also seek agency alignment to enhance existing work programs

1.1.2. Terms of Reference

The Community Wellbeing Committee will have responsibility to:

1. Oversee the implementation of the Community Wellbeing Strategy and associated wellbeing action plans.
2. Determine the key population level results and indicators for the next 3 years, and monitor those
3. Receive reports from the Community Development Team that summarise target population group activity by Council and Council working groups
4. Receive six monthly reports from all member agencies regarding activity directed at target population groups and provision of data that relates to specified strategy indicators
5. Actively encourage coordination of members and their activities
6. Foster strategic collaborations and partnerships
7. Provide advice to Council officers on matters of community wellbeing in relation to specific target populations
8. Seek to collectively influence relevant public policy
9. Communicate Committee activity and information, to the public
10. Educate the public and community on wellbeing matters
11. Actively seek individual agency performance improvement, as well as "community wide" improvement
12. Encourage community based local solutions to local issues
13. Keep the wider community updated on progress towards the results sought across the Horowhenua District.

1. [Actively monitor, receive and review reports including:](#)

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- [Specific statistics and data associated with community wellbeing provided by Committee Members to inform and support our areas of focus in the form of a regular community wellbeing dashboard.](#)
 - [Council's Monitoring Report on actions taken under its Community Wellbeing Strategy and its associated Action Plan.](#)
 - [Other Reports from Council that consider community wellbeing and community development needs, data and issues.](#)
 - [Reports from Community Network Groups, taking into consideration ideas or opportunities that could enhance general community wellbeing for Horowhenua.](#)
2. [Provide expert strategic advice when necessary to Council on matters pertaining to community wellbeing, influencing public policy.](#)
 3. [Proactively build member relationships to enhance agency alignment, empowering the Committee to partner on work programming to optimise the work already underway.](#)
 4. [Share information freely between organisations and communicate Community Wellbeing Committee initiatives widely – both within member organisations and to the wider public - to increase the chance of programme success.](#)

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File No.: 24/297

7.3 Endorsement of Community Wellbeing Strategy 2024-27

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek the Community Wellbeing Committee's endorsement of the draft Community Wellbeing Strategy 2024-27 prior to it being adopted by Council on 12 June 2024.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That Report Endorsement of Community Wellbeing Strategy 2024-27 be received.
- 2.2 That this matter or decision is recognised as not significant in terms of S76 of the Local Government Act.
- 2.3 The Community Wellbeing Committee acknowledges that the Strategy is in draft form and that some minor changes may be made up until adoption by the Council.
- 2.4 The Community Wellbeing Committee endorses the draft Community Wellbeing Strategy and supports the Council in adopting the Strategy.

OR

- 2.5 The Community Wellbeing Committee does not endorse the draft Community Wellbeing Strategy.

3. Background / Previous Council Decisions

- 3.1 The Community Wellbeing Strategy – Ngā Hapori Kia Kaha (the Strategy) was originally adopted in 2021 and is due to be reviewed this year.
- 3.2 The purpose of the strategy is to help our community thrive together by focusing on real outcomes and collective efforts over the next three years.
- 3.3 Council Officers presented the approach and timeline to the Community Wellbeing Committee at their meeting on 27 March 2024. The Committee during their discussion agreed, to the approach and received the report highlighting the timeframes.
- 3.4 Since the beginning of March 2024, Council Officers have been facilitating progress on refreshing and updating the Strategy. This includes a number of workshops, and meetings which has led to the Strategy to progress to draft form in preparation for adoption.
- 3.5 Additionally, and for the benefit of knowledge for the Committee, Council Officers briefed Councillors at their workshop on 10 April advising them of the process and what key findings had been identified. Councillors during that workshop expressed their satisfaction with the process and were looking forward to receiving the Strategy for discussion and adoption.

4. Discussion

- 4.1 Firstly, it should be noted that the Strategy is currently in draft form although the content of the Strategy is mostly complete. Due to timeframes and set meeting dates, Officers wanted to take the opportunity to present the work completed to date for the Committee to

consider, noting that the majority of the Strategy content is final and ready for endorsement and adoption. Following the endorsement, Council's communications team will take the draft content and transform it into an easy to read Council publication.

- 4.2 The Community Wellbeing Strategy aims to help our community to thrive together by focusing on real outcomes and collective efforts from 2021 to 2024. The existing strategy was requiring a refresh and update to take us through to 2027. As part of the Strategy refresh, Council needed to better understand what our communities are currently facing, essentially needing to know what they're hearing and seeing. Fortunately, Council Officers already had some understanding but we did need a bit of a sense check to understand any changes in what we already knew. This work has been completed over the last couple of months.
- 4.3 Our engagement approach has been two-fold:
- Firstly, to ascertain if the key priority areas are still relevant and what needed changing or amending based on community feedback.
 - Secondly, engaging with our community to hear what they think and if we've got those key priority areas right.
- 4.4 In a bid to better understand the key priority areas, firstly, Council Officers have been proactively engaging with the community and key community partners in a number of ways.
- Workshops with our community network groups
 - Older Persons Network
 - Youth Services Network
 - Access and Inclusion Committee
 - Education Horowhenua
 - Held two workshops internally with Council Staff
 - Used findings from other Council engagements and surveys
 - Examining information and trends from regional discussion forums and groups.
- 4.5 Once the draft priority areas were defined, Council engaged with the community to share those priority areas so that we could receive any feedback and where necessary make changes or amend our approach to the priorities. This was done in the following ways:
- Created an online consultation platform through 'Let's Kōrero' on the Council's website that allowed people to submit including completing a quick poll ranking the priorities.
 - Held drop-in sessions with the community at our Community Facilities (Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō, Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom and Shannon Library).
 - Hosted an online Facebook Live session with Mayor Bernie to talk about the Strategy and answer any questions.
 - Multiple posts on social media about the priorities, encouraging any comments that could contribute to the engagement.
 - Placed an advertisement in the local newspaper illustrating the priorities and promoting some of the above engagement options.
 - Draft strategy provided to iwi and hapū for feedback.
 - Held a Citizen's Panel workshop to get feedback on the priorities and input into the Community Wellbeing action plan.
- 4.6 The general outcome from all of the workshops and engagement conducted is that the priorities set in the current strategy 2021-2024 were still important and relevant. This has

led to them being retained as priority areas. However, we did hear some new areas of importance to the community and feedback that has allowed us to either update existing or add further priorities.

4.7 The proposed key priorities are:

2021-2024 Priorities	2024-2027 Priorities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing • Growth • Health and Wellbeing • Community Safety • Community Belonging 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing • Growth and Transport • Health and Wellbeing • Community Safety • Community Connection • Culture • Sense of Place and Belonging • Environment and Climate Change

4.8 We also heard through the workshops and engagement conducted that the following areas were also top of mind. These have been woven into the Community Wellbeing Strategy to become our secondary priorities:

- Communication and how we connect with our community in a way that is accessible and mana enhancing.
- Emergency Management and being a prepared, resilient community.
- Better collective partnership between our community and agencies and services.
- Community-led development and engagement.
- Access to kai through community-led initiatives.

4.9 On top of all of these priorities, we also heard the significant impact that the cost of living is having on the wellbeing of our community. Given this significance, we have ensured that this is an overarching priority and has been considered in all aspects of the Strategy.

4.10 Alongside the Strategy, there will be an action plan comprising key activities, events, programmes and stakeholder engagements aimed at contributing to the success of the Strategy and enhancing overall community wellbeing. Quarterly reports tracking progress against the Community Wellbeing Plan will be presented at the Community Wellbeing Committee Meetings. The Action Plan, at the time of writing this report is still under development. It is the intention of Officers to present the draft Action Plan to the Committee during their meeting.

4.11 A Community Wellbeing Dashboard presenting data, analysis and tracking of the key priorities will also be provided on a quarterly basis to the Community Wellbeing Committee as well a Community Wellbeing Network Report.

5. Options

5.1 The options being put to the Community Wellbeing Committee are:

5.2 The Community Wellbeing Committee endorses the draft Community Wellbeing Strategy and supports the Council in adopting the Strategy.

OR

5.3 The Community Wellbeing Committee does not endorse the draft Community Wellbeing Strategy.

Cost

- 5.4 The cost of implementing the Community Wellbeing Strategy and its associated action plan is low. This is because the majority of the activities, events, programmes and stakeholder engagements that will contribute to the success of the Strategy and overall community wellbeing are part of our regular operations or existing initiatives already budgeted for.

Rate Impact

- 5.5 There will be no rate impacts arising.

Community Wellbeing

- 5.6 The aim of the Community Wellbeing Strategy is to have a positive impact on the overall health, happiness and prosperity of our community. By endorsing the draft Strategy, the Committee will be supporting a work programme that will enhance community wellbeing for Horowhenua.

6. Consultation

- 6.1 Ensuring that the community have had the ability to feed into this process, has been at the forefront of the refresh of the Strategy. Given the significance of this Strategy and the role it will play in community wellbeing and development, community input has been essential.
- 6.2 Therefore, as mentioned in the discussion section of this report, extensive engagement has taken place with the community where Council has sought the views of the community. In particular, in relation to the key priority areas.
- 6.3 From a process stand-point and to support the adoption of the Strategy by Council in June, Officers are seeking the endorsement of the draft Community Wellbeing Strategy by the Community Wellbeing Committee.

7. Legal Considerations

- 7.1 There are no Legal Requirements or Statutory Obligations affecting options or proposals.

8. Financial Considerations

- 8.1 There is no financial impact.

9. Iwi Considerations

- 9.1 Council's iwi and hapū partners have been provided with the opportunity to feedback on the draft Strategy and key priorities and we continue to liaise with them.
- 9.2 Given other external pressures that are being imposed on our iwi and hapū partners, they have been required to prioritise other pieces of work, which is why we'll continue to liaise up until the adoption of the Strategy and listen to any feedback and suggestions.

10. Climate Change Considerations

- 10.1 Environment and Climate Change has been identified as a key priority area of the Strategy.
- 10.2 The rationale for the inclusion of this was following feedback mainly received by young people around the importance of protecting our natural environment with the idea that if we look after our spaces, we can enjoy them for many years to come.
- 10.3 There was also the notion that our natural spaces and places, allow for recreation, play and sport which in turn can enhance individual wellbeing and collective community wellbeing.

10.4 Activities and actions for this key priority area within the Strategy will be aligned with Horowhenua's Climate Action Plan.

11. Environmental Considerations

11.1 There are no additional environment considerations, other than what has been stated above under climate change considerations.

12. Health & Safety Considerations

12.1 There is no Health and Safety considerations.

13. Other Considerations

13.1 There are no other considerations.

14. Next Steps

14.1 If the Community Wellbeing Committee gives its endorsement of the Community Wellbeing Strategy, the next steps are as follows:

- Seek adoption of Community Wellbeing Strategy by Council on 12 June 2024.
- Final changes, such as editorial changes are made to the Strategy.
- Strategy is uploaded online and the community is informed by 30 June 2024.

14.2 If the Community Wellbeing Committee does not endorse the Community Wellbeing Strategy, it is expected that the outlined steps would still proceed. However, Council may be somewhat reluctant in adopting the Strategy.

Confirmation of statutory compliance

In accordance with section 76 of the Local Government Act 2002, this report is approved as:

- a. containing sufficient information about the options and their advantages and disadvantages, bearing in mind the significance of the decisions; and,
- b. is based on adequate knowledge about, and adequate consideration of, the views and preferences of affected and interested parties bearing in mind the significance of the decision.

15. Attachments

No.	Title	Page
A↓	Draft - Community Wellbeing Strategy 2024-2027	23

Author(s)	Mark Hammond Community Facilities and Services Manager	
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Approved by	Brent Harvey Group Manager - Community Experience & Services	
	Monique Davidson Chief Executive Officer	



Horowhenua District Council

Strong Communities

[Te reo Māori Translation]

2024 – 2027

DRAFT

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Foreword from the Mayor

Draft. To be finalised by Mayor Bernie.

Kia ora koutou,

As Mayor of Horowhenua and this incredible community, I am proud to introduce this strategy document focussed on one of the most crucial aspects to our people's success: community wellbeing.

In the Horowhenua, we understand that community wellbeing is not just the responsibility of a select few; it is a collective effort that requires the active participation and commitment of each and every one of us. It truly takes a village to nurture and sustain the health, happiness, and success of our community.

We recognise that our community faces its share of challenges, especially in times of economic uncertainty. Yet, it is during these trying times that our collective strength and resilience shine the brightest. By working together in partnership, we can weather any storm and emerge stronger than ever before.

It's important to emphasise that this strategy is not just a document to be shelved and forgotten. Instead, it serves as a roadmap for action. Every function within our council has a role to play in championing community wellbeing. We are committed to monitoring and reporting our progress against the Community Wellbeing Strategy, ensuring transparency and accountability in our efforts, which you will be able to see throughout this document.

Monitoring our progress is the Community Wellbeing Committee, a group made up of people from diverse sectors of our community. This Committee serves as a central point for collaboration and partnership, ensuring that every perspective is heard and valued. Alongside the refresh of this strategy, so too was a strategic refresh of our Community Wellbeing Committee, strengthening their connection to collective work that we're all working towards achieving. These two pieces of work, happening alongside one another, only strengthen what we're trying to achieve when it comes to community wellbeing.

As a member of our community, your voice matters too, and through your interactions with our community groups and social sector agencies, your participation in events, visits to our community spaces, comments on social media and direct feedback; you shape the direction of our efforts to enhance community wellbeing.

Ultimately, our goal is simple yet significant: to create a community where every individual feels a sense of belonging in a community that is safe, vibrant, inclusive, and connected. Let's work together to create a community where everyone's wellbeing is a priority, with no one left behind.

He waka eke noa; we are all in this together.

Mayor Bernie Wanden

Community Wellbeing Vision

Vision

Horowhenua is a safe, vibrant, inclusive and connected community.

We unite people, partnerships, and place, leveraging our collective experience and skills to foster unity and enhance the wellbeing of our entire community.

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Introduction

Welcome to the Community Wellbeing Strategy! From 2024 to 2027, we're continuing our journey to shape a brighter future together.

The Strong Communities [*te reo Māori translation*], Community Wellbeing Strategy was originally adopted by Horowhenua District Council in 2021. This version of the strategy underwent a refresh in 2024 as we checked in with the community to ensure the priorities were still relevant and understand what needed changing. This strategy is a four-year approach to how we work when it comes to community wellbeing.

It's clear that health, happiness, and wellbeing have a big impact on our quality of life. But what does wellbeing look like at a community-level, and how do we measure it?

Community wellbeing refers to the overall health, happiness, and prosperity of a community as a whole. It encompasses key measures such as physical health, mental health, social connectedness, economic opportunity, environmental sustainability, and cultural vitality. Community wellbeing emphasises the quality of life and satisfaction experienced by individuals within a community, as well as the collective welfare and resilience of the community itself. It involves creating supportive environments, fostering social cohesion, addressing inequities, and promoting inclusive development to enhance the overall wellbeing of all community members.

Research shows that strong networks and relationships within neighbourhoods play a vital role in community wellbeing and resilience which is why you'll read about the importance of sense of place and belonging within our community, for every person. Horowhenua as a collective is committed to building such a community—one with the social infrastructure to overcome challenges and make the most of opportunities. Together, we're creating a place where everyone has the chance to thrive.

But it's not just about good intentions. Achieving the best outcomes requires collaboration. Our goal is to cultivate collective impact, ensuring that we bring together diverse stakeholders from various sectors to achieve a shared vision. Local and central government; iwi and hapū; and community organisations must work hand in hand to tackle local issues together. This collaboration will empower us to face challenges head-on, both now and in the future.

In the following pages, we'll explore the various aspects of our Community Wellbeing Strategy, outlining specific actions and initiatives to bring our shared vision to life. We invite every member of our community to join us on this journey—to lend your voices, expertise, and passion toward building a healthier, happier, and more resilient community for generations to come.

Horowhenua District Council documents that contribute to this plan

The implementation of this strategy is guided by the following council documents, strategies and policies:

- ❖ Plan on a Page
- ❖ Horowhenua 2040 Blueprint
- ❖ Community Plans
- ❖ Housing Action Plan
- ❖ Operative District Plan
- ❖ Horowhenua Growth Strategy 2040
- ❖ Tara-Ika Master Plan
- ❖ Horowhenua Shared Pathways Plan
- ❖ Smokefree & Vapefree Environment Policy
- ❖ Sun Protection Environment Policy
- ❖ Open Space Strategy
- ❖ Levin Town Centre Strategy
- ❖ Age Friendly Communities Strategy
- ❖ Significant and Engagement Policy
- ❖ Long Term Plan: 2021-2041
- ❖ Climate Action Plan

The Role of Horowhenua District Council in Community Wellbeing

Horowhenua District Council plays a crucial role in promoting community wellbeing as mandated by the Local Government (Community Wellbeing) Amendment Act. Enacted in May 2019, this legislation reinstated the importance of four key aspects of wellbeing: social, economic, environmental, and cultural, within the statutory purpose of local government. It is a legal requirement for Councils to have a Wellbeing Strategy in place.

That said, the role of the Council is to serve its people and communities. Therefore, before considering any legislative requirements, Horowhenua District Council appreciates the importance of community development and wellbeing because of the strong connection to its core functions and activities. This is why we're adamant that this strategy isn't a road map for a community development department, but for all activities across the whole of Council.

Understanding the Act

The act empowers local authorities to prioritise community wellbeing through their planning and decision-making processes, guided by community consultation. The four wellbeing areas are:

❖ Social

Involves individuals, their families, whānau, iwi, hapū, and a range of communities being able to set goals and achieve them. These goals include education, health, the strength of community networks, financial and personal security, equity of opportunity, and rights and freedoms.

❖ Economic

Looks at whether the economy can generate the employment and wealth necessary to provide many of the requirements that make for social wellbeing, such as health, financial security, and equity of opportunity.

❖ Environmental

Considers whether the natural environment can sustainably support the activities that constitute healthy community life, such as air quality, fresh water, uncontaminated land, and control of pollution.

❖ Cultural

Looks at the shared beliefs, values, customs, behaviours and identities reflected through language, stories, visual and performing arts, ceremonies and heritage that make up our communities.

How is Horowhenua District Council contributing to this act?

Horowhenua District Council is actively contributing to the objectives outlined in the Local Government (Community Wellbeing) Amendment Act through a range of initiatives. Here's how we're making it happen:

❖ **Development of Community Wellbeing Strategy**

Our Community Wellbeing Strategy addresses all four dimensions of wellbeing: social, economic, environmental, and cultural. This strategy will serve as a roadmap in informing our decisions and actions to promote community wellbeing across the whole of council.

❖ **Community Engagement**

Council is committed to engaging its community and stakeholders in a meaningful way and follows the principles set out in Section 14 of the Local Government Act (Appendix Three). It acknowledges that 'communities' may be 'communities of place' or 'communities of issue' and will use appropriate tools and techniques to enable meaningful and timely connections that encourage feedback and participation in council processes.

Our aim is to engage with our community to understand their needs, priorities, and aspirations. We aspire to inform, consult, involve, collaborate, and empower. Depending on the significance of the decision or activity, our approach could include formal submissions and hearings, consultations, workshops, public meetings, roadshows, focus groups, committees, citizen's panels, surveys and polls, information via social media, media releases, public notices, and advertisements, as well as collaborating with local stakeholders to gather valuable input and feedback.

The Significance and Engagement Policy outlines Council's general approach to determining the significance of proposals and decisions. It sets out how council will engage the community in its decision-making relative to the significance of the decision.

❖ **Investment in Social Services**

The Council invests in social services through a multitude of avenues, including direct financial investment and funding, facilitating networking opportunities to address common goals and initiatives, supporting community-led development, organising events and expos in collaboration with iwi, hapū, social service partners, and the community, and collaborating with central government to deliver social services.

Some of these activities include:

- **Community Networks and Steering Groups:** Community representatives attend regular meetings focusing on areas such as Access and Inclusion, Education Horowhenua, Older Persons, Youth Services, Youth Voice, and Horowhenua Former Refugee Support Committee.
- **Council Contracted Services:** Funding for community organisations providing safety services within the rohe.
- **Capacity Building Programme:** Training and development opportunities are provided for the community to enhance their skills and capabilities.
- **Grants and Funding Programme:** Funds are allocated to individuals, community groups, and organisations to support their projects, programs, events, and ideas.
- **Mayor's Taskforce for Jobs Programme:** This initiative involves working with rangatahi to support them to find an employment opportunity that suits their interests and skills. We provide opportunities for training and work experience to help them build confidence. Additionally, support is provided to local employers to help them find workers who meet their business needs.
- **Events** such as the Hauora Expo, Age on the Go, Future Pathways, and Grants and Funding Drop-in Sessions are among those facilitated by the Council.

❖ **Economic Development Initiatives**

The *Horowhenua 2040 Blueprint*, details 12 action areas Council is committed to improving, with liveability and prosperity at the core of the work.

These actions encompass various aspects, including enabling more affordable housing choices, supporting and facilitating iwi aspirations, securing jobs in key sectors, enhancing the district's identity to attract more visitors, fostering and promoting a vibrant food culture, and keeping the district moving.

To bolster the Council's efforts in achieving better economic wellbeing outcomes, The Horowhenua Company is contracted to provide economic development services, including:

- Organising networking and learning events for businesses, enterprise, NGOs and community leaders.
- Sourcing and analysing independent data and information to assist Horowhenua District Council in making well-informed decisions on matters crucial to our communities.
- Collaborating with local and out of town enterprises to capitalise on new opportunities for Horowhenua.
- Partnering with local, regional, and national organisations to enhance economic wellbeing outcomes.

❖ **Environmental Sustainability**

Council's commitment to a thriving environment is weaved throughout our decision-making process. Enabling a sustainable environment ensures our efforts preserve and protect our natural environment. This is achieved through a variety of partnerships and strategic initiatives. These include management of our communities' three waters, education around waste minimisation and pollution, and promoting sustainable land use through the District Plan. Ensuring our community have access to a thriving environment and all its benefits, fosters an ongoing relationship in which the resources of future generations are protected.

A key component of our strategy includes the Enviroschools Programme, which teaches tamariki about different environmental topics. This hands-on approach encourages young people to take active roles in shaping their environment, highlighting the direct link between sustainable practices and enhanced community wellbeing.

Additionally, our council promotes and enhances waste minimisation. Council officers are committed to providing resources and educating the community about the benefits of waste minimisation. By understanding and reducing individual environmental impact, we can protect our surroundings and, in turn, achieve community wellbeing.

Council is equally committed to sustainable water usage, demonstrated by the rollout of water meters across the district. Embracing the ethos of "He Taonga te Wai" (water is precious), this project aims to prevent wastage through leaks and encourages the efficient use of our water. By managing water consumption carefully, we reduce the strain on our natural environment, ensuring that water remains a treasured and sustainable resource for all.

❖ **Culture, Preservation and Promotion**

Horowhenua District Council acknowledges the significant role and special position of Tangata Whenua and Mana Whenua within the region.

Memorandum of Partnerships are increasingly vital as the Council seeks closer and meaningful working relationships with Māori, ensuring meaningful consultation on a wide array of issues impacting both parties' areas of governance.

Māori perspectives of Kaitiakitanga emphasise the close interrelation between people and the environment, sharing a strong interest with us in preserving, protecting, restoring and sustaining the environment while fostering an economic future of the area for generations to come.

In its decision-making processes, the Council upholds the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi (The Treaty) and kaitiakitanga, respecting the relationship of Māori and their traditions with their ancestral lands, water sites, waahi tapu, and taonga.

Council acknowledges the importance of cultural wellbeing and actively endeavour to preserve and promote the cultural diversity of our community. This entails supporting and partnering in cultural events and festivals, protecting heritage buildings, recognising Historic Heritage and Sites of Significance, and nurturing cultural diversity and inclusion.

In summary, the Horowhenua District Council is committed to promoting community wellbeing in alignment with the objectives of the Local Government (Community Wellbeing) Amendment Act, while actively enhancing the wellbeing of our community.

Plan on a Page – The Wider Context

Following the 2022 local election, elected members discussed the key issues and opportunities facing Horowhenua District Council and determined the general direction they wish to take Horowhenua.

The Plan on a Page is an important council document that outlines our community outcomes, values and key priorities. It was adopted by Council in February 2023.

Given local context of growth, reform, and change, our current priority is to channel our energy towards the future by tackling difficult issues, enhancing organisational performance, and ultimately shifting the dial on how the communities we serve perceive the value of Horowhenua District Council.

Horowhenua

The Outcomes we want to achieve

- Partnership with Tangata Whenua**: We uphold Te Tiriti o Waitangi and its principles and recognise the role of Mata Whenua as a subset of their role. We support them to maintain and enhance their mana and enhance their ancestral lands, languages, wāhi tapu and other taonga, and build mutually respectful partnerships with tangata whenua, supporting whānau, hapū and iwi in achieving their aspirations.
- Environment**: We contribute to improving our natural environment for current and future generations to enjoy, and protect the important natural features in our district. We ensure our built environment supports the wellbeing of our people and manage competing pressures on resources sustainably.
- Fit for Purpose Infrastructure**: We provide efficient, reliable and affordable infrastructure, developing and maintaining facilities and infrastructure to meet the needs of current and future generations. Our community facilities and infrastructure are resilient, helping us to respond to climate change and natural hazards, working with partners to develop infrastructure that enables growth.
- Economy**: We are business friendly, supporting diversity and resilience in our local economy and work with others to make our economy grow. We aspire for economic security for all of our people and seize growth opportunities for our district.
- Strong Communities**: We value the identity of our people, and how our district's heritage shapes our community's sense of identity and pride. We provide infrastructure, services, facilities and places to build resilient and connected communities where people of all ages and backgrounds feel included and safe. We are building collaborative relationships with service providers to enable all people to live positive and healthy lifestyles, encouraging our people to participate in local decision-making.

Our values - what we stand for

- Mahi Tahi**: We are one team, stronger together as we work with and for our community to achieve outcomes that matter.
- #arohatōmahi**: We love our work and know that our work matters. That's why we do what we do with care and energy and enthusiasm across our mahi.
- Manaakitanga**: We put our people first by showing them that they matter. Through it, we enhance their needs and aspirations.
- Tiakitanga**: We proudly and professionally contribute every one to the good of our community and release our courage, passion and mana - leaving a legacy which honours generations to come.

Our top 10 priorities

- Establish affordable housing that meets the needs of a growing population through the implementation of the Housing Action Plan.
- Get the basics right and support the customer focused delivery of core services.
- Achieve the best outcomes for Horowhenua in the face of Three Waters Reform Transition.
- Deliver the capital infrastructure programme, and achieve an increase in the percentage of completed works.
- Deliver on the Levin Teare Centre Transformation strategy.
- Focus our engagement and partnership approach, and work more with and for the community.
- Complete a Base review as part of the Long Term Plan Amendment, to ensure a rating system that's fair and equitable.
- Enable the rebuilding of the Horowhenua District Council organisation, with a focus to empower a culture of excellence, service and continuous improvement.
- Provide advocacy and leadership to Ōtaki to North Levin expressway project.
- Make a decision on the Future of the Levin Landfill and follow through on the review of our WMAP.

Our other areas of focus

- Under take a review of Council policies.
- Under take a review of Council Bylaws.
- Monitor the implementation of Council's recommendations and progress.
- Review and approve Section 17a Reviews, to ensure we are reviewing the way we deliver services.
- Implement zero based budgeting across the organisation.
- Increase resiliency to weather events by dealing with longstanding stormwater issues.
- Develop a Māori Engagement Framework.
- Develop the Horowhenua Blueprint Implementation Plan.
- Continue to foster our community wellbeing networks, preparing ourselves for a new future for Local Government.

Our committee structure - how we work

- Risk and Assurance Committee**: The purpose of the Risk and Assurance Committee is to contribute to improving the governance, performance, and accountability of Horowhenua District Council by ensuring that Council has appropriate financial, health and safety risk management and internal control systems in place. The committee seek responsible assurance as to the integrity and reliability of Council's financial and non-financial reports by providing a communications link between management, Council and the external and internal auditors and ensuring their independence and advocacy.
- Community Funding and Recognition Committee**: The Community Funding and Recognition Committee is responsible for the effective allocation and monitoring of Council's grants. In addition, the committee is responsible for considering applications and making recommendations for Civic, Historical and Youth Excellence Scholarships.
- Community Wellbeing Committee**: The Community Wellbeing Committee brings together representatives from Council, government and non-government organisations, and community forums.
- Chief Executive Employment and Performance Committee**: The Chief Executive Employment and Performance Committee will have responsibility for the effective monitoring of the Chief Executive Officer's performance and for the authority to undertake the annual remuneration review.
- Delivery of Capital Projects Steering Group**: Monitor the delivery of the Capital Projects Programme, and guide scope and direction of the programme achieving an increase of % of works completed.
- Review of District Plan Steering Group**: Monitor the delivery of the District Plan project, and guide scope and direction of the project.
- Rating and Financing Review Taskforce**: Lead and monitor the Rating and Financing Review, as part of the Long Term Plan Amendment and Long Term Plan 2024 - 2034.
- Waste and Landfill Taskforce**: Lead and monitor the development and implementation of the WMAP and Section 17a Review of Solid Waste for Horowhenua.
- Three Waters Transition and Planning Taskforce**: Lead and monitor the transition of Three Waters Assets to the new Water Entity and provide direction to the organisation throughout transition.

Our four pillars

- Your Matter
- Work Matters
- Performance Matters
- Partnership Matters

Horowhenua

He rau ringa e pakari ki nga tauro whiri i a tetou hapori - mai te pae mounga o Tararua ki te moana. With many hands the threads which weave our neighbourhood and communities together will be strengthened from the Tararua ranges to the sea. Growing neighbourhoods and building stronger communities together.

The Plan on a Page serves as a direct link to community wellbeing by prioritising sustainable development, vibrant communities, economic prosperity, and effective governance. Through addressing these key areas, the Council aims to enhance the overall quality of life and wellbeing of community members in Horowhenua.

In particular, the plan underscores its significance by impacting all five outcomes that the Council seeks to achieve: Partnership with Tangata Whenua; Outstanding Environment; Fit for Purpose Infrastructure; Vibrant Economy; and Strong Communities.

Our Community Wellbeing Committee – How we Work

The purpose of the Community Wellbeing Committee is to provide collective leadership, advocacy and holistic outcomes that enable the population of Horowhenua to be well together.

The Community Wellbeing Committee brings together iwi and hapū representatives; community network representatives; key agencies; and community groups, to plan together and collectively monitor impact.

The Community Wellbeing Committee comprises representatives from various sectors within our community, including:

Iwi

- ❖ Muaūpoko
- ❖ Ngāti Raukawa

Community Networks

- ❖ Access and Inclusion
- ❖ Education Horowhenua
- ❖ Older Persons
- ❖ Youth Services
- ❖ Youth Voice (Formerly yEP)

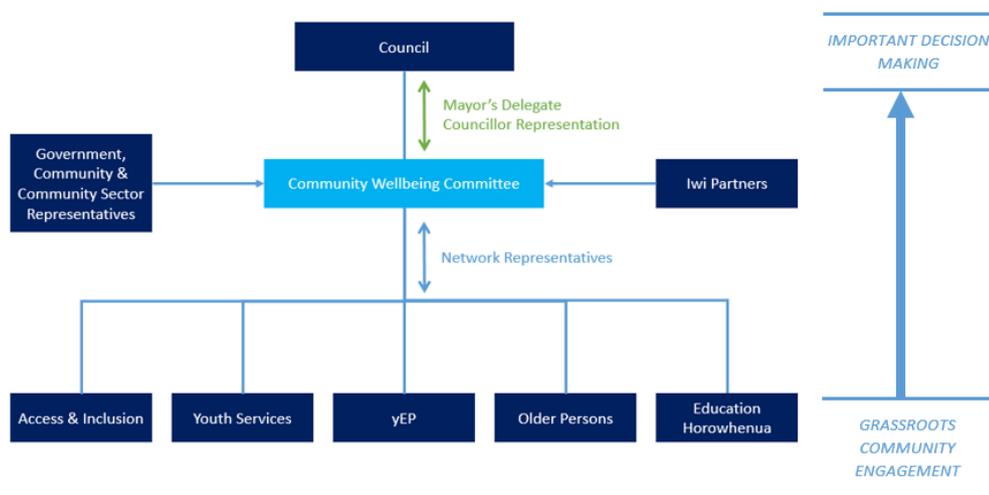
Horowhenua District Council

- ❖ Mayor
- ❖ Councillor (2)

Government and Community Sector Representatives

- ❖ Department of Corrections
- ❖ Department of Internal Affairs
- ❖ Horizons Regional Council
- ❖ Kainga Ora
- ❖ Ministry of Education
- ❖ Ministry for Pacific Peoples
- ❖ Ministry of Social Development (Work and Income)
- ❖ Muaūpoko Whānau Ora
- ❖ Raukawa Whānau Ora
- ❖ New Zealand Police
- ❖ Office of Ethnic Communities
- ❖ Oranga Tamariki
- ❖ Pasifika Health Service
- ❖ Sport Manawatū
- ❖ THINK Hauora
- ❖ Te Whatu Ora / Health NZ

Structure



In 2024, we reviewed the structure of the Community Wellbeing Committee to better channel the community's voice directly to the Council, where key decisions are made. This new setup taps into our vibrant and diverse community networks, where active engagement thrives, bringing grassroots perspectives together – through network representatives, with official input from our iwi and hapū partners, government, and community sector agencies. By integrating these diverse views, ideas and concerns, the Committee ensures they are robustly represented in council decisions—as Councillors and the Mayor are also part of the Committee. Ultimately, this structure makes sure that the voices from our community are not only heard but are a pivotal part of the decision-making process at the Council. We believe this approach is both significant and impactful, making a real difference in how we serve our community and enable what matters for them.

Monitoring and Review

The Community Wellbeing Committee meets quarterly to review and monitor the progress of the Community Wellbeing Strategy and overall community wellbeing. To assist the Committee in doing so, during these meetings, the Committee will receive the following reports:

- ❖ **Community Wellbeing Network Report:** This report outlines the focus and activities of our networks and while prepared by Council Officers, will be presented by a representative of each network. The purpose of this item is to discuss and highlight any of those grassroots issues, ideas or concerns that are present within the community. The report provides the initial step in the process highlighted above to collectively discuss, share and collaborate.
- ❖ **Community Wellbeing Dashboard:** A visual dashboard presenting data, analysis and tracking of our top priority areas. The aim of this item is to enable the Committee to actively monitor any trends that may require the Committee to pivot or realign their focus. It also provides an opportunity for the Committee to identify future priority discussions and presentations that the Committee may wish to hear and see.
- ❖ **Community Wellbeing Strategy Progress Report:** This report highlights the progress made against the Community Wellbeing Action Plan and keeps the Council accountable for the role that it plays when it comes to community wellbeing. Additionally, this report will highlight work happening across all of council business that is contributing to the success of this strategy and overall community wellbeing.

The latter two reports are new reports that have been added to the committee framework following a committee workshop in March 2024 where committee members identified their intentions for the Committee and how they can best respond to the needs of the community.

Our Priority Areas for Community Wellbeing

[IN A SEPARATE BOX] How we got there

Our priority areas for community wellbeing were established by the Community Wellbeing Committee in 2020. During the strategy refresh conducted in 2024, we sense-checked these priorities with our community and we heard that they're still important and relevant which has led them to staying as priority areas. Additionally, we've heard some further ideas and feedback that has allowed us to either update existing or add further priorities.

The Community Wellbeing Strategy priority areas are what our community determines to be significant and critical issues that we need to address as a community. They are the issues that if we can collaboratively tackle, head on, we can work towards enhancing overall community wellbeing. It's a team effort and with the Council playing a leading role, holding the hands of the community, we can all take a step forward in fostering community pride, vibrancy, and vision.

Primarily, one of the biggest challenges in the current climate is the increasing cost of living faced by our community. With the entire country, including Horowhenua, grappling with the effects of a recession, this economic backdrop affects all of our priority areas and has a significant impact on our community. So, while this context isn't a standalone priority area, it remains at the forefront of each of our priority areas and has been considered when we have developed our actions for each of these priority areas.

❖ **Community Safety / manaaki hapori or manawa hapori**

In Horowhenua, enhancing community safety and wellbeing goes beyond physical safety, addressing inequity and providing robust support to overcome socio-economic challenges. Collaborative efforts among government, community organisations, and networks aim to create an inclusive, supportive environment for all.

Safety is paramount for everyone in our community—whether at home or out and about in the community. However, achieving good health and wellbeing requires addressing inequities, exclusion, and disadvantage experienced by individuals, whānau, and communities.

This means ensuring that children and young people receive the necessary support they need to reach their full potential, thus preventing future disadvantage. Socio-economic disparities and substandard living conditions have far-ranging effects, impacting individuals, households, and society as a whole.

Simply putting social systems in place isn't enough. Active support is crucial, equipping individuals and communities with the skills and resources to make positive changes and seize opportunities when they arise.

To truly enhance the health and wellbeing of everyone in Horowhenua, government agencies, community services and community organisations must collaborate to break down barriers, combat discrimination, and provide meaningful opportunities and choices that are accessible. Together, we can create a safer, healthier, and more inclusive community for all.

❖ **Community Connection / whakawhanaungatanga hapori or tūhonotanga hapori**

Community connection in Horowhenua is built on fostering bonds and interactions that promote a sense of belonging, resilience, and social cohesion, which are essential for the community's happiness and quality of life. Through embracing the principles of collective action, social cohesion, and a strong sense of community, the Council actively supports community-led development and collaborative efforts aimed at enhancing wellbeing and inclusivity across the district.

Community connection encompasses the bonds, relationships, and interactions among individuals within a community. It involves people coming together, sharing common interests, values, and goals, and supporting one another.

Fostering community connection is essential for cultivating a sense of belonging, social cohesion, and resilience within a community. Strong community connections contribute to increased happiness, improved quality of life, and a greater sense of collective purpose among the Horowhenua community.

Our three principles outline how we can impact community connection:

❖ **Collective Action**

Community-led development is both an outcome and a way of doing things. It is one way of achieving Horowhenua's community wellbeing vision of Horowhenua being a safe, vibrant, inclusive and connected community.

Council's role is to create conditions that enable community-led development to flourish and enable people and organisations to work collaboratively to achieve common objectives.

Our communities have and will continue to drive projects or advocacy efforts that will contribute to the wellbeing of their neighbourhood.

❖ **Sense of Community**

Promote inclusion, reduce discrimination and remove barriers to opportunity and participation, particularly for disadvantaged groups.

We have an important role to play in promoting equity and fairness, which is crucial for improving the wellbeing of all people in Horowhenua. We remove barriers to participation through free or low-cost community events and activities, and through providing funding to community groups and programmes across the rohe.

Our communities identify with their neighbourhoods, feel connected and support one another.

❖ **Social Cohesion**

Social cohesion involves building shared values and communities that anticipate opportunities, reduce disparities in wealth and income, and generally enable people to have a sense that they are engaged in a common purpose, face shared challenges, and that they are of the same community.

Council's role is to foster and advocate for such opportunities. Our communities have the willingness and capability to collaborate.

❖ **Growth and Transport / tipunga me te kōtahi or whakatipunga me te kōtahi**

With Horowhenua's population expected to surpass 62,000 by 2041, the Community Wellbeing Committee and the Council are prioritising sustainable infrastructure and advocating for improved public transport to support rapid growth and enhance community wellbeing.

With a projected annual growth rate of 1.8% over the next decade¹, it is imperative for the community to be involved in the planning of our future direction, alongside Council. This planning should prioritise efficient and affordable investment in infrastructure servicing for the whole district, while also considering the potential impact of growth on the community. The Community Wellbeing Committee will continue to monitor the impact through the Community Wellbeing Dashboard and signal any concerns or issues to the Council decision-making table.

Adequate transportation access plays a vital role in contributing to the health and wellbeing of our community. The current lack of public transport options creates challenges for residents in connecting with their community and accessing various destinations, which in turn affects wellbeing by limiting a sense of belonging and connection. Council is actively involved in the Horowhenua Transport Governance Group, led by Horizons Regional Council, and will continue to advocate for accessible and regular public transport options.

❖ **Health and Wellbeing / hauora me te orange**

Health and wellbeing are closely intertwined, with a strong sense of wellbeing contributing to good mental health, while good physical and mental health enhances resilience and overall wellbeing.

To cultivate a healthy community, it is imperative to address fundamental needs such as food, shelter, and education. Promoting healthier lifestyles is essential, along with removing barriers to accessing health services and essential care to create opportunities for individuals to enhance their lives. It's crucial that people are aware of the services available in our community and how to access them.

In our commitment to uplifting the health and wellbeing of everyone in Horowhenua, the Council plays a vital role in promoting health and wellness through the services offered in community facilities. We also facilitate connections between community groups and local networks to promote their services. Collaborating closely with community groups and social agencies, we regularly plan events and programs that support health and wellbeing. Together, let's work towards building a healthier, happier community for all.

❖ **Housing / whare**

Horowhenua is one of the fastest growing districts in Aotearoa, which has brought increasing pressure on housing and families. It's an exciting and challenging time for our community, as both our population and economy continue to expand.

Housing affordability remains a pressing issue for residents in Horowhenua. While housing may seem relatively affordable compared to neighbouring cities like Wellington, it remains unattainable for many locals, given the disparity between median household incomes and median house prices.

Our strategy for the future, *Horowhenua 2040* has the vision 'Homes for All'. At the heart of the vision is a focus on creating communities that our residents can be proud of, where together we grow neighbourhoods that are vibrant and connected places to live, work, learn and play.

¹ Sense Partners Horowhenua Socio-Economic Projections Report

Ultimately, the vision is to strive to create resilient and liveable communities across our district that deliver positive social, economic and environmental outcomes for all.

To achieve this vision, we will work collectively with agencies and developers to ensure a diverse range of homes are built to meet our community's housing needs. This will create the foundation for individuals and families to thrive and strong communities to be established. We need everyone in our community, including central government, community housing providers, and the private sector, to play their part to build local relationships, connect with each other and help get more homes built. Our Housing Action Plan is focussed on achieving that.

❖ **Sense of place and belonging / aronga o te wāhi me te whakapapa**

Studies have shown that increasing our exposure to green spaces can lower the risk of depression, stress, and psychological distress, while also enhancing mood, emotional wellbeing, and mental health.

We are fortunate to live in a district that has an abundance of green spaces to explore. From numerous bushwalks, parks and gardens, to our scenic rivers and beaches, we have a lot of options for immersing ourselves in nature.

Our parks have garnered international recognition, with six of our green spaces receiving prestigious awards on the world stage.

The Council recognises the importance of green spaces as places for relaxation, reflection, recreation, and social connection with friends and whānau. To continue providing spaces for community health and wellbeing, it is imperative that we maintain these areas for the enjoyment of all.

❖ **Environment and Climate Change / taiao me te huringa āhuarangi**

Horowhenua has many opportunities to connect the protection of our natural environment and community wellbeing, particularly as we prepare for population growth. Our community have and continue to experience the impact of climate change, through severe weather events, flooding, erosion and drought.

Council, through the Climate Action Plan, has developed a strategy to reduce our districts emissions and ensure a 'just transition' for our community. This plan will intend to speak to our wellbeing strategy, advocating for an outstanding environment that protects natural resources for generations now and into the future. Community wellbeing is closely connected to concepts of resilience and sustainable development and will continue to guide the delivery of environmental actions.

Embracing both a Māori and Western worldview, the plan will look to mitigate the complex issues our community face through the lens of protecting the environment. To thrive in Horowhenua, Te Taiao must be healthy. The Climate Action Plan looks for methods to protect the natural environment and its people. Connecting the earth, sky, air and water the plan holds a balance that traverses the environmental, culture, social and economic domains of Council. Acting with kaitiakitanga, this plan supports our district's sustainability for our people now and those to come.

Horowhenua recognises the important role we hold in implementing climate action within our region. Working in partnership with tangata whenua, mana whenua and our community enables Council to work in ways that support future sustainable outcomes.

❖ **Culture / ahurea**

Celebrating and valuing cultural diversity is essential for our community's richness and vibrancy. It begins with honouring and respecting Te Ao Māori, acknowledging the unique perspectives and contributions of iwi and hapū.

Horowhenua is home to a multitude of cultures, each adding their own unique colours and flavours to our community. By celebrating this diversity, we create a more inclusive and welcoming environment for all. We believe that communities are happier, healthier and more productive when newcomers are welcomed by the community and enjoy better social outcomes, cohesion, and economic growth.

Let's embrace and cherish the richness of our cultural mosaic, ensuring that every voice is heard, and every ethnicity is valued.

Our other areas of focus

We also heard from the community that these areas are also top of mind and have been woven into the Community Wellbeing Strategy.

- ❖ Communication and connectivity – ensuring that we're connecting with our community in a way that is accessible and mana enhancing.
- ❖ Emergency Management – being a prepared, resilient community.
- ❖ Partnership between community agencies – better collective partnership between our community agencies and services.
- ❖ Community-led development and engagement – strengthening the work we do by empowering our community to deliver.
- ❖ Access to Kai through community-led initiatives.

Measures of Success

If we're succeeding, what would Community Wellbeing look like in Horowhenua?

Here's what you, our community have told us...

- Kids having fun with their families
- Being proud to live, work and play in Horowhenua
- Thriving not surviving
- No one is left behind
- Connected services and organisations working collaboratively
- Vulnerable people in our community get the help they need from services immediately
- Equitable access to services and facilities
- Our community has clean water
- Community wellbeing becomes the norm
- Youth engaged across all kōrero, leading the way
- People/residents feel belonging
- People supporting other people
- Neighbourhoods connected
- Everyone integrating with each other no matter their race, age, socio-economic background, or sexual orientation.
- No homeless people.
- Everyone has somewhere to live and where they live is warm and safe.
- Families have enough to eat.
- People are kind and caring to each other.
- When bad things happen people respond, the community is resilient.
- As you walk down the street, people are smiling and friendly.
- There are plenty of different clubs and groups with lots of members.
- There are enough jobs for everyone who wants one.

Glossary of Terms

Community Wellbeing Committee	A group made up of iwi and hapū, community networks, government agencies and council representatives that monitor the Community Wellbeing Strategy.
Community-Led Development	Community-Led Development is a development approach in which local community members work together to identify goals that are important to them
Green Flag	Green Flag is an award scheme that recognises and rewards well managed parks and green spaces, setting the benchmark standard for the management of recreational outdoor spaces around the world.
Hapū	Kinship group, clan, tribe, subtribe - section of a large kinship group and the primary political unit in traditional Māori society. It consisted of a number of whānau sharing descent from a common ancestor, usually being named after the ancestor, but sometimes from an important event in the group's history.*
Hauora	Health, vigour.*
Iwi	Extended kinship group, tribe, nation, people, nationality, race - often refers to a large group of people descended from a common ancestor and associated with a distinct territory.*
Kai	Food, meal.*
Kaitiakitanga	Guardianship, stewardship, trusteeship, trustee.*
O2NL	Ōtaki to north of Levin (new highway)
Rohe	Boundary, district, region, territory, area, border (of land).*
Te Ao Māori	Māori world view or, the Māori world
Whānau	Extended family, family group, a familiar term of address to a number of people - the primary economic unit of traditional Māori society.*

* Translations from Te Aka Māori Dictionary