

SmartGrowth Forum Position Papers
– Western Bay of Plenty District Council Response
16 June 2017

The following information sets out the process Western Bay of Plenty District Council used to consider the SmartGrowth Forum and Bay of Plenty District Health Board Position Papers. These are the key actions Western Bay of Plenty District Council intends to take in response to the position papers, published in August 2016.

Process

1. High level review and identification of key themes.

From August to November last year, the Forum and DHB position papers were reviewed and 10 high level themes were identified.

2. Council internal review of the key themes.

The key themes and proposed projects or approaches were put into spreadsheets. For each theme, each Council went through and identified what they currently do, some highlights of work done in that area, what more could be considered, and who else needs to be involved.

3. Consolidation of spreadsheets

The spreadsheets were then consolidated to give an overview of each key theme, and to set out what each Council is doing and where each Council considers more work could be done.

4. Workshops with elected members

It was then time to workshop the responses with elected members and seek their endorsement of how to progress the ideas raised.

We divided the SmartGrowth Forum Position Papers into 5 Key Themes. We know there were more themes than that and some really key points raised by the Forums, but we felt the five overall themes enabled a more comprehensive response.

The five key themes were:

1. Community involvement in urban landuse planning
2. Place –Shaping
3. Housing
4. Environmental Sustainability
5. Tangata Whenua aspirations

Workshop 1

Workshop 1 was held on 6th April 2017. Three forums had representatives at this workshop: Mary Dillon for the Environment and Sustainability Forum, Beth Bowden for the Social Sector Forum, and Christine Ralph for the Housing Affordability Forum. The workshop focussed on community involvement, as this is fundamental to how Council approaches the way it does urban landuse planning.

As a summary, we presented that the 'traditional' way Councils worked with the community was "to consult". This means, "Council will keep you informed, listen to and acknowledge concerns and aspirations, and provide feedback on how your input influenced the decision."

The elected members agreed Council's approach is to 'actively involve' the community, in long term planning and urban landuse planning processes. This means, "Council will work with you to ensure that your concerns and aspirations are directly reflected in the alternatives developed, and provide feedback on how your input influenced with decision." So, communities are involved early on in planning processes and have an input into the alternatives developed.

Workshop 2

Workshop 2 was held on 15 June. Four key themes were presented:

1. Place-Shaping.
2. Housing.
3. Environmental Sustainability.
4. Tangata whenua aspirations.

Staff presented some recommended actions for elected members to consider.

Elected members approved all the actions outlined below being explored further. Staff haven't prepared a detailed work programme for how this will occur yet. Some actions may need to wait until the next financial year for staff to have the capacity to progress them (as work programmes have already been set for this year). It's also important to note that staff will take a comprehensive view of the actions, and where they can be implemented through one process (such as a structure plan) that's the approach that will be taken.

The key actions are:

Place-Shaping:

1. Review the Built Environment Strategy and its implementation.

The Built Environment Strategy guides how Council manages growth to protect the quality of our urban and rural environments, and guides how Council delivers “live, work, play” communities. This is then implemented through both statutory (District Plan) and non-statutory processes.

2. Explore different approaches to master planning so that it is community and resident-led, and lead to the development of policies for place-making. Council intends to explore this initially through taking a comprehensive approach to development at Omokoroa (including for structure planning for Omokoroa Stage 2).

Housing:

1. Work with partners to develop a housing action plan for the sub-region. Council is partner, not owner of the actions. The following are actions that can be considered:
 - a) Prepare a paper for Council on options for inclusionary zoning and how that could be implemented through the District Plan.
 - b) Consider whether the District Plan could be more flexible in providing for limited lifestyle subdivision and/or secondary dwellings in rural areas, to enable families to ‘share’ a property.
 - c) Doing more to support the pilot project at Omokoroa, including providing free advice.
 - d) Consider future options for provision of pensioner housing
2. Continue work with A Healthy Whare Project and Project Wai Ora, including allocating funding to both projects.
3. Continue involvement and support for Our Community Project.
4. Increase funding support to JAG to support preparedness to deliver papakainga housing.
5. Review the infrastructure development code to ensure universal design of neighbourhoods (this work will need to follow on from the review of the Built Environment Strategy).
6. Support universal design of neighbourhoods to enable ageing in place (this work will be explored through the review of the built environment strategy).

Environmental Sustainability

1. Explore innovative solutions and alternative technology for wastewater & stormwater collection, treatment and disposal (through asset management plans and the infrastructure development code).
2. Consider undertaking ecosystem services evaluations to assist in guiding land use decisions.
3. Explore with the regional council, development of a region-wide strategy for the conservation, protection and enhancement of indigenous biodiversity and natural eco-systems.

4. Consider carbon reduction and waste minimisation actions for Council as a business, through the Corporate Plan and other methods.
5. Progress aspirational targets for resource use, resource recovery and waste minimisation through the review of the Waste Management and Minimisation Plan and Solid Waste Strategy.

Tangata Whenua Aspirations

1. As part of the review of the Built Environment Strategy, include cultural urban design principles.
2. Work with iwi / hapu to prioritise and implement actions from Te Ara Mua, including:
 - a. Actions to protect and preserve Maori cultural heritage (particularly through the District Plan).
 - b. Investigating use of public space for mahinga kai and wahi rongoa purposes.
3. Jointly fund essential infrastructure and services through Project Wai Ora, on and to Maori land, to enable development.

In addition to the above actions, staff will use the checklist prepared by the SmartGrowth team as a project initiation tool. The checklist will allow consideration of the key outcomes or actions presented through the position papers. Staff can then decide how these can be considered within the project, and build this into the project plan.