

Chairperson and Committee Members

ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

02 FEBRUARY 2012

Meeting Status: **Public**

Purpose of Report: For Decision

**ADOPTION OF THE KAPITI COAST DISTRICT COUNCIL
OPEN SPACE STRATEGY**

PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1 This report seeks Council approval of the Kāpiti Coast District Council Open Space Strategy.

SIGNIFICANCE OF DECISION

- 2 This report does not trigger the Council's Significance Policy.

BACKGROUND

- 3 The development of an Open Space Strategy is a direct result of the Choosing Futures Long Term Council Community Plan (LTCCP) process in which the community emphasised the importance of open space that:
 - enhances biodiversity values, with ecological corridors and areas of important vegetation identified and protected;
 - protects and further enhances the District's traditional character (both natural and man-made), specifically village, rural and beachside identity;
 - protects heritage values, particularly places of historical significance to both Māori and Pakehā;
 - improves access and connectivity values, particularly through existing public open spaces and better Cycleway/Walkway/Bridleway (CWB) linkages;
 - provides new areas of open space for increased leisure and recreation opportunities; and
 - improves the overall quality of open space, such as improved surfaces, facilities, more shade, toilets, plants and signage.
- 4 Outcomes 1, 2, 6 and 7 of the LTCCP provide a clear indication that a sufficient mix of quality open space (particularly accessible public open space) is integral to community wellbeing. Under the provisions of the Local Government Act 2002 it is the purpose of local government to promote the social, economic, environmental and cultural wellbeing of its communities. As the owner or

custodian of much of the District's readily accessible public open space¹, and the manager of the District's shape and form, the Council sees adequate provision, development and maintenance of open space as a core component of its business.

- 5 On 1 September 2011 a draft Open Space Strategy was approved by the Environment and Community Development Committee for public release. The Strategy was subsequently advertised in the local media, posted on Council's website and made available in hard copy at Council service centres. A direct mail out was also made to key stakeholders including: local iwi, community boards, Greater Wellington Regional Council, the Department of Conservation, Friends of the Waikanae and Otaki Rivers, the Cycleways/Walkways/ Bridleways Group, the Disability Reference Group, local developers and many other interested individuals and community groups.
- 6 The public consultation period ran for over one month from 23 September 2011 to 28 October 2011. A total of 11 submissions were received.

CONSIDERATIONS

- 7 All submissions received were generally supportive of the Council's Open Space Strategy. Whilst no submitters opposed the overall vision or the principles and objectives to achieve that vision, a number of submitters suggested some additional policy or action points to further clarify or strengthen the delivery of the Council's open space goals.
- 8 Many submitters focused on issues/opportunities within specific reserves, walking tracks or facilities. Being a high level guiding document, the Strategy is not the best document to address many of these specific matters. Rather, the Strategy can influence the development or review of other more regulatory documents such as the District Plan or Reserve Management Plans to give effect to many of the specific requests proposed by submitters. A complete summary of all submission requests and recommended Council responses are attached as Appendix 1.
- 9 As a result of submission responses a number of minor editorial changes and some additional action points have been added to the original draft Strategy. These modifications are highlighted as tracked changes in the Kāpiti Coast District Council Open Space Strategy attached as Appendix 2.
- 10 It is recommended that the Council review the tracked changes made to the draft Open Space Strategy and, subject to any further amendments made by the Committee, formally adopt the draft Open Space Strategy as the Kāpiti Coast District Council Open Space Strategy.

Financial Considerations

- 11 Prior to final public release the Open Space Strategy will require additional graphics and editing for presentation purposes. These costs can be met from existing budgets.

¹ The Kapiti Coast District Council owns the majority of public open space in the settled parts of the coastal plain.

- 12 Once adopted, the Open Space Strategy will influence decision making through review of the Long Term Plan, District Plan and Asset Management Plans. The financial implications of the Open Space Strategy objectives and action plans will be considered at that time.

Legal Considerations

- 13 There are no legal considerations for the Committee to consider.

Delegation

- 14 The Committee has the authority to:

7.1 develop (within any wider existing strategic framework) policies and work programmes that support the social, economic, environmental and cultural wellbeing of the community

Consultation

- 15 Consultation has followed the general guidelines outlined in section 83 of the Local Government Act 2002. A one month consultation period followed a comprehensive notification programme in which the Strategy was advertised in the local media, posted on Council's website, displayed in Council service centres and sent out in hard copy to key stakeholders.

Policy Implications

- 16 Once adopted, the Open Space Strategy will guide decision making relating to open space during current and future reviews of the Long Term Plan, District Plan and relevant Asset Management Plans.

Tāngata Whenua Considerations

- 17 The Open Space Strategy is of particular significance to Tāngata Whenua. Council's iwi liaison officer has already facilitated Tāngata Whenua input into the development of the draft Open Space Strategy, and local iwi were also mailed copies of the final draft during the consultation process. No submission responses were received from iwi.

Publicity Considerations

- 18 Once adopted the Kāpiti Coast District Council Open Space Strategy will be posted on Council's website and hard copies bound and displayed at libraries and service centres throughout the District.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 19 That the draft Open Space Strategy (attached as Appendix 2 to report SP-11-488) be approved, subject to further amendments and re-titled the Kapiti Coast District Council Open Space Strategy 2012.

Report prepared by:

Approved for submission by:

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ATTACHMENTS:

- Appendix 1: Summary of submission requests and recommended Council responses
- Appendix 2: Kapiti Coast District Council Open Space Strategy with tracked changes