

Chairperson and Committee Members

ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

2 FEBRUARY 2012

Meeting Status: **Public**

Purpose of Report: For Decision

DRAFT STRATEGY FOR SUPPORTING EDUCATION ON THE KĀPITI COAST

PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1 This report seeks the Committee's approval of the release for consultation of the draft Strategy for Supporting Education on the Kāpiti Coast.

SIGNIFICANCE OF DECISION

- 2 The Council's significance policy is not triggered by the report.

BACKGROUND

- 3 In late 2011 the Council asked for the development of a strategy which would guide how Council would support education outcomes for the District. It was felt there was a need for a stronger advocacy role around key issues, for clearer partnerships with education interests on the Kāpiti Coast and to signal to the community where Council felt it could best place its efforts. The draft is attached for Council's consideration and the report seeks approval for release for community discussion.

CONSIDERATIONS

- 4 The strategy was developed drawing on feedback from the 2009 Long Term Council Community Plan consultation, the 2009 Choosing Futures: Community Outcomes and themes covered in the Mayor's Taskforce for Jobs Kāpiti Coast Youth Transitions Forum held in December 2011. Fifty education stakeholders met at the forum to workshop actions to address the critical transition period for young people moving from college to further education, training or work.
- 5 The draft strategy does not attempt to define education targets or outcomes. The Council is not an expert in such matters and there are others better placed to lead and drive such a vision. The strategy is more a statement of priority for focusing Council's (limited) resources. It is based on its perception of those barriers that exist where it could make some practical contribution to removing. The statement also identifies opportunities that have linkages into some of Council's existing or emerging programmes where it feels it could contribute to making a difference.
- 6 Above all the strategy tries to make clear that it is open to acting as an advocate, in partnership with the community, on a range of matters affecting any broad vision around education.

- 7 The formation of the draft Strategy for Supporting Education Outcomes has taken place in the current context of high national levels of youth unemployment; the development of Council's strategy for supporting economic development; the publication of the Youth Action Plan and the recent Youth Transitions Forum lead by the Mayor's Taskforce for Jobs. There are inevitable links to these concerns.
- 8 The strategy acknowledges the importance of education outcomes for Tāngata Whenua, particularly in relation to Te Reo Māori.
- 9 Five key focus areas identified for council action are:
 - cross sector collaboration;
 - future planning for the location of education services;
 - contribution to lifelong learning;
 - tāngata whenua and education; and
 - youth transition from school to work, workforce development and skills matching.

Financial Considerations

- 10 There are no financial considerations.

Legal Considerations

- 11 There are no legal considerations.

Delegation

- 12 The Environment and Community Development Committee has the delegated authority to make a decision on this matter under:

Part B: 7.1 Authority to develop (within any wider existing strategic framework) policies and work programmes that support the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of the community.

Consultation

- 13 Consultation with the education sector will happen from April 2012 in parallel with the 2012 Long Term Plan consultation process.

Policy Implications

- 14 The draft Strategy will provide a framework for the Council's interaction with the education sector, and will provide a specific level of focus for Council's role in supporting education outcomes.

Publicity Considerations

- 15 Communications will be focused on key stakeholders who will be encouraged to provide feedback.

Tāngata Whenua Considerations

16 Te Whakaminenga o Kāpiti and iwi will be involved in the consultation process.

RECOMMENDATIONS

17 That the Committee approves the draft Strategy for Supporting Education on the Kapiti Coast attached in Appendix 1 of SP-12-461, for release for consultation alongside the 2012 draft Long Term Plan consultation process, subject to any changes made by the Committee,.

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ATTACHMENTS:

Appendix One: Draft Strategy for Supporting Education on the Kāpiti Coast.