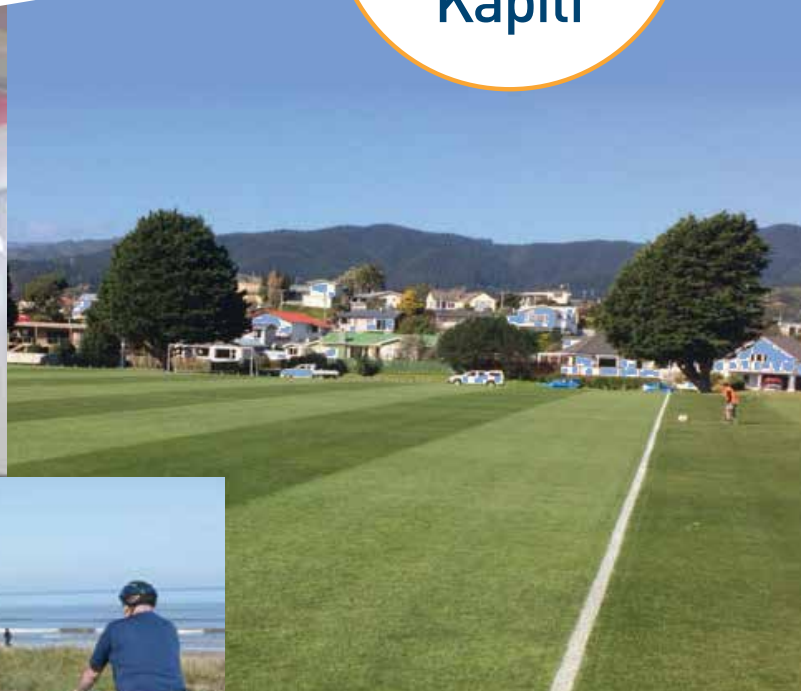


Kāpiti Coast District Council Community Facilities Strategy

SUMMARY DOCUMENT



Enjoying
Kāpiti



Kāpiti Coast District Council Community Facilities Strategy

Summary Document

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Kāpiti Coast District Council has developed a Community Facilities Strategy to plan for the current and future needs of the community. The purpose of the Community Facilities Strategy is to help guide the Council's decisions on investing in community facilities over the next 20 years.

It's important the Kāpiti Coast district has a range of community facilities that meet community needs now and into the future.

The Strategy will provide direction on the development of new facilities, major upgrades of existing facilities and optimisation and potential divestment of facilities no longer meeting the community's needs.

This is the first Community Facilities Strategy that's been developed for the Kāpiti Coast district.

Why is a community facilities strategy important?

Community facilities provide places and spaces for residents and visitors alike to participate in leisure time activities, ranging from competitive sport to passive recreation and community gatherings.

The range of community facilities in Kāpiti is very broad and includes:

- venues for hire (halls and meeting rooms, including school facilities and those owned by other entities e.g. clubs and societies)
- museums and art galleries
- libraries
- public toilets
- pools and leisure facilities
- sports facilities
- open spaces
- indoor recreation facilities
- playgrounds and skate parks

The Council supports community facilities through direct provision, leasing of Council land and/or buildings to community groups, and allocation of grants. Some community facilities, which are owned or operated by a third party, have an on-going funding relationship with the Council and provide public access.

The Council also has a key role in providing strategic leadership and coordination of facility development and long term sustainability of these assets across the Kāpiti district. The Council acknowledges the importance of working with other providers to deliver a network of facilities throughout the district.

To support community facilities effectively and efficiently, the Council needs a strategic framework to assist in determining its level of involvement in, and resource allocation to, community facility provision across Kāpiti.

The strategic approach proposed for each of the following facility types is summarised in this document:

- Aquatic facilities
- Indoor sport courts
- Community halls
- Community space facilities
- Cultural / Arts / Library facilities
- Clubrooms
- Utility buildings
- Public conveniences
- Playground facilities
- Hardcourt facilities
- Playing field facilities
- Open Space / Parklands
- Cycleways, walkways and bridleways
- Other facilities

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Strategy Background

Community facilities provide places and spaces for residents and visitors to come together and participate in a range of passive and active recreation and community activities. The variety of activities provided on the Kāpiti Coast is wide ranging, as are the facilities that support them. This creates a rich social fabric within the community that encourages connectedness, vibrancy and resilience.

The Council supports community facilities through direct provision, leasing of Council land and/or buildings to community groups, and other forms of assistance. The Council also has a key role in providing strategic leadership and coordination of facility development and sustainability across the district.

The development of a Community Facilities Strategy is identified as a key activity in the first three years of the community facilities and support activity area in the Council's Future Kāpiti Long Term plan 2015-35. This is the first time the Council has developed a Community Facilities Strategy. The Council has signalled in its Long Term Plan it will work in partnership with the community to achieve a series of Community Outcomes to deliver on the vision of being a vibrant, diverse and thriving district. The Strategy will help guide the Council's investment decisions and involvement in the district's facilities over the next 20 years. Any investment in community facilities will need to be balanced with other priorities identified through the Council's long term planning process for 2018-38.

1.2 Strategy Purpose

This Community Facilities Strategy provides a high-level understanding of the community facilities the district has now and those that the Council considers will likely be required in the future as our community's needs change.

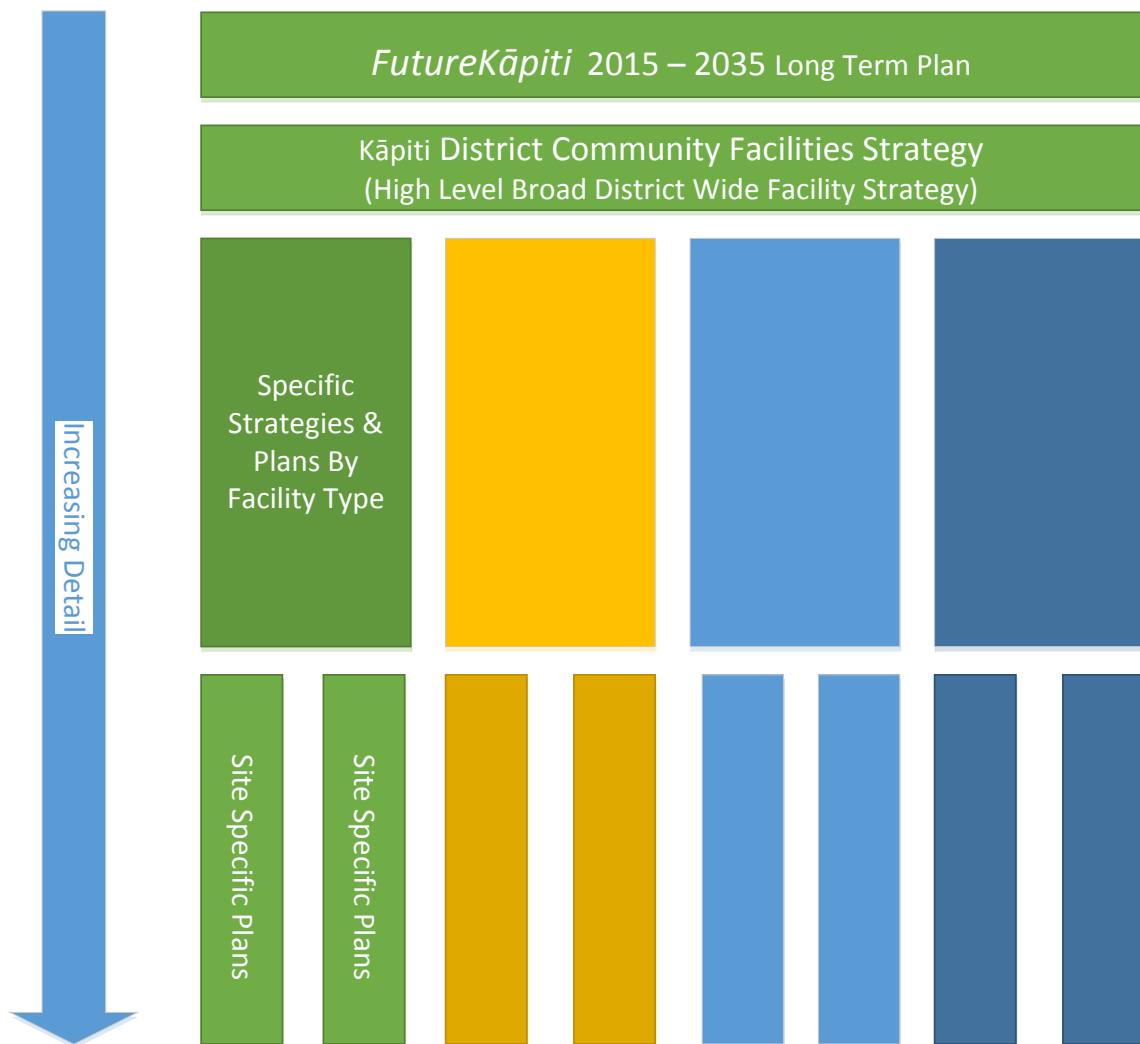
The Council needs to be strategic about what it invests in, from both a capital and an operational perspective, to make best use of Council facilities (and those of other facility providers) and to provide leadership and direction to the allocation of resources. When discussing the "network" in this strategy we are referring to facilities that are provided by the Council and other providers.

The Strategy is not just about what new facilities may be required, but also about what existing assets should be maintained, reconfigured, repurposed, or in some instances removed. It provides direction based on current available data. As new data become available the Strategy will be updated.

The proposed strategies represent the Council's aspirations for community facilities. However, decisions about investment in community facilities will need to be balanced with other priorities identified through the Council's long term planning process for 2018-38.

1.3 Using this Strategy

This Strategy will be used to assist the prioritisation of facility projects across our district. It should be used as the first step in determining how we should go about meeting our facility needs. Once an initiative's alignment with this Strategy has been determined, the Council can make decisions about the appropriateness of capital or operational expenditure. This is likely to be subject to a range of associated analysis such as a feasibility study and business case. The following diagram illustrates where this Strategy fits in the planning process.



This diagram demonstrates that the Kāpiti Coast District Council Community Facilities Strategy will provide a framework for more specific plans and projects.

Community groups will be able to use the Strategy and its associated decision making framework to understand when to engage with Council regarding their facility needs and aspirations.

To provide feedback on this Strategy go to section four - *Have your say on our Community Facilities Strategy*.

1.4 Methodology

It is important that the Kāpiti community has an active involvement in shaping the district's Community Facilities Strategy. To achieve this, a series of community workshops were undertaken in conjunction with web surveys targeted at the users of facilities and facility managers. An online survey was also used to capture feedback from the general community. Community feedback was also sought on a draft consultation document before this final Strategy was adopted.

1.5 Scope

The Strategy covers a wide range of community facilities that are:

- owned or managed by Council
- owned or operated by a third party, which have an on-going funding relationship with Council
- owned by a third party, which provide public access to the facility
- owned by Council and leased by other parties, or facilities owned by third parties and occupying Council land
- owned land (land may/may not be designated as a reserve)
- owned and operated by third parties that have potential to be part of the wider Kāpiti community facility network

Community facilities include the following types of spaces and places:

- venues for hire (halls, meeting rooms, clubrooms)
- museums and art galleries
- libraries
- pools and leisure facilities
- sports facilities
- indoor recreation facilities
- playgrounds and skate parks
- public toilets

Social housing and marae are excluded from the project scope.

2 STRATEGIC CONTEXT

A review of existing strategies has been undertaken to ensure alignment with the key themes. There are a number of factors that are specific to the Kāpiti Coast that have been considered along with more general societal changes. This section of the Strategy looks at these areas and outlines a process for considering new community facilities initiatives.

2.1 Strategic Alignment

The development of a Community Facilities Strategy recognises the contribution that these facilities have in achieving the high-level outcomes identified in the Kāpiti Coast District Council Long Term Plan to achieve the vision of a vibrant, diverse and thriving Kāpiti. These outcomes are:

- thriving economy, vibrant culture, diverse community
- resilient community
- wise management of public funds
- democracy through community participation
- strong partnerships

These outcomes are considered throughout this Community Facilities Strategy.

2.2 Council's Existing Strategies

To ensure there is appropriate alignment with Council's strategic direction it is important that existing strategic documents are considered when planning for community facilities. To inform the Community Facilities Strategy the following key strategic documents were reviewed:

- *FutureKāpiti* Long Term Plan (2015 – 2035)
- Te Haerenga Whakamua, A Review of the District Plan Provisions for Māori: A Vision to the Future: For The Kāpiti Coast District Council District Plan Review 2009- 2012
- Kāpiti Coast District Council Infrastructure Strategy (2015-45)
- Kāpiti Coast District Council Carbon and Energy Management Plan (2015)
- Kāpiti Coast District Council Open Space Strategy (2012)
- Kāpiti Coast District Council Cycleways, Walkways and Bridleways (CWB) Strategy (2009)
- Kāpiti Coast District Council CWB Network Planning Report (2015)
- Kāpiti District Economic Development Strategy (2015-2018)
- Kāpiti Events Plan (2015-2018)
- Kāpiti Visitor Attraction Plan (2016-2018)
- Kāpiti Youth Action Plan (2016-18)
- A Strategy for Māori Economic Development and Wellbeing in Kāpiti (2013)
- Strategy for Supporting the Arts 2012 (Kāpiti Coast District Council)
- Strategy Towards a Sustainable Transport System (2008)

Summary

From these strategies, several consistent themes emerged which have relevance to the future planning of our District's community facilities:

- a desire for safe and welcoming facilities for all ages which provide a wide range of recreation, leisure and social activities

- the importance of having a safe and connected cycleways, walkways and bridleways network
- the need for the District to retain and attract young people as well as make improved provision for older people
- the need to invest in developing and maintaining infrastructure (physical and social) which supports communities and visitors
- the desire to maintain and enhance the local community identity and feel of different areas (i.e. village, town, rural, coast) within the District
- the importance of, and opportunities available for partnerships
- the importance of sustainability and energy efficiency

2.3 Our Key Considerations

The community facility challenges, opportunities and advantages for the Kāpiti Coast include:

2.3.1 Demographics of the Kāpiti Coast

The Kāpiti District currently has:

- an estimated population of around 52,000 (2017 estimate)¹ which is spread out unevenly along the coast in the smaller townships of Paekākāriki and Ōtaki, and the larger merging urban area incorporating Raumati, Paraparaumu and Waikanae
- a projected population increase to 63,026 by 2043 (an increase of approximately 20%)
- a distinctly 'older' population profile (compared with the Wellington Region). High growth in numbers is being projected among those aged over 65 years

These projections present significant facility opportunities and challenges for the Kāpiti Coast, which include:

- challenges in ensuring attractive and accessible participation options for children and youth are maintained and enhanced in an 'older' community
- ensuring facilities that are developed are accessible, particularly given the higher levels of disability in the Kāpiti area compared to nationally²

There are only minor variations in ethnicity and socio-economic status around most of the district, with only the Ōtaki area being particularly notable for higher proportions of Māori. This area (alongside Paraparaumu Central) also has socio-economic indicators that are relatively lower than the rest of the Kāpiti Coast. Apart from that, in most other respects there are little substantive differences between the populations of the main communities overall. In terms of opportunities and challenges there may be relatively more financial constraints affecting the Ōtaki population's participation in facility use. There may be relatively more potential there to develop facility and use opportunities in association with the Māori community.

¹ Forecast. id

² It is reported that 1 in 4 residents have a disability compared with the national rate of 1 in 5.

2.3.2 Location of Communities

The Kāpiti Coast is in relatively close proximity to larger urban areas including Palmerston North, the Hutt Valley and Wellington. This has several impacts on the district.

High percentage of residents working out of the Kāpiti area

A large proportion of working-age residents leave the district each working day³, with most travelling to Wellington for work. This commuting has several implications. On the negative side, it can restrict the amount of time available to undertake (and volunteer) in sport and leisure activities on the Kāpiti Coast (placing even further demand load during peak times). On the positive side commuting residents have greater opportunities to access facilities outside the district.

Proximity to Wellington

Our geographic position and improving transportation infrastructure means we can access specialist community facilities in Wellington that would not be possible to develop within our district.

2.3.3 Landscape and Climate

Mountains, rivers and sea

The Kāpiti Coast is defined by the physical environment in which it exists. The Tararua Ranges are connected to the beaches bordering the Tasman sea via several well-known rivers. This landscape plays a significant part in the type of activities that can occur within the Kāpiti Coast.

The climate

The climate in Kāpiti is warmer and dryer on average than most areas within the Wellington Region. This attracts visitors to the Kāpiti Coast District's beaches, parks and other community facilities.

2.3.4 Changes in Leisure Time Participation

The variety of activities now readily available in New Zealand is far greater than at any time in the past. The changing demographics of society has brought diversity. This has led to community facilities being expected to cater for a wider range of activity types.

The challenge facing the Council is in providing an acceptable level of provision to ensure all types of activity can occur. With all these changes, it is therefore important the Council ensures community facilities are flexible to accommodate changing activity patterns⁴.

2.3.5 Implications of Wider Infrastructure Developments

There are significant infrastructure improvements occurring on the Kāpiti Coast and more are planned. The Kāpiti Expressway and Transmission Gully Expressway have the potential to reduce travel times both within Kāpiti and to Wellington, make travel safer and journey times more reliable. This will make travel more attractive for many and access to certain community facilities easier for some residents.

The Council has already identified the opportunities for cycling and walking with many linkages to the Kāpiti Expressway being developed through the Stride 'N' Ride⁵ programme.

³ 335.0 % of the working population work out of the District

⁴ Future-proofing of facilities: Needs to consider facility design and functionality in relation to service provision / capability. Facilities will need to accommodate demographic change (e.g. growth in older age cohorts) and population, participation, and preference changes. Communication technology has rapidly sped up the transfer of new sport and hobby trends.

2.3.6 Increasing Service Level Expectations

Service level expectations have increased over time as innovations and development have driven improvements in the quality and capacity of facility provision nationally.

Many people expect facility owners and managers to provide levels of service to the same standard as facilities in larger local authorities or those provided by commercial operators. This can prove challenging for territorial authorities like the Kāpiti Coast District Council as budgets are inevitably lower than large urban councils and the ability to consistently attract a reasonable level of attendance is more challenging.

There are also service level comparisons being made within the district, with the various communities expecting the same level of provision as their neighbours⁶ even though demographic trends and participation levels may differ.

2.3.7 Ensuring Facility Sustainability

Maintaining aging assets, current service levels and facility sustainability is likely to become increasingly difficult in some geographic locations, especially for areas with decreasing and/or aging populations.

Duplication and underutilisation of community facilities will become increasingly unaffordable over time. Rationalisation, re-programming or repurposing of certain facilities will likely be required to overcome these challenges. New or non-traditional sources of facility provision will also increasingly need to be considered.

2.3.8 Developing Community Facility Partnerships

It will become increasingly important for all stakeholders to work collaboratively to improve delivery of community facilities. Ad-hoc development would lead to lost opportunities and poor operational and capital spend.

The development of this Strategy provides an opportunity for Kāpiti District stakeholders to re-assess their collective provision of community facilities.

2.3.9 Legislative Challenges

The wider community sectors face several legislative challenges, many with potentially significant impacts.

The Reserves Act (1977) has largely failed to keep pace with a changing sporting and social environment. Many aspects of the Act inhibit the sustainability of community facilities.

Recent changes to health and safety legislation are impacting sport and recreation organisations with additional compliance and liability requirements.

Requirements related to responses to earthquake prone building designations are also emerging as a significant challenge in many areas of New Zealand with the Kāpiti Coast being no exception. The impact of the legislative environment needs to be taken into consideration when examining the future sustainability of the facility network.

⁵ <http://www.kapiti.coast.govt.nz/Your-Council/Projects/Getting-around-Kapiti/> "Additional funding has been made available through Stride 'n' Ride Kāpiti Coast to improve connections to and from the Kāpiti Expressway Cycleway."

⁶ For example, it is perceived that a disparity in indoor court user charges exists between Ōtaki and areas further south. Fees are higher in Ōtaki and this has been questioned by user groups and seen as a disadvantage to that community.

2.3.10 Technology

Technology is also playing a significant part in how people are interacting with community facilities. Every part of the engagement process from awareness, booking, participating and reviewing facilities has online options, requiring the Council and users to consider how this technology can be provided. There is also a rise in augmented reality products that integrate users with existing parks and open spaces. This presents both opportunities to increase community participation but also challenges in managing multi-user types.

2.4 Our Key Principles

Key principles have been identified to help guide how the Council develops and sustains the network of community facilities. The key principles underpinning our Strategy are summarised as:

Accessibility

The Kāpiti Coast District Council wants our community facilities to be accessible for all Kāpiti Coast residents. Accessibility means that facilities have good physical access, are visible so people are aware they are available to them, are affordable and inclusive.

Sustainability

The network of facilities on the Kāpiti Coast and the individual facilities themselves need to be sustainable to maximise community benefits and demonstrate wise management of public funds. Sustainability in this context means both financial and environmental sustainability.

Lifecycle Modelling

Existing and planned community facilities need to be appropriately maintained throughout their projected lifespan to ensure they deliver benefit to the community. All new facilities should have lifecycle maintenance models established prior to any development to inform operational plans and building material selection.

Multi Use

Facilities should be designed to enable multi use where ever possible. Currently many single purpose community facilities are underutilised for large periods of time.

Partnerships

Partnerships is identified as one of the five outcomes identified in *FutureKāpiti* the long term plan (2015-2035) for the Kāpiti Coast District Council. Working together with other facility providers to develop and operate an integrated network of community facilities is increasingly important to optimise our facility network and maintain its sustainability.

Adaptability / Functionality

Activity trends and our demographics are changing. What we need from a facility today is not necessarily what we will need in the future. Given that the lifespan of our typical community facilities can be up to fifty years, it is important that they be as adaptable and functional as possible.

Optimisation of Existing Assets

Where a proven need exists and a cost benefits analysis (which includes consideration of operational costs) dictates it is warranted, then existing assets should be optimised / refurbished.

Community Return

The return on investment in community benefit terms needs to be considered carefully as each investment comes with an opportunity cost. As capital funding is limited, an investment in one project will likely mean others do not proceed. It is important that the community return (both socially and economically) on the funded project delivers as much or more than any project it displaces.

Flexibility

From time to time unexpected opportunities for specific national or international projects (or regional projects which support national or international outcomes) may arise. These projects should be evaluated thoroughly to determine if they are of benefit to the optimisation of the wider community facility network and what the opportunity cost and impact may be.

2.5 Facility Hierarchy Definitions

It is important to understand where our different community facilities fit within a hierarchy so we can better understand the role they play across the region and district. The following facility hierarchy definitions were developed, based on best practice, to inform our understanding of the facility network. They can be applied to different types of community facilities.

International: A facility with the ability to host international festivals / symposiums / competitions / events (i.e. between nations or internationally significant). Given Kāpiti Coast's close proximity to Wellington there will be few if any facilities in this category, unless for a highly specialist area.

National: A facility with the ability to host national festivals /symposiums / representative competitions (including professional and semi-professional franchise sporting competitions involving teams from outside New Zealand) and/or to serve as a national training hub for one or more organisation or sports code.

Regional: A facility with the ability to host inter-regional and internal regional festivals / symposiums, competitions and/or serves as a regional hub for one or more organisations or sports codes.

District Wide: A facility with the size and ability to cater for and serve the entire district. This type of venue would be the central hub for a specific activity type (such as Coastlands Aquatic Centre).

Sub-District: A facility with the ability to host users/events from more than one community within the Kāpiti Coast District. People generally travel from adjacent areas within the Kāpiti Coast to access the services offered in these facilities.

Local: A facility with the ability to serve a local catchment's basic community and sporting needs. This catchment will predominantly be drawn from within a single community within the Kāpiti district.

2.6 Decision Criteria and Facility Evaluation

The decision criteria and facility evaluation for the Council's Community Facilities Strategy are based on nationally accepted processes that are regarded as best practice and have been adapted to reflect the principles outlined in this Strategy.

2.6.1 Decision Criteria

During the term of any strategy, new data, new opportunities and budget priorities will arise. For this reason, it is important that community facility projects that potentially involve Council in some form can be evaluated ⁷.

A series of criteria have been adopted based on the principles set out in this Strategy. They are set out below. Level 1 criteria assume prominence at the initial evaluation stage/s, while other criteria (level 2) will be considered in more detail should a proposal progress.

Kāpiti Coast District Council Criteria (Level 1):

- The degree of alignment with the relevant Kāpiti Coast District Council's strategies and plans.
- The degree of alignment a facility or proposed facility has with the Council's existing and proposed urban planning, infrastructure development, tourism/economic development, and transport networks.
- The degree of alignment with national, regional, district and local strategies and plans, such as code specific national facility plans and those concerned with upgrading facility networks regionally and nationally.
- The degree to which any existing or proposed facility matches the projected needs of the Kāpiti Coast community where it is proposed to be located.
- In the case of a partnership or grant the track record and capability of the proponent organisation ⁸.

Kāpiti Coast District Council Criteria - Project Specific (Level 2):

- The potential for partnerships between Council and other providers that demonstrate effective use of Council investment over the life of the partnership.
- The degree to which a facility or proposed facility complements (avoids duplication) / optimises the existing or proposed facility network, and builds on the district's strengths.
- The degree to which demand exceeds supply (once all existing facilities are being run at an optimal operational level) and the facility or proposed facility can meet the identified gap.
- The degree to which the existing or proposed facility is operationally sustainable (taking a whole of lifecycle approach which looks at operational and maintenance costs throughout the facility's life).
- The return on investment (measured in terms of community benefit) that the facility, or proposed facility, can generate.
- The ability of the facility, or proposed facility, to reflect international and national best practice in its location, design and subsequent operation.

Given this Strategy is a high level strategic document it is acknowledged that all proposed facility approaches identified in the Strategy will need to be tested in more detail. This will involve the

⁷ Council supports community facilities through direct provision, leasing of Council land and/or buildings to community groups and the allocation of grants, rates remission, reserve land user charges and subsidised rent.

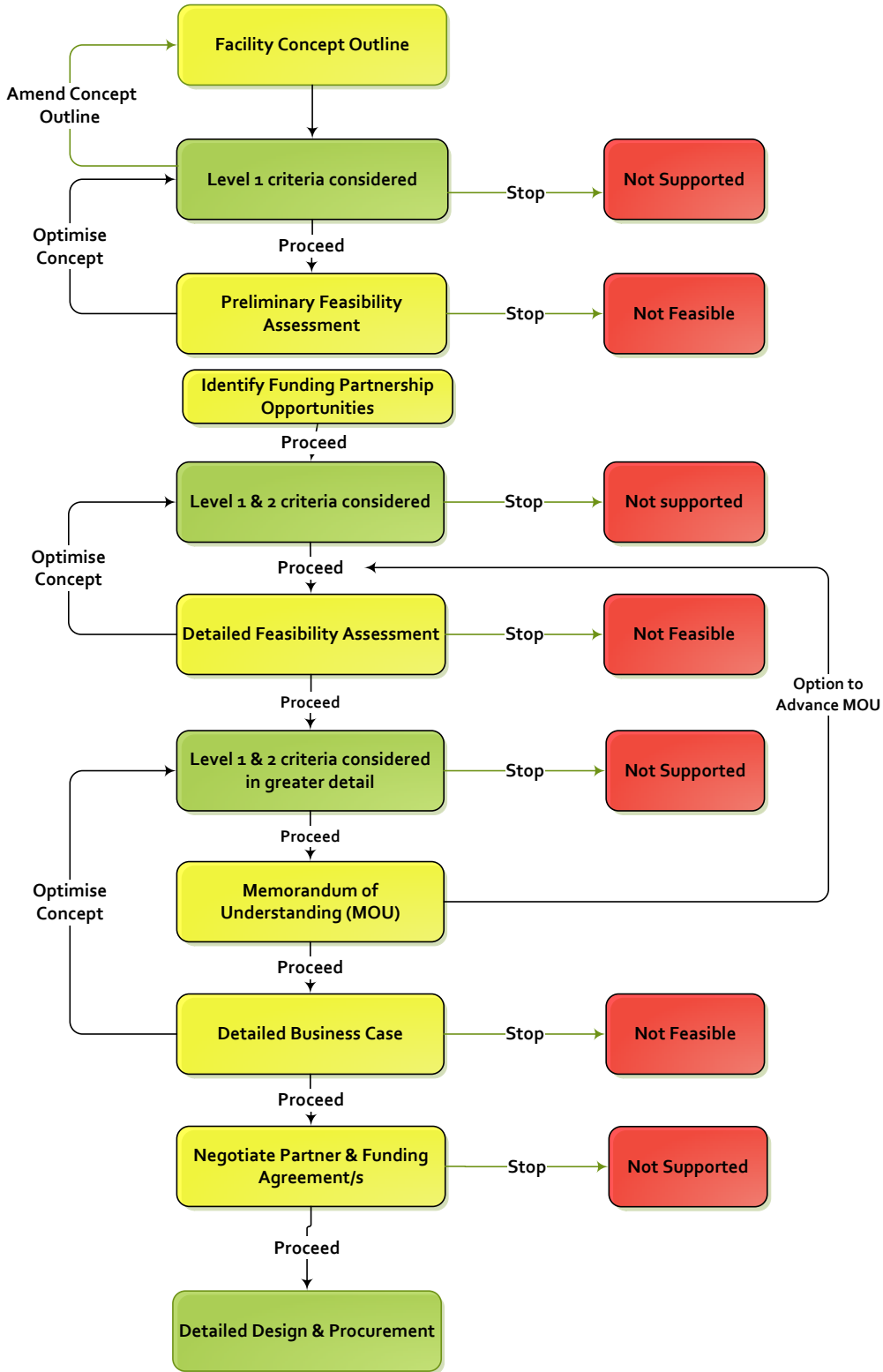
⁸ This can be assessed through an independent review of an organisation's governance, management, operations (including financial viability), and membership levels.

presentation of verified facts and evidence-based decision making (as outlined in the proposed evaluation process below).

2.7 Facility Investment Decision Making Process

A facility investment decision-making process framework has been developed to assist collaboration. The process would involve the Council and entities such as community funders, education providers, regional sports organisations, community groups and clubs acting in a collaborative manner to ensure facilities reflect the needs of the community, while also fitting within the district facilities network. It is outlined in the following table. The decision making framework would typically be employed through the annual plan or long term plan process.

Figure 6.1: Full Facility Investment Decision Making Process



3 PROPOSED STRATEGIES

The following section identifies the various types of community facilities and highlights the key themes and areas of importance.

3.1 Aquatic Facilities

Summary:

The demand for heated, indoor water will increase in the medium to long term. To meet this demand the first approach is to test the viability of indoor pool partnerships with schools. If partnerships are not practical Council should investigate additional direct provision.

It is important to develop aquatic skills amongst residents on the Kāpiti Coast, given our coastal location and ease of access to rivers and the Tasman Sea. In our community, aquatic activity is undertaken for sport, recreation, therapeutic and rehabilitative purposes. Given Kāpiti Coast's demographic profile the importance of accessible aquatic facilities is important and likely to increase.

There is currently a network of publicly accessible pools in Kāpiti. Historically there were swimming pools on most school grounds. Over the last 30 years several school pools have closed and the reliance on Council owned facilities to deliver swimming has increased. The core network of community-accessible pools is currently based around three Council pools in Paraparaumu, Waikanae (uncovered) and Ōtaki, and several smaller uncovered seasonal school pools. The main Pool in the district is at Paraparaumu (Coastlands Aquatic Centre).

Aquatic facilities are important in helping residents (and visitors) maintain health and well-being; enjoy the Kāpiti lifestyle and develop and maintain water skills. The high capital and operational costs of aquatic facilities means a targeted approach to provision is important.

The Council will:

- complete the upgrade of the Ōtaki Pool, including external splash pad
- assess the need for more water space (particularly at peak times)
- investigate re-scheduling some structured swimming use to non-peak times as demand for heated indoor water increases with an aging population
- investigate facility partnerships with schools and others. These partnerships would allow more water space (increasing leisure capacity in Council owned pools)
- advocate for the continued operation of primary school pools to service local communities

More information on Aquatic Facilities can be found in the Community Facilities Strategy at page 27

3.2 Indoor Sport Court Facilities

Summary:

The Indoor Court network is heavily reliant on third party providers and at capacity at peak times. On the one hand this exemplifies the values of working together; on the other it represents a risk to community access should any of these providers have a need to reduce community access. Council needs to work to further formalise access arrangements or assess the development of more community courts (dependant on the outcome of access arrangements).

Currently there are five larger facilities that provide a total of six full-sized indoor courts (incorporating markings for corresponding sports court types, such as basketball, netball, badminton, and volleyball)⁹.

Three of the six courts are in Ōtaki (Nga Purapura (2 courts) and Ōtaki College). Waikanae Memorial Hall is set up for Indoor sport and both Kāpiti College and Paraparaumu College have indoor courts that are available for community use.

The geographic spread of indoor court facilities is not even throughout the District. This suggests some residents are not likely to have optimal access to indoor court sports opportunities. Provision is also heavily reliant on school facilities (either with or without formal partnership arrangements with Council). There is demand pressure on indoor courts during peak use periods.

The Council will:

- investigate the formalisation of facility access partnerships with strategic schools to ensure community use is secured and future proofed
- investigate the introduction of a Kāpiti Coast wide booking system, reducing the administrative burden on schools and providing a single booking system for users
- assess current facilities for potential future changes in use due to the aging population
- undertake an assessment of potential options for a new multi-court facility to service the southern Kāpiti Coast area for sports such as basketball, netball and volleyball
- consider a community subsidy of certain facilities to maintain equitable, quality community access across the District

More information on Indoor Sport Court Facilities can be found in the Community Facilities Strategy at page 37

3.3 Community Hall Facilities

Summary:

The demand for quality, multi-purpose indoor community space will increase (including halls) in the medium to long term. The spread of facilities through the district is good, however, quality and functionality of hall spaces remains variable. Improving the quality of and accessibility to the existing network is the initial priority

⁹ One sub-sized facility with basketball hoops was also listed (Forest Lakes Camp Hall). It is excluded from inclusion as a full facility here, although it is noted for practice/training potential.

There are a large number of community halls in the Kāpiti district. Community Halls provide an important and dispersed network of activity and meeting spaces for local communities. The 38 community halls identified in Kāpiti are geographically dispersed which makes them accessible to many residents. If they are well designed, functional and well maintained they can also meet the needs of key sectors of the community such as older adults.

Community Hall facilities are likely to come under increasing demand as the population of the district ages. However, increased utilisation will likely be dependent on these facilities aligning more strongly with community needs and expectations. Traditional standardised community halls still have a role in the network. However, activity patterns continue to change and demand has increased for different types and sizes of spaces. For example, clusters of smaller more comfortable spaces with carpet, insulation and heating have grown in demand.

Rather than thinking in terms of a community hall network it is more beneficial to think of a community spaces network that is more bespoke and meets a greater diversity of our residents' needs (including those of youth, people with disabilities, and older adults). This community spaces network would be more diverse and hierarchical while maintaining a geographical spread of facilities. It would also incorporate more directly a wider range of facility partners such as schools, churches and community organisations. This would enable a more functional and adaptable network of spaces to more readily meet changing needs.

The Council will:

- explore the opportunities to partner with existing community space providers, such as schools, retirement villages, churches, and community organisations
- develop a publicly accessible database of all available community halls
- optimise specific facilities to meet changes in demand
- ensure the important role of halls in the Civil Defence network is maintained

More information on Community Hall Facilities can be found in the Community Facilities Strategy at page 49

3.4 Community Space Facilities (excluding Community Halls)

Summary:

The demand for other flexible indoor community space will increase in the medium to long term. The quality and functionality of spaces remains variable. Improving the quality, profile and accessibility to the existing network is the initial priority.

Facilities within the community spaces category are defined as non-hall spaces provided by the Council and other groups (such as churches, schools and community interest groups) for community use. They are more commonly facilities containing smaller rooms that are more general purpose than larger halls and specialist arts spaces. They would not be used typically for sports but more often for community group administration, various sorts of community service delivery, meetings, or more passive indoor leisure activities. There is clearly some overlap with the more general community hall facilities and cultural/arts spaces.

Community spaces provide an opportunity for people to come together and engage with one another. We know that well-connected communities are happier and healthier, both physically and mentally. Community spaces align significantly with the needs of older adults with a high proportion of

users aged over 65 years. The projected population growth of this age-group is much higher on the Kāpiti Coast than other age groups (approximately 58%). This represents a projected increase of around 7,400 people aged over 65 years by 2043.

However, a focus on an aging population should not detract from making provision for youth. The youth population in terms of actual numbers will remain relatively stable. It remains important to consider this age group as it is often less mobile, has less discretionary spending, but greater levels of leisure time.

Increased emphasis will be placed on the location and accessibility of community spaces and the quality of their internal functionality. Improving the physical functionality for older adults will also assist younger users and those with disabilities.

An approach based on upgrading existing strategic facilities to a higher specification and entering partnerships with existing facility providers (such as schools, churches and community service organisations) may prove most cost effective.

An appropriate hierarchy of accessible facilities should be aimed for, ranging from a few larger more specialised facilities in urban areas, through to more general purpose, smaller and localised facilities. It is important to acknowledge that not all facilities can be everything to everybody, so that to get the diversity of more specialised facilities desired will likely require more travel time.

The Council will:

- explore the opportunities to partner with existing community space providers such as schools, churches and community organisations. This could include initiatives such as a district-wide, centralised information and booking system for community spaces and assistance with small capital improvements (such as ramps, internal partitions, carpeting, insulation and heating)
- optimise specific facilities to meet changes in demand and facilitate broader utilisations (from the likes of older adults, people with disabilities, and youth). This should be done as part of a district-wide optimisation assessment which aligns with the community spaces strategy
- review the optimisation of the Kāpiti Community Centre to determine how much additional quality community space can be delivered
- undertake a facility assessment to determine the merits of optimising the Waikanae Community Centre (both physically and operationally)

More information on Community Space Facilities can be found in the Community Facilities Strategy at page 63

3.5 Cultural/Arts/Library Facilities

Summary:

Demand for cultural and arts facilities is projected to increase. In the short to medium term there is planned development for a small number of larger strategic arts facilities. The Mahara Gallery and Waikanae Library has previously been identified as one such important cornerstone redevelopment project. The new performing arts centre at Kāpiti College will also cater for a wide range of user groups, allowing some existing facilities to be repurposed.

In the medium to long term securing more spaces for local arts provision is likely to be the main challenge. To meet this challenge selected community spaces should be repurposed or improved to better meet localised needs. This may be as simple as making small changes

such as improving acoustics, replacing floor surfaces or providing washing up areas to improve functionality.

Cultural, art and library facilities play a vital role in the fabric of a vibrant and attractive district. There exists a wide range of facilities provided by the Kāpiti Coast District Council and others.

Many arts and cultural organisations have a high proportion of participants aged over 65 years. We therefore need to take account of the cultural and arts facility needs of our aging population. However, we have time to optimise our arts and cultural facility network. Projected growth is, on average, likely to add only an additional 240 people aged over 65 across the district per year.

Except for certain cornerstone developments such as the expansion of the Mahara Gallery and the development of the two key secondary school's arts facilities, most cultural and arts facility initiatives are likely to revolve around the optimisation and repurposing of existing facilities (such as halls) and operating partnerships with the likes of schools and retirement villages. No major additional new facilities are likely to be required.

The Council will:

- continue implementing the Council's 'Strategy for Supporting the Arts (2012)', particularly in relation to its direction for "Identifying and promoting community facilities across the district suitable for arts activities"
- develop a community spaces strategy (incorporating, or aligning with a separate consideration of cultural/arts facility needs) for the Kāpiti District which explores the opportunity for a more optimised hierarchy and diversity of facilities that better meets existing and projected community needs
- explore repurposing halls for greater arts use at a localised level. This should be considered in more detail in the community spaces strategy
- explore the ongoing opportunities to partner with existing and potential cultural/arts providers; such as schools, retirement villages, churches, and community organisations. This could include initiatives such as a district-wide, centralised information and booking system for hall spaces, assistance with small capital improvements (such as ramps, internal partitions, carpeting, insulation and heating) and facilitating wider community access to arts and culture spaces in schools and retirement villages
- optimise specific facilities to meet changes in demand and facilitate broader utilisations (from the likes of older adults, people with disabilities and youth). This should be done as part of a district-wide optimisation assessment which aligns with the community spaces strategy

More information on Cultural/Arts/Library Facilities can be found in the Community Facilities Strategy at page 76

3.6 Clubrooms

Summary:

In the medium to long term clubrooms represent one of the single biggest sport facility challenges in the district. Overall the stock of clubrooms facilities is old and was designed and constructed in a time when sports club dynamics and needs were very different. As facilities increase in age their maintenance costs will also increase. Before expenditure is made clubs

should be encouraged to undertake objective planning to carefully assess all their facility options.

Clubroom facilities are defined as a variety of spaces that are primarily used by a sports club for social, administrative and sporting activities. In some instances, members of the public may hire clubroom spaces for private events. These facilities may be shared by several clubs in a "multi-use" environment. There are a significant number of clubrooms across the district from a wide spectrum of sporting codes and organisations. Often clubrooms are developed above Council change facilities.

Given the pressure many clubs are under it is also likely that regular maintenance may have been deferred. It is also likely that many clubrooms would no longer meet current building standards. In many cases refurbishing or optimising areas of existing clubrooms would also likely trigger the need to bring the entire building up to the building code, often at considerable cost.

These challenges are potentially significant however, they are further magnified by other factors. For example, traditional club revenue streams such as bar takings are also under pressure as members' social patterns have changed. The numbers of active sports club members are also likely to decline in many communities as demographic profiles and sports trends change.

Population-driven growth in participation levels for sports with clubrooms is unlikely to be significant.

In some traditional sports "pay for play" use has superseded annual memberships subscriptions and new forms of facility provision have emerged (such as retirement village leisure facilities). Although the district's population of residents over 65 years is projected to increase by around 7,400 by 2043, trend indications suggest traditional club memberships may not grow at a proportionate rate.

The ability for many clubs to financially maintain their clubrooms is diminishing. Given that most clubrooms are located on council land, should a club cease operations responsibility for these clubrooms is likely to fall back on council (in a practical sense).

The Council will:

- engage with clubs to ensure that they have asset management plans (which consider the buildings lifecycle)
- encourage co-use of existing assets and / or amalgamation of clubs when warranted
- before committing a significant capital investment into any clubrooms carry out an independent building condition assessment (on buildings over 20 years old), quantity survey of refurbishment / repair costs and a cost benefit analysis and sustainability / feasibility analysis (this work should be scaled appropriately to the capital investment being considered)
- where justified rationalise clubrooms or consider total facility replacement (ideally in a co – use or multisport model when warranted)
- explore partnership opportunities that enable the delivery of opportunities with a reduced reliance on traditional clubroom facilities
- develop a district-wide community halls/spaces booking and information systems which includes participating clubroom facilities

More information on Clubrooms can be found in the Community Facilities Strategy at page 91

3.7 Utility Buildings

Summary:

Utility buildings are required on all major active public open space reserves used for sports. This is especially true when reserves contain limited clubroom and associated facilities. The only future gap in provision identified is at the proposed Otaraua sports field development.

Utility buildings are defined as changing, toilet or storage blocks that are available to the public in areas used for sports and leisure activities. These facilities play an important community amenity role and enable residents to undertake a wide range of sports, community and leisure activities on open space throughout the Kāpiti District.

Utility buildings are often one of the first assets to be developed on areas of active public open space to facilitate greater sports utilisation. Increasingly they are being incorporated into clubrooms when these exist.

Where clubrooms are not yet present and are being staged over time, utility blocks are increasingly being designed to accommodate clubrooms as a second level. For this reason, it is important that new utility blocks are positioned to also offer an optimal clubroom position (for example delivering strong elevated sightlines over playing surfaces).

The Council will:

- consider that all new utility blocks are designed to enable ease of expansion. They should also be positioned to offer multiple sightlines over different playing surfaces in the event that an upper level multisport clubroom is developed later. The positioning should also allow for future car parking Add Accessible
- develop a utility building as part of the new Otaraua sports field development
- ensure existing utility blocks continue to be maintained and monitored

More information on Utility Buildings can be found in the Community Facilities Strategy at page 108

3.8 Public Conveniences

Summary:

The district has a good distribution of public conveniences, although some gaps in provision exist in high use open space locations. In some other high use locations, such as those within proximity to bus stops and key main street areas existing toilet facilities need to be reviewed to meet demand. Our public conveniences must be accessible, of good quality, and serve the needs of both residents and visitors.

Public conveniences are defined as toilets and baby changing facilities that are available to the public in areas used for recreation and leisure. These facilities play an important community amenity role and enable residents to undertake community activities for longer periods of time.

Public conveniences are often overlooked, but essential community assets. These facilities enable residents and visitors to stay longer in our public spaces enjoying leisure, cultural and sporting activities. Quality public conveniences that are accessible and functional enhance the quality of life for all residents and visitors.

The Council will:

- measure usage of high demand facilities
- maintain existing public conveniences in line with identified maintenance and service levels
- undertake an accessibility audit to ensure public conveniences are functional for older adults and people with disabilities
- develop toilet facilities on all new sports parks and larger passive leisure parks
- regularly monitor the network of toilets to ensure the network is matching demand and the needs of the aging population, including an assessment of the need at Peka Peka and Te Horo Beaches
- undertake capital improvements to public conveniences on an as required basis to ensure they meet ongoing community expectations

More information on Public Conveniences can be found in the Community Facilities Strategy at page 118

3.9 Playground facilities

Summary:

The district has a good spread and level of playground provision. It is anticipated planned network initiatives will meet projected demand at both the local and destination playground level. When renewals are considered thought should be given to optimising equipment and positioning destination playgrounds so that they have a connection with other amenities to attract residents and visitors.

Playgrounds provide an important role in the development of active movement and outdoor play activities for the District's youngest residents. Playgrounds can provide for both preschool and school aged children. A key theme of the Council's strategic documents is a desire for safe and welcoming facilities for all ages which provide a wide range of recreation, leisure and social activities. There is a wide range of playgrounds across the Kāpiti district.

Playground facilities are an important part of local communities. These facilities are used to develop fundamental movement skills which are the building blocks for life-long physical activity and health. Recent international trends have seen playgrounds advance to become more intergenerational with the integration of elements for children, youth, adults and older adults.

The Kāpiti Coast has a large comprehensive network of playgrounds with some larger destination playgrounds where people will travel significant distances for the opportunity to try a wider range (or specialist pieces) of equipment. The network is provided mainly by the Council, but there are also many playgrounds within the primary school network that play an important role in local provision.

The population projections for young people in the Kāpiti Coast, combined with the current supply of playgrounds indicates that very little significant additions to the network are required in the foreseeable future. However, there remains scope for the optimisation of the network with elements that may appeal to a broader range of ages, or be strategically located relative to other key attractions.

When optimisation of the local and destination playground network is desired in localised areas then assessments should be undertaken of playground accessibility (walking, biking, driving distances and disability access and use); playground components (the number and type of play equipment) and the strategic location of the playgrounds relative to other amenities (such as beaches, toilets, shopping areas and other sport, recreation and community facilities).

Council will:

- continue to engage with the community to provide and maintain a network of local playgrounds in neighbourhoods and destination playgrounds in key strategic locations that are accessible for all
- identify any school and school playground locations which may address potential gaps in local playground accessibility. Explore partnerships with these primary schools as required
- explore the opportunity to vary the mix of equipment in playgrounds (or playground precincts) to create more intergenerational environments

More information on Playground Facilities can be found in the Community Facilities Strategy at page 131

3.10 Hardcourt Facilities

Summary:

The district has a comparatively good network of hardcourt facilities. The primary focus for hard court areas is that of optimising the use of existing surfaces. Secondly, there is a need for planning for additional courts to cater for potential future growth in netball.

Hardcourt facilities refer to outdoor courts which are used for a variety of sports codes such as tennis, netball, basketball and hockey (at junior level) and associated assets such as floodlighting, shelter and perimeter nets. Concrete, asphalt and artificial grass surfaces are the three most common surface-types.

Hardcourts and the associated sport and recreation opportunities they provide add to the spectrum of a well-balanced network of community facilities. They provide sporting competition and training opportunities as well as informal sporting opportunities for young and old alike. These facilities are often more accessible for the general community than indoor courts.

Across the district general hardcourt demand is likely to be largely stable. Population projections indicate that only minimal future population driven demand growth is likely under current conditions. However, there are two notable exceptions; localised growth in tennis, and centralised netball court demand at Te Ātiawa Park.

The Te Ātiawa Park hardcourt upgrade has addressed court quality issues, but not future demand issues, and they do not meet the recommended standard for event hosting. It is likely that demand will increase gradually over coming years based on slight population growth. However, if netball's capture rate of the playing age population increases beyond current levels this demand may be greater than previously anticipated.

There are numerous hardcourt options for tennis spread throughout the district (especially for 'casual community social tennis'). Few sites for tennis have any capacity issues overall, although most are at a basic level and a few may have localised quality issues.

In areas where localised community level hardcourt demand emerges; the potential may exist for creating partnerships with schools.

The Council will:

- in relation to the Te Ātiawa Park hardcourt, investigate the favoured approach to deliver increased netball court supply in advance of demand issues in the longer term
- maintain current network and optimise maintenance and refurbishment expenditure based on emerging localised demand patterns (taking into consideration the Netball Study)
- investigate school partnerships for strategic facility upgrades as demand dictates
- investigate club partnerships, or provide support for strategic facility upgrades (e.g. lighting) where these upgrades assist meeting localised need / demands
- investigate collating compatible sports activities so that hard courts can be utilised year-round. Examples include tennis, netball, hockey (social, junior and training)

More information on Hardcourt Facilities can be found in the Community Facilities Strategy at page 149

3.11 Playing Field facilities

Summary:

Across the district there are a wide range of playing fields accommodating competitive sport. While there may be pockets of heavy demand, the wider sports field network is well positioned to accommodate additional demand. This would be further enhanced with the development of Otaraua Park. There is an opportunity to increase the quality and carrying capacity of both training and competition fields.

Playing field facilities are defined here as marked outdoor grass fields for sports use (such as rugby, football, cricket and touch) and some more specialised sports which require more specific field facilities (such as softball and athletics). These can sometimes use the same grass spaces interchangeably by season.

Playing fields play a significant role in an active and healthy community. They provide for structured competition and training opportunities for sports clubs, both in the winter and summer months. They also provide for informal or formal recreation opportunities for community groups or individuals.

Playing field facilities provide spaces for competitive and informal sport and recreation. Current demand is largely stable with population projections indicating that only minimal future population-driven growth in demand is likely under current conditions. For demand to increase, most significantly individual sports codes would need to achieve a far higher capture rate within the playing age population than they currently do.

Across the district the field network is well positioned to accommodate additional demand should it occur at rates above those anticipated. Underutilised fields in localised areas could be used more intensely, the quality of existing fields could be increased allowing greater utilisation and Otaraua Park can be developed for field sports use. This park has the potential to become a 'destination' playing field 'hub' for the district.

Across the district few sites have any major regular closure problems, although some do have localised quality issues. Most use issues relate to a lack of training options. Addressing localised training capacity issues is important as it is often a core reason for overall field degradation (due to over use).

The Council will:

- Maintain the implementation of the Open Spaces Strategy (2012)
- Complete the Otaraua Park Development Plan and incorporate additional playing fields to cope with projected demand for both competition and training venues in the future
- Explore the ongoing opportunities to partner with schools to develop enhanced shared facilities primarily for training purposes
- Where possible co-locate artificial grass tennis court facilities with field sports clubs so they could use the artificial surfaces for junior winter training.
- Continue to work with sporting codes to optimise the existing network of playing fields to ensure all communities have reasonable access

More information on Playing Field Facilities can be found in the Community Facilities Strategy at page 162

3.12 Open Space / Parklands

Summary:

The Kāpiti Coast District currently has a diverse open space network. The addition of destination parks such as Otaraua Park and smaller localised parks will accommodate any gradual demand increases.

The network of open space and parkland areas in Kāpiti contributes to building the well-being and connections within our community. This network also provides important recreational and leisure opportunities.

Open space / parkland facilities provide a diverse range of environments for flora and fauna, as well as supporting recreation and leisure activities. Planning for open space is guided by the Kāpiti Coast District Council Open Spaces Strategy (2012).

Demand is largely stable with population projections indicating that only minimal future population-driven growth in local demand is likely under current conditions and activity preferences. The Open Spaces Strategy recommended that all urban residents are within 400m walking distance of public open space (which may require a combination of localised land acquisition and access partnerships). Destination sites will also likely be required to meet provision objectives.

The geographic distribution of the District's population and transport limitations can impact on open space accessibility generally and for specific types of activities. The needs of a significantly aging population and youth should be taken into consideration when optimising the open space network.

Council will:

- Continue implementing the recommendations/objectives of the Council's Open Spaces Strategy (2012)
-
- Produce development plans for Maclean Park and Otaraua Park
-
- Optimise the alignment of the Open Space network (and related facilities in open space) with the Cycleways, Walkways, Bridleways network.
-
- Undertake an assessment of the open space roles played by schools; playground-based 'pocket parks'; and other small reserves; and by green spaces provided as parts of residential developments
-
- Plan for the re-purposing of the Otaihanga Landfill to open space land to provide alternative space for recreational use. Potential uses could include mountain biking, motorised recreation and recreational shooting and other complementary outdoor recreation pursuits
-
- Explore options for improving access to Otaraua Park

More information on Open Space / Parklands can be found in the Community Facilities Strategy at page 175

3.13 Cycleways, Walkways and Bridleways

Summary:

The Cycleways, Walkways and Bridleways network is extensive and has the potential for further expansion and optimisation. It is anticipated planned network initiatives will meet projected demand.

Cycleways, Walkways and Bridleways (CWB) facilities are important not only to foster active recreation and leisure activities but also in connecting communities to the facilities, spaces and places. The Kāpiti Coast environment lends itself to a range of CWB facilities from remote, back country tracks to the coastline that spans the western length of the district. With the high levels of participation in walking nationally, and to a lesser degree cycling and equine activity, a well-developed and promoted network of CWBs is an integral part of a vibrant district.

Population projections indicate that only low future population-driven demand growth is likely under current conditions and activity preferences. However recent investment in CWB infrastructure as a result of the Expressway and Stride'n' Ride projects, along with technological advances such as the introduction of electric bikes, has seen an increase in the numbers of people participating in cycling, particularly in urban areas and amongst older adults. This trend may increase demand (especially amongst older adults). Walking is also likely to remain strong. Horse riding is particularly popular in the Pekapeka / Te Horo area which has some of the highest rates of horse ownership in the country.

Demand by visitors from within and outside the district may be a factor in increased participation at special interest 'destination' sites (such as at the cycleway through Queen Elizabeth Park – Te ara o Whareroa).

The needs of a significantly aging population will need to be taken into consideration. At the same time the opportunities for new-entrant and younger participants need to be enhanced to grow participation (such as learn to cycle tracks and graduated track grades).

The Council will:

- continue implementation of direction from the Cycleways, Walkways and Bridleways Strategy (2009) and approved priority proposals from the 2015 'Kāpiti Coast District CWB Network Planning' report
- continue to ensure linkages to parks and sports fields are provided through the CWB network
- review the CWB Strategy in the short to medium term given the changes in the local and regional environment
- advance the identification and consolidation of destination track opportunities and networks along the Coastal Corridor and associated with the 'branded' through-routes (such as Te Araroa and Te Ara o Whareroa)
- build/strengthen facility partnerships with managers of significant non-council track opportunities in the District (or those connecting to it)
- build/strengthen facility partnerships with community recreation, conservation and/or advocacy groups currently (or potentially) actively supporting the developments of open spaces and track opportunities in the District (or those connecting to it)
- continue to implement Stride 'N Ride priority projects

More information on Cycleways, Walkways and Bridleways can be found in the Community Facilities Strategy at page 190

3.14 Other Facilities

Summary:

The district contains a diversity of smaller or specialist facilities that offer residents different sporting and leisure opportunities. In general, these facilities are well spread across the district. The specialist nature of some facilities requires participants to travel to access opportunities. This is considered acceptable when the facility supports more niche experiences.

A relatively low number of community facilities fit within this broad category. Sports and leisure activities which require outdoor greens or specialist terrain (such as bowls, croquet or pétanque), equestrian, skating and water-based facilities and artificial turfs included.

Many of the facilities in this section are owned by third parties. These facilities play an important role in providing diversity and spread of activity across the Kāpiti Coast. These facilities are included as they represent an important part of the wider Community Facilities network.

Council will

- consider facility partnership opportunities with other facility providers for any future investment/support in bowling and croquet greens (multi-sport and collation of facilities)
- support strategic rationalisation of facilities to maintain sustainability which (?) may also be required in certain instances
- Ensure equestrian sports continue to be well catered for on the Kāpiti Coast across facilities on public and private land. There are significant club based facilities and activities on offer.

Riders can also access opportunities within the developing CWB network. Facilities are reported to be upgraded on an as required basis in line with available funding

- Maintain the nationally recognised track at Te Ātiawa Park for BMX. This is supported by more localised facilities elsewhere
- Maintain and monitor existing skate park facilities. Future refurbishment and/or redevelopment should only occur after consultation with key user groups, particularly young people, to ensure their specific needs are met
- Investigate how Winstone Lake may offer a future development opportunity for a large, flatwater venue for various water sports, including options for improved access
- Investigate the development of artificial surfaces for the provision of community sport. One option is to develop surfaces in partnership with schools to be used by the schools, sports clubs and the general community.
- Seek clarity on the need for a new athletics facility. This should be examined in detail through an independent feasibility study

More information on Other Facilities can be found in the Community Facilities Strategy at page 203