

**Mayor and Councillors**  
COUNCIL

23 MAY 2019

Meeting Status: **Public**

Purpose of Report: For Decision

## **OPEN SPACE STRATEGY ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES - APPROVAL TO CONSULT**

### **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval to undertake consultation of the Open Space Strategy Issues and Opportunities paper.

### **DELEGATION**

- 2 Council has the authority to consider this matter.

### **BACKGROUND**

- 3 The purpose of the Open Space Strategy is to set a clear vision and direction for the provision and management of open space in the Kāpiti district, including guidance for acquiring land for public use.
- 4 The existing Open Space Strategy was finalised in 2012. The review of the Open Space Strategy was approved through the Long Term Plan 2018-2038. Since the existing strategy was written there has been significant change across the district, such as the expressways, Transmission Gully and land acquisition including the purchase of Otaraua Park.
- 5 The updated Open Spaces Strategy will set out the provision and management of open space in the Kāpiti District for the next 30 years and will be a guidance document for decision making including informing the Long-Term Plan. The strategy will provide direction for assessing and collecting contributions to fund Open Space development required for growth and will allow for input in to the Development Contributions Policy in the future. The strategy will also provide direction for future land acquisition.
- 6 The Cycleways, Walkways and Bridleways (CWB) strategy is currently separate to the open space strategy. As part of this review the recreational trails will be included in the Open Space Strategy and the commuter trails will be included in the sustainable transport strategy which is also due for review.
- 7 While the Open Space Strategy can only influence direct decisions over land owned and/or managed by Kāpiti District Council, it also takes account of public open space owned by other agencies.
- 8 The consultancy firm XYST has been contracted to undertake the review of the strategy. Council officers are working alongside XYST to provide local knowledge and assist with strategic planning.

- 9 Elected members have had two briefings on the strategy review. The first on 21 February 2019 at the very start of the process and the second on 11 April 2019 to discuss emerging themes as a result of the first round of engagement.

## ISSUES AND OPTIONS

### Issues

- 10 The purpose of the Issues and Opportunities paper (attached as Appendix 1) is to define the open space network within the Kāpiti Coast District and to present the key issues and opportunities for feedback. It provides a check-in with our iwi partners, key stakeholders and members of the community to ensure the information gathered to date has been correctly interpreted. It also provides an opportunity to gather additional insights prior to the commencement of the drafting of the Open Space Strategy.
- 11 The content of the Issues and Opportunities paper has been informed by a review of the existing Open Space strategy and other Kāpiti Coast District Council related policies and plans; meetings with internal Council teams (whose actions impact or influence open space); an assessment of the existing open spaces; an online community survey and workshops with our iwi partners and key stakeholder groups.
- 12 As a result of the engagement and research to date, nine key themes have been addressed. These themes are listed below and aspects of each are discussed in the issues and opportunities document (Appendix 1):
- Land and linkages
    - Involves the land provision, connections and linkages of land
  - Environment and ecosystems
    - Managing, protecting and providing the opportunity for our biodiversity and natural environment to thrive
  - Assets (built and natural)
    - The physical assets within Kāpiti's open spaces
  - Partnerships, collaboration and relationships
    - Managing and maintaining our partnerships with iwi and relationships with land owners, volunteers, our open space users
  - Changes and trends
    - Global, national and regional
  - Management and Governance
    - Decision making guided by strategies influences what happens in our open spaces
  - Strategic
    - High level policies and documents that guide what happens in Kāpiti's open spaces
  - Education
    - Helping future generations stay connected with nature and open space
  - Experience
    - The physical, spiritual, social and emotional benefits that occur during connections with open space

## Next Steps

- 13 Following consultation on the Issues and Opportunities paper in June 2019, the draft strategy will be written. The intention is for the draft strategy to be consulted on early 2020 and adopted by Council by June 2020.

## CONSIDERATIONS

### Policy considerations

- 14 There are no policy considerations.

### Legal considerations

- 15 There are no legal considerations.

### Financial considerations

- 16 A budget of \$50,000 plus GST was approved through the Long Term Plan and is split over 2019/2020 and 2020/2021.

### Tāngata whenua considerations

- 17 Te Whakaminenga were briefed on 12 March 2019 and it was agreed that each iwi would be involved throughout the process. A representative from Ngāti Toa attended a workshop on 22 March 2019. Unfortunately Council officers have not yet been able to meet with Te Ātiawa or Ngā Hapu o Ōtaki. Iwi partners are an important part of this strategy review and Council officers will continue to work towards engaging with iwi.

## SIGNIFICANCE AND ENGAGEMENT

### Significance policy

- 18 This matter has a low level of significance under Council's Significance and Engagement Policy.

### Consultation already undertaken

- 19 The first round of engagement took place during February and March 2019. This included an online community survey (125 responses); a face to face meeting with the Ngāti Toa representative; workshops with the representatives from key stakeholder groups (care groups, CWB Advisory Group, Older Persons Council, Kāpiti Accessibility Advisory Group and the Youth Council) and property developers.

### Publicity

- 20 A communications plan is in place for each stage of the strategy review. The Issues and Opportunities paper will be sent out directly to all key stakeholders and others who have asked to be involved throughout the review. An online survey will be available for wider community feedback. Officers will endeavour to engage with iwi partners to further consider the issues and opportunities.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- 21 That the Kāpiti Coast District Council approves the Open Space Strategy, Issues and Opportunities document for consultation from 1 June – 30 June 2019.

**Report prepared by**

**Approved for submission**

**Approved for submission**

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## ATTACHMENTS

- 1 Issues and Opportunities paper for consultation.