

Chairperson and Committee Members

ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

17 MARCH 2011

Meeting Status : Public

Purpose of Report: For Information

OLDER PERSONS STRATEGY

PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1 The purpose of this report is to seek the Committee's endorsement of *'Positive Ageing on the Kāpiti Coast, He Tira Kaumātua'* strategy.

SIGNIFICANCE OF DECISION

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

BACKGROUND

- 3 An extensive community consultation process was carried out in 2008 via the community forums that were held throughout the District. These provided the opportunity for the community to talk about issues that affected their everyday living. This included two Older Persons' forums.
- 4 At the consultation forums a number of issues were identified by older people living in the District. These included:
 - improving access to services (health and transport issues);
 - supporting social cohesion (whakawhanautanga);
 - safety and wellbeing (isolation);
 - connections between young and old;
 - older peoples participation in community (valuing skills and abilities);
 - building social capital; and
 - sustainable Kāpiti.
- 5 In recent years, these issues continued to provide the foundation for initiatives and Council work in the area of older people. For example, the formation of the Council of Elders group and the establishment of Volunteer Kāpiti. A full report on progress of these initiatives was provided to the Environment and Community Development Committee in October 2009 (refer to report SP-09-591).

- 6 In June 2010, the Council of Elders initiated the development of a local Positive Ageing document modelled on the Whangarei District Positive Ageing Action Plan. It was envisaged that any such local development would function as a response to the issues highlighted at the Older Persons' forums.
- 7 From the outset, it was decided that any planning and development of a local strategy would include an action plan and be developed in partnership with the community.
- 8 A workgroup was formed in July 2010. Each member has a specialised area of expertise; some are members of Kāpiti's ageing community, while others are service providers for older people. The list of representatives and their organisations is appended to this report (Appendix 1).
- 9 *Positive Ageing on the Kāpiti Coast, He Tira Kaumātua* has been developed by the workgroup and is appended to this report (Appendix 2).
- 10 The Strategy links to a number of Community Outcomes, with a predominant link to Outcome 7:

‘The District has a strong healthy, safe and involved community’
- 11 Other documents that have informed this project include:
 - Positive Ageing for Aotearoa, New Zealand (Office of Senior Citizens)
 - Social Report 2010 (Ministry of Social Development)
 - Health of Older People in New Zealand (Ministry of Health)
 - Local Services Mapping Report 2006 (LSM)
 - Other Positive Ageing Strategies (Hauraki, Whangarei, Hutt and New Plymouth)
 - Principles of the Treaty of Waitangi
- 12 The core functions of the strategy are summarised below.

CONSIDERATIONS

- 13 The Policy for Older People 2003 (as Appendix 3) is the most recent Council document dedicated to older people's wellbeing. It is intended that the *Positive Ageing on the Kāpiti Coast, He Tira Kaumātua* strategy will supersede this policy.
- 14 The *Positive Ageing on the Kāpiti Coast, He Tira Kaumātua* strategy looks to institute policy and implement projects and activities that improve the quality of life for older people living in the District. To ensure this will be a robust, responsive and effective strategy it will:
 - prioritise actions areas based on issues identified by the Older Persons' forums (2008).

- adopt a whole of community approach that focuses on partnership and intersectorial cooperation along with community involvement and participation.
 - contribute to nationwide aspirations by adopting the New Zealand Positive Ageing principles to influence effective policy within the Kāpiti Coast District Council.
 - integrate the New Zealand Positive Ageing Strategy goals and actions into a local action plan.
- 15 The strategy will form the foundation for an action plan (Positive Ageing in Action). The plan will document the Council’s contribution to the action areas across a range of Council activities including: transport and access, asset management, supporting social wellbeing, sustainable design and leisure and open spaces.
- 16 Contributions from other organisations, community groups and services will also be captured in the Positive Ageing in Action plan. The workgroup has already started work on this plan.
- 17 It is intended that the strategy will be reviewed in 2015 in line with the Community Plan.
- 18 The workgroup has complete autonomy over the content, advancement and structure of the strategy. Any suggested changes by the Committee will need to go to the workgroup for discussion and further action.

Financial Considerations

- 19 There are no financial considerations at this stage. However as the action plan (Positive Ageing in Action) develops there may be implications for the Long Term Plan. These will be reported back to the Committee.

Delegation

- 20 The Environment & Community Development Committee has the following delegation to endorse the proposed strategy:

Policy Development

- 7.1 Authority to develop (within any wider existing strategic framework) policies and work programmes that support the social, economic, environmental and cultural wellbeing of the community and provide assurance to Council that associated projects are managed efficiently, effectively and with due regard to risk.*

Consultation

- 21 Community consultation was carried out in 2008 via the two Older Persons’ forums held in the District. These forums provided the opportunity for the community to

talk about issues, and ways to enhance community life. This strategy is intended to be a response to the issues identified at the 2008 Older Persons' forums.

- 22 The strategy has been developed in partnership with a coalition of community groups and providers and incorporates their existing knowledge of issues, gaps and interventions.

Policy Implications

- 23 The Council's existing Policy for Older People (2003) is outdated. Positive Ageing on the Kāpiti Coast, He Tira Kaumatua is a comprehensive document that incorporates a plan for action for Council to contribute to local community and National aspirations. This document supersedes the 2003 Policy for Older People.

Publicity Considerations

- 24 Positive Ageing on the Kāpiti Coast, He Tira Kaumātua will be celebrated and launched at the 'Making the Most of Retirement on the Coast' forum to be held on Tuesday 12 April 2011. Any publicity will be in tandem with this event.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 25 That the Committee endorses Positive Ageing on the Kāpiti Coast, He Tira Kaumātua, as a strategy for influencing Kāpiti Coast District Council's work in the area of older people, replacing the Policy for Older People 2003.
- 26 That the progress of this strategy is reported to the Committee on an annual basis and through the Long Term Plan.

Report prepared by:

Approved for submission by:

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ATTACHMENTS:

Appendix 1: Positive Ageing Workgroup

Appendix 2: Positive Ageing on the Kāpiti Coast, He Tira Kaumātua

Appendix 3: Policy for Older People 2003

APPENDIX 1: Positive Ageing Workgroup

Below is a list of organisations and community groups involved in the development of the Positive Ageing on the Kāpiti Coast, He Tira Kaumātua:

Representative	Organisation/group
Jill Stansfield	WEA Council of Elders
Jo Connor	Supergrans Council of Elders
Winton Davies	Abbeyfield, Council of Elders Age Concern
Tristine Tilley	Age Concern
Dianne Ferris	Disability Reference Group
Jan Reid	Council of Elders
Lynley Holes	Wesley Care and Integrated Care Kāpiti
Trevor Daniels	Raumati Community Board Grey Power, Council of Elders Safer Community Trust
Lisa MacDonald	Compass Health Primary Network (formally Kāpiti PHO)
John Gibson	Driving with Confidence Education Provider Council of Elders
The entire Council of Elders have had input into the strategy at various stages throughout development.	

Others contributors; Snooks Forster from Hora te Pai Health Services, Susan Shingleton from Kapiti Health Group, and Anita Very from the Kāpiti Disability Information and Equipment Centre.

POLICY FOR OLDER PEOPLE 2003

Policy for Older People

The Policy for Older People provides a framework and broad principles to guide the development of 'Positive Ageing' policies within the Kapiti Coast District Council that impact on, or have implications, for older people.

The Policy also aims to encourage opportunities for older people to participate in the community in the ways that they choose. By identifying barriers to participation and working with all sectors to develop actions to address these, the needs of older people can be balanced with the needs of younger and future generations.

The seven categories, links to the New Zealand Positive Ageing Strategy (NZPAS) listed in the attached Policy for Older People and potential local partnerships are as follows:

Access to Information: This was identified as a major issue for future consideration across all areas. While there is a significant amount of information in the community there appears to be a lack of knowledge on how to access it. As information is a key to ensuring people are informed about, and engage with, their community this is an important category. The Council has an obligation to ensure the community has access to its information and organisations such as the Disability Information and Equipment Centre – Kapiti (DIEC-K) and the Otaki and Kapiti Citizens Advice Bureau disseminate information to the local community.

This category takes account of all the NZPAS principles and specifically Numbers: 1, 2, 9 and 10.

Advocacy: Health, Housing, Disability, Transport and Personal Choice issues are identified as areas that required ongoing or increased advocacy. The Council has a role to act as an advocate for its community with a number of the issues identified currently part of ongoing work both within Council and with other agencies such as the Kapiti Community Health Group Trust (KCHGT), Sport Kapiti, DIEC-K and Greater Wellington. Community based agencies such as Age Concern and Grey Power have a role in bringing community concerns to Council.

This category takes account of the NZPAS principles Numbers: 1, 4, 7, 8 and 9.

Accessibility: Access to Health, Disability, Transport and Recreation services, both locally and regionally, are seen as issues. Much of this may be related to concerns regarding access to information

This category takes account of the NZPAS principles Numbers: 1, 2 and 9.

Support: Support services in the areas of Health, Housing and Disability were seen as key to allowing individuals to make choices especially related to staying in their own homes. Council is not an actual service provider but does have a role in maintaining relationships with agencies such as the KCHGT and DIEC-K.

This category takes account of the NZPAS principles Numbers: 1 and 9.

Safety: Health, Disability, Transport and Recreation were identified as having safety issues. These related to physical safety within the community (footpaths, roads) and in their own homes, perceptions of personal safety and the increasing safety precautions that are required in order for older people to be involved in all areas of community life. The Kapiti Safer Community Trust is currently undertaking a Community Safety Survey to gauge community perceptions of levels of safety. The Trust could be expected to take a lead in any response with Council and other agencies playing a support role. Physical safety relating to local roading and footpaths is the responsibility of Council.

This category takes account of the NZPAS principles Numbers: 1 and 9.

Planning: forward planning issues related to Health, Housing and Transport were identified. Having appropriate transport options and a good range of local health services would address concerns about decreasing mobility and the ability for older people to access current services. As most people wish to stay in their own homes planning needs to be done to provide appropriate housing options.

This category takes account of the NZPAS principles Numbers: 1 and 9.

Affordability: Concerns were expressed related to the affordability to the individual of Health services and Housing.

This category takes account of the NZPAS principles Numbers: 1 and 9.

Philosophy and Values

The Kapiti Coast District Council's policy adopts the New Zealand Positive Ageing Principles. This promotes the value and participation of older people in the community and recognises the skills, knowledge and experience that they have to contribute to our society.

The concept of 'Positive Ageing' includes all aspects of wellbeing – social, economic, environmental and cultural plus the promotion of positive attitudes to ageing. The concept is aligned to the ability to age in place in a healthy life style.

The Kapiti Coast District Council recognises that the population is ageing and that this will have implications for the Kapiti Coast District.

Mission Statement

For the Kapiti Coast to be a community that values the contribution and involvement of the older people within the district and is a great place for them to live.

Aims

- To promote the concepts of 'Positive Ageing' within the Kapiti Coast District and encourage all ages to recognise these
- To especially promote the following New Zealand Positive Ageing Principles
 - 1 Reflect positive attitudes to older people
 - 2 Affirm the values and strengthen the capabilities of older Maori and their whanau

3 Recognise the diversity and strengthen the capabilities of older Pacific people

- To encourage older people to participate in the Kapiti Coast District community
- To work in a cooperative and collaborative way with other agencies to provide programmes that benefit all older people
- To make sure that all older people have access to the information and resources required to meet their current and future needs in the areas of:
 - health, safety and wellbeing
 - physical environment
 - entertainment and recreation
 - education and training
 - employment and community involvement
 - family, neighbourhood, community networking
- To ensure that older people are able to live and move safely and in a secure environment
- To create opportunities for older people to access to and input into the decision making process

Demographic Profile

The 2001 census data shows that the Kapiti Coast District population comprises 22.3% of people over the age of 65 years in comparison to 12.1% nationally, 11.1% in Wellington Region and 6.9% in Porirua City. This is a significant proportion of the Kapiti Coast District population and there are a number of implications.

Implications of the ageing population

New Zealand has an ageing population as birth and migration levels are no longer sufficient to offset the large numbers of people entering the older age groups. The ageing of New Zealand's population is expected to accelerate as life expectancy continues to improve and the large baby-boom generation advances through the mid-age groups and into old age (Statistics New Zealand).

As noted in the paper 'Population Ageing in New Zealand' (Mansoor Khawaja, 1999) *The ageing process is neither a new demographic phenomenon nor is it unique to New Zealand. In fact, population ageing in New Zealand, as in other developed countries, began over a century ago with the onset of transition in fertility from relatively large to relatively small families.*

At the regional and local levels there are planning implications for health related issues, for housing and accommodation, and for the provision of aged-care, transport, and community support services.

While the elderly are highly urbanised significantly more elderly live in secondary and minor urban areas than the general population - 22 percent versus 16 percent. Therefore, policy solutions developed for larger urban centres may not be suitable for

smaller centres or rural areas. For example, there are fewer public transport options available in smaller areas compared to the larger urban areas, and in some rural areas there may be none. Consequently services such as meals on wheels, or home help may be more difficult and more costly to provide in rural and remote areas (McKenzie, 1999).

These concerns apply to the Kapiti Coast District.

Links with other policies

The Policy for Older People forms an integral part of the Kapiti Coast District Council Social Policy Framework and the principles established apply equally to the Policy for Older People.

These are:

1. responding to the needs of our communities
2. creating consultative opportunities
3. honouring our obligation under the Treaty of Waitangi
4. achieving equity in all our actions
5. striving to ensure environmentally sustainable outcomes in all areas of operation

New Zealand Disability Strategy

The New Zealand Disability Strategy (April 2001) presents a long-term plan for changing New Zealand from a disabling to an inclusive society. It was developed in consultation with disabled people and the wider disability sector.

Underpinning the Strategy is a vision of a fully inclusive society. It provides a framework, including fifteen objectives, to ensure that disabled people are considered before making decisions.

The Kapiti Coast District Council acknowledges New Zealand Disability Strategy and the following statement from the Strategy: “A society that highly values the lives and continually enhances our full participation”.

New Zealand Positive Ageing Principles:

The New Zealand Positive Ageing Strategy aims to improve opportunities for older people to participate in the community in ways they choose. The principles of the Strategy were developed with input from a wide range of individuals, groups and organisations throughout New Zealand and formed the basis of the consultation process for this policy. The ten principles are:

1. Empower older people to make choices that enable them to live a satisfying life and lead a healthy lifestyle
2. Provide opportunities for older people to participate in and contribute to family, whanau and community
3. Reflect positive attitudes to older people

4. Recognise the diversity of older people and ageing as a normal part of the lifecycle
5. Affirm the values and strengthen the capabilities of older Maori and their whanau
6. Recognise the diversity and strengthen the capabilities of older Pacific people
7. Appreciate the diversity of cultural identity of older people living in New Zealand
8. Recognise the different issues facing men and women
9. Ensure older people, in both rural and urban areas, live with confidence in a secure environment and receive the services they require to do so
10. Enable older people to take responsibility for their personal growth and development through changing circumstances

Application

Underpinning this policy is the recognition that the Kapiti Coast District Council can only fulfill its goals by cooperating, consulting and coordinating with residents, commercial and voluntary sectors and central government.

The Kapiti Coast District Council has a role in advocating for the development and maintenance of local services for older people.

Implementation of the Policy Older People

A strategy for the implementation of the Policy for Older People will be developed and reviewed annually and considered for inclusion in the Annual / Community Plan.

Reference Group

The Reference Group, supported by Council staff, will develop the annual Strategy for Implementation, review progress and report annually to Council.

This group, to meet up to three times a year, will include representatives from iwi, Age Concern Kapiti Coast, Kapiti Coast Grey Power, the disability and health sectors, the retirement sector and the Kapiti Coast District Council.