

Chairperson and Committee Members

ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

9 JUNE 2011

Meeting Status : Public

Purpose of Report: For Decision

YTH2U YOUTH ACTION PLAN

PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1 This report seeks the Committee's endorsement of the *Yth2U Youth Action Plan: A Plan of Action for Kāpiti Coast Youth (Action Plan)* (Appendix One). It also seeks a commitment to the Council actions outlined for 2011/12 and a commitment to work in partnership with the Youth Council to achieve the goals of the Action Plan.

SIGNIFICANCE OF DECISION

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

BACKGROUND

- 3 The Kāpiti Coast Youth Survey 2010 (Youth Survey) informs the goals and aims of the Action Plan. The purpose of the Youth Survey was to discover how young people thought the District was meeting their needs, and how effectively they were able to give back to their community.
- 4 The survey was completed in December 2010 by the Kāpiti Coast Youth Council and captured the voices of over 10% of the youth population. The Youth Council presented the key findings of the Youth Survey to the Council on 16 December 2010.
- 5 The key findings of the Youth Survey were that:
 - young people feel connected with their community but are frustrated by lack of activities and spaces for youth in the District
 - young people struggle with transport options around the District
 - young people want more youth friendly communities
 - young people often feel unsafe in our District and have to deal with issues of discrimination and stereotyping
 - young people want a stronger role in our communities.
- 6 The Youth Council structure and operation was also reviewed in 2010 and several changes were made. In particular, the Youth Council's representation of the diverse

youth population on the Kāpiti Coast and the practice of youth participation in decision-making processes were strengthened.

- 7 There are currently 24 Youth Council members, seven of whom were members in 2010 and contributed to the development of the Youth Survey. The group is between 14 and 22 years of age and includes young people:
 - attending the District's three colleges
 - attending college outside of the District (but living in the District)
 - in training
 - working fulltime
 - seeking work.
- 8 The new Youth Council was formed in February 2011 and began work on the development of the Action Plan to respond to the key issues raised in the Youth Survey.
- 9 The Action Plan contributes to Community Outcome Six and Seven of the Long Term Plan:
 - Outcome 6: 'The District is a place that works for young people'
 - Outcome 7: 'The District has a strong, healthy, safe and involved community.'
- 10 Other documents that have informed this project include:
 - Youth Development Strategy Aotearoa (Ministry of Youth Development) 2002
 - Agenda for Children (Ministry of Social Development) 2002
 - Social Report 2010 (Ministry of Social Development)
 - Local Services Mapping Report 2006
 - Principles of the Treaty of Waitangi.

CONSIDERATIONS

- 11 The Action Plan outlines the commitments the Council and the Youth Council will make until the end of the current triennium on addressing the issues raised in the Youth Survey. It provides core actions for the financial year 2011/12 to progress towards the overall outcomes and goals of the Action Plan.
- 12 The Action Plan focuses on actions to be undertaken solely by the Council and Youth Council. It does not involve or consider direct actions by central government or non-government organisations on youth development, youth health or other youth related outcomes in the District. It does contain actions in relation to influencing other agencies' activities in particular under Goal 5; 'A District which supports

strong positive youth development' that includes research into provision of services for young people in the Kāpiti Coast outside of the Council and Youth Council, and advocacy for a youth transitions service in the District

- 13 The Action Plan seeks to improve the quality of life for young people living in the District. It also seeks benefits for Council and the District through increased youth participation in decision-making in core Council business.
- 14 The Action Plan details the Youth Council and Council's contribution to action areas across a range of Council activities including: social wellbeing, leisure and open spaces, community facilities, transport and democratic services. Actions relating to other groups within Council have been discussed with these groups.
- 15 The Youth Council manages the content, advancement and structure of the Action Plan in partnership with the Council. Any suggested changes by the Committee will need to go to the Youth Council for discussion and further action.
- 16 It is intended that the Action Plan will be reviewed in 2015 in line with the Long Term Plan.

Financial Considerations

- 17 In 2011/12 the Action Plan will be funded from the existing Social Wellbeing budget, supplemented with external funding.
- 18 External funding opportunities arose as the Action Plan was being developed. In partnership with the Youth Council, the Council submitted a funding application to the Ministry of Youth Development in March 2011. This requested \$90,000 for four priority Yth2U actions and the Ministry will make their funding decision by the end of this month.
- 19 These four priority actions form a significant part of the Action Plan and are noted as funding dependent in the document. The Council has some limited funding set aside to support these actions if the Ministry application is successful.
- 20 The Youth Council has other minor Youth Action funding applications pending and will apply for further external funding as required.
- 21 The Youth Council has also received \$2000 from the Creative Communities Scheme for funding for a District-wide Mural Project. This project sits under Goal One of the Action Plan.
- 22 Funding for 2012/13 onwards will be considered as a part of the Long Term Plan.

Delegation

- 23 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

- 24 As discussed, the Action Plan is a response to the key findings of the Kāpiti Coast Youth Survey which was reported to Council in December 2010.
- 25 Most of the young people who completed the survey were aged 13-17 (n=701, or 92%). The national definition of youth is 12 to 24 years. Further research into the needs and experiences of intermediate school aged young people and 18-24 year olds in the District may be taken in the future and may result in recommendations and changes to the Action Plan.
- 26 The Action Plan has been developed as a youth led project with the role of Council as an advisor to the process. A core team of Youth Council members representing the diversity of the group led the development of the Action Plan. The full Youth Council identified the overall goals and aims of the Action Plan and has contributed throughout the process.
- 27 The Action Plan also incorporates other young people's knowledge, experience and opinion outside of those captured in the Youth Survey. For example, in May 2011 the Youth Council led a consultative process with Kāpiti College students as a part of the Raumati Town Centre Upgrade. Young people's perspectives in this process have also contributed significantly to Goal Three 'A District which has youth friendly spaces and places' and Goal Four 'A District where there is lots to do for young people' of the Action Plan.

Policy Implications

- 28 The Council's existing Young People's Policy (2003) is outdated. The Action Plan provides a practical task-centred way for the Council to make progress on Community Outcomes Six and Seven. The Action Plan supersedes the Young People's Policy (2003).

Publicity Considerations

- 29 A youth friendly version of the Action Plan will be published and promoted to young people. This will provide young people with a clear message of how the Council and the Youth Council are addressing the key issues raised in the Youth Survey.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 30 That the Committee endorses the *Yth2U Action Plan 2011-2015* and the replacement of the Young People's Policy 2003.
- 31 That the progress of this Action Plan 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: Yth2U Action Plan

Appendix 2: Young People's Policy 2003

APPENDIX ONE

Yth2U ACTION PLAN 2011 - 2015

A Plan of Action for Kāpiti Coast Youth

This action plan has been developed by young people for young people. It is about youth vision and youth voice. It shows the Youth Council and Kāpiti Coast District Council's commitment on ACTION for youth.

It's all about what needs to happen to make the Kāpiti Coast a better place for young people. Of course, in making it better for young people, we make it better for everyone. Everyone benefits when young people feel supported, connected and valued.

This action plan addresses the key findings of the Kāpiti Coast Youth Survey which captured the views of over 10 percent of our youth population. Young people were straight up with their experience, what they need and want to happen. The key findings were that:

- young people feel connected with their community but are frustrated by lack of activities and spaces for youth in the District
- young people struggle with transport options around the District
- young people want more youth friendly communities
- young people often feel unsafe in our District and have to deal with issues of discrimination and stereotyping
- young people want a stronger role in our communities.
- young people feel connected with their community but are frustrated by lack of activities and spaces for youth in the District

We need the support of the Council to make this action plan work. We need decision makers who will listen and take young people's concerns seriously and support us to take action for youth in our community. It's not a policy which will sit on a shelf but a working action plan which will drive forward positive changes for youth in our District. In fact some of the actions have already started!

Kāpiti Coast Youth Council

The Youth Development Strategy Aotearoa (YDSA)

We used the YDSA (Ministry of Youth Development) as a basis for the values which underpin the Action Plan. The YDSA outlines the six principles of positive youth development.

1. Positive youth development is shaped by the 'big picture' of where young people come from and what influences their world
2. Positive youth development is about young people being connected to a lot of different social environments where they feel understood and valued
3. Positive youth development is a consistent strengths-based approach, not looking at young people as problems
4. Positive youth development happens through quality relationships with family and other adults as well as their peers
5. Positive youth development is triggered when young people fully participate in decision-making
6. Positive youth development needs good information and research to inform what action takes place.

If we, as a District, acknowledge and act on all these principles, then young people in our communities are more likely to growing up knowing:

- they can make a positive contribution to society and have opportunities to do so
- they have supportive and caring connections with a range of groups and people who care about them
- they can influence their own lives through choices and skills
- they feel good about who they are and what they can offer.

As a result, we help create a District which 'works for young people'.

What's our goal?

The main goal of this action plan is to make significant progress on Community Outcome Six of the Long Term Plan, 'the District is a place that works for young people'. It also responds to Community Outcome Seven: 'the District has a strong, healthy, safe and involved community'. In addition, it seeks to create a strong base of knowledge and action in preparation for the Long Term Plan review in 2012 and beyond.

Who's it aimed at?

Yth2U Action is aimed at 12-24 year olds. This group represents New Zealand's national definition of 'youth' (Ministry of Youth Development). We also need to find out more about those young people who are over 18 years and were not strongly represented in the Youth Survey.

How did we develop it?

A core group of Youth Council members, both new and those who have been around for a few years, led the development of the Action Plan. We used the main findings of the youth survey to steer the Action Plan. We found out about other things the Council was doing which fitted the outcomes we are seeking. We got involved in other things along the way which informed the project further, like the Raumatī Township upgrade in which we consulted with other young people and advocated for youth needs. Opportunities came up for funding which we couldn't afford to miss so we took pieces of the action plan as we developed it and applied for money to help make it happen. We made a

submission on the Council's Annual Plan on things which would help the action plan be more effective.

What's the role of the Youth Council?

The Youth Council has an important role in advocating for young people's needs in the Council's business and provides a youth perspective on a range of issues to the Council. Our priority is to ensure that the key findings of the Youth Survey are acted upon by the Council.

What's the role of the District Council?

The Kāpiti Coast District Council enables democratic local decision-making to promote the social, economic, environmental and cultural wellbeing of the Kāpiti Coast. The Council's activities and decisions impact on young people's lives now and in the future. The Council has an important role in achieving Community Outcome Six 'The District is a place that works for young people' in the Long Term Plan. It has an active role in supporting young people and works in partnership with the Youth Council to make positive changes for youth in our District.

THE GOALS AND ACTIONS

GOAL 1: Communities which are safe for and supportive of youth

Young people want safe and healthy communities which respect and include young people. They want communities where adults respect young people and young people are respectful of others, where young people are involved in community activities and where they feel a sense of belonging.

Youth Council actions

Our aims are to:

- encourage initiatives that provide opportunities for young people to volunteer and get involved in community events and projects
- work to increase intergenerational understanding between adults and young people
- challenge and minimise negative stereotypes of young people in the community and local media
- increase young people's feeling of safety in the District

In 2011-12, we will:

- undertake a youth led mural project which will foster a sense of community between young people and their local neighbourhood
- promote positive youth development stories, youth activities and consultations through the local media
- work with the Council of Elders to develop a project to bridge the gap between older people and youth in the Kāpiti Coast

Council actions

Our aims are to:

- make sure the spaces and places youth hang out in and the routes young people use to get around in District are safe and accessible

- advocate for youth to ensure they have good and safe public transport options around the District
- encourage organisations working with young people to work together and will support the Youth Workers Network
- promote positive youth development stories in the District

In 2011-12, we will:

- support a Youth Council led youth column in the local media
- identify and investigate places in the District that young people feel are unsafe
- provide facilitative support to the Youth Workers Network
- provide opportunities in Council publications such as the Update for positive youth stories
- Support a joint project between the Council of Elders and Youth Council (Priority under the Positive Ageing on the Kāpiti Coast: He Tira Kaumātua Strategy – Appendix Two)

GOAL 2: A Council which values and listens to its youth

Young people want to contribute more to community decision-making which is relevant to them. Local government decisions have a significant impact on young people and their lives. Policies that affect the whole community and specifically impact on young people's lives benefit from young people's input.

The Council's projects and policies need to be informed by the viewpoints and experiences of those they intend to benefit. Young people are valuable members of the community and have a wide range of experiences, skills and viewpoints to contribute alongside other people in our District. Good youth participation in Council decision-making processes can result in marked improvement in the quality of services received by communities and quality of decisions which affect the future of the District.

Youth Council actions

Our aims are to:

- keep young people informed about our work through different ways
- use a range of consultative methods to make sure we are giving strong representative of youth experience, ideas and opinion to the Council
- work with Colleges, student councils, youth organisations and training providers to connect with a diverse range of young people in our District
- advocate for young people's needs through formal and informal Council processes

In 2011-12, we will:

- increase usage of our Facebook site and link to our Council webpage
- establish a media subcommittee and advantage of local media opportunities
- participate in Youth Worker Network meetings
- strengthen the Ōtaki subcommittee of the Youth Council and its role representing Ōtaki youth
- bring young people's values, ideals and voices to the Long Term Plan Review

Council actions**Our aims are to:**

- ensure good communication is maintained between the Youth Council and the Council
- continue to resource and support the Youth Council to ensure its Council's sustainability and effectiveness
- provide more opportunities for young people to have their say on key Council projects and decision-making which affect young people's lives

In 2011-12, we will:

- ensure good youth consultation occurs in the review of the Long Term Plan
- review the administrative support needed for the Youth Council to work effectively
- undertake a specific youth consultation on the Waikanae Township and Mahara Gallery Upgrade
- identify other key Council decisions which will impact significantly on young people's lives and ensure good consultation with this group

GOAL 3: A District which has youth friendly spaces and places

Young people told us they want places to call their own in the District; youth centres where they can socialise, have fun, learn stuff and seek help. They want more youth specific things to do and places to be in our public spaces like parks and beaches.

Youth Council actions**Our aims are to:**

- advocate for the development of community-based youth centres in youth appropriate locations around the District.
- help the Council improve the 'youth friendliness' of the key public spaces used by young people
- identify areas of gaps in youth spaces in the District and make recommendations to Council
- identify places where young people are seen as an issue and develop projects to build community

In 2011-12, we will:

- work with the District libraries to develop a stronger youth membership
- consult with young people who live 'over the tracks' about their needs for safe youth friendly environments and make recommendations to Council
- investigate the effectiveness of legal graffiti walls in managing tagging and graffiti and make recommendations to Council
- engage with Coastlands about youth and issues in their Mall.

Council actions**Our aims are to:**

- investigate the development of youth centres in the District
- strengthen youth interest in and relevance of our indoor and outdoor Council spaces
- improve the accessibility of public spaces to young people

In 2011-12, we will:

- improve the appeal and relevance of our public libraries to youth with the help of the Youth Council
- support an initial study on feasibility of community youth centres in the District
- undertake a community facilities stock take which will take into consideration the needs of young people
- improve the youth components in Council parks
- support the feasibility of a youth centre in Ōtaki in partnership with the Heart of Ōtaki Trust and Ōtaki subcommittee of the Youth Council (funding dependent – Appendix One)

GOAL 4: A District where there is lots for young people to do

Young people want low cost youth specific activities which cater to a wide range of young people's skills, interests and talents. They want a District where young people can express themselves through a wide range of mediums; including art and cultural activities.

Youth Council actions***Our aims are to:***

- organise an Annual YouthFest event to celebrate young people's diversity, skills and talents and to bring together youth from communities across the District
- promote and facilitate national Youth Week activities through the District
- hold youth events at the District's libraries, pools and parks

In 2011-12, we will:

- strengthen the youth-led delivery of YouthFest 2012
- develop an Ōtaki programme led by the Ōtaki subcommittee of the Youth Council
- support Youth Week 2012 activities which are accessible to a wide range of young people

Council actions***Our aims are to:***

- continue to fund activities in which young people showcase their talents and skills in the District in partnership with the Youth Council.
- ensure young people are involved in consultation on recreational, art and culture facilities around the District.
- increase the number of free and low cost activities for young people to do in Council places and spaces

In 2011-12, we will:

- implement a programme of youth activities around the District in partnership with the Youth Council (funding dependent – Appendix One)
- support the ongoing funding of YouthFest, Youth Week and other youth initiatives
- support the Youth Council to hold events in Council facilities such as libraries and pools

GOAL 5: A District which supports strong positive youth development

Young people need lots of help as they face the issues, challenges and opportunities of growing up. Youth have specific needs and so need specific services to help them out. They need assistance with moving on from high school to more education or training or a job.

Youth Council action

Our aims are to:

- develop ways for young people to develop their skills and talents
- work with the Council to develop processes which recognises and celebrates young people's skills, talents and abilities
- advocate for the Council to become a youth friendly employer and provide youth with work experience opportunities
- partner with youth organisations in youth projects

In 2011-12, we will:

- review and restructure the current \$300ship (youth scholarships) programme to improve its usefulness to young people
- develop a youth capacity building project providing a youth led project mentoring and training programme (funding dependent – Appendix One)
- work with the Youth Workers Network to increase youth service involvement in YouthFest 2012 and other face to face opportunities with young people
- re-develop the current College Awards into a stronger youth development model of youth leadership and recognition in partnership with the Council (funding dependent – Appendix One)

Council actions

Our aims are to:

- advocate to Central Government for appropriate resourcing for youth needs in the District
- work with government and non-government organisations to ensure good provision of services for young people across the District
- support the development of skilled people to work with young people through the Youth Workers Network and youth worker training opportunities

In 2011-12, we will:

- undertake a stock take and gap analysis of youth services in the District and make recommendations, including possible needs for community based youth workers
- advocate for the development of Youth Transitions services in the District
- hold a community forum on youth transitions from school into training, employment and further education
- strengthen the employment opportunities for young people by working with the local Zero Youth Unemployment project group
- progress on alcohol related issues for young people (under the Alcohol Action Plan)

Yth2U Youth Action Plan: Appendix One

The Yth2U Project (Ministry of Youth Development Funding Dependent)

The Youth Council in partnership with the Council have applied to the Ministry of Youth Development's Youth Development Partnership Fund for the Yth2U project. Council's financial contribution to this project is dependent on the success of the application to the Ministry.

The Yth2U application contains 4 priority actions in response to the Youth Council's key findings in their 2010 youth survey. All four actions have and will continue to be developed in partnership with young people through the Kāpiti Coast Youth Council and will promote personal and social development and enable young people to have a voice, influence and place in their community and the District as a whole. The 4 priority actions are a significant component of the Yth2U Action Plan. The actions are as follows;

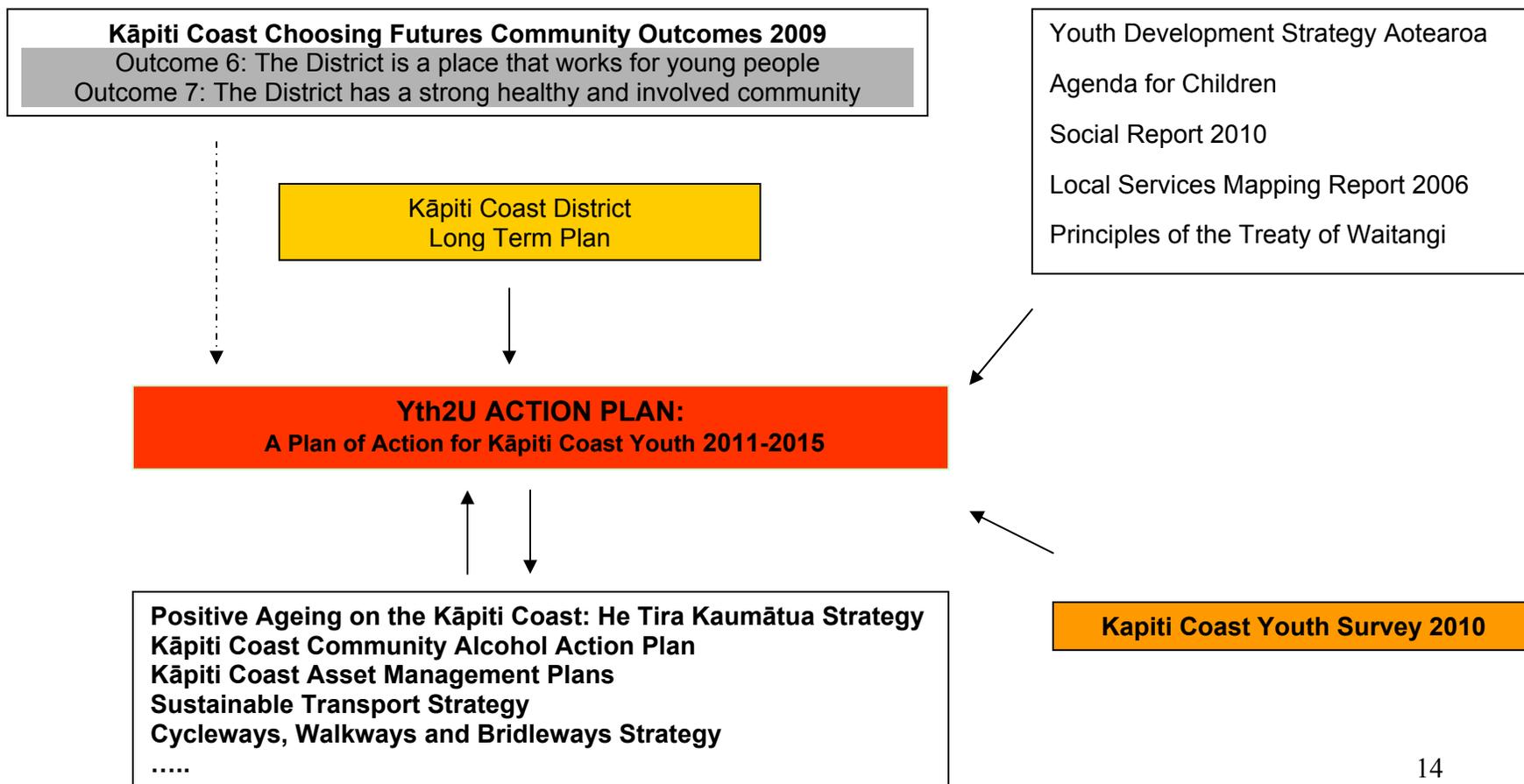
- **Yth2U Live:** A sustainable programme of day/night youth focused activities within a youth work context in existing community venues and public spaces across the District. Aims include; showcasing young people's skills and talents, providing regular safe youth gatherings to socialise and meet new people, linking young people with a youth facilitator who can refer young people onto other services, providing opportunities for young people to develop a wide range of new skills from organising events to stage management.
- **Yth2U Leaders:** A youth capacity building project providing a youth led project mentoring and training programme in conjunction with the Youth Council's new 300dollarships round of youth led project grants. Those groups who receive funding would be supported to achieve their project outcomes through a youth participation in decision-making training programme. The focus is on developing the skills and potential of youth to take the lead in the development of grassroots community projects and enhancing their expertise and awareness about relevant issues and their community.
- **Yth2U Awards:** The development of an awards programme which celebrates a wider diversity of youth leadership, strength and ability in our District to replace the current Council driven College Awards.
- **Yth2U Place:** The investigation of a dedicated youth space with which local youth feel a sense of ownership in Ōtaki in partnership with the Heart of Ōtaki Community Trust, their youth leaders and the Ōtaki sub-committee of the Kāpiti Coast Youth Council.

Yth2U Youth Action Plan: Appendix Two: Where Does the Action Plan Sit?

The Yth2U ACTION PLAN: A Plan of Action for Kāpiti Coast Youth

- contributes to the Kāpiti Coast Long Term Plan, and Kāpiti Coast Community Outcomes
- is a partnership between the Kāpiti Coast Youth Council and the Kāpiti Coast District Council
- is based on the Youth Development Strategy Aotearoa.

The following diagram illustrates these linkages:



APPENDIX TWO**Young Peoples Policy 2003****Philosophy and Values**

Kapiti Coast District Council values the young people of the Kapiti Coast District and is committed to providing opportunities and facilities for their positive development.

Kapiti Coast District Council acknowledges that the young people are an integral part of the community and recognize the importance of their belonging to and their contribution to the community.

Kapiti Coast District Council aims to encourage young people to be involved in the affairs of the community and recognises the importance of including them in the decision making processes.

Mission Statement

- For the Kapiti Coast to be a great place for young people to live.
- A place where Young People can be free to express themselves.
- A place with ample opportunity to work, learn, play, achieve, have fun or just hang out.

Policy

This policy will work towards the achievement of Council's Strategic Plans by:

- providing a friendly, safe, inviting and inclusive place to live for all people in the community
- encouraging community involvement through the development of strategic partnerships
- encouraging an active community to enhance the health, enjoyment and quality of life of young people
- The Young Peoples Policy forms an integral part of the Social Policy Framework and the principles established apply equally to the Young People's Policy.

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

Scope

All people aged 12 - 25 years

Aims

- To encourage and motivate young people to participate and succeed in the Kapiti Coast Community
- To create opportunities for young people to have access to and input into the decision making processes
- To support community based initiatives focused on the positive development of young people
- To work in a cooperative and collaborative way with other agencies to provide programmes that benefit young people
- To make sure that young people have easy access to the information and resources required to meet their needs in the areas of:
 - health, safety and wellbeing
 - sport and recreation
 - entertainment
 - education and training
 - employment
 - family

Goals

- To support and initiate programmes which address issues affecting young people, especially those in the 12-16 age group
- To make sure that services needed by young people are available and easily accessed on the Kapiti Coast
- To make sure that there is an adequate transport system to support the activities of young people
- To create opportunities for young people to be heard and taken seriously

Application

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

Implementation of Youth Policy

An annual Strategy for the Implementation of the Young Peoples Policy will be developed and reviewed annually and considered for inclusion in the Annual Plan.

Accountability

Council will make an annual report available to the community on what it has done with regard to this Policy.