

### 3.0 Council's 2007/08 Annual Plan Process

(NGAA TIKANGA O TE KAUNIHERA 2007/08)

Council's Proposed 2007/08 Annual Plan (which also included proposed amendments to Council's 2006-16 Long-Term Plan) was open for public submissions between Monday 26 March and Thursday 26 April 2007.

Council held an expo-style information day at the Claudelands Event Centre on Saturday 31 March 2007. Elected members and staff were available on the day to discuss any aspects of the Proposed 2007/08 Annual Plan (and proposed amendments to the 2006-16 Long-Term Plan) and to provide information on the submission process. The expo was very successful, with around 350 people attending and positive feedback received about the opportunity to find out more about what is planned for Hamilton in the coming years.

In addition to showing proposed variations to a number of projects and programmes in 2007/08 to those shown in the base 2006-16 Long-Term Plan, four key amendments to the 2006-16 Long-Term Plan were also proposed in Part B of the Proposed 2007/08 Annual Plan, i.e. the:

- Review of Council's Development and Financial Contributions Policy
- Changes to the Claudelands Events Centre Project
- Adjustment to the City's Rating Differential Factor
- Addition of a Definition to the Funding Impact Statement and Rating Policy for a 'Separately Used or Inhabited Part of a Rating Unit'.

A 24-page Overview of the Proposed 2007/08 Annual Plan was also delivered to every Hamilton household in the April 2007 edition of City News. The Overview provided residents with a summary of the key elements contained in Council's Proposed 2007/08 Annual Plan, and also outlined the four proposed amendments to Council's 2006-16 Long-Term Plan.

The following outlines the key steps Council undertook prior to adopting the final 2007/08 Annual Plan and amendments to Council's 2006-16 Long-Term Plan on Friday 29 June 2007.

#### KEY STEPS IN DEVELOPING COUNCIL'S 2007/08 ANNUAL PLAN AND AMENDMENTS TO COUNCIL'S 2006-16 LONG-TERM PLAN

<b>31 January 2007</b>	Council considered the Proposed 2007/08 Annual Plan and proposed amendments to Council's 2006-16 Long-Term Plan, as well as the Overview.
<b>12 March</b>	Council adopted the Proposed 2007/08 Annual Plan with the Audit New Zealand Legal Compliance Review and a 'clear' Audit Opinion on the proposed Long-Term Plan amendments.
<b>Late March/early April</b>	Overview of the Proposed 2007/08 Annual Plan and proposed amendments to Council's 2006-16 Long-Term Plan circulated to all Hamilton households as part of the April 2007 edition of City News.
<b>26 March – 26 April</b>	Proposed 2007/08 Annual Plan (and proposed Long-Term Plan amendments) open for public submissions.

	Proposed plan available from the main Council office in Garden Place, at all Council libraries and on Council's website <a href="http://www.hamilton.co.nz/annualplan">www.hamilton.co.nz/annualplan</a> .
<b>31 March</b>	Council expo-style information day was held at Claudelands Events Centre (including information on the Proposed 2007/08 Annual Plan and proposed Long-Term Plan amendments).
<b>21-22 May</b>	Hearings held for submitters who wished to speak to Council in support of their written submission.
<b>11 June</b>	Council made decisions on submissions.
<b>29 June</b>	Council adopted the Final 2007/08 Annual Plan (including final amendments to the 2006-16 Long-Term Plan) and confirmed the rates strike for 2007/08.
<b>27 July</b>	Final 2007/08 Annual Plan published and made available from the main Council office in Garden Place, at all Council libraries and on Council's website <a href="http://www.hamilton.co.nz/annualplan">www.hamilton.co.nz/annualplan</a> . Final amendments to the 2006-16 Long-Term Plan also made available from the main Council office in Garden Place, at all Council libraries and on Council's website <a href="http://www.hamilton.co.nz/longtermplan">www.hamilton.co.nz/longtermplan</a> .
<b>Late July</b>	Letters sent to submitters advising them of Council's decision on their submission (and reasons).

### Summary of Key Changes as a Result of the Public Submission Process and Council Decisions

Council received 201 written submissions to its Proposed 2007/08 Annual Plan and proposed amendments to the 2006-16 Long-Term Plan. Of these, 59 submitters requested to be heard in support of their submission to the mayor and councillors at the public hearings, which were held on 21 and 22 May 2007.

#### Submissions Received by Category

Submission Category	Number	Percentage
Hamilton East Special Character Area	125	62.2
Transport	13	6.5
Arts and Culture	10	5.0
Parks and Gardens/Recreation	9	4.5
Rates/Financial	8	4.0
City Growth	6	3.0
Development and Financial Contributions Policy	6	3.0
Request for Funding	6	3.0
Community Development	6	3.0
Claudelands Development	4	2.0
Environmental Issues	4	2.0
CBD Upgrade	2	1.0
Fluoride	2	1.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>100%</b>

**NB:** Although submissions were categorised according to the primary topic of the submission, many submissions also raised other issues.

The following is a summary of key changes to Council's projects and programmes in the final 2007/08 Annual Plan and amendments to Council's 2006-16 Long-Term Plan (grouped under the three City Strategic Framework statements of strategic intent) as a result of the public submission process and Council decisions.

*NB: All figures shown in this section are prior to inflation adjustment. Further references in the 2007/08 Annual Plan have been adjusted for inflation.*

### **City Strategic Framework A: Investing in Our People**

#### **Surf Life Saving Funding**

Small increases in the annual grants to Surf Life Saving Northern Region and Surf Life Saving Bay of Plenty have been made. Funding provision of \$21,000 per annum for 2007/08 and 2008/09 has been allocated to each organisation until the issue is examined again as part of the 2009-19 Long-Term Plan process.

#### **Maori Partnership and Representation**

Council will be undertaking a review of current roles, functions and relationships with a range of Maori organisations. This review will look at internal capacity and also examine the need for and range of options available for governance relationships between elected members of Council and various Maori organisations. In particular, consideration will be given to examining a committee structure comprising Council's elected members and representatives from a range of Maori organisations.

#### **Safety of Public Alleyways**

In response to submissions received regarding alleyways in Melville, Council will work with Te Whare Kokonga, in consultation with the community, to assess the level of community use of connecting pathways in Melville and develop a plan incorporating CPTED (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design) elements, including lighting elements to address current safety and access issues. Staff will report back to Council on the Melville area in particular, and also wider city issues.

#### **Hydrotherapy Pool**

As part of the 2006-16 Long-Term Plan, \$180,000 was made available in 2006/07 for the design of a hydrotherapy pool to be located at Waterworld. Council also resolved to contribute 33 per cent of the capital funding required to construct the pool in 2011/12. The Hamilton Hydrotherapy Pool Charitable Trust will fundraise the balance of the funds required. Hamilton's Mayor will also hold formal discussions with representatives from the Waikato District Health Board to examine funding options to further the development of the hydrotherapy pool and will report back to Council on the District Health Board's position.

#### **Housing Upgrade Programme**

In 2004 a review of Council's housing stock was completed and a seven-year Housing Upgrade Programme was adopted as part of the 2006-16 Long-Term Plan. The programme was approved on a cost neutral basis and funded from the sale of three Council assets and subject to Housing New Zealand Corporation (HNZC) funding.

HNZC's expectation for funding allocation for 2007/08 was reduced from \$30m to \$12m in the national Budget report and HCNZ identified priority regions for the funding

to be Auckland, Northland, East Cape and Poverty Bay. As a result, funding available to Council for the 2007/08 housing upgrade programme was withdrawn.

Council decided that the remainder of the seven-year upgrade programme be put on hold for a year and an application to the Local Government Housing Fund be made for the 2008/09 financial year. This is dependent on HNZC having the funds available.

Council will also formally advise central government of the effect of this reduction in funding and seek the reinstatement of funds to previous levels in light of the current national budget surplus.

#### **Car Park Lighting in Council Reserves**

In response to the submission received from the Fraser-Tech Rugby Club regarding car park lighting at Elliot Park, staff will meet with the Fraser-Tech Rugby Club and Western Community Centre to discuss the lighting needs of this ground. Staff will also investigate other recreational reserves containing car parks and report back to Council on funding requirements.

#### **Cricket Wicket Renovations at Jansen and Galloway Parks**

The city has eight wicket blocks that are used for senior grade premier cricket, i.e. four blocks at Jansen Park and four blocks at Galloway Park. These blocks have been in place for a number of years and require clay with special qualities to be used in order to prepare suitable wickets. Council has decided to renovate both wicket blocks, with Jansen Park scheduled for 2007/08 (\$147,500) and Galloway Park in 2008/09 (\$132,600).

#### **Galloway Park Sports Changing Rooms and Toilet Building**

The sports changing rooms and public toilets building at Galloway Park was severely damaged by an electrical fire in January 2007. The existing building will be demolished and rebuilt 'fit for purpose' to current design standards in two stages. Stage 1 will complete the outer shell of the building and finish interior areas of four changing rooms, as well as the caretaker's room (total cost \$600,000, with \$475,000 funded from insurance). Funding for stage two, which will complete the interior areas to the final four changing rooms and the first aid room, will be considered as part of the 2009-19 Long-Term Plan.

### **City Strategic Framework B: Creating Identity and Prosperity**

#### **Rangiriri Restoration**

\$130,000 has been moved from the unfunded to the funded section of the 2006-16 Long-Term Plan for the Rangiriri river boat restoration. This historic vessel on the riverbank of Memorial Park represents the arrival of founding militia settlers to Hamilton. Stage one of the project includes the lifting, repositioning and preservative treatment of the hull plus preparatory foundation work for stage two. Stages two and three will include landscaping, viewing areas and a protective roof for the vessel. Funding for stages two and three will be considered as part of the 2009-19 Long-Term Plan.

#### **Feasibility Study for Indoor Recreational Space**

Late last year, Council undertook a needs analysis of recreational facilities in Hamilton. As a result of this initial research, Council will now commence a feasibility study to develop a proposal for a new community indoor facility, ideally in partnership with other stakeholders. Council has made funding provision of \$50,000 for the feasibility study.

### **Hamilton East Heritage Trail – Stage 2**

Council has approved the balance of the original \$30,000 grant given to the Hamilton East Community Trust in 2005/06 to be used for stage 2 (interpretative signage) of the Hamilton East Heritage Trail in 2007/08. The balance of the \$30,000 grant that is able to be spent is \$21,553.

### **New North East Sector Library**

The timing for construction of the proposed Rototuna library in the north east sector of the city will be reviewed as part of the 2008/09 Annual Plan considerations. Construction of the library is currently planned to begin in 2012/13 in Council's 2006-16 Long-Term Plan. The review will take into account findings from the Rototuna town centre design workshops that were held in December 2006 and January 2007 as part of the development of the revised Rototuna Structure Plan.

### **Regional Orchestra**

A submission was received from the Opus Chamber Orchestra requesting that Council contribute to investing in a regional orchestra. Council has decided to work with the Opus Chamber Orchestra, other territorial authorities and Creative New Zealand to further assess the development of a regional orchestra, the result of which will be considered as part of Council's 2009-19 Long-Term Plan.

### **Hamilton Gardens Summer Festival**

Council will work with the Hamilton Gardens Summer Festival Foundation to develop a plan that addresses safety and security issues for the Festival, which incorporates CPTED (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design) elements.

### **Information and Communications Technology (ICT)**

Council recognises the role of ICT and that an efficient digital infrastructure is critical to support the further economic development of the city. ICT will be a key focus of the city's Economic Development Strategy, which is scheduled to commence in 2007/08. This work will include developing an agreed strategic position on digital infrastructure and ICT.

#### Additional Information:

Council has been working on a collaborative project with Wintec, the University of Waikato, Environment Waikato and a private company to establish an open access fibre network in Hamilton City. In September 2006, Hamilton (via the Hamilton Urban Fibre Network group) secured a \$3.29m government grant from the Broadband Challenge funding stream of the Digital Strategy towards the project. The proposal is for each of the parties to contribute their fibre assets to a joint venture company and the government funding will be used to connect and expand the network. The new network will then be leased to a private operator and revenue will be used to continue to develop and expand the city's fibre network. The structure of the network company is currently being worked on and is subject to Council approval.

### **City Strategic Framework C: Protecting Our Future**

#### **Waikato SPCA Lease**

The current commercial lease that the SPCA has with Council (\$18,400) will be amended to a community bodies lease (estimated to be in the range of \$9,000 - \$15,000 plus GST) on 1 July 2007 (subject to the SPCA meeting the requirements of Council's Community Building Rental Policy). The SPCA is situated in Council's Animal Care and Control Centre in Duke Street.

### **Solar Hot Water Installations**

Commencing in 2007/08, Council will waive building consent fees for solar hot water installations as part of developing the city's Environment Strategy. The net financial effect of this to Council is considered minor.

### **Energy Efficiency Retrofits**

Council will consider the issue of energy efficiency retrofits as part of developing the city's Environment Strategy commencing in 2007/08. Council will also request that the WEL Energy Trust consider allocating additional significant funding as part of their annual dispersion of funds to the retrofit programme.

### **Other Changes**

#### **Council's Development and Financial Contributions Policy**

The Development and Financial Contributions Policy has been amended as follows:

- Any development contribution charge associated with a building consent must be paid at the earliest of either the granting of a service connection, uplift of the code compliance or 180 days from the granting of the building consent.
- A bond system has been introduced which allows, at Council's discretion, the payment of development contributions to be deferred for up to two years with an interest charge.
- A number of changes were made to ensure consistency with the judgement in the judicial review of North Shore City Council's Development Contributions Policy, in particular, outlining the cost allocation methodology applied by Council and the three-step test Council follows prior to levying a development contribution.

The revised policy will come force on 1 July 2007.

#### **Local Area Plans for Hamilton East and Frankton Residential Areas**

Funding provision of \$250,000 has been made in 2007/08 to develop comprehensive local area plans for Hamilton East and Frankton residential areas that will enable:

- Development of project briefs
- Appointment of a facilitator to conduct community workshops and consultation
- Heritage/character and tree assessments to be undertaken
- Preparation of relevant design guidelines
- Promotion of variations to the Proposed District Plan.

Council will also highlight the relationship between the two local area plans and the proposed Heritage Policy, which will consider the need for further area studies.

#### **District Plan / Long-Term Plan Projects**

Additional funding provision of \$120,000 has been made in 2007/08 to enable six key District Plan projects and one Long-Term Plan project to be undertaken using external consultants. The total cost of the projects is \$170,000, less a carryover of \$50,000 from 2006/07. The seven projects are:

- Hayes Paddock Proposed Variation
- Stage 1 Peacocke Rezoning Variation
- Waipa Airport Proposed Plan Change
- Industrial Rezoning off Ruakura Road (Variation)
- Review of Reserve Contributions Variation
- Review of Rooding, Transport and Parking Variation
- Potential Amendment(s) to the Long-Term Plan.