

# INTRODUCTION

# WHAT IS A LONG TERM COUNCIL COMMUNITY PLAN?

Let's take a look at this Long-Term Council Community Plan – what is it, why are we producing it, and what does it mean to you?

Called the Long-Term Council Community Plan under the Local Government Act 2002, this document is a change to the way our district's future is planned. This plan is commonly referred to as the LTCCP.

Instead of focusing on budgeting each year through the Annual Plan, legislation requires Council to form a detailed plan for the next three years within an overall ten-year strategic plan (the LTCCP).

We need to make sure that this is in keeping with the path the community wants to take, and we need to ensure that our activities contribute to achieving our destination.

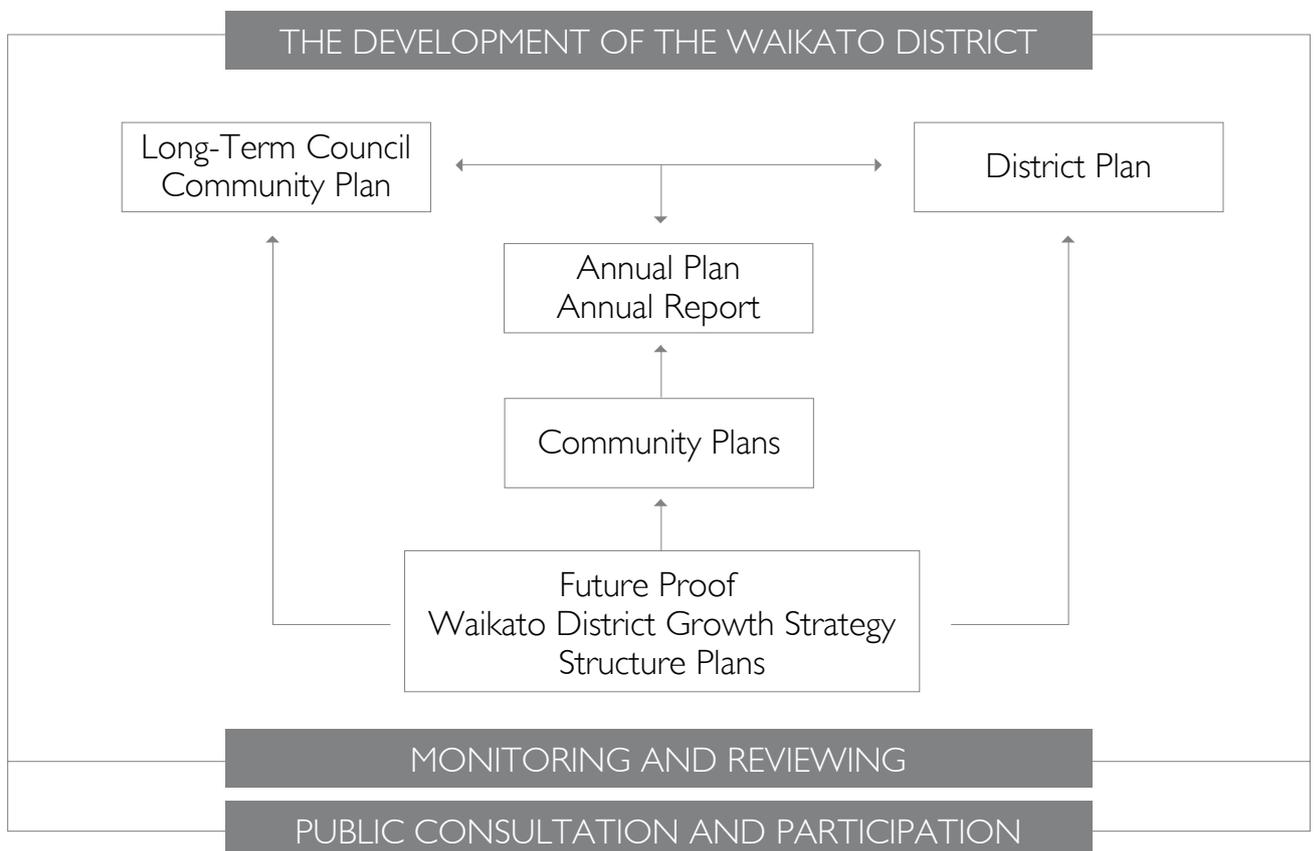
This means that you get a feel for Council's activities and work plans in detail for the next three years, and in general for up to ten years from now, rather than year-by-year as you are used to in the Annual Plan.

*Your Plan - your Future*

The Council hasn't gone off on a whim and produced this document. For many years we have been out and about in your communities asking you what you want, and developing localised community plans. We've used the information you've given us to make sure that this plan is your plan. We want it to reflect what you've told us you want for the district now and in the future.

*Fitting the Plans Together*

The Council produces a lot of planning documents. The LTCCP is just one of many strategies and plans that feed together and contribute to the path the district is following.



# WHAT'S IN THE PLAN?

The LTCCP is made up of lots of sections.

In the first of the three volumes, are Council's plans for the next ten years.

Volume 2 comprises a number of policies, which support these plans.

Volume 3 comprises the proposed fees and charges for 2009/2010.

These volumes support the summarised LTCCP (which you received through The Link in April 2009) by providing everything you need to know in depth. This document is also available on Council's website [www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz](http://www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz)

The final LTCCP was confirmed on 26 June 2009 and forms the basis of your 2009/2010 rates bill.

## Volume 1 contains ...

### *Comment from the Mayor and Chief Executive*

This is the forward to the document where the Mayor and Chief Executive introduce to you some of the issues and challenges we will elaborate on later in the document.

### *Office of the Auditor General Opinion*

The Office of the Auditor General is required under the Local Government Act 2002 to audit the LTCCP. They audit the robustness and reasonableness of the Plan in meeting the relevant requirements of the Local Government Act 2002. It then issues an 'audit opinion' which reports on this.

### *Introduction*

The introduction explains what the Plan is and why we are developing it.

### *Quick Guide to Reading the Plan*

This is a helpful guide explaining where to find some key information contained within the LTCCP.

### *Who Are We?*

This provides you with some statistical information about the Waikato District and puts "faces to names" of elected members and key management staff at Council. This section also describes what is important to our community – as described by our Community Outcomes.

## *Looking Forward*

This section outlines the key issues affecting the District and its various communities. In planning for the future, the Council has also made a series of assumptions about what the future will bring. It will also describe how we will measure our progress.

## *Council Activities*

In this section, you will find information on the Council's activities. It will give you an overview of each activity, as well as tell you about our plans for the next ten years.

## *Financial Information*

Finally, the last section presents the financial implications. While the "Council's Activities" section concentrates on the cost of activities, this section provides the bigger financial picture for Council.

## Volume 2 contains ...

### *Key Policies*

Volume 2 is made up of supporting policies.

Policies provide a framework (often including rules and procedures) within which the Council operates. They are used to guide decision-making.

The policies include:

- Revenue and Financing Policy.
- Treasury Management Policy.
- Rating Remission and Postponement Policy.
- Development Contributions Policy.
- Policy to Accept Early Payment of Rates by Lump Sum Contribution, or Payment of Rates over Several Years, for Capital Work.
- Summary of Financial Contributions Collected under the Resource Management Act 1991.
- Significance Policy.
- Policy on Involving Maori in Decision Making.
- Policy on Partnerships between Waikato District Council and the Private Sector.

## Volume 3 contains ...

### *Fees and Charges for 2009/2010*

These are the fees and charges we will charge in 2009/2010 for services we provide.

# QUICK GUIDE TO READING THE PLAN



# QUICK GUIDE TO READING THE PLAN

The purpose of this quick guide is to help you find key areas in the LTCCP.

Check out 'Who Are We?' on pages 17-22 to give you an outline of who we are as a District. It will tell you, whom you elected to represent you and who within Council, will help guide operational matters.

To find out what outcomes the community has said they want, go to page 24. You will also be able to see how we plan to monitor and report on progress toward these outcomes, along with how community outcomes at a regional level also fit with us.

In 'Looking Forward' from page 45 we explain what the significant issues are for us as a Council and for you as a community. We explain how the district is growing and how we as a Council need to plan for this. This section also contains the key Council documents that guide us and some assumptions that we have made to assist us in making the decisions contained within the LTCCP.

Within "Council's Activities" we have the groups of activities that provide the details of what we are planning. You can find this information from page 73.

To have a look at the full financials go to page 192. You will also see that there is an overview of the information for this section, which explains what this all means.

In Volume 2 you can find all of our major policies.

The Treasury Management Policy sets out how Council manages its money, including its liabilities and investments.

Our Revenue and Finance Policy establishes how Council finances its activities between general rates and other ways of raising funds.

The Development Contributions Policy sets out how Council will collect money from those people or organisations that undertake developments that increase the demand on Council infrastructure.

Our Rating Remission and Postponement Policy set out how to apply for rates remissions or postponement.

The Significance Policy provides Council guidelines on making important decisions.

The Policy on Partnerships with the Private Sector provides the framework for Council's business relationships with the private sector.

To view Council's fees and charges for 2009/10 go to Volume 3.