

TE KAUPAPA HERE MŌ TE WHAKAUKAUKA – SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

CATEGORY:	Office of the Chief Executive	STATUS:	FINAL
DATE POLICY ADOPTED:	25 September 2018 (part of LTP 2018-2028 document)	APPROVAL BY:	Council
REVIEW PERIOD:	3 years	NEXT REVIEW DUE BY:	2021
DATE PREVIOUSLY ADOPTED:	5 August 2015 (part of LTP 2015-2025 document)	REVISION NUMBER:	1

Sustainability is a process of ensuring the wise use and management of all resources, within a framework in which environmental, social, cultural and economic well-being are integrated and balanced. It means meeting the needs of today without adversely impacting on the needs of future generations.

The sustainability policy will help to guide Council's decision-making processes, strategic direction, policy development and activity management plans. The policy will also assist Council to achieve the community outcomes. It is an internal Council policy focusing on matters that the Council can control, rather than a statement on behalf of the Wairoa community. However, working in partnership with members of the community will be key to implementing the policy.

OBJECTIVE

To embed a culture of sustainability into all areas of Council, by having an overarching policy to be given effect through Council decisions, strategies, plans and actions, and against which future Council actions will be evaluated.

RESPONSIBILITY

The responsibility for this policy rests with the full Council and all employees. The Chief Executive Officer and Senior Leadership Team are personally committed to its success.

The Senior Leadership Team and their respective teams have a key role in understanding and leading the implementation of this policy in their departments.

Council is committed to monitoring and reviewing this policy in its Long-term Council Plan and Annual Reports.

SCOPE

The purpose of the sustainability policy is to provide guidance on:

- How the Council, as an organisation, performs in terms of sustainability (e.g. internal resource efficiency).
- The decisions that Council makes (e.g. providing a sustainability lens through which all proposals can be viewed).
- Enabling our community to be sustainable (e.g. addressing the present and future environmental, social, cultural and economic well-being of our community).

CONTEXT

The Council recognises that sustainability is a journey, not a destination. It is not a point that is reached, but a process of continual improvement, where society adapts and responds to changes over time, in a way that recognises the fundamental relationships of the four well-beings.

This policy forms an important part of Council's commitment to sustainability. It has been designed to capture both the moral and legal responsibilities of Council in terms of incorporating sustainability into its activities and decision-making.

At the heart of a democratic society is the responsibility for community leaders to make decisions on behalf of, and in the best interests of, present and future generations. Democratic governance therefore encompasses key elements of sustainability, such as stewardship for the community and for the environment on which it depends.

The Local Government Act 2002 also places a legal obligation on Council to adopt a 'sustainability approach.' This is expressed when the Act defines the purpose of local government (Part 2, Section 10), the principles that relate to local authorities (Part 2, Section 14), and in the requirements for decision-making (Part 6, Section 77). The Act identifies four components that the Council must take into account and these are the environmental, social, cultural and economic well-being of present and future generations.

AIMS

Demonstrate leadership in sustainability across the district

The Council will:

- achieve best practice standards
- meet and strive to surpass the requirements of environmental legislation targets
- build partnerships and projects that create learning networks
- take account of the impact on future generations when making decisions
- provide decision-makers with the information they need to deliver sustainable outcomes.

Accountability in Council performance

The Council will:

- optimise the efficient use of resources and minimise waste
- increase the use of renewable resources and reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- operate in ways that minimise any adverse impacts on the environment or the local community
- require employees to incorporate informed sustainability perspectives within their work
- encourage contractors, Council-Controlled Organisations and other partners to adopt sustainable best practices
- deliver an improved quality of life for the current and future residents of Wairoa.

Accountability in service delivery

Each department will:

- implement sustainable procurement procedures taking account of whole-of-life costs
- repair, reuse and recycle ahead of the responsible disposal of surplus materials, and minimise waste generation while taking into account the economics of the work
- take positive actions promoting continual improvement in sustainability performance
- set and achieve clearly defined sustainable development objectives and targets
- recognise, celebrate and reward achievement in order to promote the Council as a sustainable organization
- develop the capacity of staff to promote the principles and practice of sustainability.

Measuring progress and impact

The Council will:

- set targets
- set indicators to measure progress
- carry out a review of this policy.