

SECTION 4: Relationship-focused Engagement

Wellington residents are all part of:

- different and multiple communities, be they geographically defined communities or communities of shared experience or ethnicity
- agencies, clubs, societies, organisations, churches, sports groups, etc.

Different communities and organisations all contribute to greater social connectedness and cohesion, helping build social and civic capital. Engagement with communities is as much about building new relationships (including accessing new networks) as encouraging linkages between established communities, groups and organisations.

The Council, including its elected members, will:

- actively build and develop relationships with different communities, organisations and groups
- endeavour to engage communities on their terms – which may mean participating in established networks and processes
- ensure relationships are developed as ongoing activities, rather than events
- seek to facilitate outcomes **in, for** and **with** communities, while building community ownership of issues and outcomes and also community action
- recognise the contribution of different organisations (public, private and voluntary) – and enable that contribution to be fruitful
- help build capacity and capability in communities – giving local actors the capacity and tools to participate, mobilising and activating community leadership
- support community boards, advisory groups (e.g. the Disability Reference Group), community forums (e.g. the Pacific Forum), and other groups and mechanisms for tapping into the knowledge and views of different communities.