

Elected Member Questions and Answers

Pūroro Rangaranga | Social, Cultural and Economic Committee meeting of 5 May 2022

The following questions were received from Elected Members regarding items on the agenda of the Pūroro Rangaranga | Social, Cultural and Economic Committee meeting of 5 May 2022.

Item 2.1 Tūpiki Ora Māori Strategy

How will the council go through the process of realigning our WCC priorities with Tūpiki Ora? How will we identify these when making priority decisions?

The Strategy and Policy Work programme is agreed with councillors and is planned to be considered again early in the new Council triennium. As these strategies and policies are then reviewed, the context of Tūpiki Ora will be included in the factors that are considered in this process.

A Council action plan is being developed that will outline the range of activities and initiatives across Council business units and Council Controlled Organisations that will deliver on achieving the vision and outcomes of Tūpiki Ora.

How will this strategy integrate with our CCO strategies?

The relationship with CCOs is anchored by Letters of Expectation from the Council. CCOs are expected to take into account key strategies of the Council.

The Mataaho Aronui team engaged with CCO management throughout the development of the strategy to ensure that their views were considered, and they were up to date with the strategy as it was developed.

We wish to acknowledge the CCOs respective contributions to the development of Tūpiki Ora, and how they have already recognised the Māori Strategic Direction within their Statements of Intent.

We are keen to further strengthen our strategic partnerships with CCOs and continue to support that partnership.

How are the strategies working alongside existing opportunities ie. redevelopment of Wellington Museum to tell a more culturally rich story of Wellington?

We will continue to work with business units and CCO teams, including Experience Wellington to ensure that we align/integrate our work programmes and opportunities.

We are in the process of developing a Council Action Plan, to take the aspirations and priority actions of Mana Whenua and Māori reflected in Tūpiki Ora through both new and existing action and delivery.

An example includes maximising opportunities like the refurbishment of the Central library.

Item 2.3 Trails Wellington Matairangi Track Proposal

Can officers please better explain what is proposed for an accessibility trail?

We first need to fully understand the requirements of people who are living with impairments. To do this we need to do specific engagement with groups such as the Accessibility Advisory Group. We would want this trail to provide for the largest possible range of people.

Our initial thoughts are that we would be looking to develop a trail that will help people with a variety of physical disabilities as well as the elderly and very young). This is likely to have a sealed surface, be a lower grade (less steep), no steps and wider than a standard trail. We would look to incorporate elements of interest along its length (such as a mix of environments), viewpoints, drinking fountains and accessible seating, parking and toilets.

A new trail of this nature would be expected to be a destination for the region and the design needs to provide for that.

For the improvement to the existing trail on Mount Victoria we are planning to seal the South Walkway from the toilets on Lookout Road (the beginning of the Matairangi Nature Trail to the SPCA carpark. This will include widening the trail in places and improving the alignment as well. This is likely to cost around 200K. This will ensure a better user experience as it provides an accessible path away from the road and allows people to interact with the reserve, sports field and nature trail.

Is there another site identified that would be better for this?

This would be done through further investigations but would ideally be in an open environment and have the right topography (gentle landscape). An area such as in the north where Council is acquiring sections of retired farmland for reserve would be ideal. Building the facilities and creating the trail would require the use of heavy machinery to get the width and gradient right. This type of trail would leave a large initial impact on the environmental and landscape. Therefore doing it in an area where that impact could be minimised would be ideal. You would then replant along sections of its length.

What are the time frames to look at this?

This will be investigated through the Open Space and Recreation Strategy, which is currently being developed. At the same time officers will also work on the sealing of the section of the City to Sea Walkway and look at improving access along other existing trails such as Southern Walkway, Mount Victoria City to Sea, and within Otari.

Did we discuss the accessibility trail alternative with Trails Wellington?

Yes. We met this morning and discussed the reasons why we weren't recommending increasing the width of the trail in this location.

If yes what was their response to this?

They seemed satisfied with the rationale and that their push for an accessible trail was being taken seriously, although in a wider context.

What could Council do to help Mountain Bike culture become more cognisant and respectful of the pedestrian priority on shared trail paths?

Council will continue to work with Trails Wellington and the Regional Trails Framework; however we recognise this is an issue and a challenge. There is no easy solution to this problem, one of the ways we are dealing with this is looking at more separation of bikers and walkers. We also continue to run media campaigns and install signage at trail entrances.

Have we undergone a study of what other cities and countries do to help with this?

We had Gil Roper from 8/80 cities come over a number of years ago to look at this issue. He recommended separation where possible, which would need to be considered through the review of

the Open Space Access Plan as currently the policy approach is to create shared trails where possible. This issue has been investigated by officers over the years and discussed at conferences with other Councils and central government. The solution is likely to be a mix of both ongoing education and separation.