
REPORT 2

**COMMUNITY, SPORT AND RECREATION: BACKGROUND AND
CONTEXT**

1. Purpose of report

This paper outlines the major Community, Sport and Recreation issues for the current triennium (2013-2016) for information. The paper covers a broad range of issues across the portfolio. For clarity they have been segmented into the following areas: social, community facilities, government legislative requirements and sport and recreation.

2. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Community, Sport and Recreation Committee:

1. *Receive the information.*

3. Context

Community, sport and recreation is part of what makes Wellington great

A strong economy equates to a strong community and community services. Our community facilities and programmes bring people and communities together, enhance neighbourhoods and support whanaungatanga. Diversity, fairness, opportunity and a wide range of sport and recreation activities make Wellington an attractive place to live.

Our community, sport and recreation activities are a big investment and we need to ensure they meet the needs of a modern community

The Council has a significant level of investment in communities across a range of areas. At various times options have been explored around charging, or user pays, and closing facilities where demand is low. We have also looked at how best to respond to emergent technologies, such as social media and digital publishing, which are transforming how communities use our facilities. However, decisions have always needed to balance the tension between community expectations about retaining existing services and objectives around efficiency, cost, and embracing new approaches to community-led development.

Put simply, we need to ensure that the Council is maximising community benefit from its investment.

4. Current Issues and Priority Areas

Outlined below are the current issues and priority areas. Other issues will emerge as the work programme is developed and the year progresses.

We need to understand what the issue or the problem is, what the drivers behind it are, and what the opportunities from emerging trends like social entrepreneurialism are.

We are not starting from scratch

A significant amount of work has been progressed that will inform and guide the Community Sport and Recreation work programme. In particular, work underway includes:

Social

- Review of our social housing rental policy. Rents are currently set at a level that will not allow us to maintain and upgrade our housing in future years once the Housing Upgrade Programme is completed.
- Delivery of Te Mahana (Homelessness Strategy).
- Review of The Alternate Giving Programme and assessment of its effect on begging.
- Trial of a Rental Housing Warrant of Fitness.
- Implementation of our graffiti eradication plan.
- Continuation of the Housing Upgrade Programme and construction at Berkeley Dallard Apartments.
- Implementation of Our Volunteer Capital.
- Implementation of the Town Belt Management Plan (as it relates to recreational access).

Community Facilities

- Review Council's community services to understand the demand that is supported by our facilities and whether they are fit for purpose.
- Investigation of options to better align volunteer and philanthropic endeavour in Wellington as community organisations are operating in a challenging funding environment.

Operational Issues

In addition there are a number of operational issues that focus on graffiti, parking, and libraries that officers will be working with you on. A priority will be to develop actions arising from the new libraries service vision.

Karori Cemetery Crematorium is expected to cease operations next financial year due to air quality regulations and the cost of upgrading the facility which would not justify the expense. Burial services will not change.

Legislation and Central Government

Central government continues to implement a legislative programme that often requires implementation through local government policy. Officers are continuing to focus on a range of legislative changes that do or may have implications for the Council including:

- Implementation of the Local Alcohol Policy and District Licensing Committee.
- Social Housing Reform Programme including changes to the needs assessment for state housing, implementation of reviewable tenancies for all state housing tenants and extension of rent subsidies to community housing providers.
- Changes to gambling legislation and whether there are implications for Wellington City. Initial officer advice is that Council policy is still sound and complies with the intent of the new legislation.
- Introduction of Psychoactive Substances (legal highs) legislation and commentary around the country about their effect on the community.
- Introduction of the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act and the new Food Act.
- The Legal Framework for Burials and Cremations in New Zealand – A First Principles review carried out by the Law Commission which recommends changes to the Burials and Cremations Act. This will have implications for local authorities with the proposal to open up the provision of cemeteries to independent providers.
- Local Government Act 2002 changes related to development contributions (DCs). Council will no longer be able to collect DCs for libraries, sportsfields, swimming pools or cemeteries. Further:
 - we will need to publish a schedule of all projects we charge DC's on,
 - we can no longer charge reserve contributions to commercial developments.

A review of the policy will be considered by Governance and Planning Committee.

It will be important to ensure that Council resources are targeted to where they can make a difference and improve outcomes for the community. In some cases legislative change provides the right level of intervention and local government needs to guard against feeling compelled to be seen to be acting. We need to ensure that we do not add additional layers of regulation and bureaucracy at significant cost.

Sport and Recreation

The Sport and Recreation work programme is well advanced. The focus is on implementation. Below is a list of current work that is being progressed:

- Implementation of actions from "Our Capital Spaces 2013-23", the framework setting priorities across Council-owned or managed open spaces.

- Continuation of the important partnership with New Zealand Community Trust who make a significant annual financial contribution to a range of projects and programmes we deliver.
- Work in partnership with Sport Wellington and regional partners on implementing the new Sport Wellington Strategic Plan 2014-2020 and “Get Involved” initiative.
- Work with Sport Wellington on the annual distribution of the Sport Talent Development Fund.
- Construction of an artificial sportsfield, perimeter track and landscaping at Alex Moore Park.
- Implementation of the Wellington Regional Sportsfield Strategy. Including:
 - The recommendation from officers to re-phase the roll out of further turfs i.e. timing and location of further fields (subject to annual plan consideration).
 - Exploration of opportunities to develop Hataitai Park, Kilbirnie Park, Wakefield Park and Alex Moore Park as recreational and sporting hubs. This is particularly important for Hataitai and Kilbirnie Parks as the future Roads of National Significance Project will affect these facilities.
- Work with stakeholders to investigate the redevelopment of the National Hockey Stadium. We are likely to receive a submission from Wellington Hockey to partner with them for the installation of a third turf at Mt Albert Park.
- Work to regularly monitor the health of sports clubs to ensure that more clubs are sustainable over the long-term, facilitating Sportsville model when appropriate.
- Completion of the Keith Spry Pool redevelopment.
- Development of a Ki-o-Rahi Programme through an Active Communities Grant from Sport NZ.
- A strategic review of Tennis by Tennis Central is now underway; this work is linked to the National Tennis Facility Strategy.

5. Known decisions coming up for Committee

Officers have identified the following issues and decisions that you will be asked to consider:

- The implications of our rent setting policy for social housing. We will be providing analysis that benchmarks the rent charged by Council against Housing New Zealand’s rent, the private rental market and other local authorities so you can compare our rent levels to others. Two issues will need to be considered:

- What is the appropriate rent setting policy to ensure we can provide good quality housing for those in need into the future?
- How do we implement any changes to minimise the initial effect on tenants so that they can prepare for change over time?
- An action plan to address graffiti vandalism. The plan seeks to consolidate and coordinate the recording and removal of graffiti vandalism. It also clarifies our expectations of property owners and identifies how best to support community initiatives.
- Future challenges and opportunities for the provision of library services. Libraries have always been one of our most vibrant community spaces. The rise of e-books and advancements in library information services (such as self-service issuing machines utilising radio frequency identification tags) means our community's needs are changing. This creates an opportunity to explore options to provide more seamless libraries, community centres, and recreation centres. You will be asked to consider the extent to which the Council invests in new integrated models to deliver the services required.
- The implications of regulatory policies that have a social emphasis. In the next year, you will receive advice on the merits of developing a Local Approved Products Policy under the Psychoactive Substances Act 2013 and advice on the Gambling Venues Policy, which sets different caps on gaming machines in different areas of the City.
- Initiatives emerging from the Alcohol Management Strategy. In the next year, you will receive advice on the regulatory and education tools for a safe and vibrant central city (which will include options for making public intoxication an offence) and the outcome of a voluntary trial for reduced off-licence trading hours in the Central city and Southern suburbs.
- Endorsing Te Mahana – a strategy to end homelessness in Wellington. The final strategy outlines how government agencies, community organisations, and the Council can work together, and share information and limited resources to reduce pathways into homelessness.
- An approach to the second phase of the Our Volunteer Capital programme. This phase looks at how the Council supports the city's extensive volunteer network, the health of community governance and the philanthropic sector, and the opportunities for social and community enterprise.
- Other policy areas as they arise, including aspects of the Public Spaces Bylaw which is scheduled for review.

Contact Officers: Andrew Stitt - Manager, Policy
 Jane Hill - Manager, Community Networks
 Paul Andrews - Manager, Parks Sport and Recreation

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1) Strategic fit / Strategic outcome

2) LTP/Annual Plan reference and long term financial impact

There are no decisions in this report and any financial impact of projects will be considered separately

3) Treaty of Waitangi considerations

Any considerations will be considered in individual projects

4) Decision-making

Any projects will be considered separately by the Committee

5) Consultation

a) General consultation

NA

b) Consultation with Maori

NA

6) Legal implications

NA

7) Consistency with existing policy

NA