



## CONSULTATION PLUS – COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT WORKSHOP 15 FEBRUARY 2007

### INTRODUCTION

A key characteristic of a healthy community is active participation and involvement by its citizens in the policy decisions that impact their lives and their community's future. Across the globe, there is a growing deliberative democracy movement where opportunities are being created for local residents to come together to learn, discuss and decide about critical issues related to future options for their community.

Consistent with this trend, on Thursday 15 February 2007 Hutt City Council undertook a New Zealand first by holding a Community Engagement Workshop to gather input from people in the Hutt City community before the draft of the Community Plan was agreed by Council.

Two hundred and thirty people attended. They came from a mix of ages, geographic locations in Hutt City, income groups and ethnicity. There were also business people and representatives from groups and organisations within the city.

The purpose of the Workshop was to get the views of a cross section of residents and businesses as to what they see as important for the city over the next ten years (the life of the Community Plan). Participants worked in groups of 8-10 people to answer the following questions:

1. Describe what you want Hutt City, the city that you live or work in, to be like in 10 years' time.
2. Given that one of the fundamental challenges identified in the Wellington Regional Strategy involves a major shortage of those in the 25-40 age bracket, what should the City be doing to respond to this challenge?
3. Given the proposed budgeting allocations (based on last year's LTCCP), identify the top 15 priorities for spending by Council. (Participants were later asked to reduce this to the top 10 priorities).

### Responses from the Community

Initial results were quickly collated on the night to provide participants with a flavour of the response and participants' views. Since then the results have been analysed by a research expert and are shown below.

*Question 1: Describe what you want Hutt City, the city that you live or work in, to be like in 10 years' time.*

Key Theme	Explanation/key words used
Business	Innovative, retain current ones and develop more, attract businesses, vibrancy
Employment	Meaningful, options to attract 25-40 year olds
Education	Incentive for students, education facilities, opportunities to do well in education, increased training opportunities
Safety	Safer communities, less crime, positive action to address crime, improve safety, safe place to live and travel, improved policing, personal and property safety
Leisure, Culture and Tourism	Activities driven, foreshore, cafes, nightlife, cultural hubs, variety of and more recreational and cultural opportunities, highlight the river, indoor facilities, more positive image, pools and libraries accessible to all, upgrade pools and other facilities, maintain green spaces
Health	Healthy communities, support services for families
Sustainability	Sustainable ethos, green environment, green trees, environmental protection, public transport, sustainable buildings
City Identity and Makeup	Cultural diversity, feeling pride, inclusive, celebrating what makes us unique, vibrant city, visually appealing, empowerment of the people who live here, sense of belonging and identity, caring friendly community



Key Theme	Explanation/key words used
City Centre/CBD	Needs a heart, more attractive central city needed/needs a revamp, need a “City”
Housing	Housing options, affordability, high/medium density (mixed views), apartments needed, range of options, retention of large flat sections for families
Buildings and Heritage	Retention and maintenance of these, quality urban design, support heritage, protect neighbourhoods
Transport	Reliable transport networks, improved roading, improved public transport, take traffic off the Esplanade, Dowse Interchange, Melling Bridge, Cross Valley Link
Infrastructure/Technology	A wired community, improve infrastructure, international airport
Youth and Children	Youth facilities, focus on involving young people, family facilities, job and recreation opportunities
Elderly	More facilities, affordable accommodation
Council	Maintain the infrastructure, flood protection, free parking at times, managed urban growth, coordinated planning, quality urban design, improve facilities

Question 2: Given that one of the fundamental challenges identified in the Wellington Regional Strategy involves a major shortage of those in the 25-40 age bracket, what should the City be doing to respond to this challenge?

All the categories in the table above for Question 1 were also covered under Question 2. The table below shows:

- Key words that were used for a Key Theme in addition to those raised in Question 1. For instance under the Theme “Business” there was a heavy emphasis on small businesses when answering Q2 which did not appear in the results for Q1.

- In addition a number of new categories were raised and these are identified below.

Key Theme	Explanation/key words used
Business	Encourage small businesses, start up businesses and incubators, incentives for businesses
Employment	Job creation, apprenticeship training, attractive jobs for 25-40 year olds
Education	Student loan scheme, cadetships
Leisure, Culture and Tourism	Better sports facilities, amenities for this age group, using the landscape and natural resources
Health	Health facilities
Housing	Housing incentives for first home buyers, need a “funky cool city”
Infrastructure/Technology	Encourage long haul flights, technology infrastructure
Elderly	Use elderly skills, capitalise on the older generation
Council	Market the city, promote successes
Family	Family activities and infrastructure, family friendly, support services for families
Comparison with overseas, other locations	Understand the competition, make it a better lifestyle than overseas
Immigration	Assist immigrants, target immigrants, more integration
General	Need to understand why 25-40 year olds leave or don’t come back, partner with other cities, develop regional strategies



Question 3: Given the proposed budgeting allocations (based on last year’s LTCCP), identify the top 15 priorities for spending by Council. (Participants were later asked to reduce this to the top 10 priorities).

The table below shows the top 10 priorities identified. There were 26 tables making priority choices so the table below shows for instance that 20 of the 26 tables identified flood and stormwater protection in their top 10.

Rank	Number of times selected in top 10 priorities	Priority
1	20	Flood and stormwater protection
2	17	Recycling and environmental sustainability
3=	13	Youth development
3=	13	Assistance to create jobs
3=	13	Attention to urban design
6=	11	Public transport
6=	11	Build the Cross Valley Link
6=	11	Community consultation in decision making
6=	11	Protection and promotion of heritage
10=	10	A safer city
10=	10	Support for community groups
10=	10	Diverse and affordable housing
10=	10	Libraries

Following the feedback from the Consultation Plus Workshop, Council took the opportunity as part of the consultation on the Draft Community Plan to seek more feedback on the top 10 – 15 priorities for spending by Council.

The following items were the most frequently included in submitters’ lists of the top ten priorities required to attract the 25 to 40 year old age group to Hutt City:

- Flood and stormwater protection
- A safer city
- Public transport
- Recycling and environmental sustainability
- Walking and cycling tracks
- Libraries
- Hutt River development
- A cleaner city - especially less graffiti
- Build the Cross Valley Link
- Sports facilities and fields

Submitters were also asked for further information on three areas of major public interest or concern that arose in the Consultation Plus Workshop. These were environmental sustainability, youth and the look and feel of Hutt City.

The list below ranks the items that submitters rated as an issue that needs the most attention or development on the part of Council directly or in co-operation with other entities.

- Youth crime
- Collecting litter
- Recycling waste
- Flood protection from climate change
- Countering graffiti
- Youth education
- Youth development
- Energy conservation
- Less carbon emitting transportation

- Youth recreation
- Develop recreational opportunities in the Hutt River, hill and beach assets
- Preserve heritage buildings and structures
- Set aside more natural reserve areas
- Youth leadership
- Create more attractive gardens, parks and streetscapes
- Build a distinctive icon display

The full reports on these items can be found on Council's website [www.huttcity.govt.nz](http://www.huttcity.govt.nz) or by contacting Joyanne Stevens on [joyanne.stevens@huttcity.govt.nz](mailto:joyanne.stevens@huttcity.govt.nz) or 570 6805.

#### **Council Response**

Changes that Council has agreed to and that you can see reflected in this 10 year plan as a result of the Community Engagement Workshop and further consultation as part of the Draft Community Plan process are:

- Undertaking more work with the community on areas where work is currently not underway and where more information is required, namely on the themes of Environmental Sustainability, Urban Design, Promotion and Protection of Heritage and providing \$20,000 in the Community Plan to do this (e.g. for research, focus groups, plan development).
- Continuing with current levels of funding for Flood and Stormwater projects (see pages 95 and 109); Economic Development (see pages 123 and 126); Safety (see page 25); Support for Community Groups (see pages 75 and 84) and Libraries (see pages 71 and 76).
- That input into regional transport issues/policies is an increased priority for Council given the community's prioritisation.
- Providing \$10,000 in the Community Plan to undertake research and formally develop Council's position on regional transport issues.

- Working with relevant roading agencies and others to move the Cross Valley Link forward on the roading programme.
- Undertaking a Community Engagement Workshop (or some form of it) every six years (or sooner if required) when a review of the Community Outcomes is required and provide for \$50,000 funding in the relevant years.

Council also noted that, as work is completed during the 2007/08 year on other priority areas, Council may be asked for funding by way of a variation to continue work on those themes seen as important by the community.