



## KOMITI HAPORI AHUREA NGĀ RANGAPŪ COMMUNITIES, CULTURE AND PARTNERSHIPS COMMITTEE

6 November 2024

Order Paper for the meeting to be held in the  
Council Chambers, 2nd Floor, 30 Laings Road, Lower Hutt,  
on:

**Wednesday 13 November 2024 commencing at 2:00 pm**

The meeting will be livestreamed on Council's YouTube page.

### Membership

	Cr K Brown (Chair)
	Cr K Morgan (Deputy Chair)
Mayor C Barry	Cr G Barratt
Cr J Briggs	Deputy Mayor T Lewis
Cr C Parkin	Cr N Shaw
Cr G Tupou	

For the dates and times of Council Meetings please visit [www.huttcity.govt.nz](http://www.huttcity.govt.nz)

### **Have your say**

You can speak under public comment to items on the agenda to the Mayor and Councillors at this meeting. Please let us know by noon the working day before the meeting. You can do this by emailing [DemocraticServicesTeam@huttcity.govt.nz](mailto:DemocraticServicesTeam@huttcity.govt.nz) or calling the Democratic Services Team on 04 570 6666 | 0800 HUTT CITY

## KOMITI HAPORI AHUREA ME NGĀ RANGAPŪ COMMUNITIES, CULTURE AND PARTNERSHIPS COMMITTEE

<b>Chair:</b>	Cr Keri Brown
<b>Deputy Chair:</b>	Cr Karen Morgan
<b>Membership:</b>	Mayor Campbell Barry Deputy Mayor Tui Lewis Cr Glenda Barratt Cr Josh Briggs Cr Chris Parkin Cr Naomi Shaw Cr Gabriel Tupou  Refer to Council's Standing Orders (SO 31 Provisions for Mana Whenua)
<b>Quorum:</b>	Half of the membership
<b>Meeting cycle:</b>	Meets on an eight-weekly basis or at the requisition of the Chair
<b>Reports to:</b>	Council

### OVERVIEW:

This committee assists Council to ensure healthy, vibrant and resilient communities through partnerships and the development and management of relevant plans, strategies and functions.

The committee is aligned with the Neighbourhoods and Communities Directorate and Te Tira Māori.

Its areas of focus are:

- Major neighbourhoods and communities projects
- Arts and culture
- Community funding
- Community development
- City/community safety
- Emergency management
- Housing needs
- Open spaces and places (parks and reserves, sport and recreation, community facilities and hubs)
- Social procurement
- Relationships with the seven marae
- Te Ao Māori
- Treaty partnerships
- Rangtahi | Youth engagement
- Oversight of the Pito-one projects
- Oversight of the Disability Advisory Group (if established)

## PURPOSE:

To develop, implement, monitor and review strategies, policies, plans and functions associated with community, social and cultural activities. This includes making the city a desirable, safe and attractive place, providing facilities and recreational opportunities that support quality living and healthy lifestyles, and supporting the cultural well-being of residents.

## DELEGATIONS FOR THE COMMITTEE'S AREAS OF FOCUS:

- All powers necessary to perform the committee's responsibilities including the activities outlined below.
- Develop required strategies and policies. **Recommend draft and final versions to Council** for adoption where they have a city-wide or strategic focus.
- Implement, monitor and review strategies and policies.
- Oversee the implementation of major projects provided for in the Long Term Plan (LTP) or Annual Plan.
- Oversee budgetary decisions provided for in the LTP or Annual Plan.
- Advocate for strong relationships with Council's Mana Whenua partners as outlined in the Tākai Here agreements ensuring the outcomes of the committee are in line with the aspirations of the partners.
- Advocate for the best interests of Māori communities in Lower Hutt having regard to the committee's goals.
- Ensure the committee is operating in a way that is consistent with various pieces of legislation that provide for Te Tiriti o Waitangi.
- Oversee the development and implementation of plans and functions associated with community, social and cultural activities.
- Oversee the social/broader outcomes through the delivery of Council's contracts.
- **Recommend to Council** the brief (alignment of projects, opportunity, community engagement) for the Pito-one projects.
- Maintain an overview of work programmes carried out by Council's Neighbourhoods and Communities Directorate.
- Advocate in conjunction with relevant community organisations on matters related to housing needs and the health and social/cultural well-being of communities.
- **Recommend to Council** the acquisition or disposal of assets unless the acquisition or disposal is provided for specifically in the LTP.
- Approve and oversee monitoring around Community Funding Strategy grants.
- Matters arising from the activities of Community Houses, other than those in the Harbour and Wainuiomata Wards, which are delegated to the community boards in those areas.
- Conduct any consultation/engagement processes required on issues before the committee.

- Approve and forward submissions (other than those delegated to the District Plan Review Committee).
- Any other matters delegated to the committee by Council in accordance with approved policies and bylaws.
- The committee has the powers to perform the responsibilities of another committee where it is necessary to make a decision before the next meeting of that other committee. When exercised, the report/minutes of the meeting require a resolution noting that the committee has performed the responsibilities of another committee and the reason/s.
- If a policy or project relates primarily to the responsibilities of the Komiti Hapori Ahurea me ngā Rangapū | Communities, Culture and Partnerships Committee, but aspects require additional decisions by the Komiti Hanganga | Infrastructure and Regulatory Committee and/or Komiti Kaupapa Taiao | Climate Change and Sustainability Committee, then the Komiti Hapori Ahurea me ngā Rangapū | Communities, Culture and Partnerships Committee has the powers to make associated decisions on behalf of those other committees. For the avoidance of doubt, this means that matters do not need to be taken to more than one of those committees for decisions.

**Additional Parks and Reserves Delegations:**

- Adopt, and agree amendments to, open space or reserve management plans.
- Make any decisions under open space or reserve management plans that are not otherwise delegated.
- Grant leases, licences, rights of way and easements in terms of Council policy for Council owned properties that are either open space under the District Plan or reserve under the Reserves Act 1977. This delegation, except the granting of leases and licences to Council owned community houses/centres in the Harbour and Wainuiomata Wards, is sub-delegated to the community boards in those areas.
- Official naming of parks, reserves and sports grounds within the provisions of Council's Kaupapa Here Tapanga Naming Policy, other than those in the Harbour and Wainuiomata Wards, which are delegated to the community boards in those areas, except where the sites have a high profile, city-wide importance due to their size and location and/or cross ward or community boundaries.
- Removal and/or planting of street trees within the provisions of Council's Operational Guide for Urban Forest Plan, other than those in the Harbour and Wainuiomata Wards, which are delegated to the community boards in those areas.

## HUTT CITY COUNCIL

### KOMITI HAPORI AHUREA ME NGĀ RANGAPŪ COMMUNITIES, CULTURE AND PARTNERSHIPS COMMITTEE

Meeting to be held in the Council Chambers, 2nd Floor, 30 Laings Road,  
Lower Hutt on  
Wednesday 13 November 2024, commencing at 2:00 pm

#### ORDER PAPER

#### PUBLIC BUSINESS

##### 1. OPENING FORMALITIES - KARAKIA TIMATANGA

Kia tau ngā manaakitanga a  
te mea ngaro  
ki runga ki tēnā, ki tēnā o  
tātou  
Kia mahea te hua  
mākihikihi  
kia toi te kupu, toi te mana,  
toi te aroha, toi te Reo Māori  
kia tūturu, ka whakamaua  
kia tīna! Tīna! Hui e, Tāiki e!

*Let the strength and life force of  
our ancestors  
Be with each and every one of us  
Freeing our path from obstruction  
So that our words, spiritual power,  
love, and language are upheld;  
Permanently fixed, established and  
understood! Forward together!*

##### 2. APOLOGIES

No apologies have been received.

##### 3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Generally, up to 30 minutes is set aside for public comment (three minutes per speaker on items appearing on the agenda). Speakers may be asked questions on the matters they raise.

##### 4. CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATIONS

Members are reminded of the need to be vigilant to stand aside from decision making when a conflict arises between their role as a member and any private or other external interest they might have

##### 5. TE HERENGA KAIRANGI FIRST SIX-MONTH PROGRESS REPORT

Report No. CCPC2024/5/315 by the Senior Policy Advisor | Pou Tohutohu  
Kaupapa Here Matua-Māori

8

#### CHAIR'S RECOMMENDATION:

“That the recommendations contained in the report be endorsed.”

6. **ANNUAL PROVIDERS UPDATE ON THE HOMELESSNESS STRATEGY**
- Report No. CCPC2024/5/314 by the Acting Head of Connected Communities 12
- CHAIR'S RECOMMENDATION:
- "That the recommendations contained in the report be endorsed."
7. **WHAKATUPU NGAENGAE**
- Memorandum dated 28 October 2024 by the Project Manager (Naenae) 21
- CHAIR'S RECOMMENDATION:
- "That the recommendations contained in the memorandum be endorsed."
8. **CITY SAFETY - SIX-MONTH UPDATE**
- Report No. CCPC2024/5/317 by the City Safety Manager 29
- CHAIR'S RECOMMENDATION:
- "That the recommendation contained in the report be endorsed."
9. **EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT UPDATE FOR 1 APRIL 2024  
30 SEPTEMBER 2024**
- Report No. CCPC2024/5/319 by the Emergency Management Lead 37
- CHAIR'S RECOMMENDATION:
- "That the recommendation contained in the report be endorsed."
10. **RANGATAHI | YOUTH ENGAGEMENT UPDATE**
- Report No. CCPC2024/5/316 by the Acting Head of Connected Communities 55
- CHAIR'S RECOMMENDATION:
- "That the recommendations contained in the report be endorsed."
11. **NEIGHBOURHOODS AND COMMUNITIES FOCUS AREA - TAITĀ/  
POMARE**
- Report No. CCPC2024/5/318 by the Acting Head of Connected Communities 63
- CHAIR'S RECOMMENDATION:
- "That the recommendation contained in the report be endorsed."

## 12. INFORMATION ITEMS

### a) Neighbourhoods and Communities Director's Report

Report No. CCPC2024/5/107 by the Director Neighbourhoods and Communities

97

#### CHAIR'S RECOMMENDATION:

"That the recommendations contained in the report be endorsed."

### b) Communities, Culture and Partnerships Committee Forward Programme 2025

Memorandum dated 22 October 2024 by the Democracy Advisor

120

#### CHAIR'S RECOMMENDATION:

"That the recommendation contained in the memorandum be endorsed."

## 13. QUESTIONS

With reference to section 32 of Standing Orders, before putting a question, a member shall endeavour to obtain the information. Questions shall be concise and in writing and handed to the Chair before the commencement of the meeting.

## 14. CLOSING FORMALITIES - KARAKIA WHAKAMUTUNGA

Mai te tohi rangi, ki te tohu  
nuku,

Tiaho I roto, mārama I  
roto,

Tupu mauri ora ki te whai  
ao ki te ao Mārama

Haumi e, hui e tāiki e

Of heavenly and terrestrial  
blessings may it twinkle and shine  
within me and allow my being to  
grow out into the work of life and  
light

Draw together!

Affirm!

Vanessa Gilmour  
DEMOCRACY ADVISOR

**30 October 2024**

---

**Report no: CCPC2024/5/315**

## **Te Herenga Kairangi first six-month progress report**

### **Purpose of Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to seek approval for the Te Herenga Kairangi six-month progress report.

### **Recommendations**

That the Committee:

- (1) receives and notes the information;
- (2) notes the progress made against the outcomes and actions identified in Te Herenga Kairangi:  
[https://hccpublicdocs.azurewebsites.net/api/download/2657e0a4b3614301b65dd99406a07ad2/\\_mtgmngmnt/960a596871949f4ec2a175a26f49f4394d](https://hccpublicdocs.azurewebsites.net/api/download/2657e0a4b3614301b65dd99406a07ad2/_mtgmngmnt/960a596871949f4ec2a175a26f49f4394d);  
and
- (3) approves Te Herenga Kairangi six-month report:  
[https://hccpublicdocs.azurewebsites.net/api/download/2657e0a4b3614301b65dd99406a07ad2/\\_mtgmngmnt/8db87e9c7002944e2a89e784cd4be77644](https://hccpublicdocs.azurewebsites.net/api/download/2657e0a4b3614301b65dd99406a07ad2/_mtgmngmnt/8db87e9c7002944e2a89e784cd4be77644)

### **Background**

2. On 27 March 2024, Council approved Te Herenga Kairangi (te rautaki)  
[https://hccpublicdocs.azurewebsites.net/api/download/2657e0a4b3614301b65dd99406a07ad2/\\_mtgmngmnt/960a596871949f4ec2a175a26f49f4394d](https://hccpublicdocs.azurewebsites.net/api/download/2657e0a4b3614301b65dd99406a07ad2/_mtgmngmnt/960a596871949f4ec2a175a26f49f4394d)
3. The purpose of Te Herenga Kairangi is to support Council to deliver better outcomes for Māori in our community and set a direction for Council that flows through to investment decisions.

4. Te Herenga Kairangi has three guiding principles, three outcomes, six priority areas and 38 actions that cover a range of activities across Council. The delivery of the 38 actions is spread across financial years and all business units in Council.
5. Te Herenga Kairangi has a six-monthly reporting requirement to the Committee. This first report covers the period from February to September 2024. The next report, due in February 2025, will establish the six-monthly reporting period of February and September each year.

## Discussion

### *Alignment with Quarterly Reporting and Business Planning*

6. Te Herenga Kairangi six-month progress report can be viewed here: [https://hccpublicdocs.azurewebsites.net/api/download/2657e0a4b3614301b65dd99406a07ad2/\\_mtgmngmnt/8db87e9c7002944e2a89e784cd4be77644](https://hccpublicdocs.azurewebsites.net/api/download/2657e0a4b3614301b65dd99406a07ad2/_mtgmngmnt/8db87e9c7002944e2a89e784cd4be77644)
7. The reporting structure of Te Herenga Kairangi will be further refined for future reporting.
8. The format shows current initiatives and is aligned with Council's quarterly report to the Policy, Finance and Strategy Committee.

### *Insights*

9. Business units are responsible for progressing the various actions identified through business planning.
10. The report shows that progress has been made against Te Herenga Kairangi. Highlights include:
  - a) the Development Contributions Policy was approved by Council as part of the Long Term Plan 2024-2034. This involved providing for Council to consider reductions in Development Contributions for certain types of development on Māori land based on the same framework and criteria as Council's Policy on Remission and Postponement of Rates for Māori Freehold Land;
  - b) Mana Whenua through Te Kāhui Mana Whenua provided valuable input to the development of the Sustainable Growth Strategy which the District Plan Review Committee will consider on 14 November 2024;
  - c) Mana Whenua worked with Council on the water services challenges facing our city and people, and water reform providing guidance on the government's new strategic direction for water services as per Local Water Done Well;
  - d) housing was a high priority with work to progress new housing developments via UPL and through Te Rūnanganui o Te Āti Awa and marae initiatives at Waiwhetū and in Wainuiomata and via UPL across other parties of the city;

- e) Te Rūnanganui o Te Āti Awa and Te Rūnanga o Toa Rangatira joined Council and the Hutt Valley Chamber of Commerce on a joint submission on the redesign of the vocational education and training system which directly impacts the polytechnics in our community;
- f) relationships strengthened between migrant communities and Tangata Whenua through educational pōwhiri at Waiwhetū marae with over 180 attendees;
- g) hubs and libraries delivered 47 Māori-focused sessions to the public this quarter eg Wā Tiaki Pēpi: Baby Bounce & Rhyme session; and Bilingual Kaumatua/Senior's morning tea with 60 participants to celebrate Te Wiki o te Reo Māori; and
- h) Te Ao Māori Capability (TAM) programme was delivered to 90 staff from February to September 2024. The post-course evaluation was positive and is reflected in Waiora survey results.

11. Areas of activity over the next six months will include:

- a) a focus on a regional approach to developing a Water Services Delivery Plan across the wider Wellington region and Horowhenua;
- b) work to address ongoing issues at the Seaview Wastewater Treatment Plant with the state of water infrastructure and funding challenges acknowledged;
- c) further work to better utilise Māori data in Council strategic planning and reporting to inform projects like Tō Tātou Tāone 2055/Our City 2055 and the Homelessness Dashboard; and
- d) the development of additional tools such as guidance material and learning modules to ensure long term benefits from Te Ao Māori Capability programme amongst Council staff.

### **Options**

12. No options are applicable to this report.

### **Climate Change Impact and Considerations**

13. The matters addressed in this report have been considered in accordance with the process set out in Council's Climate Change Considerations Guide.

### **Consultation**

14. The report will be discussed with Mana Whenua at the quarterly hui on 5 November 2024 and 7 November 2024.

### **Legal Considerations**

15. There are no legal considerations.

### **Financial Considerations**

16. There are no financial considerations.

## Appendices

There are no appendices for this report.

**Author:** Holly Houpapa  
Senior Policy Advisor | Pou Tohutohu Kaupapa Here Matua-Māori

**Reviewed By:** Richard Hardie  
Head of Strategy and Policy

**Reviewed By:** Kaanihi Butler-Hare  
Tumuaki Māori

**Approved By:** Jarred Griffiths  
Director Strategy and Engagement

30 October 2024

---

Report no: CCPC2024/5/314

## Annual Providers Update on the Homelessness Strategy

### Purpose of Report

1. To provide the Communities, Culture and Partnerships Committee (the Committee) with the annual update on the work of Council's contracted providers (Kaupapa partners) under the Te Awa Kairangi Tai Lower Hutt Homelessness Strategy (the Strategy) between 1 July 2023 and 30 June 2024.

### Recommendations

That the Committee:

- (1) notes that under the Te Awa Kairangi ki Tai Lower Hutt Homelessness Strategy (the strategy) adopted in March 2019, Council provides funding to three providers to deliver actions as part of the strategy;
- (2) notes that as part of their contracts, the providers report quarterly on their activities in response to addressing homelessness; and
- (3) notes the progress made by the Kaupapa partners in relation to their contracts; and
- (4) notes that the format of annual provider updates will change from next year to reflect new reporting requirements, introduced as part of the provider contract review, enabling more detailed and meaningful data collection on homelessness in the city.

### Background

2. In 2019, Council approved the Te Awa Kairangi ki Tai Homelessness Strategy (the Homelessness Strategy), including funding three providers (Takiri Mai te Ata Whanau Ora Collective, Tuatahi Centre and Community Law Wellington and Hutt Valley) to deliver three key actions in the Homelessness Strategy.

3. Under the Homeless Strategy adopted in March 2019, Council provides funding to three providers to deliver on three key actions:
  - a. early intervention to prevent homelessness;
  - b. increased access to settled homes in the rented sector; and
  - c. providing housing advice and advocacy.
  
4. As was agreed as part of the Long Term Plan 2024–2034, Council provides funding to the following three organisations to deliver some of the actions in the Strategy (Table 1). The funding is adjusted each year for inflation.

**Table 1: Kaupapa partner funding for services through the Homelessness Strategy**

<b>Kaupapa partner</b>	<b>Service</b>	<b>Contract value per annum</b>
<b>Tuatahi Centre</b>	Access to settled (i.e. stable, long term) accommodation for households at risk of homelessness	\$119,000
<b>Community Law Wellington and Hutt Valley</b>	Housing advice and advocacy – legal housing advice and advocacy service for households with housing problems	\$95,000
<b>Tākiri Mai te Ata Whānau Ora Collective</b>	Homelessness prevention – early intervention for households at risk of homelessness in the private rented sector or Kāinga Ora homes	\$397,500
<b>Total</b>		\$611,500

5. In February 2024, officers provided the annual report to the Committee for July 2022 to June 2023. To maintain consistency with the reporting timeframe in previous reports, July-June has been kept.
  
6. In April 2025, officers will report on the development of the Homelessness Dashboard and provide further updates on Council’s progress against implementing the Action Plan.

## **Discussion**

### *New Government priorities*

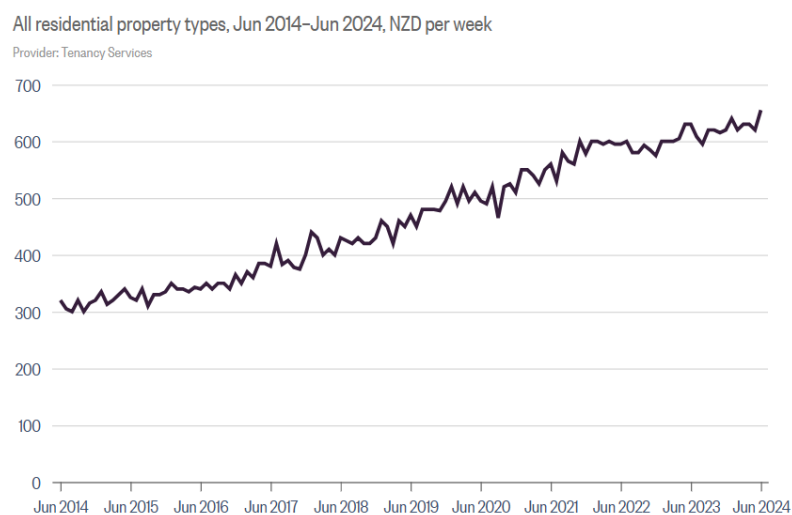
7. The new Government’s 100-day plan included the following impacts on housing and homelessness:
  - a. establishing a priority one category on the social housing waitlist to move families out of emergency housing into permanent homes more quickly;
  - b. commissioning an independent review into Kāinga Ora’s financial situation, procurement, and asset management; and

- c. beginning work to enable more houses to be built by implementing the Going for Housing Growth policy and making the Medium Density Residential Standards optional for councils.

### *Impact on services and whanau*

8. Council's three service providers are adjusting to accommodate the Government's priorities by developing new responses to support the whanau needing help to seek or secure their tenancy. However, the impact of these changes of policy is impacting our Kaupapa partners and the whānau they support. Some high-level impacts can be observed:
  - a. New policies came into effect to understand and manage service providers and organisations that provide whanau or wrap-around support for whanau experiencing housing issues and crises. This is already impacting how Kaupapa partners practice and the time it now takes to get solutions for whanau via government colleagues in the sector, including the Ministry of Social Development and Kāinga Ora; and
  - b. Government agencies like MSD and Kāinga Ora have recently changed their processes, which has affected the responsiveness of support services. These shifts impact our Kaupapa partners' ability to quickly secure solutions for whānau facing urgent needs, such as paying rent arrears, stabilizing tenancies, or accessing emergency provisions.
  - c. Recent shifts in the housing landscape have compounded challenges for those seeking stable accommodation. The following factors are impacting whānau and service providers:
    - **rising rental costs:** Rental prices have continued to escalate, increasing the difficulty for whānau to find and maintain affordable housing. This strain is particularly significant for those on fixed or limited incomes. According to Figure NZ, the median weekly rent in Lower Hutt is \$655 as of June 2024 (see Table 1 below);

**Table 1: median weekly rent in Te Awa Kairangi ki Tai Lower Hutt**



(<https://figure.nz/chart/azFwYTVvUcrcxT3m-dlfLBVdIVX7SCMuV>)

- **restricted access to emergency housing:** Tightened eligibility criteria for emergency housing are further complicating access for vulnerable individuals and families in urgent need;
  - **cancellations in Kāinga Ora housing projects:** Kāinga Ora recently halted several major projects, cancelling 500 planned homes and deferring an additional 1,300 builds. These cancellations have amplified housing pressures, reducing the availability of affordable and emergency accommodation; and
  - **reduced government funding for NGO Providers:** Decreases in funding for NGOs that provide critical support services have affected the resources available for whānau in need, challenging their capacity to meet rising demand.
9. The cost and shortage of rental accommodation in Te Awa Kairangi Lower Hutt are still significant and consistent issues affecting levels of homelessness. This has been intensified by the current high cost of living. All Kaupapa partners identified that rising costs are exacerbating preexisting issues for vulnerable people and driving them into situations of homelessness.

*Key levers for success*

10. Providers highlighted that it takes multiple layers of access and support for whānau, experienced Kaiārahi, and key functioning relationships with external providers and government agencies. It also takes time to address trauma and the experiences of homelessness for our whānau so that they may thrive in a home in the future.

*Tuatahi Centre – Access to settled accommodation.*

11. The Tuatahi Centre aims to provide homes for 50 households per year and to ensure that 85% of those households retain their accommodation. Tuatahi Centre facilitates access to a range of support services depending on the needs of the whānau.
12. In the 12-month period from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024, Tuatahi Centre has met its target and supported 50 households.
13. Tuatahi Centre noted some trends identified in providing support services:

**Trends:**

- **Mental health and housing readiness:** Many whānau/aiga with mental health challenges are new to renting or shared accommodation, creating a need for more supported housing options.
- **Overcrowding:** Overcrowding is common as families initially welcome relatives, but space limitations often lead to family tensions or breakdowns.
- **End-of-tenancy pressure:** The frequent issuing of 90-day notices is causing last-minute support requests, as tenants face difficulty finding affordable, stable alternatives.

**Successes:**

- **Community support network:** Tuatahi Centre's volunteers and regular check-ins provide a stabilising presence, helping to reduce anti-social behaviour around community spaces.
- **Collaborative housing advocacy:** The centre works with local partners to seek housing that balances safety, affordability, and long-term stability, meeting the region's pressing housing needs.

**Challenges:**

- **Accessible and sustainable housing:** Families prioritise safe, affordable housing in areas suited for long-term residence, particularly for children. Accessible housing that meets special needs is limited, and private landlords are generally unwilling to make modifications.
- **Homelessness and car living:** With rising displacement due to eviction, family breakdowns, or discrimination related to mental health, some families are living in their cars or facing homelessness.

***Community Law Wellington and Hutt Valley - Legal Housing Advice and Advocacy***

14. The Housing Advice and Advocacy Legal Service at Community Law provides free legal advice on matters such as evictions, unsafe housing, rent increases, bond disputes, applications to and representation at the Tenancy Tribunal; disputes with private landlords, Kāinga Ora, and the Ministry of Social Development.
15. In the 12-month period from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024, Community Law provided legal advice for 191 households. This is well above their contracted target of 80 households per year.
16. Community Law noted the following trends:

**Trends:**

- **Increased demand for housing legal support:** Rising numbers of clients are seeking help with evictions, rent increases, tenancy repairs, and disputes with landlords. This trend reflects the growing housing challenges and legal complexities of whānau across Te Awa Kairangi.
- **Healthy Homes standards awareness:** An increasing number of Kāinga Ora tenants seek advice on their rights under the Healthy Homes Standards. Community Law's support is helping tenants advocate for improvements in housing conditions to meet these standards.
- **Youth tenancy education initiatives:** Community Law has expanded tenancy rights education, reaching 133 young people at the Trentham Youth Development Centre. This proactive education empowers future renters to

understand their rights and responsibilities before entering the rental market.

#### Successes:

- **Successful advocacy at the Tenancy Tribunal:** Community Law has effectively represented clients in the Tenancy Tribunal, advocating for better housing standards and achieving positive outcomes such as preventing unlawful evictions and securing necessary repairs for substandard housing.
- **Strengthened community partnerships:** Collaborations with the Homelessness Prevention Network, Tuatahi Centre, and local libraries have increased Community Law's reach and the responsiveness of housing support networks, providing vital legal assistance to whānau in need.
- **Enhanced data management:** Implementing the Whānau Tahi database has improved data capture and reporting, moving away from paper-based methods and enabling more efficient service delivery and tracking of client outcomes.

#### Challenges:

- **High demand for accessible legal services:** With significant demand for remote and in-person assistance, Community Law continues to address accessibility challenges for clients who face barriers like disabilities, lack of transportation, or caregiving responsibilities.
- **Insufficient housing protections:** There are limited legal protections for tenants in transitional and emergency housing, leaving many vulnerable. Community Law has partnered with the Tenancy Advocacy Network and Community Law Centres Aotearoa to advocate for legislative changes to address these gaps.

#### *Tākiri Mai te Ata- Homelessness Prevention Service*

17. Tākiri Mai te Ata (TMTA) supports whānau living in private rentals or Kāinga Ora homes that risk becoming homeless without early intervention. The services provided include mental health, addiction, budgeting and housing support.
18. In the 12-month period from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024, TMTA supported 99 households. This is well above their target of 75 households.
19. TMTA highlighted in their reporting that whānau struggle with changes in government policy changes. TMTA noted some trends, successes and challenges identified in providing support services:

#### Trends:

- **High caseloads across services:** TMTA handles a high volume of referrals across mental health, addictions, budgeting, and housing services, reflecting the intensity of whānau needs.

- **Systemic homelessness crisis:** Housing insecurity often intersects with mental health, addiction, and domestic violence, creating complex, multi-layered challenges for whānau.
- **Outreach and community calls:** TMTA's Outreach Services program, designed to connect homeless whānau with care, receives frequent calls about rough sleepers from the community at all hours.

#### Successes:

- **Wā Kāinga housing hub:** The hub's "any door is the right door" model, based on the Whānau Ora approach, connects whānau to a network of services and support, aligning to reduce barriers to housing stability.
- **Secured funding for sustaining tenancies:** TMTA secured funding to support 64 households transitioning from emergency or transitional housing, with success being tracked in partnership with Kāinga Ora.
- **Enhanced Data Management:** A new database system, Whānau Tahī, has enabled TMTA to streamline data and reporting, enhancing efficiency and reducing reliance on paper-based methods.

#### Challenges:

- **Siloed reporting requirements:** Contracts for various services (e.g., homelessness prevention, emergency housing, and mental health) create reporting silos, limiting funders' visibility of TMTA's comprehensive support approach.
- **Funding cuts for budgeting services:** Funding reductions in MSD's budgeting support have impacted services. TMTA has absorbed two financial mentors into the Homelessness Prevention team but will need future funding to sustain these roles.
- **Emergency housing strain:** The Loafers Lodge fire increased pressure on emergency housing availability, requiring TMTA to use Flexifunds for motel placements to meet urgent needs for families with young children.

#### *Wider response: networks, research and advocacy*

20. The Kaupapa partners participate alongside Council officers in the Lower Hutt Housing and Homelessness Network, the Housing Network Research Group. Officers also attend the Wellington Regional Healthy Housing group each quarter.
21. Officers from the Homelessness Oversight Advisory Group (OAG) attend each of the above quarterly hui and report back to OAG at monthly meetings.

#### Next steps

22. The Kaupapa partners are meeting or exceeding their respective targets for delivering services to support Council's goal of ending homelessness in Te

Awa Kairangi ki Tai Lower Hutt. The number of whānau being supported by the Kaupapa partners reflects an ongoing, high level of need in the community.

23. The next annual Provider update in September 2025 will reflect new reporting requirements as part of the ongoing contract review with providers.
24. The contract review will allow us to gather more detailed and meaningful data on the services provided by our partners. These revised measures will ensure that we can better track KPIs' progress, such as the number of households assisted into stable accommodation and the outcomes of legal housing advice and advocacy.
25. By capturing quantitative and qualitative data, including case studies and demographic breakdowns, we will have a clearer picture of homelessness trends and the specific needs of whānau across Te Awa Kairangi Lower Hutt.
26. During the contract review, officers work on a privacy impact assessment to enable efficient and ethical data sharing between our providers and Council. This will help streamline service delivery, reduce duplication, and improve our ability to identify gaps in support. Enhanced data sharing will also ensure we can respond more quickly to emerging issues, such as increased rental costs and the rising demand for mental health support.
27. These improvements in data collection and sharing will strengthen our ability to report on long-term outcomes for whānau, particularly those at risk of homelessness. They will help officers to refine our homelessness prevention strategies moving forward.
28. Case studies highlighting “success stories” and challenges have been shared by Tuatahi Centre and TMTA. Consultation with providers will take place in November 2024 to explore the possibility of retrospectively (anonymously) publishing “Lower Hutt stories of homelessness” in April 2025 as part of the Homelessness Dashboard launch on Council’s website.
29. At the time of writing, elected members have been invited to a hui at Kokiri Marae in Seaview. This will be an opportunity for elected members to build their understanding and to see first-hand how the Kaupapa partners are helping homeless whānau in Te Awa Kairangi ki Tai.

### **Climate Change Impact and Considerations**

30. The matters addressed in this report have been considered in accordance with the process set out in Council’s Climate Change Considerations Guide.

### **Consultation**

31. This report draws on information provided to Council each quarter by the three Kaupapa partners.

### **Legal Considerations**

32. Not applicable.

**Financial Considerations**

33. Council provides funding (agreed up till 2031) through its annual budget to support the three contracted providers to help Council implement its Homelessness Action Plan.

**Appendices**

There are no appendices for this report.

**Author:** Lauren Coe  
Acting Head of Connected Communities

**Author:** Richard Hardie  
Head of Strategy and Policy

**Approved By:** Andrea Blackshaw  
Director Neighbourhoods and Communities

**TO:** Chair and Members  
**Communities, Culture and Partnerships Committee**

**FROM:** Andrew Quinn

**DATE:** 28 October 2024

**SUBJECT:** WHAKATUPU NGAENGAE



### **Purpose of Memorandum**

1. To provide an update to the Committee on the progress and management of the Whakatupu Ngaengae Project (pool and town centre development) since the last update on 9 September 2024.

### **Recommendations**

That the Committee:

- (1) receives and notes the information; and
- (2) notes the following progress that has been made on the Whakatupu Ngaengae project in the period September 2024 to October 2024:
  - (a) work on the new Naenae Pool and Fitness Centre is nearing completion, and confidence remains high that the project can be completed within budget. Transition to Council-led operations is currently underway, and the community is excited about the opening of the pool; and
  - (b) the planned enhancements to Walter Mildenhall Park have reached the tender stage, with four shortlisted contractors bidding. A contract is expected to be awarded before Christmas, and construction is set to begin in mid-January 2025.

### **Naenae Pool and Fitness Centre**

2. The pool project is nearing practical completion, and confidence is high that work can be completed in time for the planned blessing on 4 December 2024 and the community celebrations on 7 December 2024.
3. Work is focussed on the reception area and staff offices, this being the last remaining areas to complete. Other areas that have already reached the completion stage are the main pool hall, leisure pool hall, fitness centre, car park, plant rooms, changing rooms and community room.
4. It is pleasing to note that the remaining glass panels that form a weatherproof seal around the building are now complete, which means that Council can now draw down the associated milestone payment of \$5.4M from Crown Infrastructure. The remaining drawdowns for Stages 4, 5 and 6 will be claimed in December 2024 after the building is open.

5. Remaining tasks are to test and commission the main plant and complete all external works, ie streetscape, soft landscaping and the outdoor compound area, which includes BBQ tables and shade sails.
6. Progress pictures of Te Ngaengae Pool and Fitness are attached as Appendix 1 to the report.

### **Transition to Council-led operations**

7. The Huia Main and Children Pools are scheduled for shutdown on 3 December 2024 for its major refurbishment, which will take six months. The Hydrotherapy Pool and Fitness Suite will remain open with a smaller team working on site to enable this. This has been timed to coincide with the opening of Naenae so that we can use staff as efficiently as possible, with Huia staff transferring to the new pool. The Huia closedown has been communicated to all impacted pool users and will be communicated to the public this week.
8. Recruitment is underway for key roles in the new pool. Utilising existing qualified and experienced staff from Huia allows a smooth transition to the new pool as it has similar technology and systems. Next year, officers will complete the balance of recruiting and training for both pools before Huia Pool comes back into service.
9. Staff from the Aquatics and Facilities teams have received site inductions, enabling them to go on-site as often as needed. They are preparing fitouts of the storerooms, Fitness Suite, staff and reception areas. This will start to happen as Apollo finishes work in each area.
10. All relevant staff will receive site inductions and onsite training in November 2024, enabling all testing to be completed before opening. Aquatic sports and local primary schools have been approached to be involved in a series of test days before opening. This enables staff to test the facility operations and to involve the local community. How many test days staff can have and how many groups/schools staff can be involved will depend on how work progresses in the next few weeks.
11. The Aquatics team has recently transitioned to our new Envibe software system, improving our customer interface and service delivery. The new system will vastly improve the administration and delivery of Swim classes and, at Naenae, allow auto gate access to the pool and Fitness Suite when utilising membership and concession cards. This is something staff would look to replicate in Huia and Stokes Valley.

### **Mana whenua involvement**

12. The name Te Ngaengae was proposed by Taranaki Whānui Naming Committee and approved by Council. It reflects the original Māori name of the suburb and is a tribute to the rivers that shaped our land.
13. Te Rūnanganui o Te Āti Awa gifted the project a cultural history to inform design. The building's roof is reimagined as an upturned waka, and the entrance features a supporting pou whenua. Mana Whenua also recommended a lead artist to enable art to feature throughout the building.

14. Te Rūnanganui o Te Āti Awa will lead the blessing on 4 December 2024 and are currently preparing a group of local school children involved in the ceremony. Mana Whenua will also be recognised on a plaque that will go onto the outside of the facility after the opening to recognise the blessing event. A large number of wristbands for entry on the community celebration day will be provided to mana whenua.

#### **Lead-in activities**

15. A specific communications and marketing plan was developed for the 12 weeks before the pool opening, starting with announcing the opening date. This was done via the Mayor on social media, media releases, posters in our facilities, digital signboards, and a week later, posters on physical signboards.
16. In the first week of November 2024, a colouring competition will begin to identify a winner/s to experience the first official slide down the zoom tube alongside the mayor on the community celebration day. This will be promoted through schools and in our facilities, it the aim of increasing awareness and engagement. As entries come in, some will be shared on social media to build awareness and interest in the pool's opening.
17. Promotion includes features in the Post and Hutt News, printed sign boards, posters, electronic signage in our offices and hubs etc.

#### **Parking / traffic**

18. Questions have been raised about the impact of the new pool and community centre on parking around the Naenae town centre. Both projects have made changes to parking in their immediate area, and for the pool, there will be a big influx of traffic once it opens. The previous pool had around 400,000 visitations a year. People have also become used to being able to park closer to the town centre over the past five years while the pool has been closed. Local retailers have been involved in these discussions and will be advised of this plan.
19. Once the pool has been open for a period the Transport team will carry out a review of parking and any issues that have been raised and consider whether any changes need to be made. As part of pre-comms, there will also be messaging around the best places to park, leaving time to park further away and walk to the pool, and using public and active transport.
20. On the day of the community event, marshalls will be positioned on the Everest Avenue crossing to ensure people are able to cross the road safely. The Parking Team is being consulted on whether an educational approach can be taken to manage traffic on the day (ie issuing a flyer re parking comms rather than tickets)
21. Detailed planning is underway for the 4 December 2024 Ta i te Kawa ceremony and the 7 December 2024 community celebration. On Wednesday, 4 December 2024, Kura Moeahu Tiamana Chairman, Te Rūnanganui o Te Āti Awa ki te Upoko o Te Ika a Māui Inc will lead the Ta I te Kawa ceremony with a karakia and provide relevant background information about the site and significance to Mana Whenua. The event invitation is for 4:40am.

22. The pool will be open to the public after the blessing on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. These days are not being heavily promoted as it will enable a 'soft opening' and three days of operations before the weekend crowds.
23. On 7 December 2024, there will be a community celebration day. Large crowds are expected, and staff have contacted other councils who have recently opened pools to understand the challenges, risks and mitigations.

### **Achieving broader outcomes**

24. The project was designed to deliver the most possible benefit to the community for the significant investment. Ākina was commissioned to develop an evaluation framework to help understand and maximise the impact of the new pool. The main benefits identified were:
  - a. improving the health and wellbeing of residents;
  - b. increased connection for the Naenae community;
  - c. local economic development opportunities through procurement and jobs; and
  - d. environmental benefits from an environmentally efficient facility.
25. In response to this:
  - a. the pool has been designed in response to the voice of the local community (Voice of the Community Report 2019) to ensure it meets their social and cultural needs. This includes things like not having a destination café which could undermine local business, and instead working with local cafes to make it easy to get coffee while visiting the pool; introducing under 10s swim-free with a CSC, to ensure cost is not a barrier to local whanau;
  - b. a Community Advisory Group has been involved with the project to help inform key decisions and support community engagement at different stages. School and community groups are being invited to be part of testing events. Schools and the community have been involved in community art projects that have informed design features in the pool;
  - c. where possible, local companies were used to provide employment and training opportunities for Lower Hutt residents and services and materials were sourced from local companies; and
  - d. recycled or reused 80% of all demolition material from the old pool, saving more than 13,000 tonnes of scrap metal and concrete from going to landfill. Council also ran community salvage days where people could take home a piece of the old pool, including tiles, wood and old fittings and furniture, which also diverted materials from the landfill.

**Walter Mildenhall Park**

26. At the meeting on 9 September 2024, officers presented the draft concept design plans for Walter Mildenhall Park to the Committee. Since then, the designs have been completed, and procurement of a main contractor to build the park has commenced.
27. The initial stage which was completed in September 2024 and comprised registrations of interest from qualified contractors. The tender evaluation panel was established by Council and the community, and a shortlist of four tenderers agreed to proceed to the pricing stage.
28. Pricing is expected back on 5 November 2024. Following the evaluation and identification of a preferred tenderer, the negotiation stage will proceed, culminating in a contract award and mobilisation before Christmas. It is expected that work will commence in the park in January 2025.
29. Apollo Projects will continue to remove porta-cabins and storage containers from the park site to Christmas and form the earthworks upon which the park will be built.
30. Meantime the community advisory group are seeking donations from the community and other interested stakeholders towards the funding of the park. Currently, there is \$2.4M remaining from the Naenae Spatial Plan fund, which is sufficient to develop the park to a high standard and include nearly all the design features desired by the community.
31. Whilst market conditions are favourable, material and labour prices continue to rise, and the project team will be poised and ready to evaluate options should tender pricing be high. If there are balance funds remaining, having established a fund adequate to manage contract risks, community priorities will be used to determine the final scope of the build, such as an enhanced pergola/shelter, enclosed playground that meets neurodiversity needs or simply extra planting.

**Risk**

32. The pool is on track to come in under the CAPEX budget of \$68M and to draw down the full contribution of Crown Infrastructure Partners of \$27M, which came through the Infrastructure Reference Group Fund. In the last report, reserves were considered adequate to manage residual risks for the pool contract.
33. The key risk of adverse weather conditions has diminished now that the building envelope is closed, although it continues to affect external works.

**Financial Considerations**

34. There are several items and sub-projects discussed for the Pool that are not within scope. Once the final project cost is known, if there is any underspend, a report will be considered by Council to determine whether this is taken as a saving or is spent on projects on the waiting list which include adding solar panels and/or a spa pool, noting there is unlikely to be sufficient underspend to fully-fund either.

**Legal Considerations**

35. There are no legal considerations to report.

**Appendices**

No.	Title	Page
1↓	Appendix 1 - Progress pictures - Te Ngaengae Pool + Fitness	27

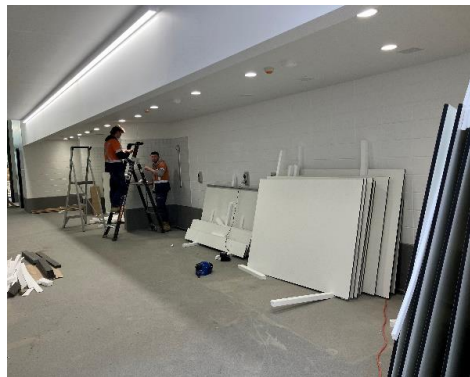
**Author:** Andrew Quinn  
Project Manager (Naenae)

**Approved By:** Andrea Blackshaw  
Director Neighbourhoods and Communities

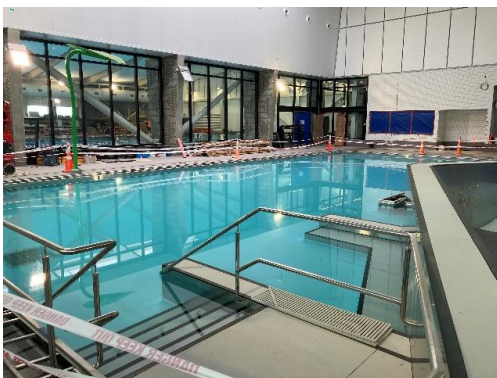
Naenae pool and Fitness Centre – September 2024



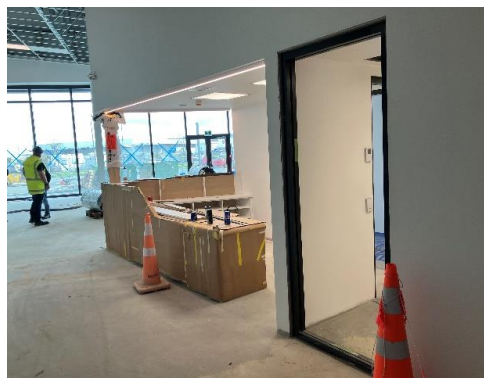
Concrete civil works progressing outside the Community Room.



ai Partitions have commenced installation within the Change Room areas.

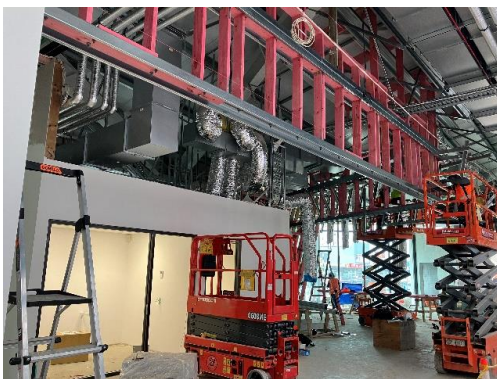


Deep leisure pool has been filled.



P

The Fitness Suite reception counter has now been installed. Temporary protection is currently in place to avoid any damage during construction.



Carpentry and steel framing being installed to create the bulkhead over the Reception area.

Naenae pool and Fitness Centre – October 2024



Main pool complete, water being filtered and heated



Water in deep leisure (warm up pool)



Water in shallow Leisure Pool



Tiling pattern in male changing room (female similar)

30 October 2024

Report no: CCPC2024/5/317

## City Safety - six-month update

### Purpose of Report

1. The purpose of this report is to provide a six-monthly update on city safety.

### Recommendation

That that Committee receives and notes the information.

### Background

2. In September 2024, the Committee approved new City Safety Outcomes and activities for the Long Term Plan (LTP) 2024/34 period, These actions align with the City Safety Priorities for 2024/25, focusing on Crime Prevention (CCTV, community patrols, partnerships) Community Resilience and Safety (Neighbourhood Support, graffiti removal, emergency preparedness) Retail and Business Safety (training and support fund). Key outcomes are outlined below.

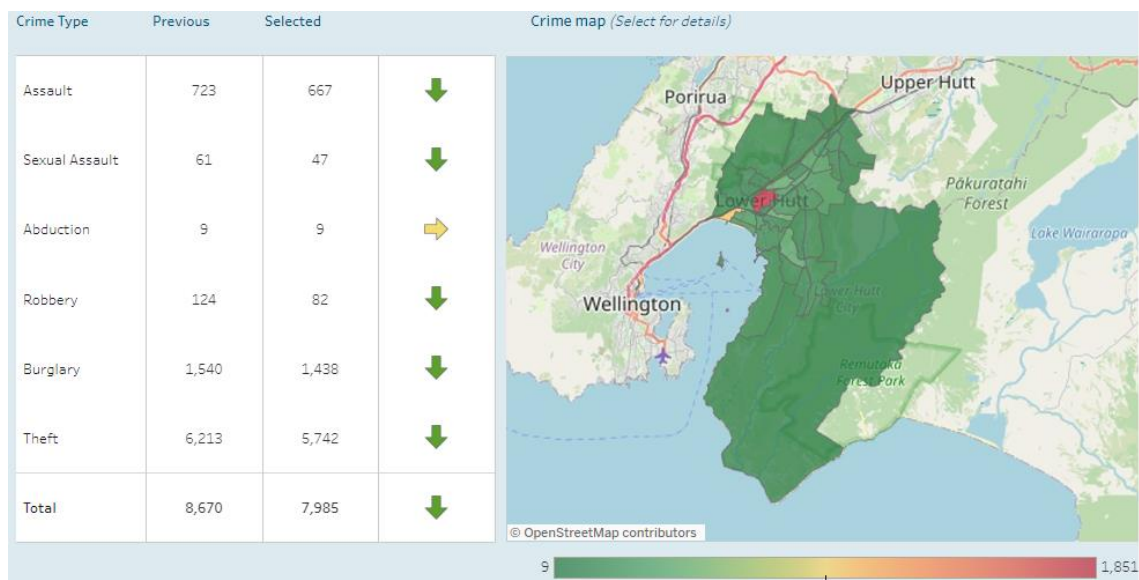
Key Outcome	Actions/activities
Crime is prevented and resolved quickly.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Invest in and manage a CCTV network</li> <li>• Support police crime prevention initiatives</li> <li>• Create safe, well-lit and maintained public spaces that discourage criminal activity</li> </ul>
People feel safe where they live, work and visit.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimise graffiti and vandalism through rapid response and community involvement</li> <li>• Implement traffic calming measures, enhance pedestrian and cyclist infrastructure and support police to enforce traffic laws (including those relating to illegal driving)</li> <li>• Homelessness Strategy - Build relationships with homeless/housing network, invest in homelessness prevention programmes, advocate for policies that support homelessness prevention.</li> </ul>
Communities are enabled and supported to be safe and resilient.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Invest in and grow community patrols</li> <li>• Invest in and grow neighbourhood support networks</li> <li>• Support neighbourhood and community safety meetings and initiatives</li> <li>• Support retail, hospitality and consumer-facing businesses to improve safety and reduce crime</li> <li>• Through Council's Emergency Management function, support community emergency plans and drills and educate the public on disaster preparedness</li> </ul>

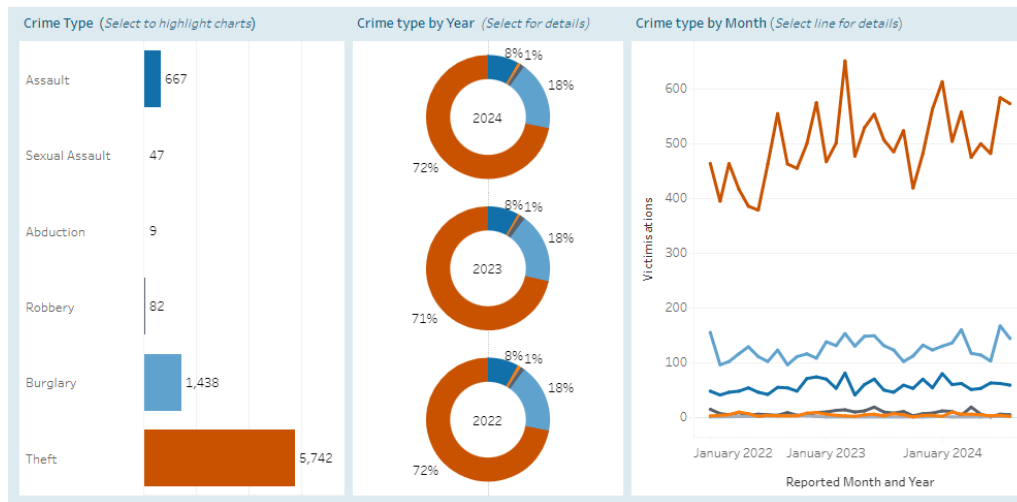
3. After the Long Term Plan (LTP) was adopted, the City Safety Manager appointed a new City Safety Coordinator, Amy Jansen, who has experience from Fire Emergency New Zealand (FENZ) and strategic transformation projects. The City Safety Coordinator’s focus is on reducing youth offending, fostering strategic partnerships, and addressing victimisation within communities.
4. Additionally, Sez Brannigan has been appointed the CCTV Manager after working in a part-time contract role in Council’s CCTV Hub for three years. During that time, she received a commendation from the mayor for her contributions. This role is a critical asset in addressing crime in the city and reflects Council's shift towards a more strategic approach to city safety, grounded in the Crime Triangle model.

**Highlights and key issues of the last six months**

*Crime Snapshot*

5. Our work in crime prevention directly contributes to the City Safety priority of maintaining safe public spaces and supporting rapid response initiatives.
6. NZ Police website provides data by location on reported crime <https://www.police.govt.nz/crime-snapshot>. The data provides a snapshot of crime victimisations ‘reported’ in Lower Hutt between September 2023 and September 2024. The table compares victimisations in the selected period with those 12 months earlier.
7. A significant amount of crime goes unreported due to perceptions around the severity and the time-consuming reporting process.





8. In summary, **7,985** crimes were reported across Hutt City during the 12-month period ending on 30 September 2024. All crime types went down by **685** compared to the previous 12-month period.
9. Theft and burglary are the most reported crimes across our city, concentrating on Petone and the CBD.
10. A recent success story involved the City Safety Team being notified by the Police about six high-risk individuals involved in organised crime. Within 45 minutes of being alerted, the City Safety Team's CCTV Manager was able to identify and locate three of the six persons of interest. This led to their subsequent arrest, and the Police successfully opposed bail, removing these individuals from the community.

#### *Youth Offending and Intervention Strategy*

11. Both Oranga Tamariki and the Police have recognised a change in youth offending patterns in Lower Hutt, which has prompted a strategic shift. Pre-intervention efforts are now being focused on younger children aged 9-11, rather than the previous focus on those aged 14-16.
12. This shift in approach is significant for both organisations and comes with challenges, as younger offenders limit the available Police bail options. Several interventions include referrals or family group conferences, which can be time-consuming and may not offer immediate solutions.
13. An example of a challenge arose recently when the Police apprehended a child under 14 for stealing a car. He was returned to his mother, as required by law, only to steal a second vehicle within hours. This is not an isolated case in the city.
14. In August 2024, a six-month pilot project was launched in Naenae, funded by the Ministry of Social Development (MSD). The project targets at-risk youth and families affected by domestic violence, particularly in Naenae and the CBD.

15. Two youth workers, with support from Oranga Tamariki, the Police, the Public Service Commission, and Council, work 30 hours a week to address youth offending. These workers have experience from a similar successful programme in Upper Hutt and are focusing on children aged 9-11.
16. The project aims to reduce youth offending, improve perceptions of safety in the CBD and transport hubs, and address the significant issue of family violence, particularly in Naenae and Wainuiomata. These areas have a direct correlation with youth crime in the region.
17. Council's involvement is to provide advice, support and funding to those groups working with at-risk youth and, through our facilities, provide safe spaces and programmes to support the wellbeing of rangatahi.

#### *CCTV update*

18. Good progress is being made in the CCTV Enhancement project, with the CCTV Hub at the Lower Hutt Police Station expected to be completed by the end of October 2024. The IT team has successfully installed a Smart Wall, along with new consoles, and is currently migrating the system to Milestone software.
19. Installation work has begun integrating internal and external Council CCTV feeds into the Hub via the Smart Wall. This will enable CCTV Hub staff and Police to actively monitor real-time footage of staff, the public, and incidents across libraries, pools, and other council facilities. This integration will improve service response capabilities and significantly contribute to health and safety measures and risk minimisation across Council.
20. Further installations are planned for November and December 2024, focusing on the CBD and Moerā to expand the public CCTV network's capability and coverage. Ultimately, the goal is to have the majority, if not all, internal and external CCTV streams managed directly from the Police Station's CCTV Hub.
21. Furthermore, the installation has already resulted in cost savings. Previously, a third-party vendor was responsible for retrieving CCTV footage from pools, libraries, and Council facilities upon request. With the new system, this process has been streamlined, enabling officers to eliminate third-party services while continuing to comply with legislative and privacy requirements.

#### *Retailer safety initiatives*

##### Kia Haumarū Project

22. The Kia Haumarū Project and Business Safety Support Fund addresses the Council's commitment to retail and business safety, a key priority for 2024/25. Both programs have been well-received and aid in improving public perception of safety across Lower Hutt.

23. The Kia Haumaru Project has conducted three training sessions with retailers in partnership with the Police and First Retail. Two sessions were held at the Lower Hutt Events Centre, with approximately 40 participants, and one at the Petone Library, with around 15 attendees.
24. The first session ran over time due to high engagement and numerous questions. One retailer expressed gratitude, stating, "We have felt alone for some time and are thankful Council started this initiative." Further sessions are planned, including one at the Walter Nash Centre in mid-November 2024 and another for Queensgate before Christmas 2024.
25. These sessions cover managing aggression, situational awareness, verbal de-escalation techniques, and retail-specific anti-theft strategies. Anecdotally, retail staff have reported an increase in aggressive behaviour and antisocial activity, reflecting a national trend of rising crime in these areas.

#### Business Safety Support Fund

26. There has been a good response to Council's Business Safety Support Fund since it launched in August 2024. The fund provides grants for small to medium sized retailers, hospitality and consumer-facing businesses in Lower Hutt to acquire safety and security equipment. Eligible businesses can apply for up to \$2,500 plus GST per business to purchase equipment such as security mirrors, sirens, alarms, on-site CCTV and fog cannons.
27. Officers received 72 applications from small and medium-sized businesses across Lower Hutt. So far, \$107,450 has been allocated to 52 successful applicants, with the remaining approvals in progress. Many businesses have installed safety equipment, such as CCTV at Soprano Restaurant and a new roller door at Da Deals in Naenae.
28. Most funded businesses are in the retail sector, accounting for over 40 approvals, followed by hospitality and service industries. Feedback from business owners has been overwhelmingly positive, with many noting improved peace of mind and security. Most applicants have been victims of crime in the past six months, underscoring the fund's critical role in enhancing business safety.
29. Petone and the CBD have had the highest number of approved applications, though nearly every suburb is represented. The initiative has also provided a boost to local suppliers, with the majority of installations being handled by Lower Hutt businesses. CCTV is the most common request, but other equipment, such as locks, alarms, and security lighting, have also been funded. Overall, the initiative has been well-received, helping to address a key issue for businesses and improving safety across the community.

*Relationships with key safety stakeholders to harness collective impact.*

30. The City Safety Manager and CCTV Manager attend fortnightly meetings with NZ Police, Kainga Ora, Oranga Tamariki, Probations, Corrections and local NGOs. The collaboration allows for sharing of resources and information, enhancing the effectiveness of safety strategies. For example, injury prevention, crime prevention, road safety, family violence prevention and alcohol harm minimisation.

*Neighbourhood support*

31. The Neighbourhood Support Coordinator has actively engaged with key partners and local residents across Lower Hutt. The coordinator works from various community spaces, including Neighbourhood Hubs and the Wainuiomata Police Station, ensuring accessibility and fostering community connections.
32. The City Safety Coordinator's KPIs are directly linked to the contract with the regional trust, focusing on leveraging council resources to support and expand Neighbourhood Support activities.
33. The number of households involved in Lower Hutt Neighbourhood Support has grown to 285, contributing to stronger community networks and safety.

<b>KPIs</b>			
	May 24	August 2024	Difference
Number Of NS groups in Lower Hutt:	153	278	+ 125
<b>By Ward</b>			
Northern (Pomare, Taita, Stokes Valley)	18	44	+ 26
Central (Hutt Central, Boulcott, Waterloo, Woburn)	29	40	+11
Harbour (Petone, Moera, Eastbourne, Gracefield, Seaview, Korokoro, Ava)	17	53	+36
Wainuiomata	29	56	+27
Western (Western hills - Normandale, Maungaraki, Tirohanga, Harbourview, Kelson), Alicetown, Melling, Belmont, Manor Park)	34	49	+ 15
Eastern (Naenae, Eponi, Fairfield, Avalon, Waiwhetu)	26	36	+ 10
Not yet assigned to a group	0	0	- 1

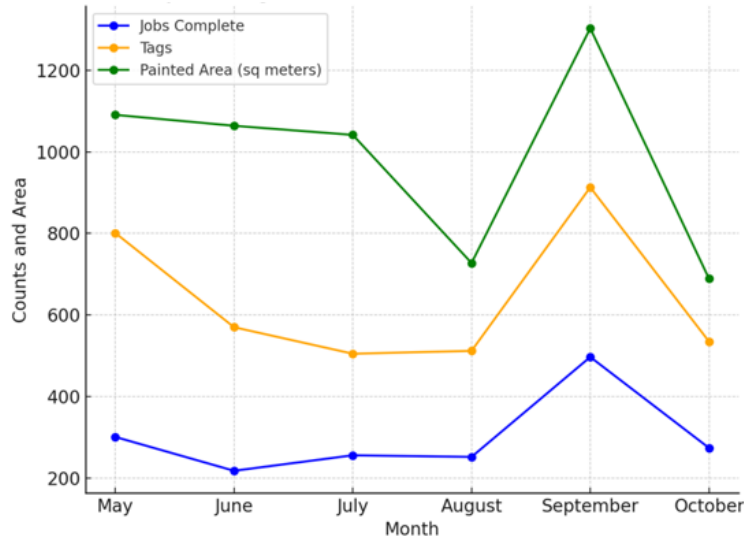
34. The 2024/25 work programme will shift towards supporting resilience by creating new networks in flood-prone areas.

*Community Patrols*

35. Monthly meetings continue with volunteer community patrollers who work in partnership with Council and NZ Police to provide visible patrols, aiming to prevent crime and minimise harm.
36. Community patrols remain operational in Wainuiomata, Petone, Naenae, and Stokes Valley. The Council continues to invest \$5,000 per patrol per year to support radio transmission equipment and fuel for patrol vehicles.

*Graffiti Management*

37. Over the last six months, May 2024 to 18 October 2024, 1,798, jobs were attended removing 3,836 items of graffiti accounting for 5,915.52m2. High profile areas of graffiti tend to be in public toilets, parks and signs.



Month	Jobs Completed	Number of Tags	Total area of painted area
May	301	801	1090.62
June	218	570	1063.84
July	256	505	1041.5
August	252	512	727.46
September	497	913	1302.92
October (1- 18 October )	274	535	689.18
<b>Total</b>	<b>1798</b>	<b>3836</b>	<b>5915.52</b>

**Options**

38. There are no options to consider as this is a noting report.

**Climate Change Impact and Considerations**

39. The matters addressed in this report have been considered in accordance with the process set out in Council’s Climate Change Considerations Guide.

**Legal Considerations**

40. There are no legal considerations.

**Financial Considerations**

41. This work programme will continue to be delivered in line with current budgets in the Long Term Plan 2024 – 2034, noting an increase in investment in CCTV and a new focus on retail crime.

**Appendices**

There are no appendices for this report.

**Author:** Matthew McKenzie  
City Safety Manager

**Author:** Lauren Coe  
Acting Head of Connected Communities

**Approved By:** Andrea Blackshaw  
Director Neighbourhoods and Communities

---

Report no: CCPC2024/5/319

## Emergency Management Update for 1 April 2024 - 30 September 2024

### Purpose of Report

1. The purpose of this report is to provide a summary of Emergency Management (EM) activities between 01 April 2024 – 30 September 2024.

### Recommendation

That the Committee receives and notes the information.

### Background

2. Update for 1 April to 30 September 2024 has been very busy for the Emergency Management (EM) Office. Fortunately, there were no significant emergency events, with tempo mostly created through ongoing sector and community engagement, training design and delivery, and development of several initiatives.
3. Key highlights during the reporting period include the successful conduct of Exercise UA Wellington Region Emergency Management Office (WHERO) to practice flood response following a severe weather event and accreditation by NZ-RT18 (Hutt City Emergency Response Team) under the NZ Response Team national accreditation framework.
4. Up to date, Community Response Plans have been a front-of-mind issue for CLT and the Communities, Culture and Partnership Committee for some time. Progress has been made with WREMO that will see a significant improvement in Community Response Plan currency across Lower Hutt.

## Hazards

5. The table below lists hazards experienced during the reporting period. Early warning, event monitoring, and advice were provided for these events, including coordination at a regional level.

Event	Number of Events/Month (as of 1 October 2024)
Heavy Rain Watch (Yellow)	2 x (May), 2 x (June), 2 x (July), 2 x (August), 1 x (September)
Heavy Rain Warning (Orange)	5 x (August), 1 x (September)
Strong Wind Watch (Yellow)	2 x (April), 2 x (May), 4 x (June), 4 x (August), 6 x (September)
Strong Wind Warning (Orange)	1 x (July), 1 x (August), 2 x (September)
Severe Thunderstorm Watch	1 x (August), 1 x (September)
Severe Thunderstorm Warning	1 x (June) 1 x (August)

Table 1 Hazards 01 July to 30 September 2024

### Heavy rain event – 26 August g

6. The Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) was partially activated on 26 August in response to heavy rain causing surface flooding in Waiwhetu, Melling, Hutt Central, and elevated levels for Hutt River and Waiwhetu Stream. There were no significant impacts arising.

### Future hazards and risks

7. **Potential Acute Water Shortage.** Wellington Water Limited (WWL) reported progress to Taumata Arowai in August to reduce demand reduction to lower the risk of an acute water shortage/water restriction level 4 for the Wellington Metropolitan Region. Targets agreed with Taumata Arowai and councils do not reduce the risk of water restriction level 3.
8. WWL has signalled that it will be conducting modelling using National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA) summer forecasts to assess risk over the summer period, which will inform emergency management contingency planning.
9. **Seasonal climate outlook October to December 2024.** NIWA forecasts a 60-70% chance of a La Niña event officially developing by December. La Niña-like patterns will favour increasing high pressure south of New Zealand over the next three months with a gradual reduction in westerly winds. This introduces the chance for heavy rainfall events which could occur in October.
10. For the Wellington region, temperatures are likely to be above average, with northeasterly winds contributing to more days above 25°C than normal. Rainfall amounts are equally near or below normal, with dry spells later in the year.

11. **200L Emergency water tanks.** EM Office is collaborating with Neighbourhood Hubs & Libraries, Communications, Strategic Advisor Environment & Sustainability to establish a pool of 500 x 200L Emergency Water Tanks for sale this summer from Community Hubs. This will provide a larger on-hand stock to meet expected demand.

#### **Local Controller focus**

12. Council's Local Controller, Barry Vryenhoek, was invited late last year to join a National Controllers Working Group. Barry is the only 'Local Controller' with other participants coming from national and regional levels. The Working Group has been developing assurance, and training and development frameworks to ensure that all controllers are provided a pathway to enable them to succeed in their roles.
13. In Q4 FY 2023/24, Barry Vryenhoek has undertaken a more involved role in developing an exercise evaluation framework for national CDEM exercises planned for June and November 2024. Both Barry and Alternate Controller Matt Boggs are participating as evaluators.
14. Matt Boggs was Controller for Council's recent CDEM exercise. His leadership and considerable operations experience enabled a successful activity.
15. Barry Vryenhoek has been very focused during the Q1 FY 2024/25 on the following:
  - a) contributing to local and regional engagement and training activities;
  - b) contributing to capability assessment of HCC EM and engagement with WREMO Continuous Improvement and Assurance;
  - c) review of lessons learned and application to Lower Hutt hazards and risks;
  - d) contributing to NEMA exercise evaluation methodologies and assessments that can be applied to regional and local levels;
  - e) leading briefs for Alternate Controllers, Recovery Managers and Function Leadership;
  - f) review of local and regional emergency response plans;
  - g) advocating for a Common Operating Picture;
  - h) preparations for Ex Ru Whenua as a keystone training activity; and
  - i) engagement with EM Governance.

### **Report period activities**

16. The content below provides a structured update across the four workstreams of Council's current Emergency Management Strategy:
- a) people;
  - b) platforms;
  - c) partnerships; and
  - d) plans and Procedures.

### **People workstream**

17. The people workstream includes all aspects regarding the recruitment, training, activation and/or deployment of Council officers to enable sustained response and recovery from emergencies.

### ***Remuneration and training***

18. Recent after-action reviews, reports and government inquiries following events such as the Auckland Anniversary Floods and ex-Tropical Cyclone Gabrielle have pointed to a need to professionalise council EM workforces. This need has also been identified across the region's councils and articulated in Long Term Plans to uplift EM capability.

### **Leadership and CIMS function development.**

19. Developing controllers, recovery managers, response managers, function managers, and alternate managers is critical to ensuring redundancy and an ability to tackle long-duration complexity scenarios. Developing this level of capability will require a much greater commitment of time to achieve.
20. The Coordinating Executive Group (CEG) recommended, on 4 June, that each council identify primary and alternate CIMS function managers for each of the core CIMS functions (16 staff per council). To support them with a regionally consistent approach to recruitment, retention and rewards, and ensure that these semi-professional CIMS function managers are enabled to attend enhanced training and exercising opportunities delivered by WREMO and other providers as part of an agreed Training and Exercise Plan.
21. Council draws several of its controllers from the community. These controllers have zero-hour contracts and are remunerated for participation in training, engagement activities and response to emergencies. This approach could supplement capability shortfalls across CIMS leadership roles but must be considered carefully and resourced.

### **EM individual training/development**

22. The EM Office and EM staff from across Council participated in a wide range of individual training and development activities over the quarter including:
- a) Te Ao Māori capability programme;

- b) intermediate EM course;
  - c) advanced EM course;
  - d) operations function course;
  - e) welfare =function course;
  - f) two WREMO training days;
  - g) seven online lectures/ modules;
  - h) NZ Institute of Intelligence Professionals and Land Information NZ Webinars; and
  - i) geospatial information systems – Emergency Management Summit.
23. This represents over 100 hours of professional development across the quarter.
24. **Controller and Recovery Manager pool.** Jon Kingsbury has been appointed as an Alternate Controller alongside Jarred Griffiths and Alison Geddes as Alternate Recovery Managers by the Joint Committee of the Wellington Region CDEM Group. This provides additional resiliency and redundancy and addresses shortfalls in Recovery Capability. All three have commenced training for their new appointments.
25. **Controller and Recovery Manager training.** A quarterly Controller Huddle was delivered on 30 August 2024 for Council Controllers, Response Managers, Recovery Managers, and Function Managers. The huddle lasted three hours and covered EM updates, lessons learned from recent reports, and development goals aligned with the maturity model.
26. **Emergency Assistance Centre staff training.** There has been a strong focus on developing Emergency Assistance Centre (EAC) capacity. Five Emergency Assistance Centre (EAC) Supervisors were qualified on a pilot course, with eight NZRT-18 staff completing working in an EAC and Needs assessment courses as part of their national accreditation framework requirements. The EM team organised and delivered two *Working in an Emergency Assistance Centre* courses, and training for an additional 15 staff to work in EACs.

## 27. Competency levels

Serial	Competency Level	WREMO recommended Targets	31 Mar 24	1 Jul 24	30 Sep 24
(a)	(b)	(c)	(e)	(f)	(g)
1	Advanced	24	14	24	39
2	Intermediate	26	19	32	24
3	Foundation	24	32	61	64
4	CDEM Trained <sup>1</sup>	74	63	117	127
5	<b>Total available for EOC</b>		<b>100</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>127</b>
6	EAC Staff	TBC	14	9	24
7	EAC Staff (NZRT-18)	TBC	0	8	8
8	EAC Supervisors	TBC	0	7	7
9	<b>Total available for EAC</b>		<b>14</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>39</b>

*Table 2 HCC Emergency Management Staff Competency Levels*

### Activations and Deployments

28. The EOC was partially activated on 26 August 2024 in response to heavy rain causing surface flooding in Waiwhetu, Melling, Hutt Central and elevated levels for Hutt River and Waiwhetu Stream. NZRT-18 was also activated and deployed locally.
29. The EOC Incident Management Team (IMT), consisting of the Controller, Response Manager and CIMS Function Managers, coordinated information collection, analysis, and public information messaging alongside Council's response.
30. There were no deployments during the quarter.

### Exercises

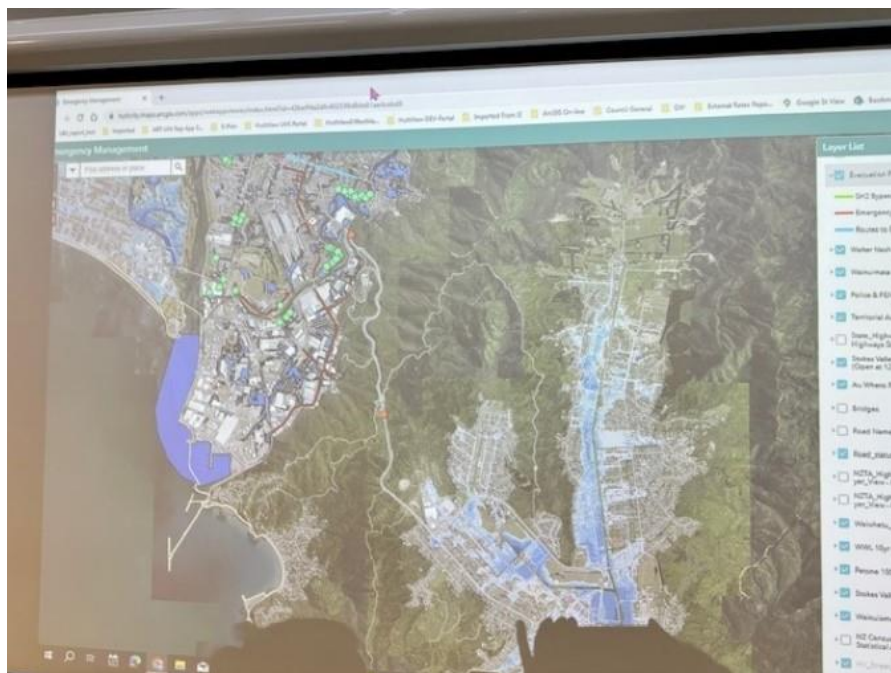
31. **Exercise UA WHERO (Red Rain).** This was an ambitious and robust activity involving 56 Council participants and 10 participants from WREMO, Fire and Emergency NZ (FENZ), NZ Defence Force (NZDF), Ministry for Corrections and Wellington Free Ambulance (WFA).
32. The exercise was conducted on 22 May and successfully practised EOC staff planning and management in response to severe weather events.

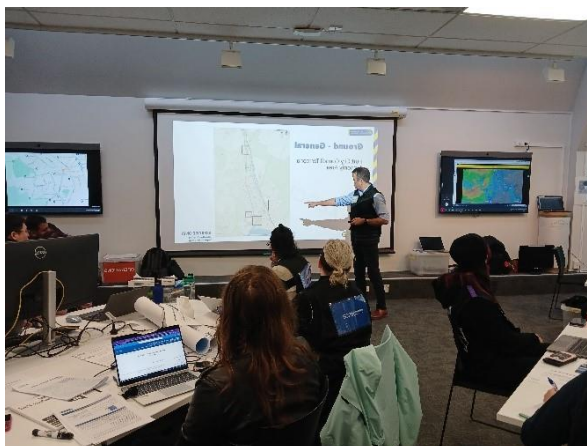
33. The exercise practised staff and leadership commencing the second shift of a response. The EOC was already activated, with participants provided with situational awareness, an initial action plan and planning products at various stages of maturity. The EOC was configured to provide an immersive experience that maximised the use of newly integrated technology and tools.



Figure 2 Exercise UA WHERO Emergency Operations Centre

34. EOC staff considered and planned responses for a dynamic environment including targeted and mass evacuations and the provision of mass emergency shelter for persons affected by flood waters, land slips and other disruptions and impacts caused by severe weather.





*Figure 3 Maps displaying flood-affected locations/ Situation Briefing given by the Controller Matt Boggs*

35. **23 May - Rapid Damage Assessment exercise.** A Rapid Building Damage Assessment tabletop exercise (TTX) was conducted on 23 May to familiarise Building Team staff with damage assessment apps, planning and operational procedures, and the Ministry for Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) policy used when conducting Rapid Building Damage Assessments.
36. Rapid Building Damage Assessment exercises will be conducted on a regular basis, including in conjunction with CDEM exercises, to build councils' capability to support local, regional, and national building assessments in an emergency response.
37. **12 June - National CDEM exercise.** The EM Lead and Local Controller participated in a national-level earthquake exercise to practise response to an Alpine Fault magnitude 8 earthquake (AF8) scenario. The EM Lead joined WREMO and EM Leads from other regional councils to provide a simulated response from regional and local levels whilst Council's Local Controller led the exercise evaluation team.
38. **18 and 19 June - Emergency Assistance Centre (EAC) exercises.** Staff at Walter Nash Stadium participated in tabletop exercises designed to practice an end-to-end activation of EAC and to confirm and refine planning assumptions, operating procedures, and EAC kits. Concurrent with these exercises was establishing emergency water distribution points with community volunteers and WWL. A 5,000l fixed bladder and 2 x 1,000l mobile bladders (set up on a trailer and a utility vehicle) were established at each EAC.
39. **3 August - Flood evacuation and rescue exercise.** The EOC was used to host a regional tabletop exercise (TTX) for search and rescue agencies to practice coordination in a flooding scenario. Participants included Wellington Region CDEM, Council, GWRC Floods, NZ Police, FENZ, NZDF, WFA, NZ Response Teams, Surf Life Saving NZ (SLSNZ), NZ Response Teams, Coastguard, and the Rescue Coordination Centre.
40. The exercise provided valuable insights into the complexities of inter-agency coordination, working with trained volunteers, risk management, and challenges of dynamic weather and flood events.

## Future EM exercises

41. The following exercises are planned in Q2 FY 2024/25:

- a) **4-6 October – EXERCISE POSEIDON.** This is a field exercise involving New Zealand Response Teams from across the North Island and is the first of its type in the past 20 years. This activity will mostly take place in the Hutt Valley and is designed to practise North Island response teams individually and collectively across a range of tasks and scenarios. NZRT-18 is participating.
- b) **30 October – FENZ Bulk fuel fire simulation exercise (SIMEX)**  
Council's emergency management will participate in a SIMEX that will practice FENZ response to a fire at a bulk fuel facility, such as the Seaview facility. The exercise will also include industry participants, CDEM and other emergency services.
- c) **7 November – Ex Ru Whenua – Council Emergency Operations Centre exercise.** This exercise will practice a regionwide simultaneous activation for the Wellington CDEM Group. The Council EOC will be activated alongside other councils to practice activation, planning and coordination of local and regional responses to an AF8 scenario. The exercise is expected to be six to eight hours long, extending the 12 June national exercise.
- d) **20 November - Proposed training for Elected Members and CLT**  
Council and WREMO have planned a briefing and training session for elected members and the CLT on Community Emergency Hubs (CEH). The intent is to explain the CEH model and possible roles for elected members during an emergency and to practice a Community Emergency Hub activation and response.

## CDEM function huddles

42. 17 CDEM Function Huddle sessions were conducted during Q1, FY 2024/25. These huddles focused on building the knowledge and skills of EOC staff and familiarisation of plans and procedures.
43. These huddles have proved to be an effective mechanism for engagement, building teams and connections, conducting mini-workshops and tabletop exercises, coordinating the development of procedures, and producing resources that can be used in an emergency.

## Platforms workstream

### *Emergency Operations Centre*

44. The EOC is operational and has had several improvements to Information Systems (IS) to improve functional use as both an EOC and for broader use by Council as a training and meeting facility. The EM Office is working with Information Services to deliver a range of business improvements including:

- a) **Teams phones.** This project will replace physical telephones with Teams-based calling functionality. This project will be tested in Q2 FY 2024/25 during Ex Ru Whenua a Rohe;
- b) **Replacement 3G phones.** Obsolete 3G mobile phones (redundant communications capability) have been replaced with more modern versions that can use 4G/5G technology;
- c) **Guides for using EOC displays and interactive technology more effectively.** These guides will be deployed in Q2 FY 2024/25;
- d) **Finance procedures.** Draft procedures were completed in Q1 FY 2024/25. Revision of Controller and Recovery Manager financial delegations is being investigated to ensure that they are sufficient;
- e) **Staff training management.** Scoping and framing completed in Q1 to more efficiently manage EM training records. Engagement between WREMO, People & Capability and EM will be undertaken in Q2 FY 2024/25; and
- f) **Teardrop Flags.** A teardrop flag has been purchased to help people readily identify the location of the EOC for CDEM training or activations. Teardrop flags have also been procured for Emergency Assistance Centres.

45. **Information Communications Technology (ICT).** WREMO is undertaking a review of communications technology to ensure that we are fielding fit for purpose, robust and resilient equipment. The results of this work and the implications for Council will be advised to CLT when they are known.

### **Emergency Assistance Centres (EAC)**

46. **EAC Kits/EOC kits.** EAC kits have been assembled for Walter-Nash Stadium, Koraunui-Stokes Valley Community Hub and Wainuiomata Community Hub. Additional kits have also been made for ad hoc EACs. Ad hoc venues for EAC could include, for example, the Ricoh Sports Centre, Naenae Bowling Club or Hutt Recreational Park. These kits will be completed and issued in Q2 FY 2024/25.

### **Partnerships workstream**

#### **WREMO**

47. The partnership with WREMO remains strong and fundamental. WREMO is a semi-autonomous organisation that coordinates CDEM services on behalf of the nine councils in the Wellington Region. A key focus of local government EM leads across the region has been the ongoing development of a new agreement on joint civil defence and emergency management between WREMO and the region's councils that is fit for the future.
48. The extant agreement ended on 1 July 2022 by consent of all parties but has continued to operate as though current until the new agreement is entered into. The extant agreement has been extended through to Q3 FY 2024/25.

49. **WREMO annual report.** The [WREMO Annual Report for FY 2023/24](#) reflects another busy year for WREMO and the Wellington Region CDEM Group. The region had to deal with several emergency events and an increased level of public and partner interest in emergency preparedness in the wake of the Auckland Anniversary floods and Cyclone Gabrielle. Most significantly, WREMO assisted with the coordination of the region's response to an acute water shortage over the summer months.
50. A key highlight is the continuing development of relationships with partners, including with mana whenua who became part of the Group's governance arrangements for the first time.
51. [WREMO Annual Training & Exercising Report 2023-24](#). Over the last financial year, just over 2,700 staff attended an EM training session, exercise, or forum across the region, which is an increase of 600 from the previous year. There are now almost double the number of staff on the EOC/ECC lists. This reflects the work and effort put into engaging with staff from both council EM staff and WREMO EM Advisors.
52. Training and exercise content and delivery by council EM staff and WREMO is consistently high quality with very positive feedback from participants.
53. **Quarterly engagements with CEs.** The first scheduled engagement by WREMO with council Chief Executives is scheduled for 5 November.
54. **Attendance at Communities, Culture and Partnership Committee (the Committee) meetings.** The first scheduled participation by WREMO in a Committee meeting is at this meeting (scheduled for 13 November 2024). Participation by senior WREMO officers allows them to answer any direct enquiries that the Committee may have.

#### *Local Government Emergency Management Collective (LGEMC)*

55. This initiative has been ongoing since Q2 2023/24 and replaces the sub-Coordinating Executive Group (CEG) committee. The LGEMC serves as a formal engagement of emergency management leads from across the region, and WREMO. The primary objective of the LGEMC is to enhance whakawhanaungatanga across LGEMC members and ensure collective outcomes that maximise efficiency and effectiveness and achieve better outcomes for our communities. This is achieved through:
  - a) contributing to the development of, overseeing and monitoring the delivery of WREMO services via the WREMO annual plan; and
  - b) Working collaboratively across all councils to ensure a regionally consistent approach to CDEM.
56. A Terms of Reference was developed and approved by the Chief Executives on 22 July 2024.

### *Partnership with Mana Whenua and hapori Māori*

57. Emergency management engagement with Mana Whenua and Marae is a priority, and regular updates are now being present at quarterly hui between Hutt City Council and Mana Whenua.
58. Monthly meetings are also being held between Te Tira Māori and the EM Office to identify and coordinate engagement opportunities and approaches.
59. Several regional initiatives, with pilots at local level, have been ongoing during the reporting period. These pilots are closely coordinated with Mana Whenua and Marae, taking lessons learned across the motu and rohe as a guide. These have included the establishment of equipment caches at marae, training of rangatahi, and development of a Tākai Here function in EOCs. Marae has also been assisted in developing site-specific emergency plans and can access technical assistance to help them build resilience and capability.
60. Marae are prepared to activate during an emergency management response. Our work is to understand where we can add value and support.
61. Tākai Here and integration of marae as part of CDEM response was practised in a pilot activity by PCC in May. Lessons from these and similar activities will inform a broader capability rollout to marae/iwi across the region.
62. Emergency management staff met with the team from Āti Awa Toa FM radio station. Āti Awa Toa FM is an iwi radio station based in Waiwhetū that broadcasts across the Wellington metropolitan region. There have been some initial discussions about the role that radio plays in informing and connecting communities during emergencies.

### **Wellington Lifelines Group (WeLG)**

63. The WeLG annual general meeting was held on 16 August 2024 and was attended by the EM Lead and Head of Transport. Key activities over the past 12 months include:
  - a) continuation of the WeLG Regional Resilience Project;
  - b) scoping a regional lifelines climate vulnerability project; and
  - c) 'planning emergency levels of service' (PELOS) gap analysis.
64. Council's annual contributions for FY 2024/25 were confirmed, as well as the approval of the regional lifeline's climate vulnerability project. This project seeks to better understand how climate hazards will affect critical infrastructure in the Wellington region and how this may change over time. The project will identify critical infrastructure vulnerability at a regional scale to identify potential adaptation measures and investment pathways to build resilience across the region.

### Proposed Hutt Valley Welfare Committee

65. A meeting between the UHCC and Council EM Offices, and Welfare Managers was held on 22 August to discuss formation of a local welfare committee in the Hutt Valley. Local welfare committees are an asset during an emergency event with council staff, welfare agencies, marae, NGOs and other stakeholders being potential members.
66. A draft term of reference has been prepared. The next planned meeting is 25 October.

### Hutt Valley Emergency Services Committee

67. The Hutt Valley Emergency Services Committee (HVESCC) met on 5 June and 11 September at Corrections NZ in Upper Hutt and in the Wellington Transport Operations Centre (WTOC) in Johnsonville respectively.
  - a) **5 June:** Public Health representatives briefed many of the structural changes ongoing at Health NZ and the challenges of maintaining well trained emergency managers and staff. The focus for agencies at this hui was on training and capacity building; and
  - b) **11 September:** The hosts for this hui provided a brief on the capabilities of the WTOC to monitor and manage major road networks across the lower North Island and South Island. This included their ability to support information sharing and response regarding highway network status across the Wellington Region.
68. The HVESCC meets quarterly to bring together UHCC and Council Emergency Management, Emergency Services, NZRT18 and NZRT9, NZDF, Waka Kotahi, NZ Corrections, GWRC Harbour Master and other stakeholders. The focus of the hui is whakawhanaungatanga, agency briefs coordination of future activities, and lessons learned. It is intended that future meetings also include capability development opportunities through structured tabletop exercises.

### Regional Inter-Agency Readiness Forum

69. A Regional Inter-Agency Readiness Forum was held on 3 July 2025 at the Trentham Racecourse. These Wellington Region CDEM Group wide readiness activities bring together councils, emergency services and other partners, with a focus whakawhanaungatanga and capability development through a structure of tabletop exercises and briefings.
70. The focus of this activity was on dealing with a mass casualty in a crowded place event, such as an active shooter or knife attack scenario in a shopping mall or bomb threats. Participants were provided insights into police-led responses to these events, challenges with employing legislation for directed evacuations, and what respective agencies and organisations have in supporting Police.
71. Insights and reference materials were shared with the City Safety Manager.

## Partnering with community

72. WREMO Community Resilience and Recovery Advisors lead most of the EM specific community engagements on behalf of Council. Key focus areas during the quarter include maintaining EM Plans, conducting preparedness and workshops and earthquake drills for vulnerable communities, business continuity workshops and Community Emergency Hub response practices. In addition, WREMO Community Resilience and Recovery Advisors have also undertaken project scoping and preparation for activities to be conducted in Q2 to Q4 FY 2024/25.
73. Many council business units also engage regularly with a diverse range of community groups, enabling EM direct and indirect connections with community service organisations, disabled communities, youth groups, migrants and refugees etc.

## NZ-RT18 (Hutt City Emergency Response Team)

74. Hutt City Emergency Response Team (NZ-RT18) successfully completed National Accreditation as an Emergency Response Team on 21 May. NEMA administers this accreditation. Under this [capability and competency framework](#) NZ-RT18 has completed and can deliver the following capabilities:
- a) NZRT Foundation levels;
  - b) light rescue;
  - c) flood response;
  - d) storm response;
  - e) Civil Defence Centres (or Emergency Assistance Centres in the Wellington region); and
  - f) mass casualty support and out-of-region deployments.
75. Council is a long-standing supporter of NZ-RT18. Achieving National Accreditation is a further endorsement that we can continue to work confidently with NZ-RT18 during emergencies
76. NZ-RT18 formed a new governance board during Q1 FY 2024/25. The EM Office met with the new chair, Brandon Robins, on 11 September 2024 to discuss a plethora of issues, challenges, and opportunities for NZ-RT18, volunteer groups and funding. NZ-RT18 efforts during Q1 focused mostly on preparing for and participating in Exercise Poseidon (4-6 October).



*Figure 6 NZ-RT18 team members conduct a brief before conducting a search along the Hutt River/Te Awa Kairangi during a training exercise*

77. Upcoming activities. NZ-RT18:

- a) ex Ru Whenua, 7 November 2024; and
- b) leadership team meeting with the EM Office in late November 2024.

### **Agency partnerships**

78. Partnerships with central agencies and emergency services remain strong with formal quarterly meeting and engagement during exercises, incidents, and planning activities.

### **Volunteer group engagements**

79 Engagements were held during Q1 FY 2024/25 with Youth Search and Rescue, Rapid Relief Team, Amateur Radio Club and Volunteer Lower Hutt. This reflects an increasing interest by various volunteer groups to engage with Council to share their stories regarding building community capability and resilience, developing partnerships and sharing information.

### **Te Whatu Ora hui**

80. On 9 August 2024, staff from the EM Team hosted an introductory meeting with Connected Communities, WREMO, and the National Public Health Service (NPHS). Topics covered included respective roles, local level public health considerations, and how to best coordinate in the event of an emergency. Noting that Te Whatu Ora is undergoing major restructuring, NPHS staff offered to conduct an organisational structure brief to council staff. NPHS was invited to attend and participate in the next emergency management exercise in November.

### **Kōraunui resilience activity**

81. EM will support Neighbour Facilitators and the Council Welfare Manager at the Kōraunui Hub on 9 November 2024 to promote community resilience and emergency preparedness.

### **Plans and Procedures workstream**

82. The Plans and Procedures workstream includes the delivery of local, regional, and national guidelines, plans, standard operating procedures, training plans, and policy documents.
83. Plans and procedures require frequent updates and 'tests' to ensure they remain valid and understood by emergency management stakeholders. Most likely, dangerous hazards (floods and tsunami) are reviewed and refined annually, requiring significant effort.
84. Key deliverables during the period include:
- a) progressive review of Local Emergency Response Plan;
  - b) scoping of EM Strategy;
  - c) review and renewal of the statement of best practice for the response and recovery of the fuel depots at Seaview; and
  - d) planning for H2S disposal by Callaghan Innovation.

### **EM strategy**

85. Scoping was commenced in Q1 for a five-year EM Strategy that encompasses recommendations made in the Government Response to the Government Inquiry into the Response to North Island Severe Weather events.
86. It is intended that this strategy would address capability gaps identified by the Wellington CDEM Group as well as deliver on strategic goals or mandated requirements in several documents, including the Long-Term Plan, Wellington CDEM Group Plan, National CDEM Plan, National Disaster Resilience Strategy, and EM legislation.
87. A working group consisting of Strategy and Policy and the EM Office has been established. Once planning for this piece of work is more advanced, a high-level agreement will be sought from CLT and the Communities, Culture and Partnerships Committee before the strategy is developed.

### **WREMO annual plan 2024/25**

88. The [WREMO Annual Plan](#) for FY 2024 to 2025 was approved by CEs for the region's councils on 30 July 2024. The annual plan's core deliverables have come from the following key documents:
- a) the agreed roles and responsibilities of WREMO as outlined in the new Council/WREEMO Joint Service Partnership Agreement;

- b) the strategic outcomes identified in the current CDEM Group Plan (2019-2024); and
  - c) The core work areas for WREMO's three teams (Business and Development, Operational Readiness and Response, and Community Resilience and Recovery).
89. A continuous feedback loop from EM governance, council EM Leads, and other regional partners also informs the plan.

### **Community Response Plans**

90. Council KPIs have required that Community Response Plans (CRPs) are current and are no older than 24 months. WREMO is engaged by Council to perform this task alongside response practices for Community Emergency Hubs.
91. This KPI has not been achieved for several years due to staff absences, COVID-19, lack of community participation, and allocated time for this activity. On 23 September 2024, 21 of 36 had been updated in the last two years. WREMO will prioritise a work plan to deliver 35 of 36 CRPs by 30 June 2025, with the outstanding plan (Manor Park) just falling outside the two-year benchmark.
92. Concurrently, a new methodology is being developed that will deliver a sustainable process for maintaining the currency of CRPs. This will be implemented from 1 July 2025.

### **Āwhina welfare registration and needs assessment platform**

93. NEMA advised on 8 August 2024 their decision to decommission the Āwhina Welfare Registration and Needs Assessment Platform due to its "complexities and limited uptake". NEMA has responsibility at the national level to provide "*a system to facilitate the collection of data to inform the assessment of immediate and ongoing welfare needs.*"
94. The Chair of the Wellington CDEM Group Coordinating Executives Group has written to the NEMA Chief Executive to express a range of concerns regarding the decision. Āwhina will continue to be used in the Wellington Region in the interim.

### **Climate Change Impact and Considerations Legal Considerations**

95. The matters addressed in this report have been considered in accordance with the process set out in Council's Climate Change Considerations Guide.

### **Legal Considerations**

96. There are no legal considerations.

**Financial Considerations**

97. There are no financial considerations.

**Appendices**

There are no appendices for this report.

**Author:** Anthony Robinson  
Emergency Management Lead

**Reviewed By:** Kaanihi Butler-Hare  
Tumuaki Māori

**Approved By:** Jarred Griffiths  
Director Strategy and Engagement

---

Report no: CCPC2024/5/316

## Rangatahi | Youth Engagement Update

### Purpose of Report

1. This report introduces the Rangatahi Community Facilitator role and presents the 2024/25 Work Plan, which outlines key initiatives to empower and engage our rangatahi (youth) in civic processes.

### Recommendations

That the Committee:

- (1) notes that it adopted the Rangatahi Engagement Action Plan on 1 May 2024;
- (2) notes that a 1.0 FTE position of Rangatahi Community Facilitator was agreed upon and funded by Council as part of the Long-Term Plan; and
- (3) notes that the 2024/25 work plan has been developed and will be reported every six months.

### Background

#### *Council decisions and direction to date*

2. Rangatahi voices are critical to good decision making that reflects our whole community, and Council has indicated it wants to significantly improve engagement with rangatahi. To this end, Council asked officers to report back on a proposed approach that effectively engages rangatahi.
3. On 1 May 2024, the Communities Culture and Partnerships Committee adopted a Rangatahi Engagement Action Plan, which signalled a new way of working to engage meaningfully with rangatahi in Lower Hutt.
4. Following a meeting of the Long Term Plan/Annual Plan Subcommittee on Tuesday, 4 June 2024 – the decision was made to fund a 1.0 FTE Rangatahi Community Facilitator, along with overheads and a small operational budget, to lead the implementation of the Action Plan.

### *The Rangatahi Community Facilitator*

5. The newly onboarded **Rangatahi Community Facilitator**, Natalie McDonald, has a mandate to drive rangatahi engagement across the city by working closely with Council teams, external stakeholders, and the community. She will serve as a bridge between rangatahi and Council, ensuring that youth voices are not only heard but actively shape Council's priorities, projects, and decision-making processes.
6. This role will focus on:
  - a) **facilitating rangatahi involvement** in Council processes;
  - b) **developing educational workshops** that enhance youth understanding of civic participation;
  - c) **forming partnerships** with sector leaders and external organisations to co-design creative and innovative engagement opportunities; and
  - d) **using data and insights** to inform and adapt approaches for more effective engagement.
7. Additionally, the role will work as part of the Connected Communities team to support a 'one Council team' approach. Harness the collective impact of all those on the ground and lead a shift towards community-led activity. This includes supporting rangatahi-driven projects and initiatives, ensuring that rangatahi have the resources and support they need to lead their change within their communities.

### *Overview of the 2024/2025 work plan*

8. The 2024/25 work plan lays out the key initiatives and strategic priorities that will guide the work of the Rangatahi Community Facilitator. It is focused on implementing the Rangatahi Engagement Action Plan (REAP) to increase rangatahi participation, foster active citizenship, and ensure their voices influence council decisions. This includes:
  - a) **developing educational workshops:** Delivering workshops aimed at educating rangatahi on their rights and how to engage with council processes, fostering a deeper understanding of citizenship;
  - b) **forming partnerships with sector leaders:** Collaborating with key sector leaders to provide innovative and creative ways for rangatahi to engage with council and community activities;
  - c) **utilising data for engagement strategies:** Using data insights to shape engagement strategies, ensuring that rangatahi programming is responsive and tailored to the needs of youth in our community; and

- d) **supporting community-led initiatives:** Promoting rangatahi-led projects and supporting young people to take leadership roles in initiatives within council spaces, focusing on areas such as health, safety, arts, culture, and active citizenship.

### *Progress to date*

- 9. While the Rangatahi Community Facilitator has only recently been appointed, the early groundwork has focused on relationship-building with key internal teams and external stakeholders. This phase has involved:
  - a) **engaging with neighbourhood hubs**, youth organisations, and schools to begin forming the partnerships necessary for future programming;
  - b) **laying the foundation for educational workshops**, with preliminary discussions in place to ensure these workshops can begin rolling out from Q3 2024/35; and
  - c) **conducting a stocktake of existing data** on youth engagement, which will inform more effective strategies going forward.

### **Options**

- 10. There are no options available as this is a noting-only report.

### **Next steps**

- 11. Over the remainder of Q2 and Q3, the Rangatahi Community Facilitator will focus on the following:
  - a) **formalising partnerships** with sector leaders to support rangatahi-driven initiatives. (Q2);
  - b) **rolling out educational workshops** across schools and community hubs to increase rangatahi understanding of their rights and opportunities for civic engagement. (Starting Q3);
  - c) **establishing a rangatahi leadership network**, creating a space for young leaders to engage with council and contribute to decision-making processes. (Planned hui in Q3); and
  - d) implementing creative engagement strategies, including digital campaigns and community-led projects, to increase youth participation. (Q2 and 3).
- 12. A Reporting Framework is attached as Appendix 1 to the report.

### **Climate Change Impact and Considerations**

- 13. The matters addressed in this report have been considered in accordance with the process set out in Council's Climate Change Considerations Guide.

14. Sustainability continues to be a main area of focus, and officers will look to align any work in this space with actions in the Lower Hutt Climate Action Pathway.
15. A number of rangatahi value the environment and have a keen interest in this area.

### Consultation

16. Officers have held two hui with rangatahi sector leaders and maintained ongoing kōrero to inform the development of this report. Officers will keep engaging with partners and rangatahi to review and inform our approach and ensure it remains fit for purpose.
17. Consultation with rangatahi on the draft action plan happened between 1 March and 1 April 2024. They were asked to give feedback on the strategic priorities and actions detailed in the action plan. 140 people gave feedback across surveys and a workshop.

### Legal Considerations

18. There are no legal considerations other than the requirement to meet obligations to our community regarding engagement and consultation as outlined in the Local Government Act 2002 and the Significance and Engagement Policy.

### Financial Considerations

19. There are no budget implications involved in this decision, as officers have advised that the Action Plan can be implemented over time from within existing budgets.

### Appendices

No.	Title	Page
<a href="#">1</a>	Rangatahi Action Plan Reporting Framework	59

**Author:** Lauren Coe  
Acting Head of Connected Communities

**Approved By:** Andrea Blackshaw  
Director Neighbourhoods and Communities

## Work Plan 2024/25: Rangatahi Community Facilitator

### Council Priorities

<b>Council's Purpose: Our city and people thrive!</b>				
<b>Long Term Plan priorities</b>	<b>Priority 1</b>	<b>Priority 2</b>	<b>Priority 3</b>	
	Providing a future-fit infrastructure	Enabling a liveable city and vibrant neighbourhoods	Supporting and enhancing the environment	
<b>The next steps are conducted..</b>	<i>In partnership with our communities</i>	<i>In a way that is financially sustainable</i>	<i>Taking climate change into account</i>	<i>All while promoting the wellbeing of all people</i>
<b>Neighbourhoods and Communities Strategy</b>				
<b>Our approach:</b>	<b>What we do:</b>	<b>How we do it:</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We support and enable</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Harness collective impact (connect people and groups)</li> <li>Enable activities that support wellbeing</li> <li>Deliver and enable the services people need</li> <li>Optimise our shared spaces and places</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As one council team</li> <li>Community-led</li> <li>Equity</li> <li>Te Tiriti-led</li> </ul>		

<b>Rangatahi Draft Action Plan Strategic Priorities</b>			
Increase active citizenship among rangatahi	Improve rangatahi understanding of council and their rights in relation to citizen participation, and opportunities for them to influence change	Partner with rangatahi sector leaders to creatively engage with rangatahi and increase participation	Use data and insights to inform effective engagement with rangatahi
<b>Action 1:</b>	<b>Action 1:</b>	<b>Action 1:</b>	<b>Action 1:</b>
Review and leverage current processes/initiatives	Establish rangatahi education programme	Creation of a partner agreement	Stocktake of existing rangatahi data and insights
<b>Action 2:</b>	<b>Action 2:</b>	<b>Action 2:</b>	<b>Action 2:</b>
Establish a student leaders' network	Weave education into current rangatahi programmes, engagement and activations	Regular rangatahi engagement	Review engagement approach

		<b>Action 3:</b>	<b>Action 3:</b>
		Regular meetings between council and partners	Effectively capture, use and share new data and insights to inform effective engagement
		<b>Action 4:</b>	<b>Action 4:</b>
		Passive rangatahi engagement	Keep up to date with new and creative ways to engage rangatahi including meeting with other councils

### Rangatahi Community Facilitator - Main Activities

Function/Responsibility	Purpose
Implement Rangatahi Draft Action Plan	Execute the key strategies outlined in the RDAP to engage rangatahi effectively, ensuring that actions are aligned with increasing active citizenship, understanding of council processes, and partnerships for creative engagement.
Community Support	Provide information, advice to support to local organisations and community members in the rangatahi space
Community Engagement - Work to connect rangatahi sector to harness the collective impact of everyone on the ground to deliver these outcomes	<p>Work to connect rangatahi sector to harness the collective impact of everyone on the ground to deliver these outcomes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Build relationships, stakeholder meetings, host and/or attend regular hui, forums etc</li> <li>• Work closely with Neighbourhood teams (Hubs and Facilitators)</li> <li>• Establish partnerships and networks with other youth organisations to contribute to programme activity including youth counselling services</li> <li>• System-innovation (pilots etc)</li> <li>• Insights</li> <li>• Connect partners/network with relevant Council work streams (where there is interest) to ensure voice of rangatahi informs decision-making</li> </ul>
Programme Development	<p>Collaborate with neighbourhood hubs, other council teams and external stakeholders to coordinate the programme delivery onsite and capture the voice of rangatahi to help shape future programmes and partnerships.</p> <p>Outcome areas of programme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health</li> <li>• Safety and Resilience</li> <li>• Arts, Culture and Heritage</li> <li>• Inclusion and Diversity</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Active Citizenship</li> <li>• Environment and sustainability</li> <li>• Education, Training and Employment</li> </ul>
Advocate for Rangatahi	Support community voice to influence Council decision making e.g. Resident Satisfaction Survey, Council Committee Hearings, Annual Plan, Long-Term Plan submissions.
Harness collective impact	Relationships are developed and maintained with the Rangatahi sector stakeholders other Councils and local communities to harness collective impact.

## RCF Key Performance Indicators (Aligned with Connected Communities Business Plan FY 24/25)

Strategic Priority	Initiative	Measure	Target Value	Quarter	RDAP Priority
RDAP - Increase Active Citizenship Among Rangatahi	Establishing a rangatahi leadership network, creating a space for young leaders to engage with council and contribute to decision-making processes.	Number of student leaders engaged in the network and rangatahi-led initiatives.	Establish a student leaders network by Q3 FY24 with quarterly meetings, targeting at least <b>30 participants by end of Q4.</b>	Q3 FY24	1
RDAP – Partner with Rangatahi sector leaders to creatively engage with rangatahi and increase participation	Explore and establish creative engagement strategies for rangatahi such as rangatahi-led digital campaigns, art projects and interactive storytelling platforms to ensure diverse youth participation	Number of partnerships established with sector leaders and the number of rangatahi engagements facilitated through these partnerships.	Establish partnership agreements with at least three sector leaders within the first six months. Conduct four creative engagement sessions per year, with a goal of at least 20 rangatahi participating in each session.	Q4 FY24	3
RDAP – Improve rangatahi understanding of council and their rights in relation to citizen participation and opportunities for them to influence change.	Facilitate and coordinate educational programmes and workshops designed to increase rangatahi understanding of their rights, council processes, and opportunities to influence local decision-making. This will be achieved by delivering or supporting programmes in schools and community hubs, in partnership with council teams and community organisations.	Number of education programmes and workshops enabled/supported/ delivered focusing on rangatahi rights and council processes. Increase in rangatahi involvement in council decision-making processes following participation in educational programmes.	Enable/ support/deliver at least three education programmes in schools and community hubs within the first year, reaching a minimum of 100 rangatahi.  Achieve an increase in rangatahi submissions or participation in identified key council consultations within 12 months, as measured by participation records and feedback loops established after workshops.	Q2 FY25	2
Work with community partners to weave civic education into existing rangatahi programmes to address the needs of our diverse communities.	Develop partnerships with local schools, community groups, and youth organizations to weave civic education into existing rangatahi-focused programmes, tailoring content to the cultural and social needs of diverse communities.	Number of programmes and participation rates	Establish baseline of programmes	Q4 FY24	3
Stats, insights challenges, trends are captured and relationships with key stakeholders are maintained with intel analysed to inform Rangatahi initiatives	Identify data sources and opportunities to analysing data, trends, and insights from rangatahi and key stakeholders. Use this intelligence to inform the development of rangatahi initiatives and ensure ongoing relationship management with community partners. This includes 6 monthly reports.	Rangatahi Reports presented to the CCP Committee.	Two Rangatahi Community Updates presented to the CCP Committee on a six-monthly basis (dates of papers).	May 25 Nov 25	4
Enhancing Community Wellbeing –	Inform the delivery of targeted programs and initiatives in Council spaces, addressing the needs of our diverse communities.	Number of programmes held in Council spaces targeting Rangatahi	Establish baseline	Q4 FY 24	Connected Communities

---

Report no: CCPC2024/5/318

## Neighbourhoods and Communities Focus Area - Taitā / Pomare

### Purpose of Report

1. The purpose of the report is to highlight Council's engagement with the Pomare and Taitā communities, supporting the strategic vision outlined in the Neighbourhoods and Communities Strategic Framework (2022).

### Recommendation

That the Committee notes and receives the information.

### Background

2. The Neighbourhoods and Communities Strategic Framework, adopted in 2022, strengthens Council's role in building connections between residents, local groups, and Council teams. It promotes place-based approaches focused on inclusivity, safety, resilience, and wellbeing through community-led development.
3. Neighbourhood Facilitators connect residents, local groups and agencies. Fostering collaboration and aligning with Council's safety, resilience and wellbeing goals. They lead engagement through hui, develop Neighbourhood Profiles, provide valuable insights to guide Council decisions and ensure each community's unique needs are met, contributing to the vision of thriving, connected communities.
4. The role of the Neighbourhood Facilitator includes:
  - a) developing neighbourhood profiles to inform Council's work and to support others engaging in the same neighbourhoods. These include data, insights, stakeholder mapping and contacts, key events and information on Council's work programme. Data sets are created by the Policy team and attached as Appendix 1 to the report;
  - b) developing an annual cross-council 'neighbourhood work programme' which can be shared with Community Boards, key stakeholders and community and supports alignment and collaboration;

- c) organising internal hui for staff involved in projects within a focus neighbourhood to support Council's aim of working as One Team and taking a holistic view of neighbourhoods; and
  - d) co-ordinating external hui in focus neighbourhoods to harness collective impact, discuss local priorities and support the initiation of local projects including funding applications to the Annual Plan and other funding channels.
5. Pomare and Taitā key events are attached as Appendix 2 to the report.

### **Overview**

6. Taitā is one of the Northern suburbs of Lower Hutt, with a population of 6,751 as of September 2021, which is 6% of the city's population.
7. Taitā has a larger Māori and Pacifica population than the city. 44% of the Taitā population identify as European (68% for all of Lower Hutt), 29% as Pasifika (11%), 26% as Māori (18%), 16% as Asian (15%), 3% as Middle Eastern, Latin American and African (2%) and 1% as other (1%). 30% of people in Taitā speak two languages compared to 23% in the city.
8. Taitā also has a younger population. The median age for Taitā is 32.15 compared to 36.9 for Lower Hutt. Regarding income, 79% of people in Taitā have an income of less than \$50k pa (median income in Lower Hutt is \$94k pa).

### **Key updates for Pomare and Taitā**

9. The Neighbourhood Profile for Pomare and Taitā is being updated to help colleagues gain a snapshot understanding of the neighbourhood. It reflects changing demographics, safety concerns, and evolving stakeholder relationships, providing key insights to guide decisions and support community goals. This updated profile will ensure colleagues have a clear and concise view of the neighbourhood's unique needs and dynamics.
10. Pomare and Taitā are experiencing demographic shifts, with a growing Asian population alongside significant Pacific and Māori communities. The area sees an aging population, increasing demand for health and aged care services, and a younger-than-average demographic, driving the need for expanded youth services and education. The rise in multi-generational households, reflecting cultural practices and affordability challenges, presents both a challenge and an opportunity to support different age groups more effectively.

## Community Needs

11. **Housing and affordability:** There have been a number of housing developments in the Pomare and Taitā areas, both private and social, aimed at addressing the community's diverse needs. This includes projects like Te Ara o Takapu (a partnership between Kahungunu Whānau Services - now He Herenga Kura - Te Rūnanganui o Te Āti Awa, Council, and Urban Plus Ltd, which resulted in homes for 19 whānau) more recent developments at the St Matthew's Anglican Church site. Between 1 October 2023 and 30 September 2024, 92 new Equivalent Household Units (EHUs) were built in Taitā, reflecting ongoing efforts to increase housing supply in the area.
12. Recognising that many of the new developments lack greenspace, officers are facilitating a connection between new developments and adjacent kura, as well as exploring ways to support providers – from organisations like the Red Cross, Kāinga Ora and privately owned homes – to connect new residents to services and spaces that promote social cohesion.
13. Kāinga Ora has recently completed 31 homes in the area, with 21 more currently under construction, 10 in the consenting stage, and 22 homes planned, totalling 84 new homes. While Kāinga Ora is not leading community integration initiatives, officers are working separately with them to connect their whānau into the neighbourhood better and foster a sense of belonging.
14. **Employment and economic support:** Local job training programmes, such as those offered through Youth Inspire, provide opportunities for rangatahi. There is also a recognised need to broaden economic support for other community members, including adults seeking upskilling or retraining. From January to October 2024, Youth Inspire, funded by the Mouri Ora Fund and the Road Safety Team, supported 39 youth into full-time employment, 152 into training placements, and seven into further education. Additionally, they achieved 114 learner licence passes, 42 restricted and 15 full licence passes.
15. **Health and wellbeing:** The neighbourhood continues to lack consistent place-based healthcare services, and officers are supporting residents to advocate for more regular healthcare support, including mental health services, to meet community needs better. Schools have raised concerns about the health and wellbeing of tamariki, with whānau struggling to access healthcare and essential services like supermarkets due to limited access to vehicles and financial constraints.
16. As part of our advocacy efforts, staff have collaborated with Te Awakairangi Health Network (TEAHN), which initiated contact with our Neighbourhood Facilitator to explore potential partnerships. Recently, staff took the new Chief Executive and two key staff members on a tour of the Northern Ward to share local insights and highlight service gaps. As a result, TEAHN staff are now actively engaging with community groups. They are in the early stages of a joint mapping initiative to identify service gaps and explore collaborative solutions. This includes educating about healthy kai, supporting food access initiatives like Māra kai and discussing how other health services might be delivered.

17. A community-led kai initiative, Māra Ora, is emerging at Pomare Taitā Community House and has been supported through Council's Mouri Ora Fund. The initiative is still in its early stages, with the team applying lessons from their work in other areas such as Stokes Valley, Wainuiomata and Central Lower Hutt. Māra Ora focuses on educating whānau about healthy eating, teaching food-growing skills and promoting social connection. It addresses food needs and fosters a sense of community by bringing people together.
18. Similar initiatives in other areas have improved food security and strengthened community relationships. Building stronger partnerships with health providers remains a key focus to ensure that services are accessible, responsive, and culturally relevant for the community.

### *Youth engagement and support*

19. Youth programmes in the area face challenges due to inconsistent funding and age restrictions, impacting their long-term stability. Programmes like Taiohi Morehu and Common Ground at Walter Nash Park often need help to run due to the competitive funding environment, with many volunteers involved. Similarly, Boys & Girls Institute had to discontinue its Taitā programme due to difficulty securing affordable spaces and paying staff.
20. Work is also underway with the Walter Nash team and Tūhura Tech (supported by the Kākano Fund) to provide activities for rangatahi at the hub. The newly appointed rangatahi facilitator will support youth engagement through the Rangatahi Draft Action Plan, working with the Neighbourhood Facilitator to address local needs.
21. The facilitator aims to strengthen local youth voices in governance, ensuring rangatahi participation in community decision-making while working to expand meaningful youth programmes that align with community needs, even amidst shifting financial support. Taitā College students were significantly involved in the initial engagement for this work and have been eagerly awaiting the rangatahi facilitator's start, frequently asking when the next meeting will occur.
22. Students at Taitā College, guided by Matua Simon Hirini, have been involved in a regeneration project focused on restoring the wetland behind the school. Tauira works in the māra and surrounding bush, learning to identify native plants, transplant seedlings, and assess ecosystem health. Matua Simon connects their work to the wider environment, teaching how the creek behind the school flows into Te Awa Kairangi and showing how their efforts impact the awa downstream. He is also exploring opportunities for students to visit the water treatment plant and landfill to broaden their understanding of environmental processes and their role in protecting the ecosystem.

### *Cultural and Social Connectedness*

23. The Kaibosh food distribution at the Walter Nash Centre has become a key gathering point for community members, with regular attendees who value the opportunity for connection and support.
24. Recognising this strength, a community member has proposed evolving it into a mana-enhancing initiative that provides food and fosters dignity, empowerment, and learning. This could involve introducing skills-sharing opportunities, community leadership, and knowledge exchange, building on the existing foundation to create a more holistic, uplifting experience for participants.

### *Neighbourhood Highlight | Common Ground: Walter Nash Park*

25. The Common Ground initiative is a key community hub in Pomare and Taitā, originally driven by local residents to redevelop Walter Nash Park. It provides a space for whānau, groups, and organisations to connect, with weekly play days at Mokopuna offering free access to gardening, sports, and play equipment alongside the pātaka kai (community pantry) to support food sharing.
26. Whaea Sue Rei has been instrumental in leading the Common Ground initiative. Staff are supporting her in developing a sustainable model for more frequent park activation by services and providers. Common Ground continues to operate through partnerships with Council, local groups, and funding from Nuku Ora's Tū Manawa investment and the Department of Internal Affairs, with Wesley Community Action as the fundholder.
27. Staff across Council also contribute through regular interactions and support for Whaea Sue's work. These efforts support a collaborative partnership with the community, contributing to long-term outcomes.

*Below: Mr Tukua (Taitā College) coordinating his students and contractors, installing a whare built and donated by Taitā College students.*



*Below: Marie Kinloch (Nuku Ora) is dropping off a number of outdoor games, including Pickle Ball for Whaea Sue and the tamariki to use. Also pictured are Jamie Dixon (Formerly City Safety), Caro Willis (St Matthew's Church), Sionainn King (Neighbourhood Facilitator) and Paku (Manager of Snacks and Pats)*



### **Programming at Walter Nash Centre**

28. Walter Nash Centre offers a wide range of regular and one-off programmes that align with our commitment to fostering community health, wellbeing, education and social connection. Our programmes span various age groups and interests, providing a welcoming environment where everyone can engage, learn and connect. Since April 2024, our first measurable month with Solus, Walter Nash Centre has 16,550 people in attendance across 504 programmes.
29. Key programmes include early literacy activities like Baby Bounce & Rhyme for preschoolers, fitness-focused sessions such as Zumba, Yoga Gold and Pilates for adults and seniors, and arts-based programmes like Nash Knitters, Art Spot and Book Club. School holiday sports sessions and creative workshops are also hosted to promote physical activity and artistic expression.
30. Additionally, Walter Nash Centre serves the wider community through essential services, including Age Concern, IRD, Justice of the Peace, Plunket and Kaibosh, ensuring local access to key support networks. Our programmes aim to support social cohesion, promote health and wellbeing, and offer opportunities for lifelong learning, reflecting the community's needs and priorities.
31. To further enhance engagement and support attendance growth, officers are working to increase our presence online via the Walter Nash Facebook page, ensuring that our programmes and services reach a wider audience.



*Tongan Crafts Workshop by Akosita Laukau & Tafinga Taufu*

### **Collaboration Across Council**

32. As the Neighbourhoods team's practice is better embedded across Council, staff are increasingly called upon by various business units to guide stakeholder engagement and resource coordination. In response to tensions arising from new housing developments without off-street parking – leading to issues like driveway obstructions, narrow road access and challenges for emergency services – verbal disputes between residents became more frequent. Recognising the community concerns, the Neighbourhoods team worked closely with the Transport team to engage with residents safely and constructively.
33. A compromise was reached by facilitating conversations between long-standing and new residents that balanced community needs and emergency service requirements. Feedback from the community has been positive. The upgrades along Biddle, Johnston and Milne Crescents are a clear outcome of this collaborative approach, demonstrating how coordinated efforts across departments and community input can lead to effective solutions.
34. The Pomare Park redevelopment is a successful example of a community-led initiative, where local residents took the lead and Council provided support. When the Neighbourhood Facilitator joined, they met with key community champions from the Pomare Taitā Community Trust, who had first engaged Council in 2019 to propose the park's redevelopment. Although the COVID-19 pandemic delayed the project and did not reappear in the work plan, the community champions requested the Neighbourhood Facilitator to refocus efforts on completing it. Through ongoing collaboration with the parks and reserves team, the project was revived and is being delivered in two phases. Phase 1 is complete, and Phase 2 is pending. The community will lead the celebration of this milestone, with Council supporting their efforts as they mark the achievement.
35. Stakeholder feedback has been very positive, with many relieved that the work is finally complete after a long advocacy period. While the park is active, it will fully open once the grass grows. The community is organising a blessing and celebration, highlighting local ownership and pride in this shared space.

### **Community Engagement and Collaboration:**

36. Council's Community Facilitator has focused on building trust and relationships by increasing their visibility and engagement with the community. Engagement with groups and community champions is improving as a result.
37. The team has also been responsive to smaller, immediate needs, further building community trust. This includes ensuring well-maintained community spaces, such as addressing unmown grass left unattended for a long time and following up on unresolved logged issues. When storage sheds at Common Ground containing toys and bikes were broken into, Council helped resolve the situation.

### **Upcoming Council work in Pomare and Taitā**

38. Although no major projects are underway, the Neighbourhood team remains committed to identifying future opportunities for collaborative development and continuing its close engagement with the community.
39. The team's ongoing efforts will focus on working with residents and stakeholders to address emerging needs and explore ways to support further and strengthen community initiatives.

### **Next Steps**

40. Housing and Affordability - strengthen relationships with Kāinga Ora to support resident integration and foster community connections.
42. Youth Engagement and Support - connect the Rangatahi facilitator to key community relationships and support them in developing consistent youth programmes.
41. Education and Learning:
  - support the Rangatahi facilitator in creating place-based programmes and, engaging schools and parents in decision-making; and
  - advocate for funding to address school support needs.
42. Community Safety - continue to identify, promote and support neighbourhood support and other community-led safety initiatives as they arise.
43. Cultural and Social Connectedness:
  - continue to support and enable whānau-led activities, shared meals, and feedback sessions to promote community cohesion; and
  - partner with services to integrate support during Kaibosh sessions.

44. Environmental and Recreational Resources:

- support the Community Ranger to connect with Taitā College to support the regeneration work they are doing behind the school; and
- encourage the use of Pomare Park for environmental projects and mentorship.

### Climate Change Impact and Considerations

45. The matters addressed in this report have been considered in accordance with the process set out in Council's Climate Change Considerations Guide.

### Consultation

46. Several Council teams have contributed to this report, and the Northern Ward Councillor has been consulted on the content.

### Legal Considerations

47. There are no legal considerations.

### Financial Considerations

48. There are no financial considerations.

### Appendices

No.	Title	Page
<a href="#">1</a>	Appendix 1 - Taitā / Pomare Dataset	72
<a href="#">2</a>	Appendix 2 - Pomare Taitā Key Events	91

**Author:** Lauren Coe  
Acting Head of Connected Communities

**Approved By:** Andrea Blackshaw  
Director Neighbourhoods and Communities

# Taita Neighbourhood

What the *data* tells us



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Information is available in respective slide numbers

- |   |                                 |
|---|---------------------------------|
| 3. Technical Notes/Terms                      | 17. Taita 360 View              |
| 4. Technical Notes/Terms                      | 18. Taita 360 View              |
| 5. Taita Map view                             | 19. Taita 360 view              |
| 6. Taita Insights                             | 20. Benefit Claimants           |
| 7. Population Diversity by ethnicity and age  | 21. COVID-19 Vaccination Status |
| 8. Population Diversity by ethnicity and age  | 22. Health Status of Taita      |
| 9. Birthplace, median age and language spoken | 23. Health Status of Taita      |
| 10. Population by age structure-service group | 24. Health Status of Taita      |
| 11. Income and employment status              | 25. Health Status of Taita      |
| 12. Housing and Household Status              | 26. Health Status of Taita      |
| 13. Housing Status                            | 27. Health Status of Taita      |
| 14. Crowded Household                         | 28. Health Status of Taita      |
| 15. Deprivation Index                         | 29. Health Status of Taita      |
| 16. Qualification Status                      | 30. Health Status of Taita      |

## TECHNICAL NOTES ON TERMS USED

- ❖ **Totals add to more than 100% as people can identify with multiple ethnicities; MELAA and Other ethnicities have not been included due to the small numbers in each group.**
- ❖ **Jobseeker Support (JS)** – a benefit paid for up to 52 weeks while clients look for work, are in training for work, or are unable to work due to a temporary health condition, injury, or disability. Recipients can reapply for JS, if they still require it, after 52 weeks. The Job Seeker Support rate is measured as the proportion of the population aged 18-64 claiming *Job Seeker Support* within the geographic region.
- ❖ **Sole Parent Support (SPS)** – a benefit for sole parents whose youngest dependent child is less than 14 years of age. Recipients can reapply for SPS, if they still require it, after 52 weeks. Sole Parent Support rate is measured as the proportion of the population aged 18-64 claiming *Sole Parent Support* within the geographic region.
- ❖ **Means Tested Benefit** rate is measured as the proportion of the population aged 18-64 claiming *Supported Living Payment* or *Other Benefits* within the geographic region.
- ❖ **Workforce:** Work and labour force status classifies a person aged 15 years and over by their inclusion in or exclusion from the labour force. For an employed person, it distinguishes between full-time (30 hours or more per week) or part-time employment (fewer than 30 hours per week). A person who was not employed is classified as either 'unemployed' or 'not in the labour force'. A person is considered to be unemployed if, during the week ended 4 March 2018, was without a paid job but was available for work, and had actively sought work in the four weeks ended 4 March 2018. A person is considered to not be in the labour force if they were not employed and they were not actively seeking work, or not available for work.
- ❖ **Household Income:** Household income is a fundamental measure of living standards and reflects the economic health of an area. Household income comprises multiples sources including earnings from employment (wages and salaries), earnings from self-employment, allowances, benefits and superannuation. By including incomes of all household members from a range of sources, it provides a more holistic measure of living standard and housing affordability than individual earnings.
- ❖ **House ownership** is presented here based upon **Household Tenure**. Household Tenure indicates whether a household in a private dwellings rents, owns or holds that dwelling in a family trust, and whether payment is made by the household for the right to reside in that dwelling. Tenure of Household is a priority 2 variable which covers the key subject populations that are important for policy development, evaluation, or monitoring hence used for showing Home Ownership.
- ❖ **Dwelling dampness** indicator indicates whether an occupied private dwelling is not damp (dry throughout) or the degree to which it is damp, sometimes damp, or always damp. Dampness is defined as when a dwelling feels or smells damp or has damp patches on the wall, ceiling, floor or window frames.
- ❖ **Dwelling mould** indicator provides a measure of the total amount of visible mould inside occupied private dwellings. It indicates whether there is mould present that has a total area larger than an A4 sheet of paper, or whether the total amount present is smaller than A4 size, or there is no mould. It excludes any mould that is not visible (e.g. mould inside walls).
- ❖ **Crowding/ over crowding** is caused when the homes that people live in are too small to accommodate the number of people in a household. There are many different measures of crowding. The capacity of a dwelling can be measured by floor area, or the number of bedrooms or rooms. This measure calculates the number of bedrooms needed on the demographic composition of the household. It presumes that there should be no more than two people to a bedroom, but that couples and children of certain ages can share a bedroom. Crowding occurs when homes are too small for the number of people in the household. A home is 'severely crowded' if the people living there need at least two more bedrooms.
- ❖ **Highest qualification:** Highest qualification is derived for people aged 15 years and over and combines highest secondary school qualification and post-school qualification to obtain a single highest qualification by category of attainment.

## TECHNICAL NOTES ON TERMS USED

- ❖ **Voted in General Election** is defined as the percentage of electors (individuals on the electoral role) that cast a vote at the General Election. Data Source: Electoral Commission Oct 2020
- ❖ **Crime rate** is defined as the average number of victimisations per 10,000 population, over the last 12 months. Data Source New Zealand Police as at Aug 2022
- ❖ **Median Household income** is defined as the inflation-adjusted median combined income of the household. Data Source: Stats NZ as at July 2022.
- ❖ **Deprivation Index** is defined as the deprivation of the area (using DOT Loves Data's Dynamic Deprivation Index), where an Index of 1 represents the least deprived areas and an index of 10 represents the most deprived. Data Source : DOT Loves Data June 2022.
- ❖ **Individual home ownership** is defined as the percentage of individuals that own their own home. Data Source:- Stats NZ, 2018 Census
- ❖ **Median Property value** is defined as the median estimated property value of residential properties in the area. Data Source Homes.co.nz July 2022
- ❖ **Access to heating** is defined as the percentage of households that say they have access to heating. Data Source:- Stats NZ
- ❖ **Access to vehicle** is defined as the percentage of households that say they have access to a vehicle. Data Source:- Stats NZ
- ❖ **Access to electricity** is defined as the percentage of households that say they have access to electricity. Data Source: Stats NZ
- ❖ **Access to water** is defined as the percentage of households that say they have access to safe drinking water. Data Source: Stats NZ
- ❖ **Walking time to Primary schools** is defined as the average time it takes to walk (in minutes) to the closest primary school. Data Source:- Education Counts
- ❖ **Rental affordability** is defined as the percentage of annual household income that is spent on rent. Data Source:- Tenancy Services & Stats NZ
- ❖ **Purchasing affordability** is defined as the percentage (%) of annual median household income that is spent on mortgage repayment (based on purchasing at the median house price with a 20% deposit over 30 years assuming a fixed interest rate of 4%) – Data Source:- (Homesco.nz and Stats NZ)
- ❖ **Travel to Supermarkets** is defined as the average travel time by car (in minutes) to the closest supermarket (including Countdown, New World, PAK'nSAVE and SuperValue) – Data source Open Street Maps
- ❖ **Travel time to Public Hospitals** is defined as the average travel time by car (in minutes) to the closest public hospital. Data Source:- Ministry of Health
- ❖ **Median Rent Price** is defined as the average of the bond weighted median rent price over the last 12 months. Data Source:- Tenancy Services
- ❖ **Age Structure-Service Group:** The Age Structure of the population is the most widely used component of the Census. It is an indicator of an area's residential role and function and how it is likely to change in the future. Lower Hutt and Taitā's age demographics are indicative of the area's era of settlement and provide key insights into the level of demand for services and facilities (as most services and facilities are age-specific). Service age groups divide the population into age categories that reflect typical life-stages. They indicate the level of demand for services that target people at different stages in life and how that demand is changing

## TAITA INSIGHTS

# Taita

## One of the northernmost suburb of the Hutt

Covers 4.55 km<sup>2</sup> (1.76 square mile)  
Population density 1,477 people per km<sup>2</sup>

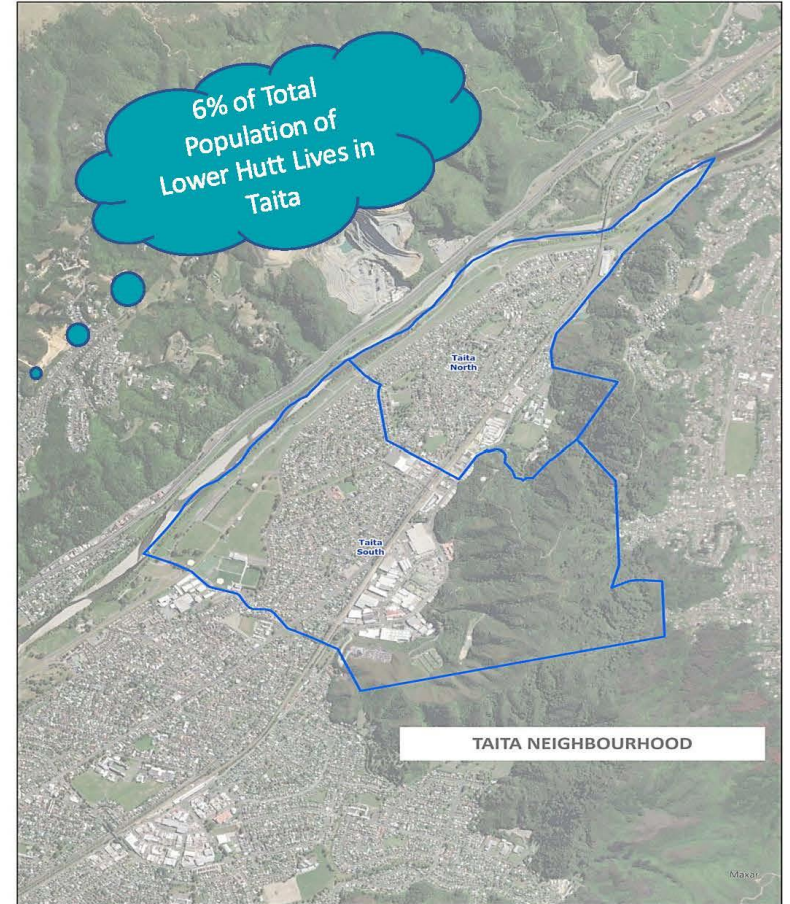
Estimated population as at Sep 2021: **6,751**; 3413 (Taita North), 3,338 (Taita South) (Stats NZ)

### SA2 Used for Taita Neighbourhood

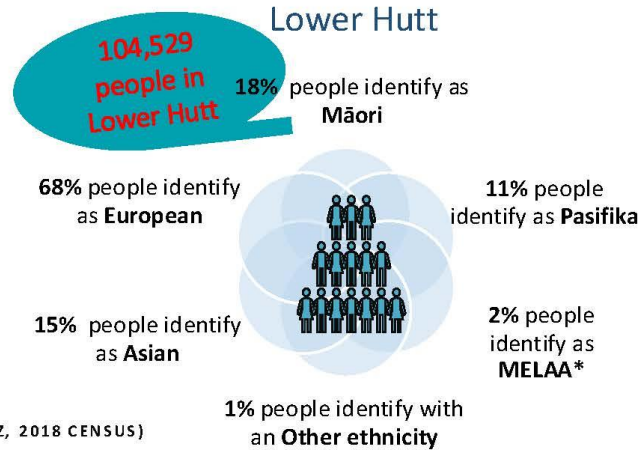
Taita North

Taita South

6,153 people live in Taita as of Census night count (2018 census)



# POPULATION DIVERSITY BY ETHNICITY AND AGE (STATS NZ, 2018 CENSUS)



How we read the figures for Lower Hutt:- In 2018, 68% of the population in Lower Hutt identified their ethnicity as European, 18 % as Māori, 11% as Pasifika, 15% as an Asian, 2% as MELAA and 1% as other ethnicity.



(STATS NZ, 2018 CENSUS)

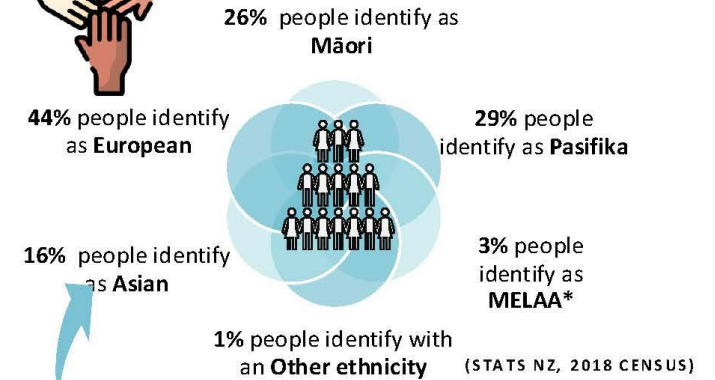
How we read the chart for Lower Hutt:- Of 70,638 European in Lower Hutt 20% are under 15 years, 20% are 15-29 years, 46% are of age 30-64 and 14% are 65 years and over.

\*MELAA is an acronym for Middle Eastern, Latin American and African

Taita is home to 6,153 people



**Taita**

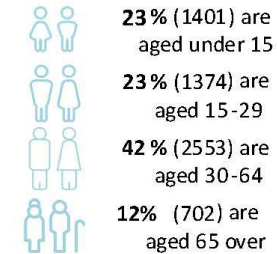


How we read the figures for Wainui:- In 2018, of Taita Population (6,153), 44% identified their ethnicity as European, 26% as Māori, 29% as Pasifika, 16% as an Asian, 3% as MELAA and 1% as other ethnicity.

Historical population		
Year	Pop.	±% p.a.
2006	6,057	—
2013	5,538	-1.27%
2018	6,153	+2.13%

(STATS NZ, 2018 CENSUS)

Note: Totals add to more than 100% as people can identify with multiple ethnicities; MELAA and Other ethnicities have not been included due to the small numbers in each group

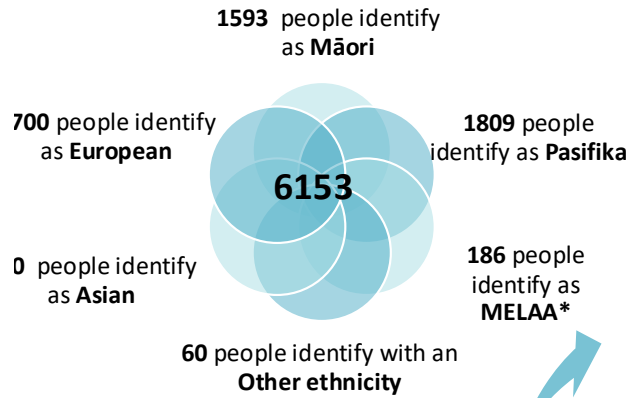


(STATS NZ, 2018 CENSUS)

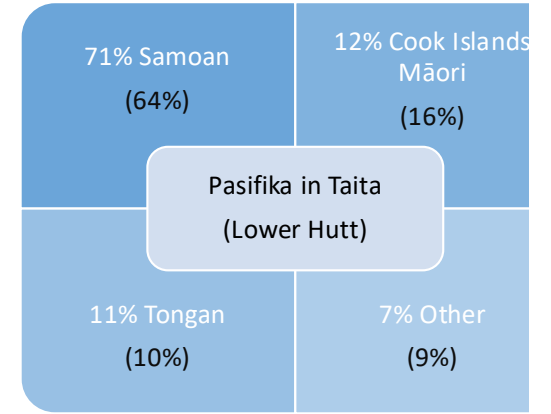
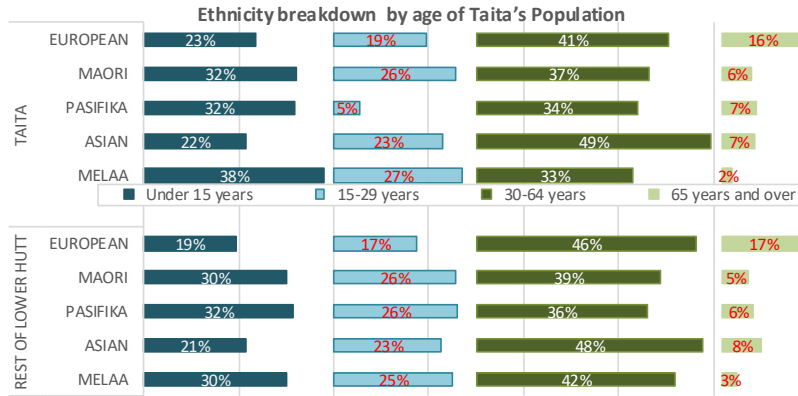
How we read the chart for Taita:- Of 12,516 European in Taita, 23% are under 15 years, 23% are 15-29 years, 42% are of age 30-64 and 12% are 65 years and over.



## TAITĀ POPULATION DIVERSITY BY ETHNICITY AND AGE

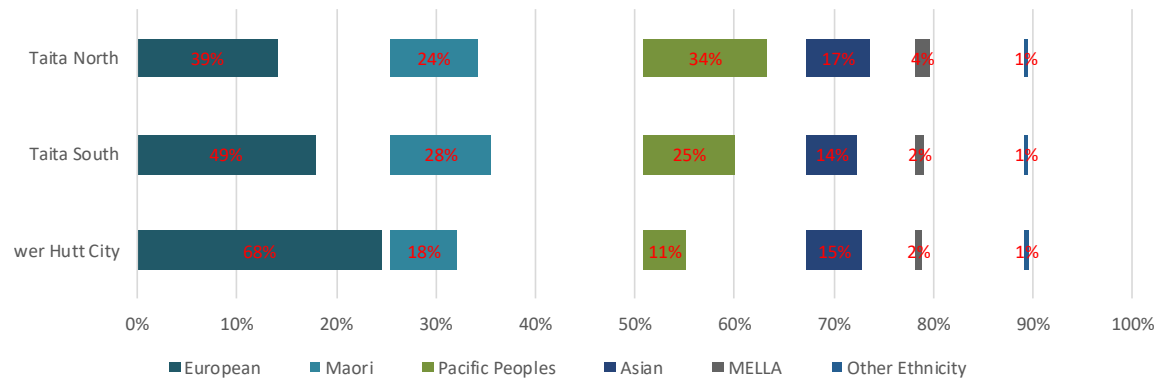


(STATS NZ, 2018 CENSUS)

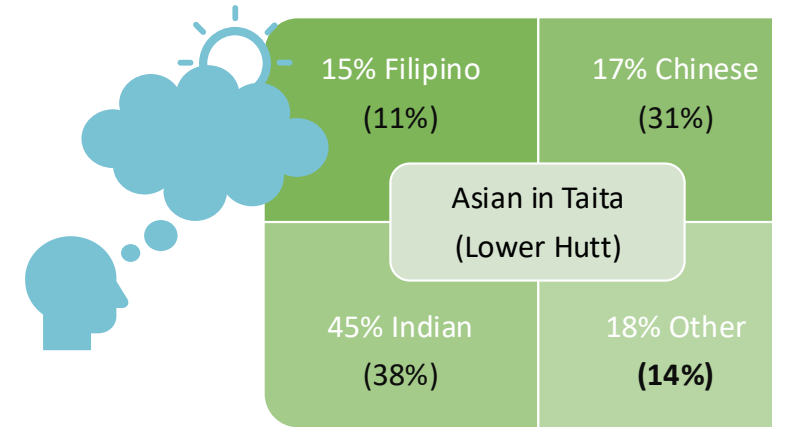


How we read the chart:- Of 186 MELAA in Taitā 38% are under 15 years, 27% are 15-29 years, 33% are of age 30-64 and 3% are 65 years and over.

### Ethnicity breakdown for Taitā Neighbourhood



Note: Totals add to more than 100% as people can identify with multiple ethnicities; MELAA and Other ethnicities have not been included due to the small numbers in each group



## BIRTHPLACE AND LANGUAGES SPOKEN IN TAITA



**75%** of Lower Hutt Population are NZ born and **25%** are overseas born



Although some people objected to giving their religion, **34.4%** had no religion, **47.1%** were Christian, **4.1%** were Hindu, **2.0%** were Muslim, **1.7%** were Buddhist and **3.9%** had other religions in Taita.



**72%** of the Taita population are NZ born and **28%** were born overseas



**23%** people in Lower Hutt speaks more than two languages



**30%** people in Taita speaks more than two languages



Median Age of **Lower Hutt residents** is **36.9** years

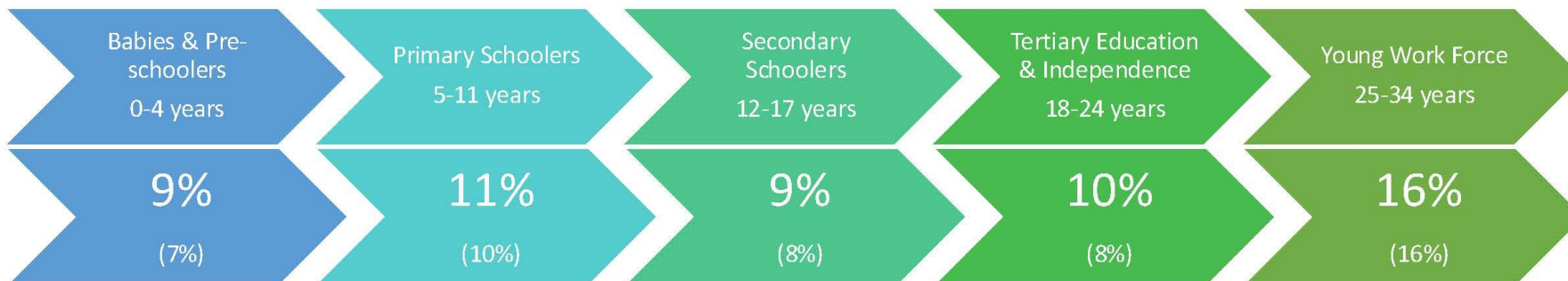
(STATS NZ, 2018 CENSUS)

Median Age of people in **Taita South** is (**32.6** years) and **Taita North** is (**31.7** years)



## POPULATION BY AGE STRUCTURE -SERVICE GROUPS IN TAITA

(STATS NZ, 2018 CENSUS)



Note: % of population in Taita for age group (followed by % in Lower Hutt)



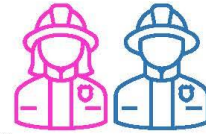
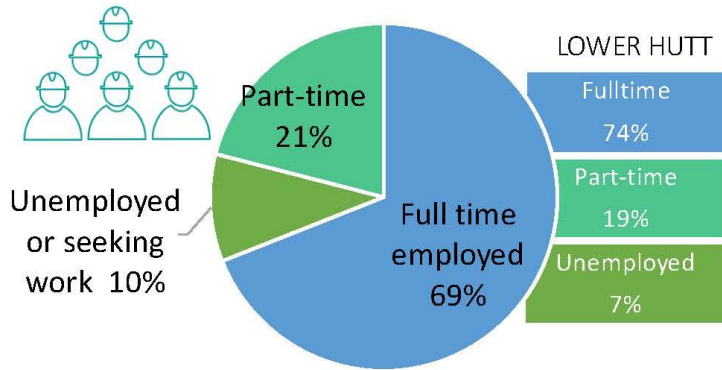
The Age Structure of the population is the most widely used component of the Census. It is an indicator of an area’s residential role and function and how it is likely to change in the future. Lower Hutt and Taitā’s age demographics are indicative of the area’s era of settlement and provide key insights into the level of demand for services and facilities (as most services and facilities are age-specific). Service age groups divide the population into age categories that reflect typical life-stages. They indicate the level of demand for services that target people at different stages in life and how that demand is changing.



# INCOME, EMPLOYMENT AND BENEFIT STATUS OF TAITA RESIDENTS

## WORKFORCE

**Most people are working full/part time (90%)**  
 10% are unemployed or seeking work in Taita (Census 2018)

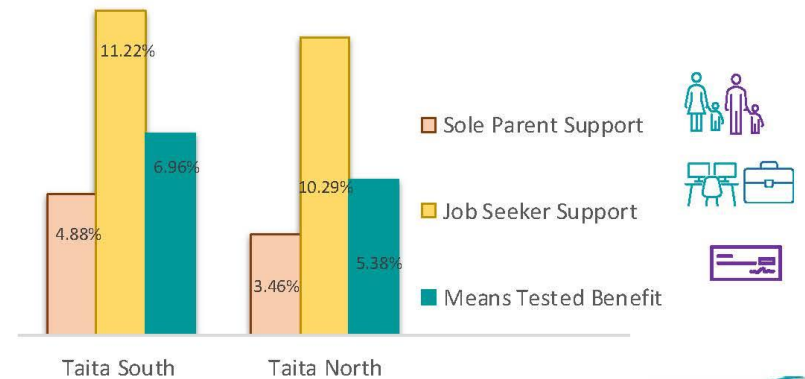
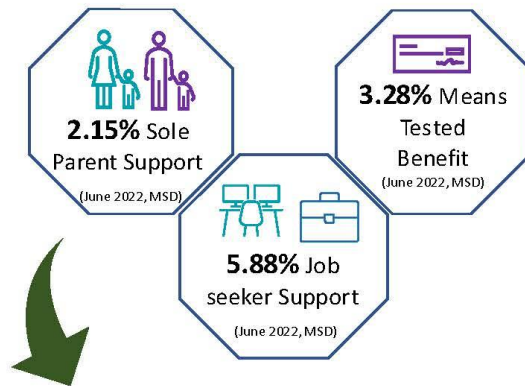


**5%** (3042) of Lower Hutt's Labour force comes from Taita

**79%** of Taita population make **below \$50K** (Census 2018)

## BENEFITS

### Lower Hutt City



## HOUSEHOLD INCOME

Households in Taita have a lower median income than Lower Hutt as a whole. (Lower Hutt \$94K as of May 2022, Stats NZ)



Median household income in Taita North  
**\$68K**  
 (as of July 2022, Stats NZ)



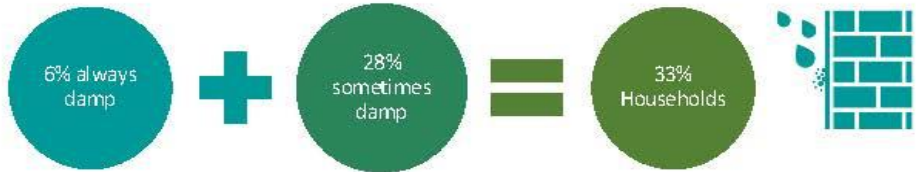
Median household income in Taita South  
**\$64K**  
 (as of July 2022, Stats NZ)



# HOUSING & HOUSEHOLDS IN TAITA (STATS NZ, 2018 CENSUS)

## DAMP AND MOULD

33% of Taita's households are sometimes or always damp



25% of Taita's households are sometimes or always mouldy



Homes in Taita South are the most likely to be damp(36%); and homes in Taita South (26%) the most likely to be mouldy.

[STATS NZ, 2018 CENSUS]

## OVERCROWDING



24% of Taita residents live in overcrowded conditions



11% of residents in Lower Hutt live in overcrowded conditions



Taita North and Taita South are top 20 areas by households size in Lower Hutt in 2048 (Projections by Sense Partners, 2022)



Taita South (24%) & Taita North (23%) are more Crowded in Taita Neighbourhood

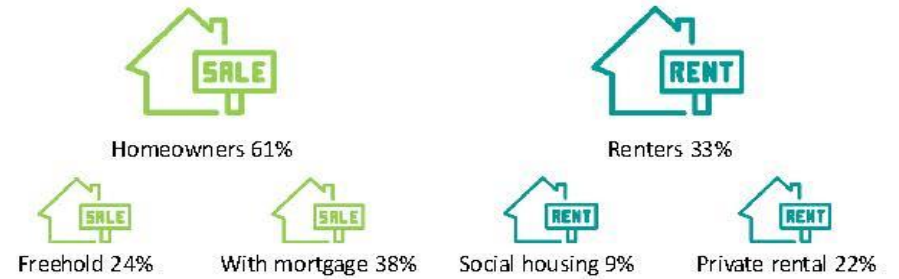


## HOUSING STATUS OF TAITA NEIGHBOURHOOD (STATS NZ, 2018 CENSUS; MSD, 2022)

### HOME OWNERSHIP IN TAITA



### HOME OWNERSHIP IN LOWER HUTT SUBURBS



**33%** Home Ownership in both Taita North & Taita South (as of 2018 Census)

**\$774k** Median Property Value in Taita North and Taita South respectively (as of 1 March 2022, MSD)

Years to Save for Deposit for House in **Taita North is 18** and **Taita South is 22** years

7% of homes in Taita and 7% of homes in the Lower Hutt come under "other" ownership types. This includes homes owned by trusts or collectives.



## CROWDED HOUSEHOLD OF TAITA NEIGHBOURHOOD



**6.4%** of households are crowded in Lower Hutt; **Taita South (13.4%)** & **Taita North (12.5%)** have crowded households



Almost **12%** percent people in Lower Hutt & **24%** from Taita Neighbourhood, were living in a crowded house at the time of the 2018 Census

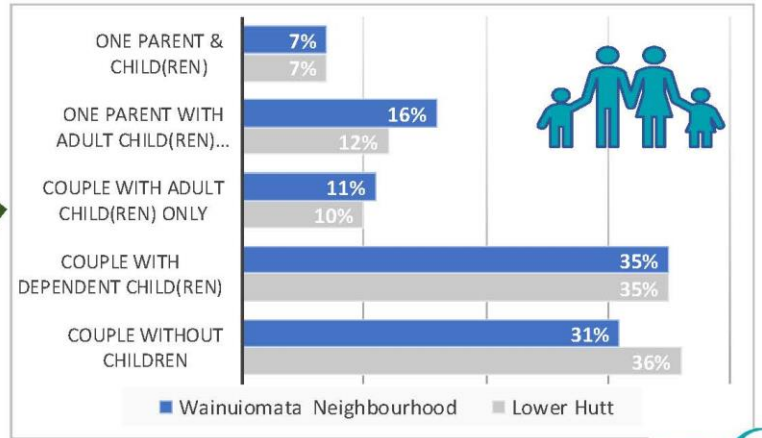
Area	Number of people				Total <sup>(5)</sup>	Percent crowded
	Crowded (1 or more extra bedrooms needed)	Not crowded (no extra bedrooms needed)	Total stated <sup>(3)</sup>	Not stated <sup>(4)</sup>		
Taita North	570	1,890	2,460	140	2,600	23.2
Taita South	610	1,930	2,540	190	2,730	24.0

### Crowded households

Suburbs	Number of households			Percent crowded
	Crowded (1 or more extra bedrooms needed)	Not crowded (no extra bedrooms needed)	Total	
Taita North	110	770	880	12.5
Taita South	130	840	970	13.4














This indicator shows population based on family composition.

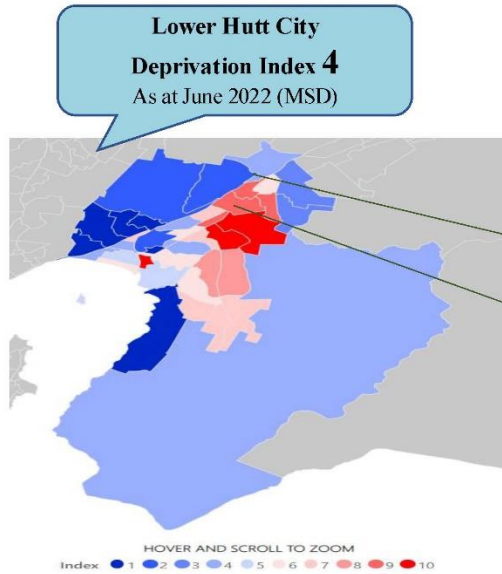


# DEPRIVATION INDEX

## DEPRIVATION INDEX METRICS

-  Adult qualification: No formal qualification
-  Child education: Poor educational attainment at primary and secondary level
-  Consumption: Spending by consumers
-  Vehicle access: No access to a vehicle
-  Damp & mould: Proportion of dwellings that experience damp or mould
-  Home ownership: Proportion who do not own home
-  Internet access: Proportion who do not have access
-  Household income: Median level of household income
-  Sole parent support rate: Those claiming sole parent support
-  Means tested benefit rate: Those aged 18-64 years claiming a means tested benefit
-  Overcrowding: Ratio of bedrooms needed to number available

## DEPRIVATION IN LOWER HUTT



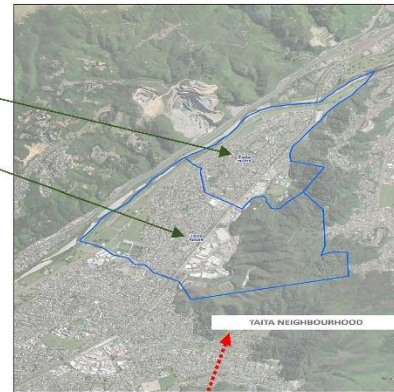
↑ Indicators with **Highest Dep. Index** were in **Employment, Health and Income**

↓ **Lowest Deprivation scores** were in **Crime, Education and Access to services**

## DEPRIVATION IN TAITA

Area	Population	Dep Index
Taita South	3,075	9
Taita North	3,078	9

As at June 2022 (MSD)



**Highly deprived**

Taita has an **overall deprivation index of 9.**

**Highest deprived suburbs/areas** in Lower Hutt City are **Delaney, Moera, Avalon & Naenae Dep. 10)**



A deprivation score of 1 is given to the 10% of areas within NZ that are the least deprived areas, a core of 2 to the next 10% and so on. A score of 10 is given to those areas considered the most deprived in NZ.

# QUALIFICATION STATUS OF TAITA NEIGHBOURHOOD



**18% (14,100) aged 15 or over in Lower Hutt have no qualifications**

(STATS NZ, 2018 CENSUS)



**27% (1122) people had no formal qualifications in Taita**

(STATS NZ, 2018 CENSUS)



**No formal qualification in Taita North (25%) and Taita South (28%)**

(STATS NZ, 2018 CENSUS)



There are **4 schools** in Taita



**69 kids (attended ECE) on as at June 2022** in Taita

Neighbourhood (Education Counts)



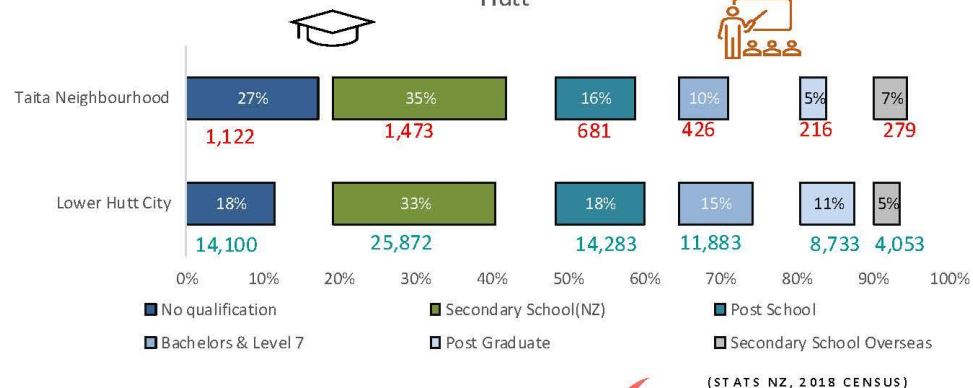
**40 children started school** from Taita Neighbourhood as at **June 2022** (Education Counts)



**Fewer children attended Primary & Secondary school** in Taita compared to the National average

(DOT LOVES DATA)

Qualification Status of Taita Neighbourhood Compared with Lower Hutt



**Fewer children attended Primary & Secondary school within Taita North than Taita South** (DOT LOVES DATA)

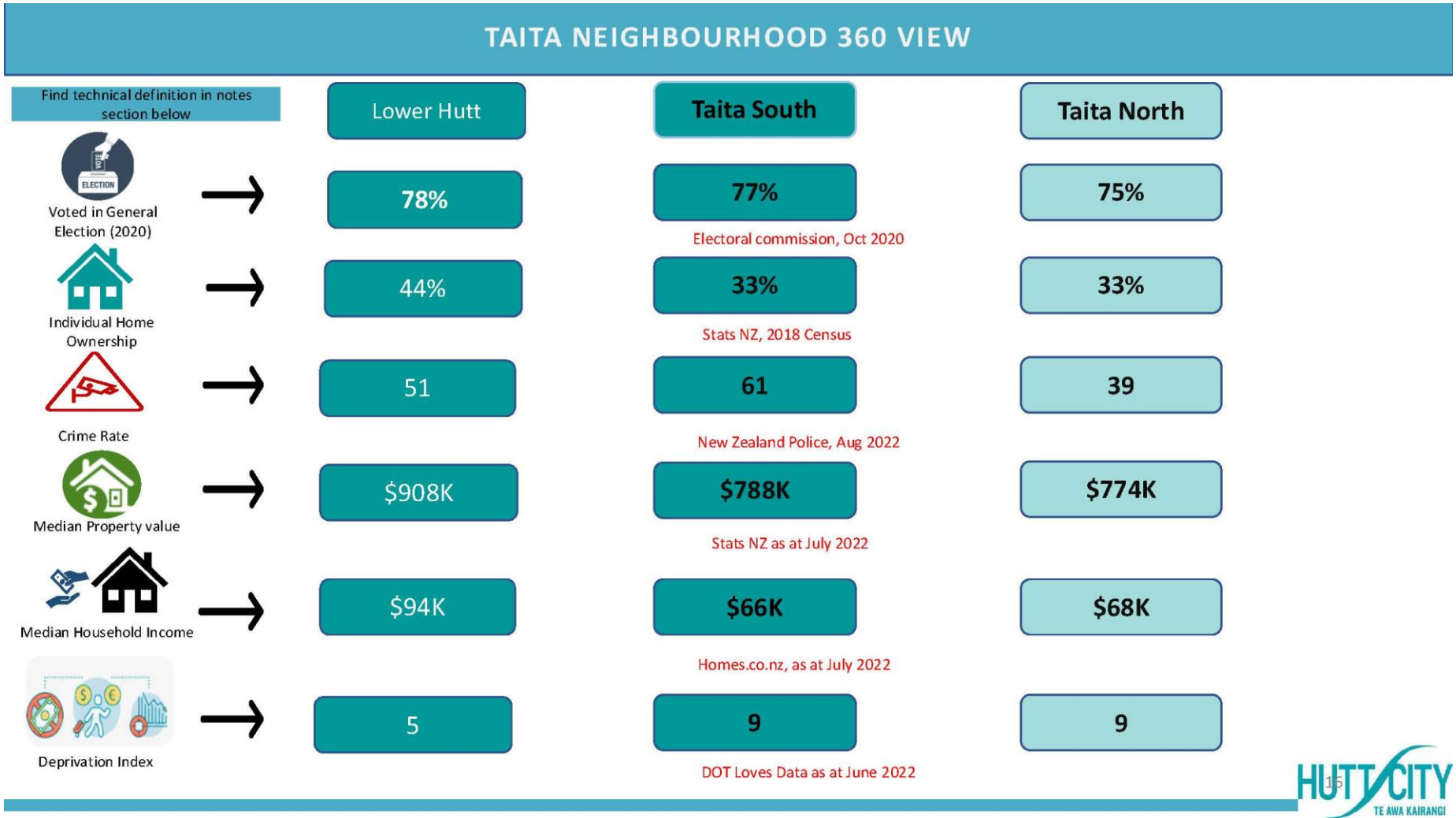


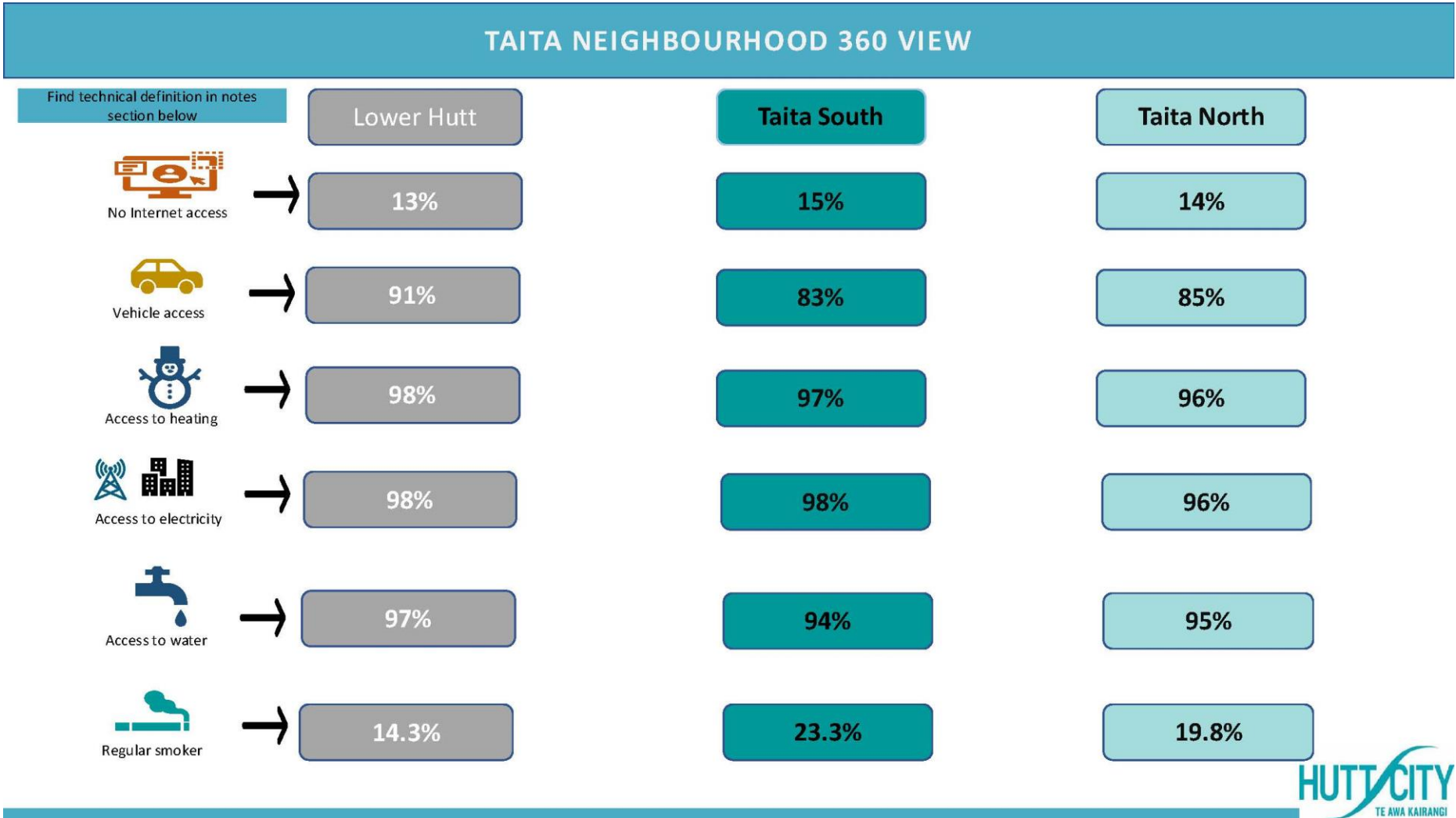
**10% people had a bachelor or higher degree** from Taita Neighbourhood

(STATS NZ, 2018 CENSUS)

\*Qualification Status presented as of Census 2018, Stats NZ. Here, Education or qualification level is merged where needed. Secondary School NZ is created by merging Level 1, 2 & 3 Certificate, Post School Qualification is created by merging Level 4, 5 & 6 Certificate. Whereas Postgraduate is created by merging Post-graduate and honours degrees, Masters Degree and Doctorate.





\*Qualification field is shown from the population who have stated fields of study during Census 2018, Nz Stats. Excluded qualifications fields that were not stated.





## TAITA NEIGHBOURHOOD 360 VIEW

Find technical definition in notes section below

 Travel time to Public Hospitals	→	Lower Hutt	9 mins
 Walking time to Primary Schools	→	Lower Hutt	10 mins
 Travel time to Supermarket	→	Lower Hutt	4 mins
 Rental Affordability	→	Lower Hutt	30%
 Purchasing Affordability	→	Lower Hutt	11%
 Median Rent	→	Lower Hutt	\$536

### Taita South

7 mins

(Ministry of Health, as at Nov 2021)

6 mins

(Education Counts, as at Nov 2021)

7 mins

(Open Street Maps, as at Nov 2021)

45%

(Tenancy Services & Stats NZ, as at July 2022)

14%

(Homes.co.nz & Stats NZ, as at July 2022)

\$571

(Tenancy Services, as at June 2022)

### Taita North

9 mins

6 mins

5 mins

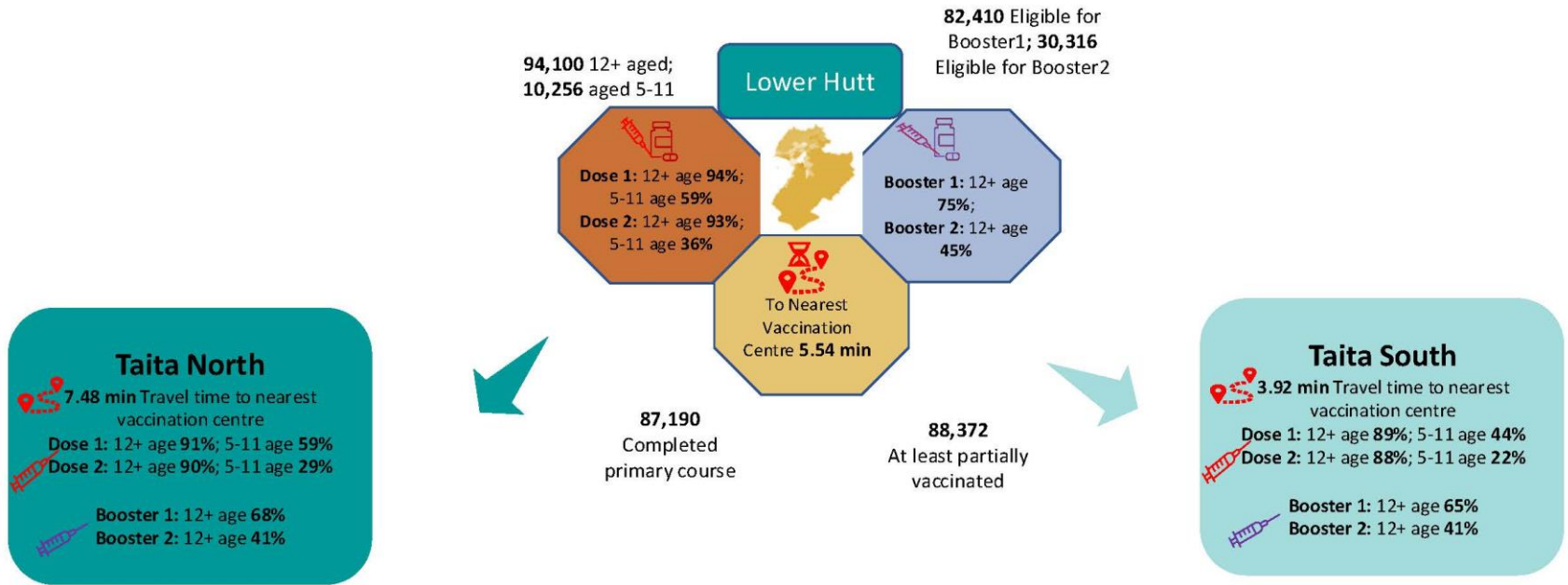
35%

13%

\$462



# COVID-19 VACCINATION STATUS TAITA NEIGHBOURHOOD 360 VIEW (DOT LOVES DATA, DOT, 2022 & MOH 2022)



Breakdown on Ethnicity by SA2/Area can be done upon request by R&E team

As at October 4, 2022, Ministry of Health



### Community-led Events

Taita has hosted several community events that demonstrate the engagement of local residents. These events foster connections, support community wellbeing, and provide opportunities for learning and collaboration. The Council, through its officers, including the Neighbourhood Facilitator, played a key role in organizing, facilitating, and supporting these initiatives to ensure their success and impact on the community.:

1. Christmas in da Hood

Date: Saturday 9th December 2023

Location: Pōmare Primary School

The Christmas in da Hood event, led by the Pōmare Taitā Community Trust, offers free kai, live performances, and access to health and wellbeing services such as vaccinations and dental care. The Neighbourhood Facilitator was responsible for ensuring the event ran smoothly by assisting the organizers with planning, making them aware of Council funding opportunities, and supporting the submission of a successful funding application. Council officers provided logistical support, including supplying marquees, promoting the event, and assisting with setup and pack-down. This coordination ensured the event was well-executed, allowing the community to focus on participation while essential services were made available.

The event has provided practical benefits to the community by connecting residents with services they may not otherwise access, such as vaccinations and dental checks. It has also helped facilitate greater interaction among residents, fostering stronger local networks. The involvement of Council officers and the Neighbourhood Facilitator ensured the effective use of public spaces, improving the reach of community services and addressing local wellbeing needs.

2. Hutt Valley Sports Awards

Date: Thursday 23rd May 2024

Location: Walter Nash Centre

The Symphony in the Hutt event, featuring Orchestra Wellington, drew a large crowd for a concert that included local performers. Council officers, including the Neighbourhood Facilitator, were involved in transforming the venue after the Hutt Valley Sports Awards held the previous night. Officers managed the setup, resetting of chairs, and logistical preparations for the concert. Their work ensured that the event was ready in time and that attendees were properly welcomed and directed.

The event demonstrated the flexibility of Walter Nash Centre as a venue for both sporting and cultural events. Council support facilitated the efficient use of the venue and contributed to providing the community with access to cultural experiences. By assisting

with the venue's setup and operation, Council officers ensured that the event was successful and that the space was used effectively for community engagement.

### 3. Symphony in the Hutt

Date: Friday 24th May 2024

Location: Walter Nash Centre

Orchestra Wellington's recent concert in the Hutt was a truly memorable event, featuring popular hits from Divas and Queens, Movie Music, The Lion King, and Elton John. A standout moment was when local tamariki from Arohanui Strings took to the big stage, performing alongside the orchestra and other local vocalists, showcasing the incredible talent within the community. This free event drew a large, enthusiastic crowd, many arriving early to enjoy the atmosphere. The coordination, managed by dedicated volunteers, involved transforming the venue from the Sports Awards into a watchable show. Officers from across the business, past and present, also volunteered their time to help with packing down and cleaning up after the Sports Awards, resetting chairs, and welcoming and ushering attendees, ensuring the event's smooth operation.



### 4. Tokelau Easter Festival

Date: Friday 29th March-Monday 1st April 2024

Location: Walter Nash Centre, Hutt Valley Netball Courts, Fraser Park

The Tokelau Easter Festival brought together the Tokelauan community for a multi-day celebration of culture, including sports activities and the Kāiga Wellbeing Expo.

Council officers, including the Neighbourhood Facilitator, played a central role in coordinating logistical aspects of the event, including preparing Fraser Park and supporting effective waste management. Healthy Families Hutt Valley guided communication efforts to ensure the community's stories were shared.

The event has strengthened community connections by providing a platform for cultural celebration and access to important wellbeing services. The involvement of Council officers facilitated the smooth operation of the festival and ensured that Council facilities were used efficiently to meet the needs of the community. This collaboration helped maximize the impact of the event by providing essential support services in a well-organized setting.



##### 5. Hutt Fest

Date: Monday 1st July – Thursday 4th July 2024

Location: Walter Nash Centre

Hutt Fest has blossomed into a vibrant celebration of culture and community since its inception in 2012, when Kōraunui School teacher Luana Leulua'i, along with co-founder Barbara Hay, envisioned a Polyfest for local primary schools in Stokes

Valley, Pomare, and Taita. What began as a single concert in the Taita College hall, featuring seven school groups, has grown over the years. This past July, Hutt Fest welcomed over 15,000 attendees across eight shows, showcasing 74 groups – historically school-based – while also highlighting performances from community groups representing the Sāmoan, Fijian, and Tokelau communities. This year, all the kaimahi involved in Hutt Fest dressed up to participate in the ECE programme in a fun and engaging way, adding an extra layer of excitement to the festivities. Directed by Vailoa Tuita'alili, with an incredible team behind her, the event continues to embody the spirit of celebration and unity, fostering an environment where diversity and participation are embraced and shared without competition.

The council has supported Hutt Fest through its Engagement team, offering guidance prior to the event, including sharing invites to EM, CLT, and other staff who tautoko the event. Walter Nash staff supported coordination in the lead-up to the festival and were actively present during the festival week. Ongoing discussions with Hutt Fest organizers are focused on exploring additional ways the council can offer support in the future.



Vailoa (Hutt Fest Director) giving students from Hutt Valley High a pep-talk in their stage rehearsals



Picture courtesy of Cr Naomi Shaw - Sionainn King (NF), Cr Naomi Shaw, Vailoa Tuita'alili (Hutt Fest Director), Sergeant Cameron Cross (NZ Police) - Special shout out to Cam for honouring the space we were in. We offered for him to head in and watch some of the show - but he knew the uniform would draw attention away from the stage - so he spent time catching up with the team and whānau in the foyer.

6. These events underscore the role of Taita and Pōmare and Walter Nash Neighbourhood Hubas a hubs for community-led activities, fostering engagement and providing a platform for residents to connect, learn, and collaborate on key local issues.

---

Report no: CCPC2024/5/107

## **Neighbourhoods and Communities Director's Report**

---

1. To update the Committee on work across the Neighbourhoods and Communities team and to raise a risk around a contract renewal in Parks and Reserves.

### **Recommendations**

That the Committee:

- (1) receives and notes the information; and
- (2) notes that Em Lewis, the Executive Director of Nikau Foundation, will attend the meeting to talk about their work.

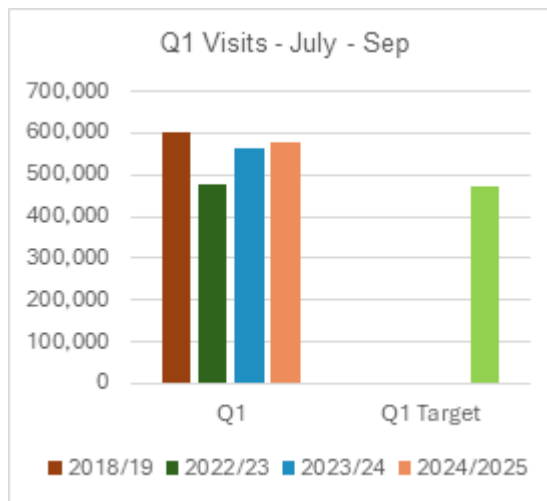
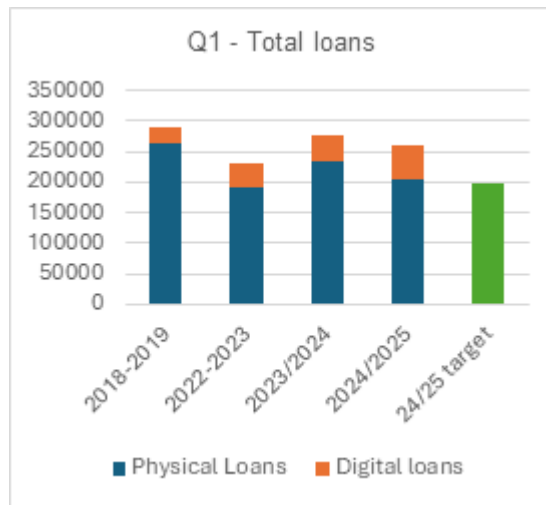
### **Highlights**

2. Welcoming Week was undoubtedly one of the highlights of the last reporting period. This report will share a series of events held as part of Welcoming Week, which is aimed at helping people connect with each other, the Council and the wider community. These events, informed by last year's community feedback, allowed people to express their culture, celebrate their heritage and foster a sense of belonging.
3. The week successfully brought diverse communities together, strengthened relationships with Council and encouraged more participation in local events, promoting unity and cross-cultural understanding.
4. Two successful partnership programmes are being run by the Arts and Culture team. How Council is helping Te Ngaengae prepare for the opening of the new pool in December 2024 and about the great progress being made in the Parks and Reserves Capital Programme.
5. Visitation to Council's neighbourhood hubs, museums and pools has picked up where it left off last year, with good numbers in the first quarter of 2024/25.

**Neighbourhood Hubs**

*Visits*

- 6. Council’s neighbourhood hubs have made a strong start to the 2024/25 year. Q1 visits from 1 July to 30 September 2024 are 3% higher than the same quarter last year and 23% above target.
- 7. Highlights are War Memorial, which is 29% more than last year, Eastbourne, 18% more and Petone, 16% more.
- 8. This continues the trend established last year, and for the first time, 9/9 sites met their quarterly visitor targets.



**Library Services**

*Loans*

- 9. This quarter has seen a good level of overall loans - Q1 total loans 1 July – 30 September 2024 are 32% higher than target.
- 10. While digital loans are 25% higher than last year and comprise 21% of total loans, physical loans are 12% less than last year and comprise 78% of total loans. Officers are continually reviewing demand, and the mix of resources provided in response.

### *Maungaraki*

11. Negotiations are progressing well, and a new MOU will be signed to extend the community library partnership with Maungaraki School for a further two years. Sourcing enough volunteers to open the library every day has been the only challenge in the past two years, and staff will continue efforts to support the school in this endeavour.

### *Family History Month*

12. August 2024 was Family History Month, with a programme of activities running throughout the city, helping people reflect on our roots and celebrate our unique histories and identities. Activities included drop-in sessions showing how to access and use the many resources available at our neighbourhood hubs (in person and online), including, books, newspapers, school magazines, electoral rolls, photographs and archives on local people and family.
13. Talks included understanding DNA results through various genealogy sites, the Land Barons of Wainuiomata, a history of the Petone volunteer artillery unit and the Petone Navals. There was also a launch of Nik Zangouropoulos' latest book: 44Fibres in the Fabric of Petone.
14. Each hub also created interactive displays to the theme 'Does your whanau have a special person, place or taonga'.



## Neighbourhoods

### *Bookable Software*

15. As part of the CCX programme of work the new bookable spaces software is well on track for implementation in the latter part of 2024. This will enable officers to achieve one of the key objectives of the Assets Review which is to optimise our spaces to improve cost recovery.
16. The software will enable people to search available spaces through an online portal, book, manage and pay for their bookings of rooms and courts in neighbourhood hubs, Community Halls, The Dowse and Little Theatre. A series of user education workshops will be held throughout the Hutt, showing groups how to use the new booking software.
17. A large number of staff across Neighbourhoods and Communities have been involved in user acceptance testing to ensure that pricing schedules are charging rates are applied accurately.

## Naenae

### *Naenae Town Centre activation fund*

18. Since Naenae Pool was closed, \$400k pa has been retained from the operational budgets to activate the town centre in its absence. This has been done in a number of ways over that time, and most recently, it has co-funded a refresh or repaint for several shop frontages and the installation of new bike stands.
19. Council's Neighbourhood Facilitator worked closely with the community, engaging the Ward Councillor, local businesses, residents and suppliers to ensure the projects reflected their needs. The improvements have given local businesses a much-needed boost ahead of the opening of the new pool in December 2024.



20. Additionally, the funding has been used to establish the Naenae Activation Fund (the fund) which has provided grants to community groups and businesses to activate the town centre in the months leading up to the pool re-opening, including during the opening of Te Mako. This has included expanding the regular Saturday market. "Naenae revival is here to stay," remarked a participant at Kokiri Social Services' Matariki Day, capturing the growing sense of optimism.

21. The fund has enabled 17 new market stalls and initiatives, fostering community connections and cultural diversity. Vinh Nguyen from Vietnamese Hub NZ expressed *gratitude for Council's support during the Mid-Autumn Festival, saying, "Thanks to your contribution, we were able to organize a successful festival"*. Jude Opira of the Luo Community highlighted the event's role in *"fostering connections and friendships among attendees."*
22. The table below outlines the events supported through the Naenae Activation fund.

Community Group	Event	Dates (2024)	Funding
Team Naenae Trust	Te Mako Opening Day	29 June	\$5,000
Kokiri Marae - Naenae	Matariki Festival	29 June	\$5,000
Wellington Anglican Chinese Mission (ACM)	Lion Dance Workshop	27 July	\$3,530
NZ National Refugee Youth Council	Colombian Independence Day	27 July	\$4,900
Luo Community Wellington	Luo Connect	10 August	\$5,000
Niutupu Pulapula Group	Traditional Pacific Art workshops	10 August 7 September	\$2,500 \$2,500
Free Ride	Naenae Heritage Ride and Hui	24 August	\$3,140
Hutt Multicultural Council	Hutt Multifest 2024	14 September	\$5,000
Viet Hub NZ	Vietnamese Culture Day	21 September	\$5,000
Te Mangungu Marae Incorporated	Spring into Naenae Festival	5 October	\$5,000
Jerome Chandrahasen	Humorous Arts	12 October	\$2,480
Pacific Connection Choir	Choir Performance	19 October	\$3,000
Ed Bats	Abstract Mural	31 October	\$4,999.51
Damian White	Naenae Wellbeing Project	30 November	\$5,000
Bea Joblin	Pūoru Kākano @ Te Mako - Programme will run over 10weeks	16 October to 18 December	\$2,200

Community Group	Event	Dates (2024)	Funding
Robert de Cartier-McCarthy - Arohanui Strings	Woodwind Programme Rangatahi Programme	28 October to 27 November 29 October to 28 November	\$5,000
Amosa Lene	A Samoan Choral-Orchestral Collaboration	9 November	\$4,500
Total			\$73,749.51

### Moerā

23. The new neighbourhood hub is well on track with internal linings and flooring now completed. The roof is going on in the photo below and the windows are going in next ahead of delivery to site in November 2024. There are currently no risks to budget or timeline. Recently elected members were invited for a site visit, pictured below.
24. In response to a request from the Petone Community Board, additional signage will be going up at the Moerā demolition site to let people know the timeline for the project.





## **Wainuiomata**

### ***Te Hiko Project Update***

25. The HIKO Pilot project initiative is a collaborative effort by Kōkiri Marae, Big Street Bikers, Healthy Families Hutt Valley and local whānau from Wainuiomata. This initiative aims to address transport equity by providing e-bikes to adult whānau members and regular bikes to other family members, promoting active, short-distance travel.
26. E-Bike Ride: Te Hiko whānau members (25) continue to push through barriers to cycling. Whānau meet regularly to cycle up the Wainuiomata hill (a challenge in its own right) and are choosing to cycle to work and at the weekends or holiday plans, including furthering the distances and locations they travel to.
27. In November 2024, 11 of the whānau members will participate in an 85km ride across Wairarapa and reap the benefits of greater physical and mental wellbeing and connection to their community and local environment while reducing their impact on te taiao.
28. A maintenance workshop was held in June 2024 at Wainuiomata Marae to ensure the e-bikes are well-maintained and fit to ride. The project's research report is currently with Waka Kotahi, awaiting release.

### ***Strengthening Community Connections and Partnerships in Wainuiōmata***

29. Staff recently enabled the building of community connections by hosting two teams (eight staff) from Nuku Ora (Regional Sports Trust) for a tour of Wainuiōmata's community sports clubs, reserves, fields, and services, including TRM training, the Tihei Rangatahi programme, and the Pātaka māra. This tour offered Nuku Ora staff a firsthand look at the vibrant community and the stories of those who support it.
30. The experience reaffirmed Nuku Ora's belief in the power of community collaboration, with them stating, "The day not only highlighted the strength of the Wainuiomata community but also underscored the invaluable role that whānau play in enriching and supporting each other through partnership and connections."

31. The visit laid the foundation for continued partnership, helping to map out key areas of collaboration, optimise resources, and avoid duplication. This effort ensures a more effective, connected, and community-driven approach, enabling all involved to better serve Wainuiōmata and strengthen ties across other neighbourhoods and communities.

### **Staffing update**

32. The Connected Communities Team recently welcomed aboard the new Rangatahi lead, as well as a new Community Co-ordinator who will focus on the following communities:

- LGBT
- Seniors
- Disabled
- Kai

33. This is in addition to a new Community Contracts and Funding Advisor.

### **Services and Activities to Support Wellbeing**

#### *Welcoming Week*

#### *Network Dinner Night*

34. Many ethnic communities are unaware of how to engage with Council, collaborate with its teams, or access services. To bridge this gap, Council is focused on strengthening relationships and fostering collaboration. To start Welcoming Week – Te Wiki o Manaaki, the Welcoming Networking Dinner Night was held on 6 September 2024 at the Walter Nash Centre. The event brought together Council teams, tangata whenua, key stakeholders, and ethnic community leaders for the first time to explore opportunities for collaboration.
35. Hosted by Neighbourhood Facilitator Sionainn King, the event featured representatives from various Council teams, who shared insights into their roles and work. Over 20 community organisations, including the Hutt Multicultural Council, English Language Partners, and the Red Cross, attended. Ethnic leaders had the chance to learn about Council operations, while Council staff connected with ethnic communities, sparking discussions about future partnerships.
36. This event fostered important dialogue around shared goals, empowering ethnic communities to engage directly with decision-makers. It provided a platform for both sides to address challenges and work together, contributing to more inclusive policies and services that recognise the vital role of ethnic communities in the city's future.



### *Welcoming Week Celebration at Multicultural Playgroup*

37. Since the beginning of the year, the War Memorial Library, in partnership with HIPPY and supported by the Welcoming Communities Coordinator, has hosted a Multicultural Playgroup every Tuesday. Attendance has grown from four to 30-40 families weekly, representing diverse backgrounds, including the host community.
38. The playgroup addresses a community need for inclusive public spaces where children can celebrate their cultural identities through dress, language, and heritage. During Welcoming Week – Te Wiki o Manaaki, the playgroup hosted a special event featuring music, traditional attire, and global cuisine, bringing families together to reconnect with their cultural roots. The event included a flag-making activity, and a cultural dress show where children proudly showcased their heritage, fostering pride and confidence in both children and parents.
39. This playgroup has evolved into a vibrant, inclusive community, where diversity is celebrated, and cultural differences are embraced as a natural part of daily life. It highlights the importance of creating spaces that nurture cultural identity and belonging.



### *Welcoming Week Event - Authors' Talk*

40. In collaboration with Aroha Afternoons, the Authors' Talk provided a platform for migrant and refugee authors to share their personal stories of resettlement, identity, and belonging. Notable speakers, including Behrouz Boochani, Abdul Samad Haidari, and Dr Sheriee Lee, highlighted the challenges of cultural adaptation and the emotional complexities of starting anew in a foreign land.
41. The event fostered empathy and cross-cultural understanding, reinforcing the council's commitment to inclusivity. The presence of Cr Karen Morgan and Acting Mayor Tui Lewis demonstrated Council's support for integrating migrant voices into decision-making processes, aligning with our "whole-of-society" approach.



### **Hutt MultiFest 2024 – 14 September 2024**

42. Hutt MultiFest 2024 was a standout community-led event, hosted by the Hutt Multicultural Council (HMC) with significant support from Council. As part of Welcoming Week and hosted in Naenae to support its activation, the event showcased cultural diversity through food, art, and performances. Council's involvement extended beyond financial backing, with various teams – Communications and Engagement, Neighbourhood Facilitators, Sustainability, Naenae Hub, and Events - playing critical roles in supporting the festival's success.

43. Our Welcoming Communities Coordinator facilitated connections between HMC and Council teams, ensuring smooth collaboration. The Neighbourhood Facilitator provided essential local connections, organising weekly hui to align efforts and mitigate risks. The event attracted over 1,500 attendees and was livestreamed to over 8,000 viewers, reflecting the broader community's interest.
44. With 25 performances, 14 food stalls and participation from local vendors, the event not only celebrated ethnic diversity but also stimulated Naenae's local economy. The atmosphere of togetherness and inclusivity resonated with attendees, who praised the vibrancy of the event and expressed a strong desire for it to be held more frequently.



<https://www.facebook.com/share/v/UDqzX9MLS3bGumi1/>



### Hutt Valley Refugee and migrant Stakeholder Forum – 25 July 2024

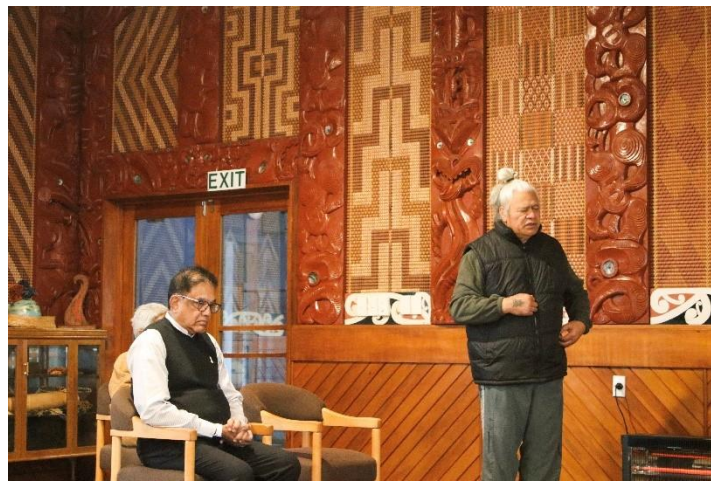
45. Council continues to co-host the Hutt Valley Refugee and Migrant Stakeholders Forum alongside English Language Partners. Through this forum, staff consistently connect new organisations with the forum. At the July forum, staff welcomed two guest speakers. Robert de Cartier-McCarthy from Arohanui Strings shared insights about his organisation and how they offer support, including access to their space and van at low cost for other groups. Our second speaker, Lauren Coe, spoke about Council's funding opportunities and how organisations can apply for them. Staff heard some great feedback from community organisations and feel more aware after the presentation, and how to access different funds.

### Wānanga and Pōwhiri with Red Cross and ChangeMakers Resettlement Forum – 21 August 2024

46. Waiwhetu Marae hosted its second Wānanga and Pōwhiri on 21 August 2024 welcoming 45 attendees from diverse migrant and refugee backgrounds, as well as representatives from ChangeMakers Resettlement Forum and the Red Cross. The gathering was a significant cultural exchange, providing an opportunity for Council's Welcoming Communities coordinators and neighbourhood facilitators to support and participate in the day's activities.



47. The pōwhiri ceremony, led by Whaea Peggy Luke, included a special moment when Batool Arif delivered the ceremonial call in Dari, symbolising the deep respect for both Māori and the diverse cultures represented. Matiu Tahī of Waiwhetu Marae shared insights on marae customs (tikanga) and acknowledged the emotional journeys of migrants and refugees, emphasising the importance of preserving cultural identity while adapting to new ways of life.
48. The Marae adaptability in its tikanga, allowing guests to bring their own kai, and the invitation for ethnic communities to respond in their native languages, demonstrated a genuine partnership between mana whenua and migrant communities. The event highlighted the desire from ethnic communities to integrate Te Ao Māori into their own celebrations, furthering collaboration toward a more inclusive and welcoming Hutt City.



### **Filipino Dance Group – August 2024**

49. In early August 2024, the Welcoming Communities Coordinator connected the Filipino Dance Group, a volunteer-run community group, with the War Memorial Library to provide a venue for their weekly dance sessions. These sessions now take place every Saturday at the library, reflecting Council's commitment to creating welcoming public spaces. This initiative has also led to increased engagement from ethnic communities, with many participants now feeling more confident in accessing library programmes and resources.

### **Filipino Story Time at Naenae Library – 24 August 2024**

50. Naenae Hub hosted a special Filipino Storytime on 24 August 2024, organised by one of the staff from the Philippines, in collaboration with a local community member. The event featured storytelling in Filipino, alongside traditional dance performances by the Filifest Dance Group, who regularly meet at the War Memorial Library.

51. Marah, who hosted the session, shared: *"As a child of an immigrant, representation is very important to me, and I know it's the same for my fellow Filipinos living in Hutt City. The collaboration between Filifest Dance Group and Naenae Neighbourhood Hub for a special Storytime session was truly inspiring. It did not only bring representation for the Filipinos, but it also brought me closer to my roots. To have witnessed our traditional clothes, dances, and songs in a local library warms my heart. And I hope this isn't the last as I aim to collaborate with more diverse communities in the Hutt and make them feel seen and heard in our community spaces, especially in Hutt City Libraries."*

### **Kai - Wainuiomata High School Māra**

52. Council recently supported the installation of a new community and student māra at Wainuiomata High School using a No Dig, No Build approach, utilising recycled materials from the community. This project, led by Becky (WHS) and Ed from Wainuiomata Pātaka Māra, also involved He Puawai Trust, Council, various health and social services, local kura and community groups.
53. The māra will provide ongoing education and development opportunities for students and the community, along with the kai. A paid internship role within the High School will ensure the project is sustainable and ongoing. The project fosters food sovereignty, community collaboration, and intergenerational connections.

### **Health**

#### ***Sport and play trailer in schools (Pukutakaro)***

54. The sport and play trailer in schools has had a tremendously positive impact. Tamariki (children) are thoroughly enjoying the variety of equipment available, which has significantly enhanced their playtime experience. Beyond physical activity, the trailer has become a valuable tool for teaching important social skills. Children are learning to share, wait patiently and interact positively with their peers. The trailer has not only promoted physical fitness but also fostered a sense of community and cooperation among the tamariki, making it a cherished addition to their school environment. See below feedback from a couple of the kura who had the trailer in Term 3:

- *Pukeatua*: "Our tamariki thoroughly enjoy the Pukutakaro Trailer, especially during Juniors' morning tea and Seniors' lunchtime.

Using the Pukutakaro Trailer highlights the positive impact of using equipment on both occasions, effectively keeping most of our tamariki engaged and encouraging interaction. It supported them in finding and using their voices while promoting the important skills of waiting patiently and taking turns.

It encouraged the use of imagination and original ideas, fostering creativity and inventiveness. To you we are grateful!"

- *Normandale*: "Just wanted to say a huge thank you for the trailer - it has been SO valued, especially during the move. A lot of wet days, but a lot of fun days were squeezed in too!"
- *St Bernadettes*: "Our kids loved the play trailer and all the wonderful things in it. It was a hit all week!"

#### ***Basketball Festival***

55. Approximately 280 students from 11 schools attended a two-day Basketball Festival held at Walter Nash in September 2024. Resources kindly loaned by Capital Basketball allowed us to provide the Tamariki with quality balls for the festival.

### *Storyboards at Walter Nash Park*

56. The Taitā community has seen a new addition to Walter Nash Park – 14 new storyboards designed to enhance physical activity and community connection.
57. These interactive storyboards are a community-led partnership between Council’s Healthy Families HV team, the Common Ground group, who are based at the park and local schools. Funding was provided by HFHV, with local businesses also contributing.
58. The spark came from community insights gathered by Council in 2017, where locals shared their aspirations for how they envisioned Walter Nash Park as a thriving, vibrant and meaningful space for tamariki and whānau.
59. The community came together to celebrate the launch of the storyboards, with award-winning author and storyteller Moira Wairama reading the first pūrākau – The Taniwha of Wellington Harbour. Common Ground will act as kaitiaki (guardians) of the storyboards, which can be updated with new content from time to time.



### **Ricoh Sports Centre**

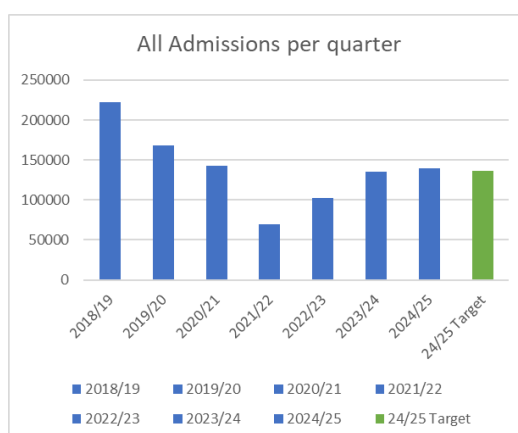
60. Ricoh Sports Centre is now operating in the Transition Phase while procurement of new operators progresses. The facility is closed to the public and open by swipe card access to sub-tenants, squash players and groups with bookings. Toilets and changing rooms remain open as usual. While there were some teething problems in the first couple of weeks things have now settled down as people become used to the new operating environment.

### **Community Funding**

61. Officers recently met with the Wellington branch of the Nikau Foundation, a community funding organisation which is the guardian of almost \$32 million that has been invested to support communities.
62. Nikau Foundation aims to create healthy, happy and resilient communities by building reliable funding streams to support the people and places of the region, forever. They have 17 community foundations throughout the country, each working to make a positive and lasting impact within their respective regions. Across the network, they have given out over \$50 million in the last five years, with over \$230 million managed nationally. They hold one contestable grants round a year.
63. Our discussion with Nikau Foundation focused on investment areas where we have a common interest, in particular supporting community kai initiatives. We discussed potential opportunities to work together and the potential to co-fund kai projects in the future.

64. Em Lewis, the Executive Director of Nikau Foundation, will attend the November 14 meeting to talk about their work.

### Aquatics

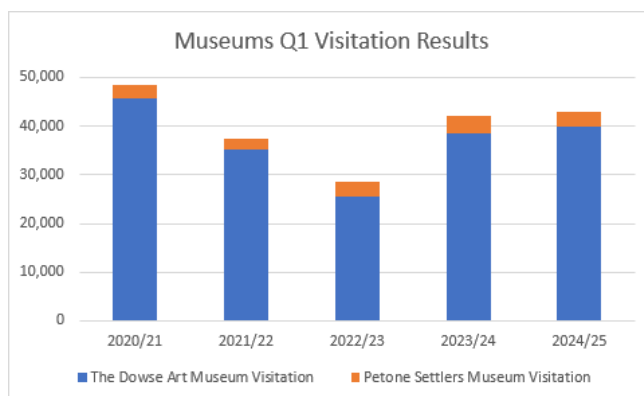


65. Admissions for Council's pools are tracking 3% over target for the year. This is despite lower numbers recorded at Stokes Valley in July 2024. This year the maintenance period was moved back a month at Stokes Valley due to a reduced maintenance period for Huia, ahead of the larger refurbishment project.
66. This month pools have gone live on the new Envibe software. This system is a huge step up, providing a far more interactive experience for the customers who can manage their enrolments online. One of the major changes in the system is the payment method for the swim school customers where we have transitioned to a direct debit system for all payments. This is in line with other Swim Schools using Envibe and eliminates processing and reconciling invoices, which has been a major time-consuming part for our staff.
67. Team leaders and staff for the summer pools have been appointed and are starting training in anticipation of opening on 16 November 2024. Training of volunteers for the Eastbourne Pool pilot will happen early in the new year.
68. Some staff are starting to focus on our work that needs to be completed prior to Te Ngaengae opening. Furniture, whiteware, projection screens and pool and gym equipment have been ordered and will be set up in the coming weeks and work is well under way with planning for opening events.
69. Work is well underway for the upcoming closure of the Huia main and children's pool for its refurbishment. The 'old' side of the pool is anticipated to be closed for six months while work is completed replacing the movable pool floor, drainage gutters and refurbishment of the pool tank walls. The gas boilers will also be converted to electric as part of the decarbonisation project and the pool deck surrounds will also be refurbished. While this work occurs the Hydrotherapy pool and Fitness Suite will remain operating with a smaller team enabling this.
70. Staff are being seconded to Te Ngaengae leading up to its opening and over the six months of Huia's refurbishment. Recruitment for permanent roles is being staged over that period, and up to the return to Huia.

## Arts and Culture

### *Museums Visitation*

71. For museums, total Q1 visitation is 42,849, up 2% on the same period in the previous financial year. This is the highest Q1 result since 2020/21.
72. 98% of those surveyed said they would recommend The Dowse to others and 64% say The Dowse is the reason they came to the Hutt.



### *Programmes*

73. The Dowse presented two major projects in partnership over the reporting period. In September 2024, Dowse staff travelled to Korea to install and open the New Zealand Pavilion at the 15th Gwangju Biennale in Gwangju featuring an installation by Wellington based Māori contemporary artist Shannon Te Ao. This project was a partnership between The Dowse, Te Tuhi, Auckland and the Office for Contemporary Art Aotearoa responding to an invitation from the biennale to participate in this major international event.
74. Over the opening weekend staff hosted over 200 visitors including at an opening event hosted by the New Zealand Ambassador to Korea Dawn Bennet and attended by project patrons and funders from Aotearoa, International curators and Directors, The Mayor of Gwangju, the Vice Chancellor of Gwangju University and the Chair of the Gwangju Biennale Foundation. The exhibition closes in December 2024.



*(Dowse Director Karl Chitham explaining the exhibition project to New Zealand Ambassador Dawn Bennet and Gwangju curator)*

75. On 27 September 2024, The Dowse hosted the opening of the exhibitions *Derek Jarman: Delphinium Days* and *Paul Johns: Beautiful Flowers and How to Grow Them* presented in partnership with City Gallery Wellington. This is the first major exhibition of UK based artist presented in the Southern Hemisphere. The opening event was attended by 180 visitors and was followed on the Saturday by two floor talks attended by over 100 visitors.



*(Dowse and City Gallery Wellington staff singing waiata at the opening event)*



*(Visitors to the opening of Derek Jarman: Delphinium Days)*

76. The Petone Settlers Museum collection project is progressing on schedule. Staff are awaiting the results of a funding application to determine resource requirements.

#### ***Boulcott Memorial update***

77. To date, the Lead Researcher and Concept Developer have met with kaupūrakau from: Ngāti Rangatahi, Almon Boulcott's descendants, Te Ātiawa, Ngāti Toa Rangatira and Ngāti Hāua. They have also met with one representative from Ngāti Tama who recommended an online hui which was organised for 17 October 2024.
78. Information from the initial hui has been collated into concept and visitor goals that will be sent to iwi to for further feedback as part of the next step. Council's working group have identified community groups in Boulcott and the surrounding suburb to engage with and each group has been contacted to arrange times to present the project to their groups over the coming weeks.

*Workplan (Draft)*

Kaipurākau hui - reengagement with Stage 2	August - September 2024	Complete
Visitor goals and project parameters confirmed	August - September 2024	Underway
Kaipurākau hui - open brainstorm visual ideas/ artist input/digital solutions	October - November 2024	
Residential Community and internal council engagement	October - November 2024	Underway
Concept/approach sign-off	November 2024	
Scope delivery, get quotes and begin design work	December 2024 - February 2025	
Kaipurākau check-in on progress	March 2025	
Residential Community and internal council check-in on progress	March 2025	
Final installation	April - June 2025	

**Parks and Reserves***Operational*

79. Grounds maintenance of Parks and Reserves is undertaken by means of a contracted-out model. Council operations in grounds maintenance are principally divided into three areas being:
- (a) Sportsfields;
  - (b) Reserves; and
  - (c) Horticultural Parks and Cemeteries.
80. Each of these three operational areas is completed by Contractors as separate contracts with the Sportsfield contract being undertaken by Mexted Sports Turf and the Reserves and Horticultural Parks & Cemeteries contracts being undertaken by Downer Greenspace.
81. Whilst both the sportsfield and reserves contracts are current the Horticulture and Cemeteries Contract expires on 1 October 2025. On that basis Parks and Reserves is currently preparing contract documents for tender in early 2025.
82. Councillors will be kept informed as the process continues. No increase is currently factored into Annual Plan 2025/26 budgets.

### *Capital Works*

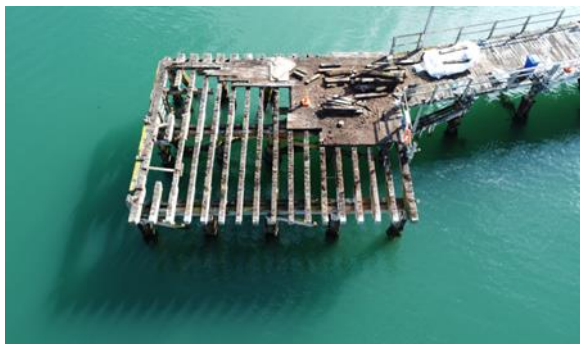
83. Work will commence on playgrounds using the playground renewals budget in November 2024. Work will consist of entirely removing swings at the end of their current life and replacing them with new swings. This work is being undertaken at Speldhurst Park and Parkway. Other work from the playground renewal budget will be the removal of safety surfacing at Bishop Park; Stockdale Street playground; and Trafalgar Square playground. The removed surfaces will be replaced with modern safety-compliant surfacing as part of the renewals programme.
84. Parks and Reserves have tendered and are close to making an award for the Sportsfield drainage improvement programme. The programme will see primary drainage installed at the playing fields in Hutt Park; Richard Prouse Park; and Naenae playing fields.
85. The procurement process saw seven registrations of interest in September 2024 from which three with some, or all the necessary skills to complete the physical works were shortlisted. Following the award of the contract, Parks and Reserves will negotiate project timelines for the three separate pieces of work. Stakeholders will be kept informed of progress by way of minimising impacts on their respective playing schedules.
86. The Wainuiomata Garden of Remembrance stage four extension works began on 19 August 2024. The stage four extension aims to provide over 270 new plots which can hold up to two individual urns per plot.
87. Thus far the works have included clearing the site to facilitate the extension, setting up fencing and environmental controls. Excavation of the southern garden extension has been completed and base foundation course laid. Fortunately, the steel work could be done in wet weather, so there have been minimal delays on progress over September 2024.
88. The crew have since moved into the northern garden closest to the carpark where path boundaries, and sub-base has been completed. The team are now moving into formwork.

#### *Wainuiomata Gardens of Remembrance Construction phase*



89. Work continues on the demolition of the Point Howard Wharf. A milestone has been reached with the removal of the concrete deck. This work has been hard on the team as they have had to manually break up the concrete and roll the material carefully off the wharf by makeshift rollers. The wharf had to be reinforced for this work to occur as the condition could not carry the heavy weight.

*Removal of timber deck at Point Howard Wharf*



90. Work has been started on the removal of the timber underlying the concrete deck. Once this has been completed a separate piece of work is being undertaken by the oil industries to remove the pipes currently attached to the wharf.
91. As part of this work a Korora Sanctuary is being created for the relocation of Korora affected by the works of Seaview wharf, Port Howard Wharf and the oil industry pipe renewals and decommissioning. The Sanctuary will be located at the Seaview beach by the Seaview Marina, a small area on the southern end on the breakwater.
92. Stage 2 of the Pomare Reserve development is underway. This stage of the project includes a concrete/asphalt path around the perimeter of the reserve and the resurfacing of the field to encourage more sports play.
93. Procurement, consenting and detailed design are being worked through and staff were hoping to get the tender out in the next couple of weeks. The project is on track and if everything runs to plan construction work will be undertaken early next year.

*Hall Crescent Reserve*

94. The surrounding neighbourhood of Hall Crescent Reserve has changed significantly in recent years with housing intensification. Council's Long Term Plan has set aside budget for further development of the reserve to support the wellbeing of surrounding residents and increase the utilisation, amenity and experience of the reserve.
95. The project is at the engagement stage. Flyers, posters signage to promote the online survey and a drop-in session have taken place with some great feedback. Interviews with stakeholders externally and internally have been undertaken to get feedback and ideas to formulate a concept design. The team is seeking feedback and have produced a flyer to that effect.



*Avalon Skate Park*

96. Work on the Avalon Skate Park is progressing well with a potential practical completion date being suggested of early December 2024 in time for the Christmas holidays. It is anticipated that the skatepark could become a minor regional attraction given its easy access, free parking, and access to SH2.

*Photographs Avalon Skate Park Ramps*



97. An initial project tracking template is attached below providing a quick indication of the status of Parks and Recreation capital works. Although it is at an early stage, the purpose of the template would be to give Councillors on the Neighbourhood and Community Subcommittee a snapshot of how Parks and Reserves projects are trending. The table will continue to be refined as the project work continues.

### **Appendices**

There are no appendices for this report.

**Author:** Joann Ransom  
Head of Neighbourhood Hubs and Library Services

**Author:** Lauren Coe  
Acting Head of Connected Communities

**Author:** Karl Chitham  
Head of Arts and Culture

**Author:** Arthur Nelson  
Head of Parks and Reserves

**Author:** Iain Brown  
Head of Aquatics

**Approved By:** Andrea Blackshaw  
Director Neighbourhoods and Communities

**TO:** Chair and Members  
Communities, Culture and Partnerships  
Committee



**FROM:** Vanessa Gilmour, Democracy Advisor

**DATE:** 22 October 2024

**SUBJECT:** COMMUNITIES, CULTURE AND PARTNERSHIPS  
COMMITTEE FORWARD PROGRAMME 2025

### **Purpose of Memorandum**

1. To provide the Communities Culture and Partnerships Committee (the Committee) with a Forward Programme of work planned for 2025.

### **Recommendation**

That the Forward Programme 2025 for the Communities, Culture and Partnerships Committee be received and noted.

### **Background**

2. The Terms of Reference for the Committee require the Committee to develop, implement, monitor and review strategies, policies, plans and functions associated with community, social and cultural activities. This includes making the city a desirable, safe and attractive place, providing facilities and recreational opportunities that support quality living and healthy lifestyles, and supporting the cultural wellbeing of residents.
3. The Forward Programme for 2025 provides a planning tool for both members and officers to coordinate programmes of work for the year. The programme is attached as Appendix 1 to the report.

### **Executive Summary**

4. The Forward Programme is a working document and is subject to change on a regular basis.

### **Appendices**

No.	Title	Page
1↓	Appendix 1 - Communities, Culture and Partnerships work programme	121

**Author:** Vanessa Gilmour, Democracy Advisor

**Reviewed By:** Kate Glanville, Senior Democracy Advisor

**Approved By:** Kathryn Stannard, Head of Democratic Services

## Communities, Culture and Partnerships Committee Work Programme 2025

Description	Author	Cycle 1 Feb 2025	Cycle 2 Apr 2025	Cycle 3 Jun 2025	Cycle 4 Sept 2025	Pending
Committee Work Programme	Democracy Advisor	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Director's Report (update on 2024/25 work programme)	Director Neighbourhoods and Communities	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Whakatapu Ngaengae Progress Update	Project Manager (Naenae)	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Neighbourhoods and Communities focus area (topic tbc)	Head of Connected Communities	✓	✓	✓	✓	
City Safety Update (six monthly update)	City Safety Manager		✓		✓	
Te Herenga Kairangi - Rautaki Māori	Senior Policy Advisor	✓			✓	
Homelessness Update (six monthly update)	Policy Advisor				✓	
Homelessness Oversight Advisory Group; Homelessness Strategy SMART indicators; Homelessness Strategy Proposed Methodology.	Policy Advisor		✓		✓	
Rangatahi/Youth Engagement Update	Community Facilitator - Rangatahi		✓			

Communities, Culture and Partnerships Committee Work Programme 2025

Mouri Ora Fund	Head of Connected Communities				✓	
Emergency Management Update (six monthly update)	Emergency Management Lead		✓		✓	
Smokefree Outdoor Public Places Policy	Policy Advisor					✓