

Strategic Planning & Policy Business Quarterly

HE ARA TĀMATA
CREATING GREAT PLACES
Supporting our people

April – June 2022

Corporate Planning
page 2

Engagement
page 2

Community Development
page 3

Funding
page 4

District Planning
page 6

Strategy Development
page 7

Policy Development
page 9

Bylaw Development
page 11

Te Hono
page 12

Digital Strategy
page 16

The Strategic Planning & Policy Group provides several services for the benefit of our communities to make the Far North a great place to work, live and visit. The Group is made up of four departments

Corporate Planning & Community Development: This team works closely with our communities and community boards in the delivery of Corporate Planning, Community Development, Funding and Engagement.

District Planning: This team focusses on environmental outcomes and has responsibility for the District Plan which is the main policy tool for implementing the Resource Management Act. As Council's main planning tool, we are legislatively required to achieve the sustainable management of the district's natural and physical resources.

Strategy Development: This team develops and implements Strategy (including spatial planning), Policy Development (including regulatory policy in the form of bylaws) and Climate Change.

Te Hono: The team's purpose is to support the organisation to build and maintain enduring relationships with Iwi/Māori. To act as a key contact to provide support to Iwi/Māori in navigating through Council's processes and policies and to support the organisation to develop capabilities and competencies to engage effectively with Iwi/Māori

Corporate Planning & Community Development

Corporate Planning

Annual Plan

The Annual Plan for 2022-23 was adopted in June 2022. The final version can be found [here](#)

Pre-election Report (PER)

The PER is a legislative requirement of the Local Government Act. It provides voters and candidates with information about the issues and opportunities facing the district, promoting informed public discussion in the lead up to the local body elections. The PER has been completed and can be found on the Council website [here](#)

Engagement

Demand for engagement support across the organisation continues to grow, and our IAP2 framework is providing a solid base for a consistent approach. We are gradually shifting to a space in which engagement design is considered at the outset of a project and are continuing to work with the Project Management Office and teams on the ground to refine and embed good engagement practice and improve our resources.

Supporting Māori Engagement

The Engagement Team is working with Te Hono to ensure that we are complementing their work to drive effective Māori engagement. Links to Te Hono's knowledge base have been built into engagement templates to prompt consideration of tangata whenua matters and Council's responsibilities under Te Tiriti o Waitangi when planning engagement. In addition to systems and process, we must develop a culture that considers a Māori worldview as part of engagement design.

Strategic Planning and Policy Projects

Key projects in the Strategic Planning and Policy space that the Engagement Team is supporting include the Proposed District Plan, the Climate Change Programme, and the Kerikeri Waipapa Spatial Plan.

There has been a steady flow of consultation on the suite of policies and bylaws. As part of these consultations, the oral submissions process has been reviewed to bring it more into line with both the Local Government Act requirements and the principles of best practice for public participation.

Reserves Act

A fit-for-purpose engagement model to support the development of Reserve Management Plans throughout the district is being developed. While each project requires area-specific engagement plans, we can apply a standardised approach that follows an agreed sequence and reflects the IAP2 design, plan, manage framework. Assistance is also being provided to the Property Team with consultation on extended ground leases.

Infrastructure Projects

Te Hono has been working with the Infrastructure Planning Team to gather up the resource consent advice in relation to cultural matters that are of particular concern to tangata whenua. The Engagement Team continues to provide support for these teams and is available as required in considering engagement approaches and sequencing.

Community Development

Community Plans

The refresh of Community Plans (CP) that are more than 10 years old continues. The Okaihau CP has been completed and received by the Kaikohe-Hokianga Community Board. The Whangaroa CP is in draft and has gone to the community for ratification. The draft plan for Ohaeawai will be completed by the end of July 2022 and the Horeke CP, which is a new plan, is still in development.

Mayors Taskforce for Jobs

Forty two Sustainable Employment Outcomes have been achieved in Kaikohe as part of the Mayors Taskforce for Jobs (MTFJs) Community Recovery funded project. MP Louise Upston recently visited MTFJs partners and toured the Ngawha Innovation and Enterprise Park.

Council's youth programme is supporting young people in their personal and professional development. Two Far North District Council cadets have been accepted into the MTFJs TUIA programme and are attending wananga across the country. Another cadet will be attending the one month Outward Bound course which has been made possible through a substantial MTFJs scholarship.

Youth Council

Members of the Youth Council will be in Wellington at the end of July 2022 attending the Festival for the Future. This has been made possible by grant funding received from the Ministry of Youth Development.

Community Wellbeing and Placemaking

There has been a renewed community interest in the Dark-Sky movement. The International Dark-Sky Association works to protect the night skies for present and future generations. Staff are working to connect communities and agencies.

Staff also continue to explore the concept of localism with Far North communities. A community group has formed in South Hokianga, and a second group is coming together in Rawene. Kaikohe has strong interest as has Ohaeawai, and staff have received expressions of interest from both Kaitaia and Whangaroa.

In the Te Hiku / North Hokianga area, staff are working with Kaitaia Business Association to update the Partnership Agreement / MOU with Far North District Council, providing ongoing support to the Te Hiku Community Board strategic planning process and a Broadwood Bridge community hui was held in June 2022.

In the Bay of Islands Ward, staff are working with the Taumatamakuku Community and other agencies to spatially identify community aspirations. This plan will then be used to secure funding to deliver on these aspirations via agency and community funding processes. The next community hui is due to take place on August 1, 2022. Staff are also supporting the Bay of Islands-Whangaroa Community Board to complete their strategic plan.

The Grow Kaikohe Community Economic Development (CED) Workshop Series will run from 1-14 August 2022. This free series explores "What is innovation and how does it contribute to community economic development?" It includes 6 workshops and pop-up events to create wide community reach. A map capturing future business, employment, skills and training and CED opportunities will be created post event.

Community development staff continue to assist in the implementation of our Nothing But Net Far North Digital Strategy. Well established community networks are proving invaluable in the delivery of this strategy.

Nothing But Net is a finalist in the Local Government NZ Excellence Awards, with the winner being announced on 22 July 2022.

Funding

Staff administer a total of \$926,470 in funding annually. Funding streams include the Events Investment Fund, Community Board Placemaking Grant, Rural Travel Fund, Creative Communities and Community Board Community Grant Funding.

Community Board Funding

Bay of Islands-Whangaroa Community Board

Bay of Islands-Whangaroa Community Board helped fund a diverse range of activities, including contributions to a Rainbow Rangitahi drop-in centre (with Bald Angels Trust), the relocation of the Kerikeri Domain playground to Totara North, the Matariki festival fireworks in Paihia and a contribution to the Friends of Williams House for the creation of a permanent exhibition space.

Kaikohe-Hokianga Community Board

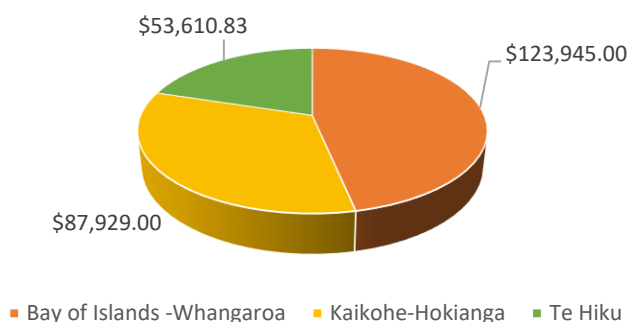
Kaikohe-Hokianga Community Board has supported a number of projects, including the re-grassing of the Kohukohu Bowling Club green, architect fees for the Kaikohe Rugby Football and Sports Club upgrade and a contribution to the Freedom Whare project that helps homeless whanau in the Ward.

Te Hiku Community Board

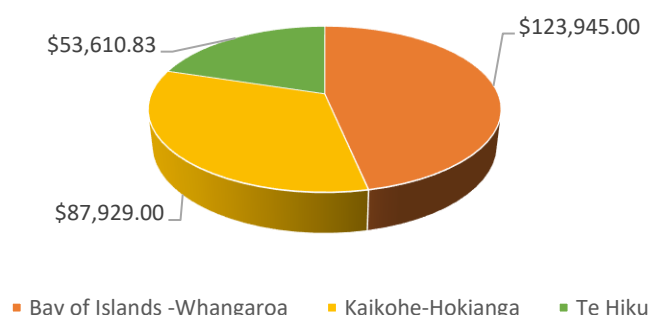
Te Hiku Community Board helped Te Hapua Sports Recreation Club with a contribution towards the re-roofing of their building and the upgrading of their septic drainage. The Board also granted funding for Matariki ki Ahipara to Ahipara Aroha and to Pamapurua School for basketball hoops.

All three Boards contributed funding towards Far North Land Search and Rescue.

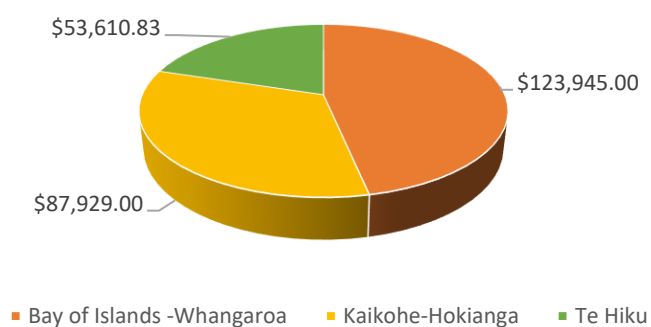
Applications by Board



Amount Requested by Board



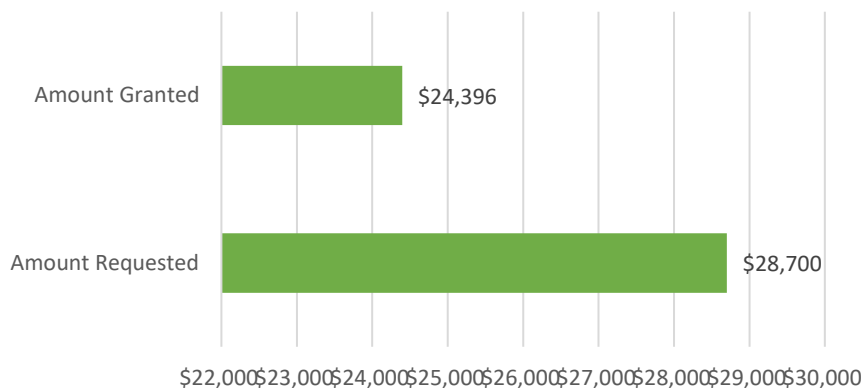
Amount Granted by Board



Creative Communities

Creative Communities funded a range of art-based activities including a song writing workshop, a photographic poetry jam through several schools, musicals and concerts in Kerikeri and Kohukohu as well as several Matariki exhibitions. The number of applications remains steady, and it was good to see a number of new applicants from across the district.

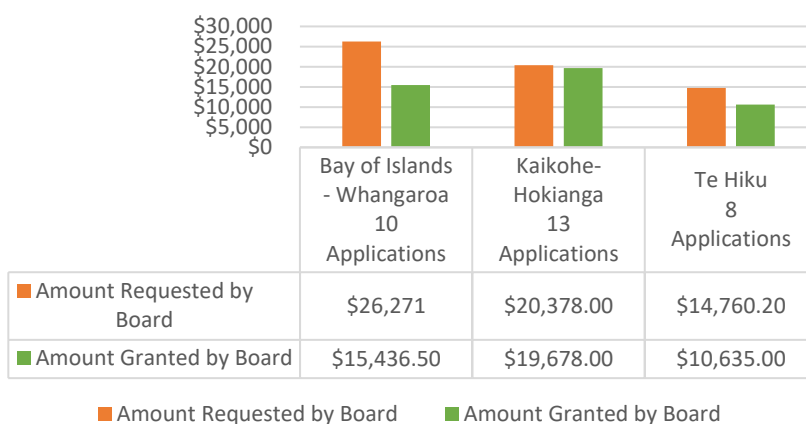
Creative Communities June 2022



Rural Travel Fund

The winter Rural Travel funding round was back to pre-COVID application levels with 31 applications being received across the 3 Wards. The Kaikohe-Hokianga Community Board contributed additional funds towards Rural Travel funding from their own Community Fund as they recognise the need from applicants within their Ward is high and the limited funds available are a barrier for the residents in their area.

Winter Rural Travel Funding



Kai Ora Fund

The Kai Ora Fund is a small community grants process to support innovative projects that address food security, benefit the wider community, and encourage employment and economic development in the region. The fund started in 2015 as a partnership between the Te Tai Tokerau Primary Health Organisation and the Far North District Council but has grown to become a multi-agency initiative. Fifty eight applications (of which 34 were from the Far North District) were received in this funding round and the panel is currently in the final stages of assessing the applications, with final decisions and workshops to be held in July 2022.

District Planning

Developing and Notifying the Proposed District Plan – Progress

Major milestones were achieved in the April to June 2022 quarter with authorisation being obtained to proceed with notification of the Proposed District Plan (PDP) in July 2022.

Progress and ongoing engagement on the making of the new plan was reported leading up to the approval to notify and the evaluation of the draft plan continued with a focus on: -

- Targeted engagement on draft Heritage Areas
- Removal from the draft plan of the mapping method for Significant Natural Areas (SNAs).
- Refinement of plan provision based on feedback from the 'jump on board' engagement
- Continuation of iwi engagement in accordance with the consultation requirements of Clause 3B of Schedule 1 of the Resource Management Act

Consultation on Documents Incorporated by Reference to the PDP took place in May. The technical documents, including new Engineering Standards, are a necessary step prior to the notification of the PDP, in accordance with the requirements of clause 34 of Schedule 1 of the RMA.

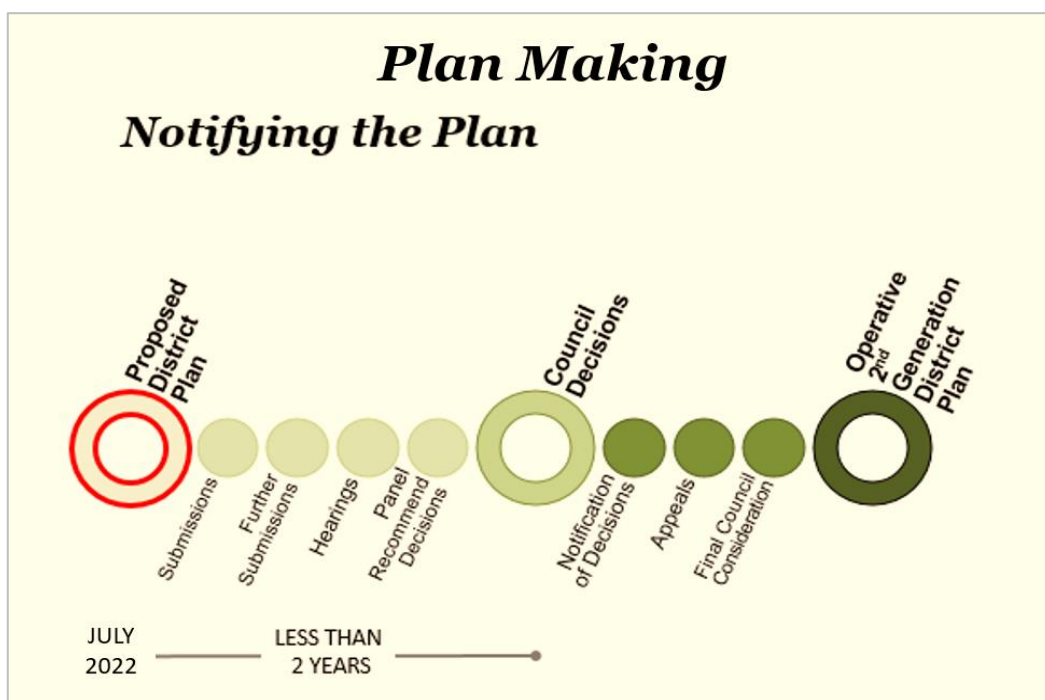
The making of the PDP also incorporated a process for designations to be updated. There are 191 designations included in the PDP. Of these 146 were rolled over from the Operative District Plan with modification, 43 rolled over without modification, 1 designation has been removed and 2 new designations have been introduced.

The final version of the e-plan was published for the May Strategy and Policy Committee Agenda along with associated documentation.

There is a body of technical analysis and evaluation against regulatory requirements contained in a suite of evaluation reports to support the PDP (Section 32 Reports). These reports are designed to be read with the PDP as planning assessment and technical evidence supporting the provisions in the PDP. A total of 37 separate reports covering each section of the District Plan were finalised and provided to the Strategy and Policy Committee to support the consideration for the notification of the PDP.

Authorisation of the PDP means that the District Plan team will be engaging with Far North communities to support their participation in the next stage of the plan making process.

The post notification steps in the process are represented in the following graphic:






Strategy





Status of Policy Projects








The following tables provide a status of the active strategy, policy, and bylaw development projects

Status Key

-  on target to complete policy project
-  at risk of not completing on time
-  will not meet dates without major interventions and / or decision by Council




Strategy Development

Strategy Project	Current Stage	Actions undertaken April – June 2022	Next Touchpoint	Status
Far North 2100	Activate	Council adopted Far North 2100 on 4 November 2021	Status Report to 6 September 2022 Strategy and Policy Committee	
Climate Change Roadmap: Regional Climate Change Adaptation Strategy	Consult / Activate	Joint Submission on the National Adaptation Plan was endorsed by Joint Climate Change Adaptation Committee on 30 May 2022.	Approval of updated Terms of Reference for Joint Committee – 6 September 2022 Strategy and Policy Committee. Proposed pilot projects for Far North District to go into the Regional Coastal Adaptation Programme – 6 September 2022 Strategy and Policy Committee.	
Kerikeri/Waipapa Spatial Plan (Revision of the Kerikeri/Waipapa Structure Plan 2007)	Research	4 May 2022: Workshop with Elected Members on Project Governance, Constraint mapping and engagement Procurement of current state assessment completed Government agencies bus trip and workshop completed Hui with Hapū Governance Rōpū.	Paper to 6 September 2022 Strategy and Policy Committee – Foundation Document.	
Population Reforecast	Activate	Information Report to 14 June 2022 Strategy and Policy Committee	Website content to be updated Updated information in Elected Members lounge.	

Strategy Project	Current Stage	Actions undertaken April – June 2022	Next Touchpoint	Status
Northland to Auckland – Urban Growth Agenda	Concept	Ministry of Housing and Urban Development have cancelled this project.		
Open Spaces Strategy	Research	Research report complete	Options report to be presented to Strategy and Policy Committee 6 September 2022	
Art, Culture, and Heritage Strategy	Consult	Early engagement Drafting of strategy	Paper due to Strategy and Policy Committee 6 September 2022	
Solid Waste Strategy	Research	Population projections completed Waste audits completed.	Options report due to Strategy and Policy Committee third quarter 2022	
Stormwater Strategy (supporting Infrastructure and Asset Management)	Research	Project Planning commenced Engagement planning commenced.	Project currently on hold due to capital works projects	
Te Waka Hourua – Far North Spaces & Places (Facilities) Plan 2021-2030	Activate	Council approved the support in principle of the Far North Spaces and Places Plan on 4 November 2021	Status report to 6 September 2022 Strategy and Policy Committee The following are underway that are specifically mentioned in the Spaces and Places Plan. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Te Puāwaitanga• Te Hiku Sports Complex• Lindvart Park	
Regional Accessibility Strategy (support Whangarei District Council as the lead Council)	Research	Engagement planning completed Engagement resources in development	Options report due first quarter 2023	

Policy Development










Policy Project	Current Stage	Actions undertaken April - June	Next Touchpoint	Status
Climate Change Assessment Policy: Climate Change Roadmap	Design	Options paper presented to Committee 03 May 2022.	Draft policy due to the Strategy and Policy Committee end of 2022	
Community Initiated Infrastructure Rooding Contribution	Design	Draft policy complete	Draft policy to be presented to Committee 26 July 2022	
Limits of Council Responsibility for Formation Maintenance of Roads	Design	Second Internal staff workshop planned for August 2022	Options report due to Strategy and Policy Committee third quarter 2022.	
Class 4 Gambling and TAB Venue	Design		Draft policy due to Strategy and Policy Committee third quarter 2022	
Equity and Access for People with Disabilities	Design	Drafting of amendments complete Targeted engagement complete	Draft policy due to Strategy and Policy Committee 26 July 2022.	
Naming Policy	Design	Drafting of policy provisions complete Workshop with Community Boards (combined) complete Targeted engagement underway	Draft policy to be presented to Strategy and Policy Committee fourth quarter 2022.	
Reserves Policy	Activate	Draft presented to Strategy and Policy Committee 14 June 2022 Draft presented to Council 30 June 2022	Project complete	
Easter Sunday Trading	Design	Proposal for consultation presented to Strategy and Policy Committee 03 May 2022 Consultation complete Analysis of submissions complete	Analysis of submissions due to Committee 26 July 2022	

Policy Project	Current Stage	Actions undertaken April - June	Next Touchpoint	Status
Parking	Research	Research underway	Options report due to Strategy and Policy Committee second quarter 2022	
Trees and Vegetation	Research	Research underway	Research and options report due to Strategy and Policy Committee third quarter 2022	
Alfresco Dining Policy	Activate	Research complete Options report complete Options report presented to Committee 14 June 2022 Options report presented to Council 30 June 2022	Project complete	

Next tranche of proposed policy development projects awaiting concept development and approval

- Smokefree Environments
- Placemaking policies (subject to change)
 - Placemaking Policy
 - Urban Design Guidelines
 - Street Lighting
 - Footpaths

Bylaw Development

Bylaw Project	Current Stage	Actions undertaken April – June 2022	Next Touchpoint	Status
Parking Bylaw	Activate	Final adoption report presented to Committee 03 May 2022 Final adoption report presented to Council 19 May 2022	Project complete	
Parking on State Highways	Design	Options report for parking on state highways presented to Council 7 April 2022 Drafting of Bylaw amendments underway	Proposal for consultation due to be presented to Committee 06 September 2022	
Road Use Bylaw	Activate	Final adoption report presented to Committee 03 May 2022 Final adoption report presented to Council 19 May 2022	Project Complete	
Speed Limits	Now regulated nationally	Recommendation to revoke Bylaw presented to Council 30 June 2022	Bylaw to revoke 15 July 2022	
Pou Herenga Tai Twin Coast Cycle Trail	Consult	Proposal for consultation presented to Committee 14 June 2022 Consultation period open 20 June	Oral submissions to be heard 26 July 2022.	
Vehicles on Beaches	Activate	Final adoption report presented to Committee 03 May 2022 Final adoption report presented to Council 19 May 2022	Project complete	
Reserves	Consult	Proposal for consultation presented to Committee 14 June 2022	Oral submissions to be heard 26 July 2022.	
Maritime Facilities and Mooring Charges	Design	Options report presented to Council 7 April 2022 Drafting of bylaw underway	Draft and Proposal for consultation due to Committee 06 September 2022	
Animal Control	Research	Research report underway	Options report due to Committee fourth quarter 2022	

Next Tranche of bylaw development projects awaiting concept development and approval

- Nuisance
- Wastewater Drainage


Te Hono



Status of Work Programme




The following table provides an update on current work programme progress

Status Key

- On target
- In progress
- Stalled or not started

Project	Progress	Milestones	Expected completion	Status
Undertake a Tiriti Audit to assess the organisations performance in acting in accordance with statutory obligations; and to understand opportunities for improvements	<p>Investigation of other Councils who have undertaken the audit and outcomes. Discussion of a joined-up contract across Northland TLAs to lessen costs</p> <p>Discussions are taking place. Whangarei District Council</p> <p>Note: In line with this an audit of Memorandums of Understanding is being undertaken with regard to Far North District Council's actions to meet its responsibilities outlined within each document. Once the findings are analysed recommendations will be made for improvement.</p>	<p>Investigation of options being conducted</p> <p>Course of action decided. Internal or external</p> <p>Contract or through recruitment, undertake audit</p> <p>Report results</p> <p>Organisation agrees implementation</p> <p>Funding, if required, in time for Annual Plan 23/24 for consideration</p>	<p>Aug 2022</p> <p>Aug 2022</p> <p>Sep 2022</p> <p>Oct / Nov 2022</p> <p>Nov / Dec 2022</p>	
Work with Māori to co-design a mechanism to enable Participation of Māori in decisions of Council – at a governance level	<p>Discussion underway with Elected Member - Te Ao Māori Portfolio</p> <p>Te Hono is working with Democracy Services and has provided recommendations regarding Māori representation on Standing Committees</p>	<p>Mandate and support from Te Kahu o Taonui</p> <p>Amendments to internal policies</p> <p>Selection process confirmed.</p> <p>Selections conducted</p> <p>Selections Ratified</p>	<p>Feb 2022</p> <p>May 2022</p> <p>Jun 2022</p> <p>Jul 22</p> <p>Jul 22</p>	Completed

Project	Progress	Milestones	Expected completion	Status
Provide an annual contestable fund to assist two Māori in the Far North to attend the Making Good Decisions Course	Investigated timetable for courses.	Confirmation of 2022 Dates Source Funding Advertise and promote Selection (and process)	Feb 2022 Aug 2022 Aug 2022 Sep / Oct 2022	
Develop a Māori Cultural Competencies Framework to grow the cultural capabilities of staff to Te Ao Māori	Having the capability in Te Hono to design and facilitate is paramount and is part of recruiting the right talent. Included in the development of the framework will be multiple Māori Related supporting policies. Framework concepts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Available to all staff • Prioritised to needs vs. wants • Stepped approach to learning, dependant on needs • Multiple teaching methods • Far North District Council centric, built by us, for us. 	Kaiārahi Recruitment Planning and research are underway on existing frameworks Supporting policies Complete analysis, define scope, confirm levels and content. Conduct Build Re-confirm scope, finalise build, scope external delivery Conduct trial Test and Adjust Roll-out to Far North District Council	Continuing Completed In Draft Aug 2022 Aug 2022 Aug 2022 Dec 2022 Jan 2023 Feb 2023	

Project	Progress	Milestones	Expected completion	Status
<p>Provide Information sessions on Memorandums of Understanding, Environmental Management Plans as part of onboarding (Stage 1)</p> <p>Discuss legislative obligations to Māori, Treaty settlement legislation and Te Whakaputanga, from a Māori perspective. Delivered by subject matter experts as part of MCCF (Stage 2)</p>	<p>The first of these are being developed for the first on-boarding session for new staff, this is conducted at a very basic level.</p> <p>Trial completed - discussion underway with People & Capability for onboarding Stage 1.</p> <p>Once this is completed and assessed targeted sessions for other parts of council will be developed and integrated into the MCCF for delivery.</p>	<p>Trial assessment at on-boarding</p> <p>Content and approach evaluation</p> <p>Stage 1 Induction package.</p> <p>Available on Te Hono Webpage June 22.</p> <p>Stage 2 rollout</p>	<p>Oct 2021</p> <p>February 2022</p> <p>New presentation rolled out May 22.</p> <p>With Māori Cultural Competency Framework</p>	
Te Hono support/advice to policy team for Naming Policy	<p>The internal policy will be developed in 2022. The external policy or guidelines will be developed alongside LINZ, who have the Far North programmed for 2023. As many of the requests beside road naming are for reserves, waterways, maunga, it is expedient to align processes within the policy implementation or in guidelines.</p>	<p>Waiting on LINZ Schedule for engagement and naming in the Far North</p> <p>Discussions/ engagement still being conducted with policy team</p>	<p>2023</p> <p>July 22</p>	
Māori related policies and/or guidelines	<p>The following Māori related policies will either be stand-alone or will be added as a supplement to current Far North District Council policies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Te Reo and Tikanga Policy • Koha Policy supplement • Māori Engagement Policy 	<p>In Draft</p> <p>Discussion and refinement</p> <p>Adoption</p>	<p>Mar 2022</p> <p>July 2022</p> <p>Oct-Dec 2022</p>	

Māori Relationships / Partnerships

Operational

In the last report Te Hono was going to look at how relationships based on true 'partnership' can be realised. In the last quarter at the operational level there have been gains made by creating and supporting hapū working groups on two of our current projects (Kerikeri / Waipapa Spatial Plan and Kaikohekohe Wastewater Treatment Plant). The vibe within the working groups is positive and bodes well for nurturing positive enduring relationships with those particular groups and by association (word of mouth) their extended hapū groupings. At an operational level and dependent upon the project, this form of positive relationship building may be the benchmark for the future.

Whilst the Māori Engagement Policy is not ready for adoption, the basic principles of Tika/Pono (honesty and transparency), Manaaki (support) and Mahi Tahi (working as one) have been applied by the project teams for current projects. The Māori Engagement Policy once adopted will formalise both the concepts and also the practical application of concepts which will then be adopted by all Council units engaging with Māori.

Governance

At a governance level we celebrate the completion of appointing Māori representatives on Standing Committees. This has gone a long way in building Māori trust in the Council, a Council that 'keeps it's word' and supports Māori participation.

Māori Development / Capability / Capacity

Te Hono currently has two vacant positions, one being a policy/projects specialist and the other an iwi/hapū development and community engagement specialist. Once these have been filled Te Hono will be able to develop Māori based policies and initiatives to enable true Māori development / capability / capacity into the future.

Digital Strategy

Goals for the Far North Digital Strategy – 3-year outlook – Nothing But Net

- **Tuhono** - Connect. *The Far North will have world class mobile and broadband infrastructure by 2023 and every school aged child will have internet access in the home.*
- **Whakatipu** - Grow. *The Far North will challenge the pre-covid economic model and use technology to create a new state of being that embraces disruption, collaboration and localism and has positive social impacts.*
- **Korero mai, Korero atu** – Speak up, Speak out. *The Far North will be known as a tech-friendly district with a skilled workforce.*
- **Manaaki** – Care. *Our people will be digitally literate and have the support they need to use connectivity to help take better care of themselves, each other, our culture and our environment.*
- **Whakarato** – Deliver. *The Far North District Council will embrace new technology and use connectivity to create great places and support our people.*

Key Achievements

Tuhono – Connect. Whakarato – Deliver

1. Working with the Tourism Infrastructure Funding to deliver public wi-fi in Paihia and Russell – this project is almost complete and is awaiting back-haul fibre to be installed. Initial testing demonstrates great service and connectivity and sets the template for other public wi-fi initiatives.
2. Developing a public wi-fi stream to “fill the gaps” in coverage areas and leverage current digital infrastructure with a future focus on smart cities. Work streams are being developed to outline the scope. A procurement plan is being created to support this workstream and is evolving to cover circa 30+ locations e.g., Kaikohe, Kaitaia, Awanui.
3. Continued engagement with key partners such as Spark, (including their mobile team, Māori Development team and Spark Foundation) Vodafone and Chorus to gain an understanding of the current and future state. Also working closely with Amazon Web Service and Microsoft around learning pathways and setting up a technology focus at the Ngawha Innovation Park.
4. Engagement with Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment (MBIE) and Crown Infrastructure Partners (CIP) around future investment opportunities continues along with work on collating locations where coverage needs to be addressed as part of the “Future of Connectivity programme.
5. Challenging the current model and raising investment in digital services, including connectivity, affordability, and investment with Central Government Ministers

Whakatipu – Grow. Manaaki – Care

- Nothing But Net (NBN) has been enlisted to assist with the technology hub at the Ngawha Innovation Park and is working closely with Far North Holdings, key tenants, Amazon Web Service (AWS), Microsoft, Spark and Vodafone to develop and fine tune the requirements of technology, learning and working opportunities (including fibre, wi-fi, IoT, smart devices and learning / employment pathways in Cloud and technology disciplines).
- Far North District Council is now the Chair of the Northland Digital Enablement Group (DEG). Regular meetings have been held with a focus on sharing learnings and deliverables. Other councils and CCO's are reaching out for information and assistance in delivery and design.
- A plan is being Developed to work with local providers and Te Kona (Kaikohe) around digital learning programmes, with outcomes for internships, scholarships, and further education. This is under action, with the programme to start in the next semester.

Korero mai, Korero atu – Speak up, Speak out

- Speaking and advocating for better connectivity and focus on core areas especially for the Far North. Engaging with community groups such as Whariki, Amotai etc.
- Working with Te Puni Kōkiri around better and closer engagement with marae and papakāinga to deliver connectivity and inclusion programmes for all involved to become enabled by technology and create “champions” across hapū and iwi in the Far North.

Whakarato – Deliver

- Fibre has been ordered and design to be signed off to deliver public wi-fi at the Bay of Islands Airport with an October 2022 go live date/
- An application to the Tourism Infrastructure Fund to enable smart opportunities (such as smart bench, lighting, bins, recycling, public wi-fi and IoT environmental sensors) has been submitted.
- Progressing and developing the Ngawha Innovation Park and getting partners to work with Council to assist in delivery solutions is underway. A learn to work partnership with AWS and Microsoft is being created along with a smart innovation lab to demonstrate and create pathways to work in the technology sector.
- Work with volunteer organisations to assist with digital inclusion, training and equity is continuing
- Delivering an IoT and external Digital strategy for FNDC, to create a Smart District approach and leveraging technology to deliver outcomes for FNDC and the communities we serve. This is under action and will be presented to the Infrastructure Committee at the end of August.
- Regular hui with key stakeholders have been undertaken to enable a coordinated and consistent approach. The Nothing But Net programme has been presented to Whariki and Amotai to build the value that can be derived through meaningful partnerships. We continue to work with Te Puni Kōkiri and other councils to investigate further connectivity and access to learning and employment opportunities within the technology sector.

What is next:

- Adding to the partnership eco-system for the future state objectives of the Nothing But Net strategy, including the Digital Marae programme & Network for Learning (N4L) to leverage their networks and community engagement.
- Continued engagement and lobbying of the Rural Connectivity Group (RCG), MBIE, CIP, Chorus, and other partners to improve the coverage footprint of Northland and the Far North in particular and create a detailed map to highlight areas of deprivation and lack of coverage to use to advocate for further targeted investment from Central Government.
- Deliver and create a Proof of Concept (POC) to disrupt the current thinking around connectivity, exploring Starlink as an alternative, for Marae and papakāinga.
- Working closely with communities to understand the issues and gaps in detail and develop solutions that meet the objectives and outcomes that feed directly into the work being done with central government and partners.
- Working with Te Hono, as well as partnerships with Whariki, Amotai and Te Puni Kōkiri.
- Working internally around an innovation hub or hubs in Kaikohe and other key locations to bring in staff and external stakeholders to deliver new and relevant services from Council.
- Progressing and developing the Ngawha Innovation Park and getting partners to work with Council to assist in delivery solutions.

- Continue the active engagement with the Northland Digital Enablement Group, with cooperation around the Digital Strategy to cover all of Northland.
- Nothing But Net – Plan on a Page which is under development and due for completion in the next quarter.
- Complete the workstream and procurement plan to deliver solutions for communities to meet connectivity and ongoing skills development (due for completion in the next quarter).
- Working with the Communications Team to develop a communications strategy to advise, both internal and external stakeholders of improvements made to connectivity and where to access support for digital skills.
- Work with the Association of Information Management Local Government (ALGIM) to advocate and influence central government decisions for the Future of Local Government, with a focus on digital services.
- Partnering with Panguru and Motuti communities to deliver fibre to the marae and homes and connect the schools and communities to better broadband and improved mobile coverage.
- Far North District Council and Nothing But Net to take a leadership position around smart technologies and connectivity especially to rural locations by leveraging our partners, expertise, and delivery.
- Creation of a centre of excellence in the digital/smart space, delivering ongoing sustainable outcomes such as jobs, education, support of communities, environmental outcomes.