

## DISTRICT PLAN REVIEW 2015 UPDATE REPORT

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 WARD/COMMUNITY: District wide  
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### PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on progress with the District Plan Review. The current focus of the review is on strategic alignment and the development of a Blueprint. An update report to the Regulatory Committee is provided every six months.

### RECOMMENDATION

**That, having considered all matters raised in the report, the report be received.**

### SIGNIFICANCE

This report is provided for information purposes only, and has been assessed as having low significance.

### DISCUSSION

#### Overview

The District Plan review project is being managed in four phases as follows. The current focus is on phase 2 and strategic alignment.

Phase 1: Review preparation (June 2014-December 2014): Review preparation has been undertaken, including consideration of monitoring gaps and areas for focus. Work has also been undertaken to support a move towards a digital District Plan.

Phase 2: Strategic Alignment (June 2014- July 2015): To ensure a broader context to the District Plan, work has been initiated on strategic alignment and the development of a Blueprint for New Plymouth District. Further discussion is provided below.

Phase 3: Draft Plan: Draft plan provisions will be developed for consideration by the community. This will allow for issues to be openly discussed and for issues to be resolved before the release of the full District Plan. (August 2015-April 2016).

Phase 4: Proposed Plan: The release of the Proposed District Plan will be public notified in accordance with RMA requirements and will involve submissions, hearings, decisions and the opportunity for the submitter to appeal to the Environment Court. (notification May 2016).



### Strategic Alignment

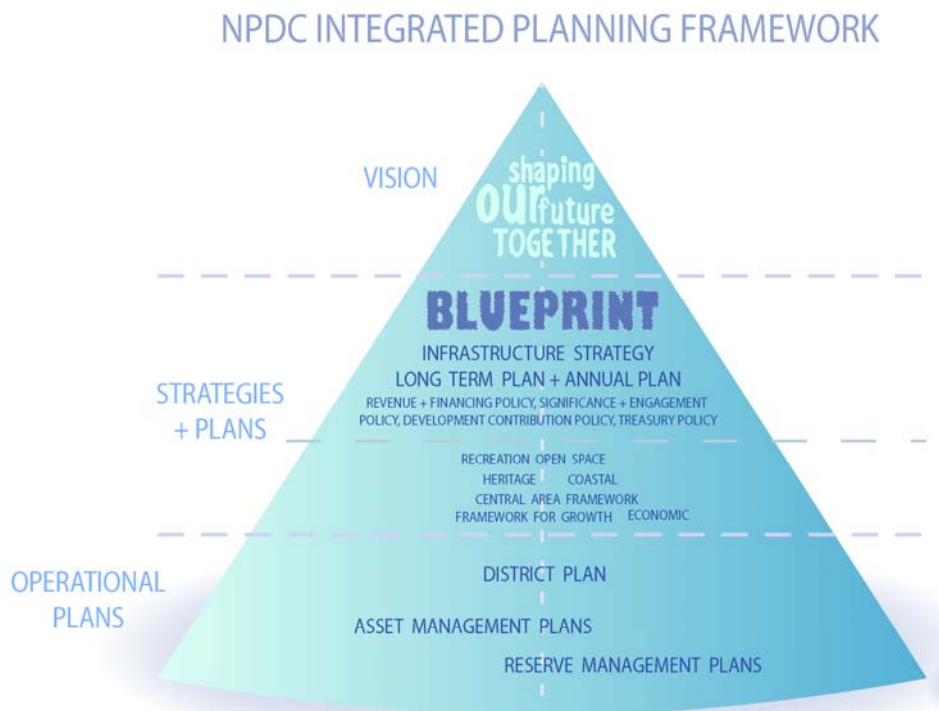
The District Plan Review will deliver on the wider objectives of the Shaping our Future Together Vision for the District recently adopted by Council on the 4<sup>th</sup> November. The vision is Manaaki – Tangata – Whenua – Ngamotu “Together we support, nurture and respect our people, our land, our district.”

Achieving the vision will be supported by 3 key outcomes:

- Our Community: An inclusive and connected community;
- Our Environment: A clean, green, liveable environment;
- Our Economy: A strong and resilient economy.

Under the umbrella of this vision an over-all “spatial picture” is being developed (Blueprint) that will translate how vision and outcomes will be achieved. The Blueprint will be a key strategic planning tool that will prioritise how we develop the district’s social, economic and environmental futures.

The Blueprint will articulate the vision for the district providing government agencies, the private sector and the community with a clearly defined ‘roadmap’ on how the vision will be achieved. It will also assist with achieving integrated outcomes and aligning key priorities for the community. The policy context for the Blueprint is shown as follows:



**ITEM FOR DECISION****ITEM**

The Blueprint will provide some key strategic directions for the District Plan review and ensure alignment between Councils key planning documents (eg: Long Term Plan and Infrastructure Strategy).

Initial briefings have been undertaken with key external stakeholders and key community leaders and a draft Blueprint will be available for discussion in mid December. At this early stage of the process there are a number of key planning issues that will be discussed in the Blueprint.

- Providing a range of housing types that deliver choice for the community;
- Improving the affordability of housing, and using land efficiently to minimise the overall cost of housing on the community;
- Setting residential and employment land supply targets;
- Prioritising and planning for growth so that it will improve community health, do less environmental harm, have manageable infrastructure investment and support the central area;
- Securing more industrial land for different types of industry;
- Supporting rural industries and manage reverse sensitivity impacts;
- Supporting the central city by connecting the community through planning, supporting retail use and entertainment uses, while encouraging the opportunity for city living.
- The opportunities to enhance biodiversity in the District by prioritising key strategic linkages.

Consultation on the Blueprint will be a key focus for early 2015 and will align with consultation on the Long Term Plan and Infrastructure Strategy.

Through the consultation process a more “fine grained” approach will be taken to focus on key areas, communities and settlements as the Blueprint is tested at the local level. Further discussions will also be had with Iwi groups and with key stakeholders from the community sector and business/industry. These local and more focused discussions will provide for more detailed consideration of local issues for the District Plan review. For example local communities will be able to comment on key planning issues, such as zoning and rural land use.

Consideration to strategic issues such as oil and gas and other industry issues will also be given in 2015. Discussions are currently occurring with neighbouring Local Authorities on oil and gas provisions to provide for a more collaborative regulatory approach to the industry.

**The District Plan Operational Considerations**

Key considerations for the optimisation and functionality of the District Plan to be more ‘user friendly’ have been identified. It is important that the District Plan delivers the following key outcomes:

The District Plan will aim to be:

- Enabling development while protecting key values;
- Provide for social, environmental and economical sustainable growth outcomes;

## ITEM

## ITEM FOR DECISION

- Provide for certainty and direction for investment;
- Streamlined and easy to use;
- A high level of functionality on-line and in a digital format;
- Relevant to the regional context.

### **Resource Management Act Reform**

The review of the Resource Management Act (RMA – Phase II) contains proposals that could impact the District Plan Review process, particularly in regards to Phase 3 relating to draft planning provisions. A Bill has been signalled for the first half of next year, so further consideration will be given to the implications of the Bill following the completion of the Blueprint. Key issues, such as template plans have been signalled in earlier review discussions from the Ministry for the Environment. Officers will work closely with the Ministry for the Environment to ensure the outcomes of the review are current and relative to the changes being considered.

### **FINANCIAL AND RESOURCING IMPLICATIONS**

The District Plan Review will be undertaken within existing budgets.

### **IMPLICATIONS ASSESSMENT**

This report confirms that the matter concerned has no particular implications and has been dealt with in accordance with the Local Government Act 2002. Specifically:

- Council staff have delegated authority for any decisions made;
- Council staff have identified and assessed all reasonably practicable options for addressing the matter and considered the views and preferences of any interested or affected persons (including Māori), in proportion to the significance of the matter;
- Any decisions made will help meet the current and future needs of communities for good-quality local infrastructure, local public services, and performance of regulatory functions in a way that is most cost-effective for households and businesses;
- Unless stated above, any decisions made can be addressed through current funding under the Long-Term Plan and Annual Plan;
- Any decisions made are consistent with the Council's plans and policies; and
- No decisions have been made that would alter significantly the intended level of service provision for any significant activity undertaken by or on behalf of the Council, or would transfer the ownership or control of a strategic asset to or from the Council.

