

# Democracy & Leadership

## Community Outcomes

Mana Mauri / Cultural well-being - Creative, diverse communities that enhance the mauri of our people.

Mana Tangata / Social well-being - Safe, connected communities where people feel happy and proud of where we live.

Mana Oranga / Economic well-being - Flourishing communities with a diverse economy, innovative people and resilient infrastructure.

Mana Taiao / Environmental well-being - Sustainable communities that manage resources in a way that improves our environment for future generations.

## Why we do it

To enable the community to participate in decision-making and ensure quality decisions are made in accordance with statutory requirements. To do this well we need to keep the community informed about what is happening, how decisions will affect them and explain how they can participate in meetings and consultation/submission processes.

We have developed He Pou Tikanga, Ngā iwi o te Tai Whakarunga - Council Partnership Strategy with Te Kaahui o Rauru, Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Ruanui, Te Korowai o Ngāruahine and Te Kāhui o Taranaki, with the purpose of building stronger relationships and enabling Māori to participate more actively in our decision-making processes.

## What we do

The Mayor and Councillors are the governing body and set the direction, policies and budget needed for our various activities. We develop strategic documents including the District Plan, Long Term Plan and Annual Plans as well as setting the annual rates and charges. Community Board members provide a direct link between the community and the Council and are responsible for distributing discretionary funds across their communities.

Recognising the special relationship with Māori in South Taranaki, the Council has developed a formal process of representation for Iwi through Te Kāhui Matauraura. This standing committee of the Council provides an opportunity for up to four members from each Iwi within the District (Ngāti Ruanui, Ngāruahine, Taranaki, and Ngā Rauru) to discuss issues and make recommendations to the Council. The appointment of Iwi representatives to our standing committees acknowledges the need for Iwi and Māori to participate in the Council's decision making processes.

A full overview of our key policies, information about how we operate and how the Council makes decisions can be found in the Local Governance Statement on our website.

## Looking Ahead

The internet enables many people in our community to engage with us. It is a useful tool for community-led democracy and campaigning and a move towards online voting, bringing both opportunities and challenges. Over the next five years we are committed to upgrading our information systems and technology to provide a platform that allows our residents to communicate quickly and effectively with us.

**Future Projects**

We are committed to providing more opportunities for Māori to contribute to decision-making processes. During this plan our focus will be the implementation of He Pou Tikanga.

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Level of Service	Performance Measure	Target	Target	Target	Target
	<i>C=customer measure</i>	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	Years 4 - 10
<i>T=technical measure</i>					
<b>We make well informed decisions that support the current and future needs of the community.</b>	(C) % of residents who agree decisions made by Council represent the best interests of the <a href="#">District</a> .	≥ 70%	≥ 70%	≥ 70%	≥ 70%
<b>We engage with our community and provide opportunities for the community to participate in decision-making.</b>	(C) % of residents who are satisfied or neutral with their opportunity to participate in Council decision- making processes.	≥ 80%	≥ 80%	≥ 80%	≥ 80%
<b>We keep residents informed of Council activities through a variety of media.</b>	(C) % of residents who know where to access Council information when they want it (website, newspaper, Libraries, Contact Centre).	≥ 80%	≥ 85%	≥ 85%	≥ 85%
<b>We have strong relationships with local Iwi and work together in a range of ways so that their perspectives inform our decisions.</b>	(C) complete one goal or action per annum from <a href="#">He Pou Tikanga, Ngā iwi o te Tai Whakarunga</a> - Council Partnership Strategy.	≥ 1	≥ 1	≥ 1	≥ 1