

Gisborne District Council
PO Box 747
Gisborne 4010

2 October 2020

Tēnā koe me koutou mā

RE: FEEDBACK ON THE GISBORNE DISTRICT COUNCIL LONG TERM PLAN 2021 – 2031 PRE-CONSULTATION

The Healthy Families East Cape Strategic Leadership Group appreciates the opportunity to provide written feedback on the Gisborne District Council Long Term Plan 2021 – 2031.

Healthy Families NZ is a large-scale prevention initiative that brings community leadership together in a united effort for better health. It aims to improve people's health where they live, learn, work and play by taking a systems approach to the reduction of risk factors for major health loss and to increasing equity in health outcomes.

The goal is for all New Zealanders to enjoy health promoting social and physical environments that enable healthy food and physical activity choices, being smokefree, drinking alcohol only in moderation and increasing mental health resilience and wellbeing.

Te Tairāwhiti (as part of the wider East Cape region from Ōpōtiki, around the East Coast, to Gisborne) is one of ten chosen Healthy Families NZ communities across Aotearoa, each chosen for having some of the worst health statistics in the country. Healthy Families East Cape is funded by the Ministry of Health and is being led by Te Ao Hou Trust.

The Healthy Families East Cape Strategic Leadership Group is responsible for providing strategic direction and leadership using and championing a systems based approach to achieve a healthier Te Tairāwhiti/East Cape in the places where we spend our time.

The Healthy Families East Cape Strategic Leadership Group is made up of representatives from across sectors and communities and includes the following members and organisations:

- Linda Steel, Te Ao Hou Trust Chief Executive (Co-Chair)
- Reweti Ropiha, Turanga Health Chief Executive (Co-Chair)
- Josh Wharehinga, Gisborne District Council Deputy Mayor
- Stefan Pishief, Sport Gisborne Tairāwhiti Chief Executive
- Mel Turner, Ministry of Health Senior Portfolio Manager and Lead Healthy Families NZ
- Dorothy Taare-Smith, CCS Disability Action Senior Service Coordinator
- Amohaere Houkamou, Rongowhakaata Iwi Trust General Manager
- Nicholette Pomana, Hauora Tairāwhiti District Health Board Senior Portfolio Manager
- Alice Kibble, Gisborne Volunteers

This submission is written on behalf of the Healthy Families East Cape Strategic Leadership Group members, as listed below, and provides the evidence and support to ensure we continue to strengthen the health, social, economic and cultural wellbeing and aspirations of our communities.

- Linda Steel, Te Ao Hou Trust Chief Executive (Co-Chair)
- Reweti Ropiha, Turanga Health Chief Executive (Co-Chair)
- Stefan Pishief, Sport Gisborne Tairāwhiti Chief Executive
- Mel Turner, Ministry of Health Senior Portfolio Manager and Lead Healthy Families NZ
- Dorothy Taare-Smith, CCS Disability Action Senior Service Coordinator

We are happy to provide further advice and clarification on any of the points raised in our feedback. The contact for this feedback submission is Cherish Wilkinson Healthy Families East Cape Strategic Communications Manager.

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Phone: P: 06 863 1249 M: 0273581337

Kind Regards,

Healthy Families East Cape Strategic Leadership Group

About Healthy Families East Cape

A healthier Aotearoa starts in the places where we spend our time. In healthier environments, children learn better, workplaces are more productive, people are healthier and happier, and communities thrive.

Each of the ten [Healthy Families NZ](#) locations work to strengthen the prevention system through harnessing the power of locally-led collaboration. [Healthy Families East Cape](#) is one of these teams implementing the approach in Te Tairāwhiti and on the East Cape.

Teams work alongside local leaders to identify, ideate and implement change to support people to make healthier choices in places where we spend our time, including; schools, workplaces, places of worship, marae, community spaces and more. Each location has chosen its own priorities for improving health and wellbeing based on the unique needs and strengths of the community it serves.

Within the Healthy Families NZ workforce is the Kāhui Māori, a collective with an explicit focus on improving equity and health outcomes for Māori, using frameworks that sit within a Māori world view, te ao Māori.

By taking a systems approach to reducing risk factors of preventable chronic disease, the approach aims to improve health outcomes and increase health equity through key focus areas; improved nutrition, physical activity and mental health, smoke-free and reduced alcohol-related harm. The ten Healthy Families NZ communities come from areas with higher-than-average rates of preventable chronic diseases such as type 2 diabetes, obesity and heart disease.

Healthy Families East Cape Feedback on the Gisborne District Council Long Term Plan 2021 – 2031

Pre-consultation phase

Last updated: 1 October 2020

Our community spaces and facilities

Our community places and open spaces are where people spend a lot of leisure time. Facilities such as our pool and sports fields, our library, parks and open spaces are Council's responsibility. How important are they to you?

O tātau whare hapori

Our community facilities

Our budget for 2020-21 is just over \$2.2m. Key activities include:

- Theatres and halls
- Library operations
- Cultural activities such as art in public places

Do you want Council to do more in this area?

- Spend more – this will cost more in your rates
- Spend the same
- Spend less – the levels of service will be affected

Tell us why

- *Arts and culture make considerable and necessary contributions to the wellbeing of communities. That said, community facilities such as libraries, theatre and spaces that cultivate and foster opportunities for cultural activities such as art, sport and exhibition to take place also contribute to the development of a community's creative learning.*
- *Community facilities are a means to public dialogue, creates healthy communities capable of action, engagement and provides a powerful tool for community mobilization and activism. The activities that community facilities hold space for, such as art and culture, are powerful tools with which to engage communities in various levels of change, and they help to build community capacity and leadership.*
- *[Ara Journeys](#), as part of Auckland Council's Te Mata o Rehua project, local Māori and Pacific carvers produced twelve stone statues showcasing the seasonal signs of the maramataka (Māori lunar calendar). The collaboration with [Healthy Families South Auckland](#), helped to build the first Māori augmented reality game, [The Journeys of Manu](#). The game was designed to connect Māori and non-Māori, with the rich cultural and environmental history of South Auckland.*
- *All in all, ARA's Journey's of Manu has provided a gateway for the communities in South Auckland to connect to the significance of place through tohu (elemental indicators and seasonal time markers) for Health and wellbeing.*

- *The demonstration of placemaking, social connection, pride and a sense of belonging all contribute to the health and wellness of a community through improvement of our environments and community facilities.*

If Council could do one thing to improve our recreation and amenity areas, what would that be?

- *Council can value community voice as evidence and equal to expert voice when designing our cities and improving community facilities. Having community facilities and environments that are designed by and for the community will have the most positive effect on the health and wellbeing of the region.*
- *Council can ensure they have a comprehensive smokefree policy that focuses on denormalising smoking (including vaping) in order to help raise a smokefree generation. An example is Hutt City Council working to raise smokefree generation by creating smokefree and vapefree spaces to denormalise smoking and supporting smokers to quit. First extended in May 2016, Council's Smokefree Outdoor Public Places Policy was further extended in September 2019 and now covers even more of Lower Hutt. The extended policy, one of the most comprehensive in New Zealand, now includes smokefree and vapefree playgrounds, outdoor public swimming pools, parks and sports grounds including skate parks, bus shelters, bus stops and train stations, beaches, outside public areas around Council buildings and facilities, Council run and founded events, outdoor pavement dining areas, Lower Hutt CBD and all suburban centres. Through a partnership with Hutt Valley District Health Boards, the Council has reoriented funding for a new team member to scale their impact into Upper Hutt by leveraging its local government learnings from Lower Hutt. The smokefree policy is also about decreasing the impact of second-hand smoking in the city centre, by using zoning regulations as tools for healthy outcomes.*
- *Council can explore tactical urbanism to create healthier environments across our region that are cost-saving, quick progress and help demonstrate the value of pilot projects or prototypes to the community.*
- *Council can shift to a fully integrated approach bringing diversity of perspectives around the policy development table – government, business and community voices and those connecting with whānau and residents on a regular basis.*
- *Council can take an empathetic and values-driven approach to engagement to create meaningful connections and relationships, especially so with whānau, who will have to live with urban and community design changes.*
- *Look for a much deeper conversation around building capacity and capability within whānau and communities to be a part of the design of solutions, and then reconfiguring how the system could be setup to support them and their aspirations.*
- *An adoption of [social innovation mindsets](#) to form the practice framework of your innovation work in the region.*

O tātau mahi rēhia me ngā whare hākinakina

Our recreation and amenities

Council maintains parks, reserves, sports grounds, walkways, coastal foreshore areas and throughout the region. Our budget for 2020-21 is \$9.74m for maintenance and to continue to invest in improvements and new infrastructure.

Do you want Council to do more in this area?

- Spend more – this will cost more in your rates
- Spend the same
- Spend less – the levels of service will be affected

Tell us why?

- *Quality urban and community design can unlock the potential for more walking, cycling, social connectedness and neighbourhood regeneration. Equipped with community insights, data and a locally-led approach, [Healthy Families NZ](#) locations have worked alongside community leaders to influence local planners and developers to design and build neighbourhoods and public spaces that support healthy lifestyles where we live, learn, work and play.*
- *Vibrant neighbourhoods, that create people-friendly and safe environments, where we can easily get to work, access shops and services and where we can feel safe and comfortable moving around, are good for our health, wellbeing and take care of the planet.*
- *The [NZTA Innovating Streets Pilot Fund](#) saw an opportunity for Councils across the country to collaborate with communities to come up with ideas by the community, for the community, and that benefit the health and wellbeing of the region.*
- *'Innovating Streets' is an umbrella term for any project that seeks to use quick, lower-cost and temporary techniques to deliver positive people-centred changes to our environments including public spaces such as parks, reserves, walkways and coastal foreshore areas.*
<https://www.nzta.govt.nz/roads-and-rail/innovating-streets/what-were-looking-for/>
- *The Innovating Streets Pilot Fund also offers concepts (tactical urbanism, eg) that to this date, are not observed as being used by the Gisborne District Council as ways to cost-save and create solutions for our region.*
- *[Gisborne District Council's Disability Strategy 2011 – 2013](#) is yet to be updated. Its incomprehensible that the disabled community of Tairāwhiti appear to have been overlooked.*
- *CCS Disability Action's vision is to see every disabled person included in the life of their family and community. Due to our ageing population and the likely increase of more transport devices in the future it is vital changes are made to our footpaths. The government needs to make sure the changes made to our footpaths are inclusive and long term. Especially for our ever increasing disabled community that in the 2013 Disability Survey made up 24% or 1,062,000 of the people living in New Zealand (Statistics New Zealand, 2014)*
<https://www.ccsdisabilityaction.org.nz/assets/resource-files/Submission-on-the-Accessible-Streets-Package-Draft2.docx>

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If Council could do one thing to improve our recreation and amenity areas, what would that be?

- *Council can explore tactical urbanism to create healthier environments across our region that are cost-saving, quick progress and help demonstrate the value of pilot projects or prototypes to the community.*
- *Tactical urbanism will allow Councils to spend less, while still creating meaningful solutions to the infrastructure of the region in parks, reserves, sports grounds, walkways, coastal foreshore areas and throughout the region. It will not hinder on the cost of ratepayers due to the low-cost solutions that can be tested and tried through an iterative learning process of try, learn, try again.*

Council can ensure they have a comprehensive smokefree policy that focuses on denormalising smoking (including vaping) in order to help raise a smokefree generation. An example is Hutt City Council working to raise smokefree generation by creating smokefree and vape-free spaces to denormalise smoking and supporting smokers to quit. First extended in May 2016, Council's Smokefree Outdoor Public Places Policy was further extended in September 2019 and now covers even more of Lower Hutt. The extended policy, one of the most comprehensive in New Zealand, now includes smokefree and vape-free playgrounds, outdoor public swimming pools, parks and sports grounds including skate parks, bus shelters, bus stops and train stations, beaches, outside public areas around Council buildings and facilities, Council run and founded events, outdoor pavement dining areas, Lower Hutt CBD and all suburban centres. Through a partnership with Hutt Valley District Health Boards, the Council has reoriented funding for a new team member to scale their impact into Upper Hutt by leveraging its local government learnings from Lower Hutt. The smokefree policy is also about decreasing the impact of second-hand smoking in the city centre, by using zoning regulations as tools for healthy outcomes.

- *Council can shift to a fully integrated approach bringing diversity of perspectives around the policy development table – government, business and community voices and those connecting with whānau and residents on a regular basis.*
- *Council can take an empathetic and values-driven approach to engagement to create meaningful connections and relationships, especially so with whānau, who will have to live with urban and community design changes.*
- *Look for a much deeper conversation around building capacity and capability within whānau and communities to be a part of the design of solutions, and then reconfiguring how the system could be setup to support them and their aspirations.*
- *An adoption of [social innovation mindsets](#) to form the practice framework of your innovation work in the region.*

Our water

We provide drinking water, wastewater and stormwater - the "3 Waters".

Legislative changes are coming soon, and they will affect how we manage fresh water and our 3 Waters infrastructure. The changes are also likely to increase the cost to deliver these services.

ō tātau puna wai inu

Our drinking water supply

We provide treated drinking water to Gisborne city and the communities of Te Karaka, Whatatutu, Makaraka and Manutuke. We maintain 272km of pipes and 8 pump stations. Our budget for 2020-21 is \$6.7m. Key activities include:

- Repairs and maintenance on our Waingake and Waipaoa water treatment plants
- Maintenance and renewals on pumps, pipes and conveyance
- Management and maintenance of Whatatutu and Te Karaka top-up water supplies

Do you want Council to do more in this area?

- Spend more – this will cost more in your rates
- Spend the same
- Spend less – the levels of service will be affected

Tell us why?

Water

- *What we drink plays a key role in our health and wellbeing, so getting to the bottom of community's perceptions of water has been a key focus for [Healthy Families NZ](#) locations, including [Healthy Families East Cape](#). Equipped with community insights, data and a locally-led approach, Healthy Families NZ locations are working alongside community leaders to create a systemic shift to increase access, availability and affordability of water and in turn, disrupt the consumption of sugary drinks in places where community spend their time.*
- *Our vision is for Local Government to work collectively with communities to create environments that enable people to thrive, making healthier choices easier for its citizens and those that spend time in their regions.*

Wai

- *Māori have always taken a whole-of-system approach to water, looking at the whole picture: ki uta ki tai. This approach recognises that Te Ao Māori world views consist of fundamentals of tikanga, mātauranga Māori and kaitakitanga. Council can engage with iwi/Māori on how they can give effect to [Te Mana o Te Wai](#).*
- *While addressing the regulatory issues, both central and local government acknowledge that there are broader challenges facing local government water services and infrastructure, and the communities that fund and rely on these services.*

- *There has been underinvestment in three waters infrastructure in parts of the country and persistent affordability issues; along with the need for additional investment to meet improvements in freshwater outcomes, increase resilience to climate change and natural hazards, and enhance community wellbeing. In Te Tairāwhiti, for instance, we do not have the number of rate payers needed to achieve economies of scale to generate the capital costs to upgrade and/or maintain our water infrastructure <https://www.dia.govt.nz/Three-Waters-Reform-Programme>*
- *We need to have targeted infrastructure stimulus investment from Central Government to enable improvements to water service delivery, progress reform in partnership between Local and Central Government, and ensure the period of economic recovery following COVID-19 supports the transition to a productive, sustainable economy <https://www.dia.govt.nz/Three-Waters-Reform-Programme>*

If Council could do one thing to improve our drinking water supply, what would that be?

- *Council can value community voice as evidence and equal to expert voice when designing water services*
- *Council can invest in infrastructure that increases access to quality drinking water*
- *Council can lead by example by making their facilities and events water only, in turn denormalising sugary beverages*
- *Council can engage with iwi/hapū/Māori on how they can give effect to [Te Mana o Te Wai](#) (noting that the newly established Crown agency Taumata Arowai, water services regulator, will be the first Crown agency to embed Te Mana o Te Wai in how they carry out their functions)*
- *Council can establish a Māori Advisory Group to advise on Māori interests and knowledge. To work closely with Council, which must demonstrate it has given regard to Māori Advisory Group's views.*

Te Mana o Te Wai

- *Mana Whakahaere – To protect our water, its health and its mauri*
- *Kaitiakitanga – To ensure consumption provision does not adversely impact the mauri of our water*
- *Manaakitanga – To provide for essential human health needs (e.g. drinking water)*

Our roads and transport

A stronger and safer transport network supports our region's economy and keeps our communities connected.

The Tairāwhiti region has 1903km of roads that we maintain, 238km in the urban area and 1,665km of rural roads.

Ō tātau rori me ngā waka

Our roads and transport

Our budget for 2020-21 is \$34.8m. Key activities include:

- Local road maintenance and upgrades
- Street lighting
- Footpaths
- Bus service
- Joint funding of cycleway development

Do you want Council to do more in this area?

- Spend more – this will cost more in your rates
- Spend the same
- Spend less – the levels of service will be affected

Tell us why?

- *More money from the Council roading budget is being spent on repairing the damage on our roads because of increased logging trucks. The rates Council collects from forestry does not reflect the increased spend.*
- *Our vision is for Local Government to work collectively with communities to create environments that enable people to thrive, making healthier choices easier for its citizens and those that spend time in their regions.*
- *Quality urban and community design can unlock the potential for more walking, cycling, social connectedness, access to healthy food and quality drinking water while limiting the impact of harm from smoking and alcohol use.*
- *Transport planning can have positive impacts on health by encouraging active lifestyles and enhancing opportunities for access to goods, services and social interaction equitably across all society. Conversely, negative impacts can result from transport planning that is undertaken without an awareness of how importantly transport influences people's opportunities to live a healthy and fulfilling life, to work and pursue leisure activities.*
- *Vibrant neighbourhoods, that create people-friendly and safe environments, where we can easily get to work, access shops and services and where we can feel safe and comfortable moving around, are good for our health, wellbeing and take care of the planet.*
- *The NZTA Innovating Streets Pilot Fund also offers concepts (tactical urbanism, eg) that to this date, are not observed as being used by the Gisborne District Council as ways to cost-save and create solutions for our region. Tactical urbanism offers an opportunity to design our streets and*

neighbourhoods for people, not cars.

- *Christchurch City Council's WIDER HEALTH & WELLBEING IMPACTS OF TRANSPORT PLANNING is evidence of how investment in thoughtful transport planning can positively impact health and wellbeing in communities.*

<https://webcache.googleusercontent.com/search?q=cache:iwOFq3jcKx4J:https://api.ecan.govt.nz/TrimPublicAPI/documents/download/2479513+&cd=1&hl=en&ct=clnk&gl=nz>

If Council could do one thing to improve our roads and transport, what would that be?

- *Council can increase the forestry roading rate and apply the forestry roading rates to properties with 20 hectares or more of forestry, to the area in forestry as proposed in the Council's rating changes <https://www.gdc.govt.nz/lets-talk-rates-5-proposed-changes/>*
- *Council can explore tactical urbanism as a concept that puts people at the centres of the design of our streets and neighbourhoods, not cars. To create healthier environments across our region that are cost-saving, quick progress and help demonstrate the value of pilot projects or prototypes to the community.*
- *Tactical urbanism will allow Councils to spend less, while still creating meaningful solutions for our roading and transport needs. It will not hinder on the cost of ratepayers due to the low-cost solutions that can be tested and tried through an iterative learning process of try, learn, try again.*
- *Council can influence and encourage the use of the [20 minute neighbourhoods](#) model during urban development projects*

Learn more about 20 minute neighbourhoods - <https://www.monash.edu/mada/research/20-minute-neighbourhoods>

- *Council can provide social permission for our people to reclaim the design of our streets and neighbourhoods for play, active transport and connecting as a community.*
- *There is an urgent worldwide call for joint action on obesity, undernutrition and climate change (Lancet Commission Report)¹. We have the opportunity to make a local impact on these international health issues through how we design our city.*
- *Council with support from its partners, community and contracted experts can be bold, innovative and design Gisborne City and Tairāwhiti region to directly address these big issues.*
- *Council's vision and expectations for how our city develops also provides the necessary direction to the private sector on what we need to thrive physically, socially, mentally and economically as a city.*
- *There is a role for Council, supported by Healthy Families East Cape, and community to work together with private developers to ensure they are also designing for the outcomes we know we need for our people. The circumstances are perfect now to demonstrate this leadership; we will have no better opportunity to make a transformational difference to the*

¹ The Global Syndemic of Obesity, Undernutrition, and Climate Change: The Lancet Commission report - www.thelancet.com/commissions/global-syndemic

wellbeing of our people, and therefore, our city.

- *Council's role is not only showing leadership and big picture thinking, we also encourage Council to work collaboratively both internally and externally to follow through in the detailed design to ensure we take every opportunity to make the biggest difference to the health and wellbeing of our communities.*
- *Council can shift to a fully integrated approach bringing diversity of perspectives around the policy development table – government, business and community voices and those connecting with whānau and residents on a regular basis.*
- *Council can take an empathetic and values-driven approach to engagement to create meaningful connections and relationships, especially so with whanau, who will have to live with urban and community design changes.*
- *Look for a much deeper conversation around building capacity and capability within whānau and communities to be a part of the design of solutions, and then reconfiguring how the system could be setup to support them and their aspirations.*
- *An adoption of [social innovation mindsets](#) to form the practice framework of your innovation work in the region.*

Learn more about the innovation mindsets required for social innovation - <https://www.innovationunit.org/thoughts/mindsets-for-social-innovation/>

Tō tātau kaiwhakarite Māori
Our Māori representation

Māori makeup nearly 50% of the population in Tairāwhiti and for the next local body election Council would like to know if we should introduce one or more Māori wards (or seats) on Council. This would mean that eligible voters on the Māori parliamentary roll would vote for candidates for Māori wards. Voters on the general electorate vote for candidates from the current wards.

Establishing Māori wards would help ensure Māori representation in Council is more reflective of the makeup of our community. Councillors in New Plymouth and Tauranga have recently voted to establish Māori ward/s in the next local body election. Is it time for Tairāwhiti to do the same?

Do you want Council to consider introducing Māori wards in the next local government elections? *

- Yes
- No

Tell us why?

- *Within the [Healthy Families NZ](#) workforce is the Kāhui Māori, a collective with an explicit focus on improving equity and health outcomes for Māori, using frameworks that sit within a Māori world view, te ao Māori. [Healthy Families East Cape](#) is part of the Kāhui Māori and takes an explicit focus on improving equity and health outcomes for Māori.*
- *Māori need to be at the decision making table, and the design table developing, testing, prototyping the solutions – this why they are more likely to be beneficial, sustainable and cost-effective.*
- *Council can adopt the [social innovation mindsets](#) to form the practice framework of your innovation work in the region.*

END