

## **DISTRICT PLAN REVIEW UPDATE REPORT**

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### **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this report is provide an update on the District Plan Review and to identify the key steps and communication methods leading up to the release of the Draft Digital District Plan for wider community feedback early next year.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

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

### **TE HUINGA TAUMATUA RECOMMENDATION**

Te Huinga Taumatua endorsed the officer's recommendation.

### **SIGNIFICANCE AND ENGAGEMENT**

This report is provided for information purposes only, and has been assessed as being of some importance.

### **DISCUSSION**

The key objective of the District Plan Review is to assist in the delivery of a progressive district with liveable spaces, business opportunity and natural/cultural values, that delivers on the wider key directions in the Blueprint.

The key milestones for the District Plan Review are as follows:

- Version 1: Draft District Plan (objectives and policies) – Paper based plan was released for community feedback in October 2016 - Completed
- Version 2: Draft Digital District Plan- e-plan for informal feedback
  - Pre-release targeted engagement period– October – December 2017
  - Public release for community comment – February/March 2018
- Version 3: Proposed Digital District Plan - public notification mid-2018.

In October 2016 a soft release of the first version of the Draft District Plan introduced a new planning framework. The new framework focused on objectives and policies and was well received by the community. Since that release, officers have refined the planning framework and significantly redrafted the current paper based "effects-based" District Plan into a leading edge e-plan. The new Digital District Plan is in an e-plan format and includes objectives, policies, rules and planning maps.

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## Item for Decision

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Pre-release engagement with Community Boards, Nga Kaitiaki and key stakeholders is being undertaken before it is approved by Council for wider public input early next year.

Pre-release engagement provides the opportunity to test not only the new rules and spatial mapping but also the functionality of the e-plan. Particular focus will be on:

- Further consideration of the outcomes of Community Board Plans so that local responses to the new planning framework can be considered;
- Continuing discussions with Nga Kaitiaki (mandated group of iwi representatives) and scenario testing to determine the effectiveness of the e-plan in delivering on the key outcomes identified by the group;
- Continuing discussions with key industry and community stakeholders to assess the workability of key planning provisions; and
- Elected member and key community stakeholder briefings with a focus on the contents, functionality and workability of the e-plan.

The pre-release engagement programme below will involve the following:

Date	Target	Purpose
<i>Pre-release engagement on Draft Digital District Plan (October/December)</i>		
Commenced	Peer/professional review and resource consent scenario testing.	Professional peer review to assess workability.
27 October onwards	Nga Kaitiaki workshops - testing resource consent scenarios.	Determine if content delivers on key outcomes sought by the group's recommendations.
27 October onwards	Targeted stakeholder discussions and feedback.	Introduce e-plan and discuss specific one on one issues.
6-10 November	Community Board discussion initiated.	Introduce e-plan and discuss local context for proposed changes.
20-24 November	Elected member drop in sessions.	<b>Introduce e-plan and context for changes.</b>
November onwards	Targeted land development /professional feedback.	Introduce e-plan to assess user experience and workability.
<i>Public release of Full Draft Digital District Plan (February/March)</i>		
5 February 2018 (approved 30)	General community	Public feedback. Land-owner and one-on-one discussion.

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January Council meeting)		Open Days.
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The pre-release engagement period will enable informal testing of various resource consent scenarios with key stakeholders to ensure that the Draft Digital District Plan is workable. It will also provide an early indication of stakeholder and community views on the proposed changes that can be considered prior to the release of the Full Draft Digital District Plan to the wider community in February.

With the ultimate aim of providing more accessible planning information through the e-Plan, it is important to ensure the user experience is a good one. The Draft Digital District Plan process is a cost effective way to help confirm and refine the proposals before they are formalised in the Proposed Digital District Plan.

Running parallel with the District Plan Review have been the Significant Natural Areas and Waahi Tapu Reviews. These will be incorporated into the Draft Digital District Plan, as appropriate. An update on progress with these reviews will be provided prior to public release.

### **Next steps**

Subject to Council approval, the Draft Digital District Plan will be released on 5 February 2018. Information will be provided on the Plan's content and on the public consultation that will be undertaken through to March 2018.

This will involve a wide reaching engagement campaign, including targeted letters inviting comment, on-going meetings with key stakeholders, open days and social media. With the e-Plan's emphasis on the user experience, planning information will be more accessible, improving the opportunities for the community to provide feedback.

The Proposed Digital District Plan is scheduled to be publicly notified in mid-2018 in accordance with Resource Management Act requirements. This is a formal statutory process that will involve submissions, hearings, decisions and the opportunity for submitters to appeal to the Environment Court.

### **FINANCIAL AND RESOURCING IMPLICATIONS**

There are no financial or resourcing implications arising from this information report.

### **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
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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.
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### **Report Details**

Prepared By:	Juliet Johnson (District Planning Lead)
Team:	District Planning Team
Approved By:	Liam Hodgetts (Group Manager Strategy)
Ward/Community:	District Wide
Date:	16 October 2017
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