

3.10 Area Offices

Area offices promote Council's key community outcomes of Vibrant Local Communities and Thriving Economy.

As part of its quality customer service philosophy, the Waikato District Council has developed a 'one-stop-shop' concept at Council offices in Ngaruawahia, Huntly, Raglan, and through agency agreements at Hamilton City Council and at Te Kauwhata. The majority of enquiries can be dealt with by the Customer First team as a first point of contact.

Through Hamilton City Council's office in Garden Place, Waikato District ratepayers are able to make enquiries, pay their rates, dog registrations, resource consents and other charges, and review publications or make submissions.

The Council intends to improve the 'one-stop-shop' concept with additional training for the Customer First team and further improvements to systems and procedures.

The area offices provide an opportunity for the involvement of the local community which promotes belonging and pride in the district. In addition, it enables visitors to obtain information about the district and to identify key attractions and facilities. The Area Offices also provide a key link in the development of local plans, work priorities and business development opportunities.

Distribution of Benefits

The private benefit component is attributable to the benefit gained by individuals from the assistance given by office staff. The public benefit component reflects the service provided to the public through the area offices at Ngaruawahia, Huntly and Raglan, and the agencies in Hamilton and Te Kauwhata. These sites work on a "one-stop-shop" concept, where the majority of enquiries can be dealt with effectively without customers needing to see more than one staff member.

Period of Benefits

This activity is primarily about the delivery of service to current ratepayers and residents. There are no intergenerational equity considerations for this activity.

Contribution of Others

This is an activity aimed at providing access for all members of the community to Council and its range of services.

Costs and Benefits of Separating this Activity

This activity has been separated to provide clear information on the costs associated with having the human presence through area offices. In the past, members of the community have expressed concern about changes to the area offices such as when the Hamilton Office was closed. By keeping it separate, the community can easily and transparently monitor what is happening. Council has the appropriate systems in place to separately identify the cost.

Overall Impact on the Economic, Environmental, Social and Cultural Factors

The area offices provide a measure for the community to find out information about the district, attractions and services. In other words the activity assists with tourism and economic development. Area offices also fill a valuable need in relation to social and cultural goals. The activity encourages involvement of the local community.

Funding Conclusion

The private recovery is through the sale of prepaid rubbish bags in Raglan. Council considered that the most appropriate method to recover the public benefit component is General Rate and UAGC. There is no planned capital development for this activity.

3.11 Grants and Donations

Council is involved in this activity in order to use its income redistribution powers to make grants to community organisations, where that expenditure will contribute towards Council's vision for the district. Council also administers discretionary funds which reflect community needs on a self-determination basis. All key community outcomes of Vibrant Local Communities, Thriving Economy and Sustainable Living Environment are addressed through this activity.

This activity promotes recreational activities, provides community facilities and fosters arts and cultural development. In addition, it engenders a greater sense of belonging to the local community.

Waikato District Council also acts as the agency for the distribution of Hillary Commission and Creative New Zealand funds. This promotes Council's role as a partner with government agencies.

Grants to organisations such as Whaingaroa Harbour Care promote and protect the environment. Grants to other organisations such as Waikato Coalfields Museum promote arts and culture and attract visitors to the area and therefore benefit the economy.

Distribution of Benefits

Clearly the beneficiaries from the activity are those that receive grants. The success of this activity depends on how successfully the grants are distributed and used.

Period of Benefits

There are no intergenerational equity considerations for this activity.

Contribution of Others

Council must evaluate a range of grant applications. As long as a prudent process is followed, there should be little impact on this activity.

Costs and Benefits of Separating this Activity

Consideration was given to merging this activity with Community Liaison but the activities are different – this is about grants, whereas community liaison is defined contracts.

Council has the appropriate systems in place to separately identify the cost.

Overall Impact on the Economic, Environmental, Social and Cultural Factors

This activity impacts on economic, environmental, social and cultural considerations through the provision of grants.

Funding Conclusion

Central Government subsidies provide a portion of the cost of this activity. The balance is public benefited and funded by General Rate and UAGC.

3.12 Community and Safety

Council is engaged in this activity to promote its key community outcomes of Vibrant Local Communities and Thriving Economy.

The legislation that governs Council's involvement in this activity is the Civil Defence Emergency Act 2002.

Council is required, as part of a national, regional and local network, to establish a civil defence organisation for the Waikato District in case of natural disaster or calamity. This is in the interest of public safety.

In the future, Council's role will change as the Civil Defence Emergency Management Act places more emphasis on a regional response, rather than a local response. Council will therefore work in partnership with other local authorities in the region.

Distribution of Benefits

Benefits accrue to those who require assistance in the event of a civil defence emergency. The public benefit lies in the fact that the whole of the District benefits from a state of readiness in the event of an emergency.

Period of Benefits

This activity is about being prepared and being able to respond in the event of an emergency. There are no intergenerational considerations for this activity.

Contribution of Others

This activity is largely about being prepared for natural disasters but events such as chemical fires may arise from human intervention.

Costs and Benefits of Separating this Activity

There is no other logical grouping for this activity. Council feels this activity is separate and distinct and should stand alone.

Council has the appropriate systems in place to separately identify the cost.

Overall Impact on the Economic, Environmental, Social and Cultural Factors

This activity is concerned with public health, public well-being, protection of the environment and the restoration of the economy in the event of a disaster.

Funding Conclusion

Council considered that the most appropriate method to recover the public benefit component is General Rate and UAGC.

There is no planned capital development for this activity.

3.13 Property

Camping Grounds

Council has one camping ground in Huntly and another in Raglan. Council is involved in this activity as it views camping grounds as having a direct social and economic benefit to the district in promoting tourism.

This activity also facilitates community development through providing safe recreational facilities which are available for use by the community. Visitors are also attracted to the area which assists in bringing the world to the district.

The Raglan Kopua Holiday Park is part of the Te Kopua Reserve. Activities at the camp are controlled, and focus is now being given to the development of a management plan for the reserve. This plan will endeavour to ensure environmental impacts are considered and managed in a sustainable manner.

Council Buildings

Through this activity Council has in place its internal infrastructure which provides community facilities (such as the Riverside Room at Huntly) to Facilitate Community Development and Develop Our Economy.

Council chooses to own and occupy offices in Ngaruawahia, Huntly and Raglan as it considers this more economically viable than leasing facilities. Generally the cost of leasing is higher and this option is used where organisations do not have sufficient capital to purchase outright.

Through these Council facilities the community is encouraged to build a sense of belonging and pride. These facilities also provide the opportunity for local businesses to survive, grow and develop.

Investment Property and Plant

This activity supports Council's key strategy of Developing Our Economy. Council owns a range of plant and equipment which provides the internal infrastructure required to undertake a full range of activities.

Council owns a range of properties that it holds for a variety of reasons. These broadly fit into the following categories:

- commercial properties owned for investment purposes, including the Clyde Street office and carpark buildings
- properties held for future development
- properties owned by the Council that hold reserve status.

Council's property portfolio is continually under review with consideration given to the long-term benefits of Council's involvement.

Distribution of Benefits

The private benefit is to those people who rent or utilise our facilities.

The public benefit is in relation to the provision of facilities designed to cater to the needs of the community and for future reserve use.

Period of Benefits

The nature of the expenditure for this activity is in relation to repairs and maintenance. From time to time major capital development work is undertaken. In this case loan funding would be considered as an option.

Contribution of Others

Tenants and Lessees have the ability to impact on the quality and standards of the facilities. There is no evidence of this to date.

Costs and Benefits of Separating this Activity

This activity provides funds from a variety of sources and this ultimately results in a drop in the General Rate requirement.

Historically this activity has been split into components like camping grounds, Council depots and buildings etc. Council has therefore consolidated these into one activity.

Overall Impact on the Economic, Environmental, Social and Cultural Factors

This activity promotes social and cultural factors (some of the buildings are used for these purposes). In addition, Council has invested in properties to assist with reducing the cost of General Rate and in providing properties to develop other businesses.

Funding Conclusion

This activity is funded through rentals and internal Fees and Charges (which are on-charged at an activity level).

Capital expenditure is generally funded out of the rental income but any significant development might be loan funded.

The development of Market Square is being funded out of General Rate to reflect the benefits to the community of this strategic investment.

Community Centres

Community centres contribute to the achievement of Council's key community outcomes of Vibrant Local Communities and Thriving Economy.

Council is involved in halls and community centres in response to community demand. Halls, particularly those situated in rural areas, have long been the cornerstone for many rural communities. They form a meeting place for social, sporting and recreational activities. In addition, the facilities provide the opportunity for local plans and work priorities to be established. For example, the Taupiri Community Board formulates strategies utilising its local hall.

Ngaruawahia and Huntly community centres are maintained by Council. Other halls and community centres are run by local committees and the Council is merely the administrative mechanism on behalf of the local committees.

Council ensures that all halls and community centres are maintained to a certain standard through asset management plans.

Community Centres promote safety in the community by building on a sense of commitment and belonging to the local community. Council receives a contribution from Hamilton City Council to support a community hall where the benefit is shared between Hamilton and Waikato District ratepayers.

Distribution of Benefits

The community at large benefit from a variety of halls throughout the district which form part of the social infrastructure at a local level. They are an important community asset, particularly in rural communities. Individual users also benefit through the availability of the halls which fill a need at a local level.

Period of Benefits

Council's involvement in halls and community centres is largely historical. Whilst Council has asset management plans for these facilities, there is no planned replacement programme. Intergenerational equity has been considered but council has resolved to fund projects as they arise. Council wishes to encourage the use of these facilities as it considers this promotes community development, consultation and promotes social harmony.

Contribution of Others

Clearly direct users can have an impact on the standard and quality of the facilities. The local committees which run these halls take great pride in them and work to ensure the assets are protected.

Costs and Benefits of Separating this Activity

Community halls are an important part of our community development programme. Whilst the activity is primarily about property assets, the focus is on community facilities rather than investment assets. This is a different focus to the other property assets which Council own. Council has the appropriate systems in place to separately identify the cost.

Overall Impact on the Economic, Environmental, Social and Cultural Factors

The focus of this activity is geared around social and cultural factors. The halls are part of the local community and promote the development of local activities.

Funding Conclusion

Council considered that a Targeted Rate and a minor contribution from Hamilton City form the bulk of the funding mechanism. A small proportion should be publicly funded through the General Rate and UAGC to reflect the benefit to the community as a whole.

Capital expenditure is generally funded directly through the Targeted Rate with some minor contributions from General Rate and UAGC where there is a clearly identified public benefit.

Housing for the Elderly

The reasons for engaging in this activity are largely historical. Originally Central Government offered low interest loans to local authorities, funding up to 100% of building costs. This was an incentive to encourage local government into urban renewal programmes. However, in 1993 the Government stopped providing any new funding for such activities and increased interest on loans to market rates.

Council believes that it is fulfilling a social expectation by continuing to provide housing for the elderly in Huntly and Ngaruawahia.

Council believes that this activity is consistent with its key community outcomes of Vibrant Local Communities. In addition, the facilities encourage a wider sense of belonging and involvement in the local community.

The Local Government Act 2002 also notes that housing for the elderly units are strategic assets where they are "required to maintain the local authority's capacity to provide affordable housing as part of its social policy".

Distribution of Benefits

The beneficiaries are the tenants who receive accommodation at affordable prices. There is a public and social benefit in having housing for the elderly units available at large.

Period of Benefits

Council believes it has a social responsibility to continue to provide this service. Council is maintaining its current level of involvement and is not undertaking major capital development for the future. Funding solutions are therefore targeted at existing and previous users.

Contribution of Others

There is a small risk that tenants may misuse the facilities and this will impact on the cost of providing this service.

The units are reviewed on a regular basis and are subject to an asset management plan aimed at protecting the community investment in this activity.

Costs and Benefits of Separating this Activity

The Local Government Act defines Housing for the Elderly as a strategic asset. For this reason Council has elected to treat this as a separate activity. Council has the appropriate systems in place to separately identify the cost.

Overall Impact on the Economic, Environmental, Social and Cultural Factors

The impact of this activity can be measured in terms of social and cultural considerations. Council is taking a socially responsible approach in making these assets available.

Funding Conclusion

Whilst there is a public benefit in relation to this activity, the primary beneficiaries are the tenants. Council concluded that this activity should be self-funding through property rentals. Property rentals have been set at a realistic and affordable level.

Capital work is funded through reserves and rent.

Raglan Wharf and Harbour

Council has undertaken this activity as successor to the Raglan Harbour Board. The wharf is a restricted asset vested in the Council and cannot be sold. A number of specialist industries utilise the facilities encouraging economic development and employment.

This activity is consistent with Council's key community outcomes of Vibrant Local Communities, Thriving Economy and Sustainable Living Environment.

The Raglan Harbour offers many recreational facilities and Council sees its involvement from a public safety perspective in providing beacons for navigational purposes. This is seen as paramount for the well-being of residents and visitors.

The Raglan Harbour provides access to our community by boat and involves us, in partnership with Environment Waikato, in ensuring that the environment is protected.

Distribution of Benefits

The Raglan wharf and harbour provide recreational facilities for the community at large. This also imposes requirements such as safety beacons which are used to protect public safety. Council has undertaken this activity as successor to the Raglan Harbour Board. The wharf area is undertaken as a commercial operation with the tenants receiving a direct benefit.

Period of Benefits

The Raglan Wharf and Harbour are managed through an asset management plan which outlines the requirements to maintain and develop the wharf in the future. Historically, the activity has been self-funding with rental income used for maintenance and development of the wharf area. At this stage, there is no long-term development programme which would require intergenerational considerations to come to the fore.

Contribution of Others

Tenants on the wharf have the potential to impact on the quality and standard of the facilities.

Costs and Benefits of Separating this Activity

This activity has largely been separate because of historical considerations and the nature of the income. The wharf is a restricted asset which cannot be sold. A number of harbour board properties are also owned and these are endowment properties. Council has the appropriate systems in place to separately identify the cost.

Overall Impact on the Economic, Environmental, Social and Cultural Factors

The Raglan wharf provides an industrial area for economic activity. Environmental considerations pertain to the harbour area and there is a strong social and cultural theme evident in the area. This is best illustrated in the Raglan Naturally Community Plan which places great emphasis on the importance of the harbour.

Funding Conclusion

Council considered that the most efficient and appropriate method to recover the cost is through rentals.

3.14 Funds Management

The Funds Management activity supports Council's key community outcome of Thriving Economy.

This activity manages Council's treasury and investment operations. This involves administering funds collected through depreciation, a number of general purpose reserves and targeted rate reserves. This activity also reviews Council's bad debt position on an ongoing basis.

Through Funds Management, Council achieves compliance with the Treasury Management Policy adopted by Council in March 2003.

Through effective utilisation of reserve funds, Funds Management assists in providing residents of the district with essential infrastructure services which are affordable.

Distribution of Benefits

The public benefit from this activity arises through the various investments (both fixed term and through shareholdings such as Tanlaw) which reduce the requirement for other funding sources.

The private benefit is in relation to the funding of specific activities and funds which directly benefit from this activity.

Period of Benefits

The effective management of funds reduces the reliance on other forms of funding and therefore benefits the ratepayer at large.

There are no intergenerational equity considerations for this activity.

Contribution of Others

This activity is largely self-sufficient with the only impact being bad debt write-offs which relate to specific debtor accounts.

Costs and Benefits of Separating this Activity

This activity does not logically fit with any other. It is concerned primarily with investment and strategic assets. For those

reasons it has been separately disclosed. Council has the appropriate systems in place to separately identify the cost.

Overall Impact on the Economic, Environmental, Social and Cultural Factors

This activity is concerned with assisting economic drivers – both directly through employment in Tanlaw and in endeavouring to keep rates down enabling businesses to grow.

Funding Conclusion

This activity is self sustaining through interest, dividends and Fees and Charges and also contributes other funds to effectively reduce the requirement for other forms of funding such as rate. There is no capital development requirements for this activity.

3.15 Animal Control

Council links the animal control activity to its key community outcomes of Vibrant Local Communities and Sustainable Living Environment.

Local authorities are empowered under the Dog Control Act 1996 and, under section 6(1), “shall perform any functions or duties, and may exercise any power imposed or conferred on it by this Act”.

Council is seeking to promote a high standard of dog control and care so that people can enjoy the benefits of dog ownership without adversely affecting other members of the public. It is also seeking to achieve these standards through a range of methods including:

- structuring registration fees to promote responsible dog ownership
- visiting dog owners to address welfare and registration issues
- promoting owner education and dog obedience courses
- setting a bylaw requiring dogs to be on a leash in public places unless the bylaw provides otherwise. Dogs may be off a leash in certain free run areas. Dogs are prohibited from the main shopping areas of Ngaruawahia, Huntly and Raglan and from a few other sites
- issuing instant fines or Court summonses for breaches of the Act or breaches of the Council’s Dog Control Bylaw
- owner classifications (probationary or disqualified) and provisions for dealing with barking or aggressive dogs as provided for in the relevant Act.

Council has a responsibility to ensure that roaming stock (particularly on roads) do not cause a danger to motorists, and that escaped stock do not cause a nuisance to residents and property. Council has a defined stock impounding yard at Ngaruawahia. Pounds are required to be provided under the Impounding Act 1955. Council works in close liaison with neighbouring local authorities in meeting its obligations under this activity. Through a combination of control and education Council is able to seek to minimise the impact of these animals on our environment.

Distribution of Benefits

Both dog owners and the public at large benefit from this activity. The public benefit is in respect of protecting people from dangerous dogs.

Period of Benefits

The focus of this activity is very much the current community. There are no intergenerational equity considerations for this activity.

Contribution of Others

The vast majority of complaints are in relation to unregistered dogs or dogs which are not adequately controlled. Clearly the amount of control exercised over their dogs by dog owners affects the success of this activity.

Costs and Benefits of Separating this Activity

This activity is seen as distinct from any other activity. No other activity involves any form of animal. Council has the appropriate systems in place to separately identify the cost.

Overall Impact on the Economic, Environmental, Social and Cultural Factors

This activity is focused on protecting the community and in this manner, social and environmental considerations are to the forefront.

Funding Conclusion

Council elected to fund the private benefit portion from dog registration fees and infringement charges. The public benefit portion should be recovered through the General Rate and UAGC. There is no planned capital expenditure for this activity.

3.16 Building Control

This activity is primarily directed at Council’s key community outcomes of Vibrant Local Communities and Sustainable Living Environment.

It is mandatory under the Building Act 1991 for the Council to issue consents for building development in the district and to ensure compliance with the Building Code (note that undertaking the physical work of ensuring compliance with the Building Code is discretionary, but the Council has elected to do this on the grounds that the Building Control unit has been assessed to be competitive).

The demands for information in this area are primarily of a private nature. Prospective developers need assistance and consents before undertaking work.

The overriding reason for compliance with the Building Act is public safety.

Council works closely with other local authorities, particularly in relation to the relocation of buildings into and out of the district and to establish common standards on such issues as leaky buildings.

Through regulation and the promotion of building standards Council seeks to safeguard its heritage sites and buildings. This contributes to protecting and Safeguarding Our Environment.

Distribution of Benefits

The public benefit component relates to the over-riding reason for the Building Act – the promotion of public health.

The Act states that it is mandatory for Council to issue consents for building development in its area. The private benefit component of this activity relates to the issuing of building consents to new purchasers and PIMS reports. A direct beneficiary is clearly identifiable.

Period of Benefits

This activity is about service delivery to current ratepayers and residents. There are no intergenerational equity considerations for this activity.

Contribution of Others

Clearly builders and developers must maintain high standards for the objectives of this activity to be achieved.

Costs and Benefits of Separating this Activity

With recent publicity surrounding building standards and leaky buildings, Council considered it was appropriate to separately disclose this activity.

Council has the appropriate systems in place to separately identify the cost.

Overall Impact on the Economic, Environmental, Social and Cultural Factors

This activity is about ensuring appropriate building standards so that the community can have confidence that buildings of a suitable standard are being constructed in the district. This activity is also focused on protecting our heritage and cultural concerns.

Funding Conclusion

Council considered that the most efficient and appropriate method to recover the private benefit portion is Fees and Charges.

Council considered that the most appropriate method to recover the public benefit component is General Rate and UAGC.

There is no capital expenditure planned for this activity.

3.17 Environmental Health

Environmental Health is an activity which supports Council's key community outcomes of Vibrant Local Communities and Sustainable Living Environment.

Section 23 of the Health Act 1956, as amended by the Health and Disability Services Amendment Act 1995, states:

"It shall be the duty of every local authority to improve, promote and protect public health withinthe district."

Council's involvement extends to a number of areas including the sale of liquor, noise control, infectious diseases, dangerous goods, hazardous substances and food premises in accordance with relevant legislation. Drink drive/road safety projects are also jointly undertaken with the Road Safety Co-ordinator under the auspices of the North Waikato Liquor Liaison Group.

Council officers monitor each of these activities and enforce compliance with the relevant Act. As part of this enforcement process Council works with government agencies to ensure compliance. A key strategy is to protect and manage our natural resources in a sustainable manner.

Distribution of Benefits

Public benefits to the community arise from the promotion and conservation of public health by ensuring compliance with the statutory standards set for health, noise, infectious diseases, liquor licensing and hazardous substances. Public education is also an important role.

The private benefit is in relation to the owners who benefit from licences and advice about improvements to health, hygiene and safety conditions on their premises.

Period of Benefits

This activity is about service delivery to current ratepayers and residents. There are no intergenerational equity considerations for this activity.

Contribution of Others

The persons to whom licences are granted can impact on this activity. The result can be infringement notices, although to date this has been rarely used.

Costs and Benefits of Separating this Activity

This activity already combines a diverse range of issues such as liquor licensing, noise control, infectious diseases and food premises regulations. Because of this diversity and because this activity is principally linked to the Health Act, Council has chosen to separately identify this activity. Council has the appropriate systems in place to separately identify the cost.

Overall Impact on the Economic, Environmental, Social and Cultural Factors

Clearly this activity is focused on protecting our environment through monitoring noise control and infectious diseases. Social considerations are in relation to protecting public health.

Funding Conclusion

Council considered that the most efficient and appropriate method to recover the private benefit portion is fees and charges.

Council considered that the most appropriate method to recover the public benefit component is General Rate and UAGC.

There is no planned capital expenditure for this activity.

3.18 Resource Management

Council works in partnership with neighbouring local authorities to try to ensure consistency and sustainability. In addition, there are often common interest areas such as Lake Rotokauri (with Hamilton City Council).

The primary reason for Council incurring expenditure for this activity is contained in the Resource Management Act 1991. In addition, this activity is focused on Council's key community outcomes of Vibrant Local Communities, Thriving Economy and Sustainable Living Environment.

Other reasons for involvement in this activity include:

- control of the effects of individuals on the air, water, soil and ecosystem can best be achieved by integrated management within a single policy approval framework
- provision of a mechanism that ensures land owners and other groups use the environment in a manner that provides opportunity for future generations
- provision of a central and comprehensive record of publicly available information about the environment and its condition
- reflection of the community views and responsibilities which require Council's leadership, as required by the Resource Management Act 1991
- to encourage a District which cares for its heritage, buildings and other natural treasures.

Distribution of Benefits

The private benefit relates to the processing of designations and private plan changes initiated to update the District Plan.

Council has assessed that there is a high public benefit component to reflect the service provided to the public through the development of the District Plan and other resource management reporting. The Resource Management Act 1991 directs Council's activities in this area.

Period of Benefits

As with other regulatory functions, this activity is focused on service delivery and not capital development. The emphasis is on providing a service to the current residents and ratepayers.

Contribution of Others

This activity is principally about providing advice and facilitating land usage in a structured and logical way. There are no identified parties who affect the way in which this activity is carried out.

Costs and Benefits of Separating this Activity

Consideration was given to merging this activity with Environmental Consents Planning but these activities have a different focus. Resource Management Planning is about the development of a tool box to facilitate land usage. Environmental Consents Planning is about using tools from the tool box. For this reason Council elected to treat them separately.

Council has the appropriate systems in place to separately identify the cost.

Overall Impact on the Economic, Environmental, Social and Cultural Factors

This activity is about facilitating growth whilst ensuring appropriate environmental protection is in place. Through workshops it has become increasingly clear that the District Plan is a key component of economic development. Through joint committees such as Lake Rotokauri, Council is able to assist social and cultural development.

Funding Conclusion

Council considered that the most efficient and appropriate method to recover the private benefit component is through Fees and Charges to the direct users of this service.

Council considered that the most appropriate method to recover the public benefit component is General Rate and UAGC.

There is no planned capital development for this activity. Environmental Consents Planning

Environmental Consents Planning is similar to resource management in that it supports Council's three key community outcomes of Vibrant Local Communities, Thriving Economy and Sustainable Living Environment.

Environmental Consents Planning is primarily concerned with the administration of the District Plan through resource and building consents, educating people about land use, processing and enforcing resource consents and related activities.

There is both national and international interest in our District Plan. The national interest comes from other local authorities, Ministry for the Environment, other environmental groups and developers. There is international interest in how our Council is integrating the principles of Agenda 21 (a plan to achieve sustainable development throughout the world).

The emphasis of this activity is on environmental protection and sustainability. The District Plan is also a key factor in encouraging and attracting businesses and in protecting local interests and priorities. Council's District Plan has been tailored to meet the needs of the District, with particular emphasis on quality of life and long-term sustainability.

Distribution of Benefits

The private benefit component is attributable to the processing of land use and subdivision consents which benefit individual landowners.

The public benefit component relates to the administration of the District Plan and the enforcing of conditions of resource consents and activities. This service (with Resource Management) ensures the provision of a central and comprehensive record of publicly available information about the environment and its condition.

Period of Benefits

As with other regulatory functions, this activity is focused on service delivery and not capital development. The emphasis is on providing a service to the current residents and ratepayers.

Contribution of Others

Through the Resource Management Act Council is able to identify non-compliance with legislation and take action against exacerbators. In practice this has been rarely invoked.

Costs and Benefits of Separating this Activity

Consideration was given to merging this activity with Resource Management Planning but these activities have a different focus. Resource Management Planning is about the development of a tool box to facilitate land usage. Environmental Consents Planning is about using tools from the tool box. For this reason Council elected to treat them separately.

Council has the appropriate systems in place to separately identify the cost.

Overall Impact on the Economic, Environmental, Social and Cultural Factors

The implementation of the District Plan can have a positive or negative impact on economic development in the District.

This activity is focused on sustainable development and protection of the environment. Social and cultural factors are associated with the protection of heritage which is a key component of the District Plan.

Funding Conclusion

Council considered that the most efficient and appropriate method to recover the private benefit component is through Fees and Charges to the direct users of this service.

Council considered that the most appropriate method to recover the public benefit component is General Rate and UAGC.

3.19 Rooding

Rooding supports Council's key community outcomes of Vibrant Local Communities, Thriving Economy and Sustainable Living Environment.

Rooding has been considered a core function of local government for many years. Given the size of the Waikato District, the provision of adequate rooding is a consistent goal.

Other reasons for providing this service are as follows.

- There is a Central Government partnership through Transfund New Zealand to fund 50% of the district's local roading maintenance costs. Currently these funds can only be distributed to local authorities which conform with the Transit New Zealand Act 1989.
- It is believed that, because of the prohibitively high asset investment and maintenance costs and inefficient charging systems currently available, no other organisation would provide the service, that is the financial returns would be discouraging to private sector interest.
- Another reason for involvement is the notion that roading is a network. There may be some roads that could be attractive to a toll system and may generate economically attractive returns that encourage private sector capital. However the remaining lower vehicle volume roads would be left to the public sector. The network notion suggests that the road transport system can only operate as a whole and therefore should be managed as a collective asset. This is in line with the Land Transport Strategy of supporting roading as a network on a national and regional basis.
- Through the provision of roading Council is focused on high standards which promote safety and enable easy access to all parts of the district and beyond.
- Council also actively promotes and facilitates safety improvements, especially road and rail crossings, footpaths, pedestrian facilities, street lighting, road markings, signage and intersection improvements. It also recognises accident black spots and programmes action in consultation with relevant parties.
- Roading provides the infrastructure so that residents and visitors can travel to other parts of the country.
- Council endeavours to ensure that the roading network is efficient and affordable through planning and appropriate maintenance programmes.

Council employs an in-house business unit to undertake roading design work in line with the Transit New Zealand Amendment Act 1995. This is considered to be economically more efficient than contracting out the service.

Traffic and Infringements

This activity supports the key community outcomes of Vibrant Local Communities and Thriving Economy.

Council has some parking regulatory responsibilities, particularly in Huntly and Ngaruawahia, but also works in partnership with the Police to promote the use of safe vehicles by requiring evidence of vehicle inspection (warrant of fitness) and registration. This in turn focuses on movement through the district with ease and safety.

Rural Fire Control

Council is engaged in this activity to promote its key community outcomes of Vibrant Local Communities, Thriving Economy and Sustainable Living Environment.

The legislation that governs Council's involvement in this activity is the Forest and Rural Fires Act 1977. Council is the regulatory provider for administering the above Act. This is also in the interest of public safety.

Council works in partnership with Thames-Coromandel District Council, Hauraki District Council and Matamata-Piako District Council in a joint rural fire initiative.

The emphasis is on developing local plans and work priorities to deal with fires which may affect various parts of the district.

Through training and preventative programmes, Council aims to ensure that rural fires are dealt with swiftly with minimum effect on the environment.

Road Safety

The Road Safety activity supports Council's key community outcomes of Vibrant Local Communities and Thriving Economy.

Council has a responsibility as the road controlling authority to promote safe use of the roading network. The Road Safety activity encompasses the activities of the Road Safety Co-ordinator, which includes an educational role, assessment of road safety issues and road safety publicity campaigns. Activities are undertaken in conjunction with the Land Transport Safety Authority who fund a portion of this activity. Joint projects concerned with driving and alcohol consumption are also undertaken together with the North Waikato Liquor Liaison Group.

Through a focus on road safety, Council encourages the movement of vehicles through the District with ease and safety. This is therefore seen as assisting with the Strategic Plan key theme of Developing Our Economy.

Litter and Abandoned Vehicles

This activity contributes to the key community outcomes of Vibrant Local Communities, Thriving Economy and Sustainable Living Environment.

Council has a statutory responsibility under the Litter Act 1979 to be engaged in this activity. Community pride in our townships has created significant demand to keep our streets clean and inviting for residents and visitors alike.

In addition, over the last few years abandoned vehicles have become a significant problem for Council. In removing abandoned vehicles Council is endeavouring to ensure that traffic is able to move throughout the District safely and efficiently. The removal of litter and abandoned vehicles seeks to reduce some of the contaminants which may adversely affect our environment.

Distribution of Benefits

Users of the roads clearly receive a direct benefit. A review of our roading network indicated 7% of usage related to specific persons.

The public benefit relates to that portion of the network serving the general public and more than one property owner. Because we have a predominantly rural roading network, we rely on major links through Transit New Zealand to enable people to move throughout the District.

Part of this activity is geared to handle litter and abandoned vehicles. A clean environment (litter free) promotes general community pride. Council also has a statutory responsibility under the Litter Act 1979 to deal with litter issues.

Period of Benefits

Roading is very much a long-term asset. There are constant demands for further roading development as well as upkeep on the existing network. Council manages these demands through the Annual Plan Process. Council has identified the long-term benefits of developing new roads and consequently funds this through loans as well as reserves, financial contributions and Transfund subsidies. Some General Rate funding may be used if required.

Contribution of Others

Heavy trucks and high volume users impact on the quality of our roading network. Specific industries also have an impact which is monitored on an ongoing basis. Planning endeavours to factor all these considerations into the development of a roading programme.

Litter and abandoned vehicles are cases where individuals have relinquished ownership and passed the problem onto the community.

Costs and Benefits of Separating this Activity

Historically this has been split into the activities of general Roothing, Litter and Abandoned Vehicles, Rural Fire Control, Road Safety and Traffic and Infringements. In practice, these activities all have a common theme and are administered by the same department. For these reasons Council elected to merge this into one activity.

Overall Impact on the Economic, Environmental, Social and Cultural Factors

A strong roading network is a key component of attracting businesses to the District and clearly has an impact on economic development. Social and cultural considerations are also facilitated by enabling efficient movement through the District. Environmental considerations are important, particularly in relation to litter.

Funding Conclusion

The operating costs are funded by the General Rate with the private benefit funded by subsidies, parking fees and infringement income.

Capital development is funded by General Rate, subsidies, reserves, loan and financial contributions.

4 Performance Measures

Objective

To maintain a mix of funding mechanisms to meet the total funding requirements of the District.

Target

- General Rates and UAGC do not fund more than 45% of total expenditure.
- Fees and charges and rent fund at least 10% of total expenditure.
- Council presents a balancing budget after allowing for non-funding of depreciation on non-critical assets.