

What is happening?

We're proposing to change the boundary between Hamilton City and Waikato District. This would bring the area known as R2 (between Gordonton Road and the Waikato Expressway) into Hamilton's boundary. This aligns with our existing Strategic Boundary Agreements and our shared approach to planning for long-term growth.

The boundary change is a proposal, and will include a consultation with you.

Why is this change being proposed?

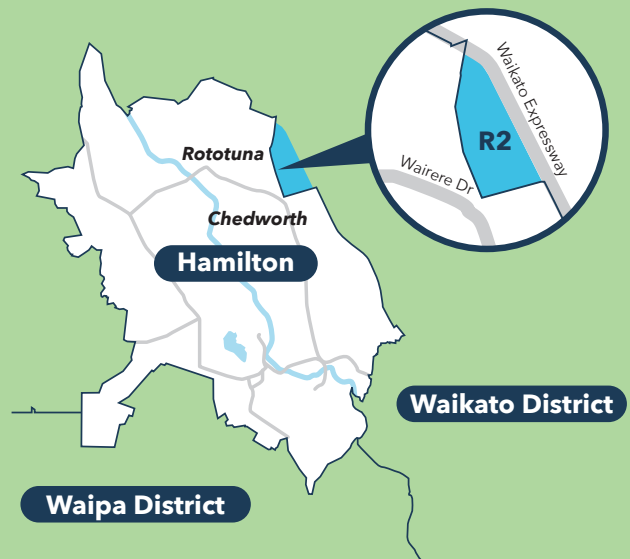
Growth in this area is happening quickly and the boundary change helps make sure the right council is responsible for the right places. New fast-tracked developments are happening on Hamilton's edges. These areas will naturally function as part of the city and rely on Hamilton's infrastructure and services.

What does this mean for me?

Regardless of whether the boundary is changed, the fast-track development will mean the R2 area is going to change. If a boundary change were to go ahead, your property would become part of Hamilton on 1 July 2027. You would pay Hamilton rates, and have access to Hamilton services.



Register your details
[Haveyoursay.hamilton.govt.nz/R2boundary](https://haveyoursay.hamilton.govt.nz/R2boundary)

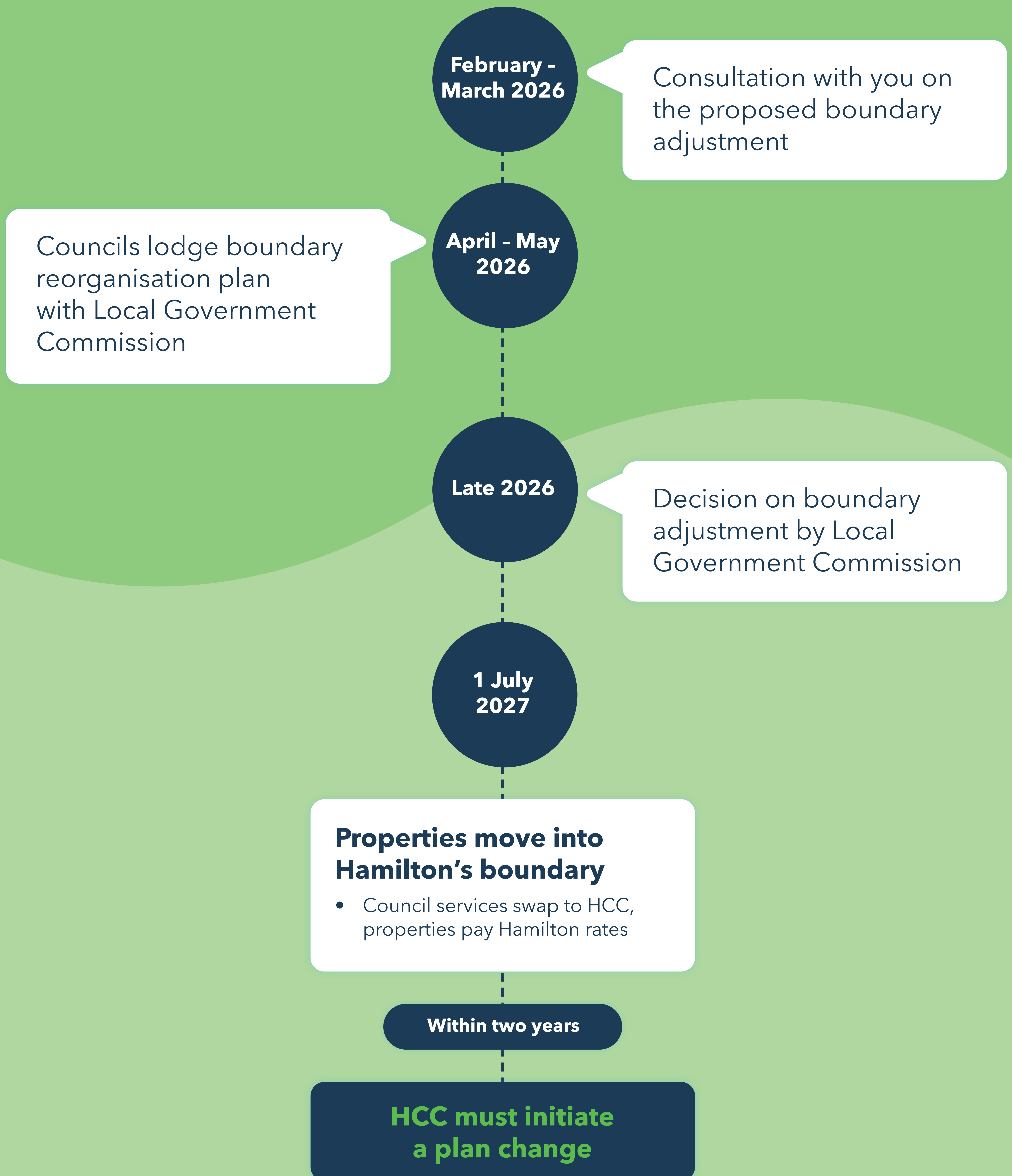


Have your say

You will be consulted on whether you agree with the boundary change. First, we want to make sure you have all the information you need. Please register your details, and let us know any questions you have. Once your questions are answered, we'll ask for your feedback on the proposal.



R2 boundary change timeline



Frequently asked questions

What is happening?

We've started the formal process to adjust the boundary between Hamilton City and Waikato District. This would bring the area known as R2 (between Gordonton Road and the Waikato Expressway) into Hamilton's boundary. This aligns with our existing Strategic Boundary Agreements and our shared approach to planning for long-term growth.

Landowners will receive clear information about what this means and will have opportunities to ask questions and provide feedback.

Why is this change being proposed?

Growth in this area is happening quickly and the boundary change helps make sure the right council is responsible for the right places. New fast-tracked developments are happening on Hamilton's edges. These areas will naturally function as part of the city and rely on Hamilton's infrastructure and services.

What happens to infrastructure and services during the transition?

Waikato District Council will continue to look after roads, rates, rubbish, stormwater, regulatory services, and all other responsibilities until the boundary adjustment is formally completed.

We'll give landowners clear timelines and let them know early if anything is going to change.

Is this happening right away?

No. A boundary adjustment is a formal process and takes time. Nothing changes immediately, and you will hear from us well in advance of any decisions.

First, we want to talk to you about what a boundary adjustment would mean. Then we'll formally ask for your feedback, before we lodge a request with the Local Government Commission.

How will my rates change?

If the boundary change goes ahead, your property would gradually move over to Hamilton City Council's rating system. Hamilton and Waikato District calculate rates differently, so the amount you pay may change over time.

A few factors would influence your future rates, including:

- changes to the value of your property (for example, from new development in the area) and
- the level of services you would receive from Hamilton City Council.

If the boundary change is approved, we will provide clear, plain-English information explaining how the transition works and what it means for you. This will help you understand the timing and plan for any changes.

Who will represent me after the change?

You'll be represented by Hamilton City Council's Elected Members.

Who will maintain water services during and after a boundary change?

IAWAI - Flowing Waters will continue to deliver and service water infrastructure across Hamilton and Waikato District, regardless of boundary adjustments. This ensures a consistent, high-quality water service during the transition and beyond.

Will school zoning change?

School zones are managed by the Ministry of Education, not councils. At this stage, no changes are expected, but we'll share updates if that changes.

What will the R2 area be zoned when/if it moves into Hamilton?

If the R2 area were to move into the Hamilton City boundary, a plan change will be required to determine the zoning. A Fast-track application does not change the underlying zoning.

Following any boundary change under the Local Government Act 2002, Council will initiate a plan change to apply an appropriate zone to the area consistent with the land uses consented through the Fast-track consent and Master Plan attached to that consent. The specific zones would be determined through that plan change process.

In practice, the most straightforward and likely approach would be to apply zones that corresponds to the land uses being proposed through the Fast-track application (for example, residential or industrial), subject to statutory requirements, technical assessment, and consultation through the plan change process.

Will I get an opportunity to provide feedback on the Fast-track proposal?

Fast-track applications do not generally involve public submissions.

You will only be invited to provide comments if you are:

- a landowner or occupier of land where the project is proposed, or
- an owner or occupier of adjacent land, as defined under the Act and associated guidance.

Under the Fast-track Approvals Act, the Expert Panel may invite comments from a limited range of parties only, including:

- relevant local authorities,
- relevant iwi authorities and Treaty settlement entities,
- landowners and occupiers of the project land and adjacent land (where they can be identified),
- the Minister for the Environment and other relevant portfolio Ministers,
- relevant administering agencies (such as the Environmental Protection Authority, Heritage New Zealand, the Ministry of Primary Industries, the Department of Conservation), and
- other parties specifically identified in the legislation for particular circumstances.

There is no general public consultation process for Fast-track proposals.

Who do I contact if I have questions?

You can contact Waikato District Council in the usual way. Our customer-facing teams will have up-to-date information and can help you understand what the changes may mean for you.

Will I have to register my dog with Hamilton City Council after the boundary change?

If your property becomes part of Hamilton following a boundary change, future dog registrations will be managed by Hamilton City Council.

Any existing dog registration will remain valid until it expires. When it is time to renew, registration would then be completed with Hamilton City Council in line with its dog control requirements.

More information about timing and what owners need to do will be provided closer to any boundary change taking effect.

Can I continue to keep a rooster? What's the maximum number of chickens I'm allowed to have as a Hamilton resident?

If you'd like to keep a rooster in Hamilton, you'll need to apply for a permit.

You can keep chickens on your property.

Can I keep bees?

You can keep bees on your property in Hamilton so long as they do not create a nuisance to your neighbours. The number of hives depends on the size of your section and how well you manage them.

What about planning and building consents?

Any planning or building consents already issued by Waikato District Council would remain valid if a boundary change goes ahead. Once the R2 area becomes part of Hamilton, any new planning or building consent applications would be assessed by Hamilton City Council. These applications would be considered under the parts of the Waikato District Plan that applied at the time the boundary change took effect, along with Hamilton City Council's building consent processes. A Plan Change would be needed to change the zoning of the area and fully apply the Hamilton City District Plan to the area.

If a development has been approved by the Environmental Protection Authority through the Fast-track Approvals process, Hamilton City Council would take over responsibility for administering that approval after a boundary change.

How can residents and landowners have their say on the boundary adjustment?

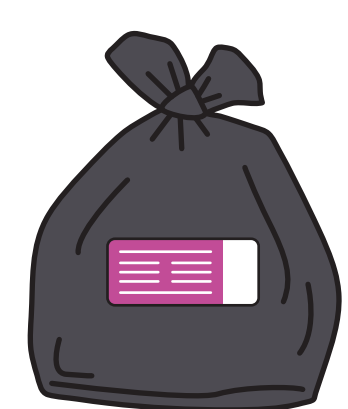
There will be multiple opportunities for feedback, including formal consultation before any final decision is made. Both councils will share details about meetings, submissions, and online channels so every affected landowner and resident can be heard.

Council services

Waikato District - R2 area

Hamilton

Rubbish and recycling

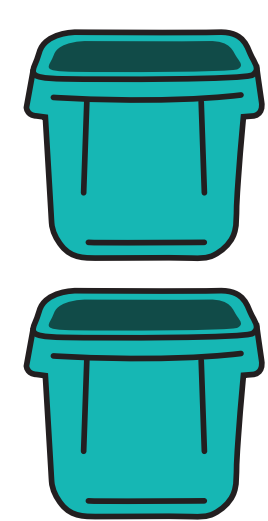


Weekly collection of recycling and Council rubbish bags.

Properties are charged per dwelling.

Rubbish bags must:

- have a pre-purchased sticker (currently \$3 each)
- be no more than 15kg
- be up to 60L maximum size.



Two recycling crates can be put out each week.

Recycling must be placed in the crate except cardboard and/or paper, which can be placed between or under a crate or in a cardboard box.



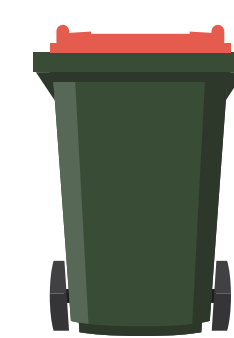
Food scraps bins

Weekly collection. For fruit, vegetables, cooked food, meat, fish, coffee grounds, etc.



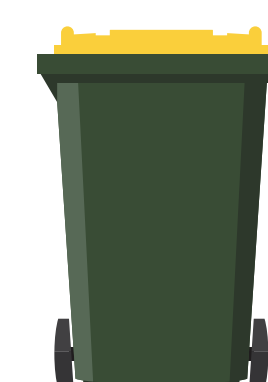
Glass crate

Fortnightly collection with yellow recycling bin and food scraps bin. Clean/rinsed glass bottles and jars. No lids.



Red rubbish wheelie bin

Fortnightly collection alternating with recycling. For items that cannot be reused, recycled or donated.



Yellow recycling wheelie bin

Fortnightly collection alternating with rubbish. Clean/rinsed plastics 1, 2, 5, tins and cans with lids off, paper and cardboard.

Animal control



Dogs

The cost to register a dog with Waikato District Council depends on whether your dog is desexed and whether you qualify for a responsible owner status discount.

As a guide, annual registration fees generally range from around \$90 to \$130 per dog.



Chickens and roosters

R2 residents can keep roosters and chickens, as long as they meet certain requirements. For example, poultry must be kept at least three metres away from property boundaries.



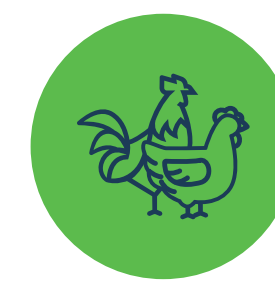
Bees

Bees can be kept, as long as the property is larger than 500m².



Dogs

The cost to register a dog in Hamilton depends on the age of your dog, and factors such as whether your dog is imported and whether you've been a responsible dog owner. Costs typically range from \$110 to \$187. You will need to pay \$90 for a special permit to keep three or more dogs.



Chickens and roosters

You can keep chickens on your property. However, keeping a rooster requires a permit from Hamilton City Council.



Bees

You can keep bees on your property in Hamilton so long as they do not create a nuisance to your neighbours. The number of hives depends on the size of your section and how well you manage them.

Water services



IAWAI is your new water organisation, publicly owned by Waikato District Council and Hamilton City Council and working in partnership with Waikato-Tainui.

From 1 July 2026, IAWAI be responsible for delivering drinking water and wastewater services for Waikato and Hamilton communities. Stormwater services will remain council-owned, operating under contract.

IAWAI will continue to deliver and service water infrastructure across Hamilton and Waikato District, regardless of boundary adjustments. This ensures a consistent, high-quality water service during the transition and beyond.

From 1 July 2026, and if your property moves into the Hamilton city boundary, there will be no change to how you pay for water.

- You'll still receive one invoice that includes your rates and fixed water charges.
- You'll continue to get a separate water meter bill twice yearly.
- You'll continue to pay using the same payment options.

Rates

The below examples compare the 2025/2026 rating information for Hamilton and R2 properties in Waikato District. **They are not indicative of how rates could change for R2 properties.**

Waikato District

Assumptions:

Wastewater is not available. No charge.

Water is supplied by meter and includes a water supply charge on the rates bill.
Swimming pool inspections are invoiced separately.



Rural - lifestyle properties in R2

Property value	2025/26 Rates
\$1m	\$3640
\$2m	\$5844
\$3m	\$8048

Hamilton

Assumptions:

Wastewater is not available. No charge.

Water is supplied by meter and all charges are included on the water bill.
Swimming pool inspections are added to the rates bill.



Residential properties

Property value	2025/26 Rates
\$1m	\$3,607
\$2m	\$6,349
\$3m	\$9,091

This includes the first house/unit – add \$865 for any additional.

How property values in R2 could change

Regardless of a boundary change, development and growth in the R2 area could change your property value, and therefore your rates. This includes:

- the fast-track development progressing
- other development occurring in R2
- recent sale prices of properties in R2
- a change to zoning of the area in the District Plan (e.g. from rural to residential)
- shifts in the property market.

With a boundary change

Hamilton and Waikato District use different methods for determining property rates. If a boundary change were to go ahead, your property would be revalued and new rates applied.

Some key differences:

- Hamilton charges higher rates for commercial properties.
- In Hamilton, the capital value (property value) makes up more of the rating calculation.
- Hamilton does not have rural zoning in the District Plan.