



Upper Hutt Urban Growth Strategy

A Strong Community Facilities Network

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Overview

Upper Hutt prides itself on having an especially strong and active community base. Facilities which meet the needs of the community include community halls, public offices, community clubs, libraries, and recreation centres as well as places of assembly like schools, hospitals, health care facilities and places of worship.

The amount of land provided for these facilities is highly dependant on the historical development of a community, the density of residential development, land prices and demographic structure.



Community Facilities Provided by Council

The key public facilities are described below.

Library

The Library service is comprised of the Central Library which includes the Children’s Library, the Pinehaven Branch Library and a mobile library.

A full review of the Library service was undertaken in 2005 and it identified a number of issues relating to the physical infrastructure. Notably, the current library space is at maximum capacity and there is not enough space to accommodate the range of services expected from a city public library. The study concluded that redevelopment of the Library building is the key to the future success of the Library.

Council is committed to upgrading the Central Library, and will soon be undertaking work on funding options and the detailed design, prior to making a final decision on the future library service. This investigatory work is due to be completed by mid 2008, and further community consultation will be required then to decide on what library service will be provided for future years.

Expressions Arts and Entertainment Centre

The Expressions Arts and Entertainment Centre was opened nearly four years ago, and comprises the Genesis Theatre, a 200-seat theatre, the Mount Marua and UnitedNetworks exhibition galleries, Riverstone Recreation, a café and offices. Council owns the Centre and leases it to the Expressions Arts and Entertainment Trust, who provide cultural, arts and leisure services for the city.

Capital works proposed over the next ten years will make the Centre work more effectively rather than provide additional facilities for a larger population.

H²O Xtream

H²O Xtream is a fun-oriented aquatic facility which opened in 1996. While it has a focus on fun for 10-14 year olds, it is available for use by

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the community at large. Many users come from around the Wellington region as well as elsewhere in New Zealand, especially over the school holiday periods. Council owns the pool and carpark adjoining.

Capital works proposed over the next ten years are intended to keep the pool at the leading edge of fun rather than to provide additional facilities for a growing population.

Visitor Information Centre

The Visitor Information Centre has been operated by Council for a number of years. It is part of the nationwide **i-site** branded Visitor Information Network and specialises in information on local events, activities and services. Council leases the i-site space on the ground floor of CBD Towers.

Council has no plans to extend this space as a result of population growth.

Community Buildings Owned by Council

Council owns four buildings in the vicinity of the Upper Hutt Health Centre, which are leased to community groups at nominal rentals.

This site offers potential for more intensive development at some stage in the future, being in close proximity to health services and within the city centre.

Community Buildings on Council Owned Land

Historically, Council has enabled community groups to locate facilities on suitable areas within its parks and reserves network for a nominal rent to cover the lease of the building site. For example, recently the former Brentwood School Hall was relocated to Timberlea Park, and has now been set up as an e-learning centre.

Usually when the club no longer requires the building they may remove it, or it reverts to Council ownership at no cost to the Council.

Akatarawa Cemetery

The Akatarawa Cemetery covers 11.20 ha of land and is expected to have space for the next 30 years, based on current trends. A privately owned crematorium operates from the site. Hutt City Council has purchased land adjoining and designated it for cemetery purposes. Negotiations are currently underway for a joint cemetery service. The capacity for both blocks of land is approximately 165 years for the Hutt Valley as a whole.

There is no need to provide additional land for cemetery purposes in this strategy.

Civic Administration Building

Council operates from the Civic Administration Building in Fergusson Drive, an award winning building which is now nearly 40 years old.

There is no need for additional land to provide for the Council's administrative functions.

Rural Fire Depot

On the 1st February 2007 a contract was signed between Hutt City Council and Upper Hutt City Council combining their Emergency Management and Rural Fire services creating Hutt Valley Emergency Management. Hutt Valley Emergency Management will operate from their Lower Hutt Office with provisions in Upper Hutt to relocate to in an emergency. The Park Street Rural Fire Headquarters, which also operates as the alternative Emergency Management Headquarters will continue to be utilised.

There is no need for additional land in the foreseeable future.

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Education Facilities

Upper Hutt features thirteen primary schools, two intermediate schools, and four secondary schools. Most of these sites have been designated by the Ministry of Education. Education facilities are provided for as discretionary activities in the residential areas of the city, and are permitted activities in the business zones.

The Ministry of Education has been liaising with the four state intermediates and colleges [Maidstone, Fergusson, Upper Hutt and Heretaunga] with the view to identifying a new way of delivering education for Year 7 to 13 students.

There are a number of pre-school facilities, including kindergartens, kohango reo, playcentres and child care centres. At present these are listed as controlled activities and may be located throughout the urban areas of the city. Council considers it more appropriate to assess these activities in the same way as other educational facilities, as the types of effects on the environment are similar.

Orongomai Marae

Orongomai Marae holds a special place in the community, being the pan-tribal marae for Upper Hutt. Located at the corner of Maidstone Park, the Marae and associated buildings provide the base for a range of cultural, spiritual, social, health and educational services to the community. Council is represented on the Orongomai Marae Community Centre Committee.

The Marae is likely to become a greater focal point within the community as the city centre expands across the rail corridor to link with Maidstone Max and new retail activities.

Other Community Facilities

There are a wide range of other facilities provided by different groups and organisations throughout the city and used for a wide range of purposes. Some businesses also provide important community services, such as health care, fitness and education, and often collaborate with the not for profit and volunteer sectors of the community.

Council works with the community in a wide range of ways, with the Community Services division taking a leading role in facilitating ongoing development of groups and organisations.

This rich community fabric is one of the greatest strengths of the Upper Hutt community, a feature which all residents have said they want future generations to inherit.

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Strategy: Provision of Community Facilities

There are three key themes to the community facilities component of this strategy:

1. Provide for community facilities
2. Take financial contributions
3. Use the structure and concept plan processes to identify areas for new community facilities.

1. Provide for Community Facilities

Council is committed to fostering the growth and development of the community sector. It will continue to encourage participation, build partnerships, develop and strengthen the community and value social capital. It will facilitate ways for groups to work collaboratively to make best use of buildings and other capital investments.

Council remains committed to working with the Orongomai Marae Trust Board and Community Centre Committee to ensure that appropriate physical spaces are available for their effective operation, now and in the future.

As part of implementation of the Upper Hutt Active Recreation Plan, Council will review the location of club buildings on parks and reserves, with the intention of making sure that best use is made of existing facilities, and where possible, facilities are shared.

Council will continue to provide for the development of community facilities in the District Plan in a range of ways throughout the city, with the emphasis being on the management of the environmental effects of the activity.

Council will liaise with central government and other agencies active in the community sector to ensure that the needs of the local community are addressed effectively. This may include liaison with the Ministry of Education, the Hutt Valley District Health Board and Police in relation to education, health and safety.

Council proposes to review its provisions in the District Plan for childcare and early education facilities, with the intention of increasing the threshold for their establishment from the current controlled activity standard. They would then need to address the same environmental issues as educational facilities through the resource consent process.

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2. Take Development Contributions

Council will assess the use of development contributions for any major library redevelopment, as one of a number of funding sources, to ensure that the costs of building in capacity to the new library for a growing population will be recovered from new developments.

Council will continue to monitor the city's population growth, and if further extensions are required to the community facilities it provides as a result of growth, Council will extend the use of development contributions.

Any change to the Policy on Development Contributions will be the subject of further community consultation when the LTCCP is reviewed.

3. Use the Structure Plan Process to Identify Areas for New Community Facilities

For significant new areas of greenfield development, Council will use the structure plan process to identify the range and location of key new community facilities, notably schools and places for groups to meet.

Implementation Summary

ACTION	AGENCY	PRIORITY
Ongoing provision and facilitation of community facilities	UHCC	Ongoing
Identify new areas for community facilities through the development of structure and concept plans for new development	UHCC and Private Developer	Ongoing
Consider the use of financial contributions as a funding source towards community facilities	UHCC	Low