



### Community Partnerships

As previously reported, Council is aware that in order to provide better services, at a better value to ratepayers we need to work together with other agencies. The 2009-19 Long Term Plan identified that Council would develop and support meaningful relationships with other organisations, with the aim of developing specific, local solutions. While Council could not contribute directly, its involvement helped progress the development of the outcomes.

In 2010 Council initiated Rangitikei – a Path to Well-being, with a conference in Taihape. Another conference was held in October 2011. Both conferences attracted 115-120 delegates from more than 70 agencies. Meanwhile, Council has facilitated this collaboration through the Path to Well-being Partnership Board and Theme Groups. Examples of improved collaborative working are:

- The Marton Community Development programme, funded over three years by the Department of Internal Affairs, that has supported a range of community initiatives including the development of a Youth Centre in Marton



Marton Youth Centre - Cenntennial Park, Marton

- The Marton and Surrounds ICT Hub, establishing computer facilities in Marton and Ratana with start-up funding from the Government's Community Partnership Fund



Marton ICT Hub, Blackwell St, Marton

- The HYPE and Business Support programme, under contract to the Ministry for Social Development, supporting seventeen young people into local employment during the past nine months in southern Rangitikei



HYPE and SPEIRS Foods Partnership

- Active networking groups in north and south of the District bringing together health and social services agencies to develop and promote more local services



Tai-Happy hour business networking

- Joint promotional initiatives that have brought the Rugby World Cup 2011 Real New

Zealand Festival to Rangitikei with events in our gateway towns of Taihape and Bulls and the lining of our main streets with flags

- Community safety initiatives such as an event focussing on men's health at Ratana and the extension of neighbourhood support to Taihape through an innovative collaboration between Rotary, Police, Maori Wardens and Older and Bolder
- Stronger relationships between the town coordinators in Bulls, Marton and Taihape that has led to more focused activity to create even more vibrant town centres

Council has identified a number of key strategic priorities for the District, some of which may be considered to fall outside the provision of core services. These are:

- Maintaining locally accessible health and educational services
- Attracting (and retaining) sustainable businesses in the District;
- Attracting people to the Rangitikei to live (or to stay living here)
- Iwi and multi-cultural relationships
- Community resilience (the impact of climate change in the increasing number and severity of storm events and the ability of local communities to respond and recover)



Rangitikei – A Path to Well-being conference, Arahina 2011

Earlier this year, Council commissioned a report "Making Rangitikei Home: Strategies on how to keep families, retirees and indigenous people" which brought together examples of successful good practice from around the world and identified some common themes around partnership and collaboration. A full copy of the report can be found on the website [www.rangitikei.govt.nz](http://www.rangitikei.govt.nz) but in summary, these are:

- Promoting the District as a "lifestyle destination" i.e. as a place where people will want to move to because of its great lifestyle
- Developing a community-based web presence to encompass social media that can be used as a tool to connect people to, and from within our communities.
- Supporting cohesive and vibrant communities that have a positive vision for the future and an open acceptance of diversity
- Developing, with partners, the right mix of service provision to complement the attractions of the natural landscape and vibrant communities
- Strategically targeting former residents of the Rangitikei or those who currently have family living here, to move back
- Develop and promoting family-friendly policies through partnership working in the Rangitikei
- Particularly working to develop transport services in the Rangitikei that meet the needs of the existing population and possible migrants
- Leveraging affordability of housing as an incentive to attract new migrants
- Developing community partnerships to build local support networks to implement the care and transition of school leavers, to ensure that young people will contribute effectively as citizens of this District in the future
- Facilitating partnerships and community development to help and/or attract or retain Maori population in the area

Over the past three years, there has been good progress in developing a culture of collaboration and partnership between agencies, organisations, communities and individuals across the District. Council is proposing that this Long Term Plan includes a new activity of community partnerships which formally recognises and develops the Path to Well-being initiative.

This will include continuing to invest in activities that promote community cohesion and community resilience. It is proposed that the investment from Council is primarily through more targeted support for, and expectations from, community development agencies in the District, specifically Project Marton, Bulls and District Community Trust and Taihape Community Development Trust. The strategic intent of this investment is to grow cohesive, vibrant and resilient communities in the main population areas, to help attract businesses and residents and sustain growth.



First meeting of the Green Plum district promotion group

The suggested levels of service for the community partnerships activity are given below and your feedback would be very welcome. Contact us on 0800 422 522 or via the website at [www.rangitikei.govt.nz](http://www.rangitikei.govt.nz) or drop your written comments in to any of Council's libraries or service centres in Marton, Bulls or Taihape.

What people want	Appropriate range of well-used Council and community facilities and services.
Council will	Proactively seek out opportunities for collaboration and support/facilitate inclusive partnerships to deliver more services in the community.
Good value for money	Council cannot afford to provide the full range of services using only input from ratepayers. The rationale for this activity is to maximise the services and facilities that are available to the community at the minimum ratepayer input.
Rationale	There is a range of contestable funding sources, some of which the Council is best placed to apply to on behalf of the various communities in the District and others that Council is not able to apply to directly but can work with and support partner agencies to apply to. In addition, Council can work with statutory, community and private sector agencies in the District to pool resources and avoid duplication.

What people want	Increased social capital/ cohesion/resilience
Council will	Provide opportunities to be actively involved in partnerships that provide community and ratepayer wins
Good value for money	Council sees the future for the District as vested in developing active and proactive communities that are better placed to be self-sufficient and self-supporting.
Rationale	Communities know best what their needs are and Council's role is to support and encourage community action.

The 10 year plan (2012-22) will be consulted on formally in early 2012, but there is a lot more to do in the meantime to prepare the draft.

### The Rangitikei District Council Long Term Plan Timeline 2011-2012

