

Name/Organisation	A hearing will be held in late 2023. Would you like to present your submission to Council at the hearing?	Submission Point	Topic	Plan Section	In scope	Staff Comments
Herenga a Nuku	Yes	<p>1.1 Purpose</p> <p>Herenga ā Nuku notes that the list of recreational uses does not include walking or cycling with dogs. We suggest that dogs are covered in the general heading to reflect the demand for opportunities to exercise with dogs.</p>	Purpose – Dogs	1.1	Not within scope.	This is a matter best dealt under the Dog Control Bylaw.
		<p>For clarity, we recommend the document defines the modes of use, for example, by foot, cycle or horseback, as well as by micro modes of transport such as scooters.</p> <p>And then it should provide examples of the reason for using trails: For example, commuting, micro-mobility, getting to school/health</p>	Purpose - Modes of Transport	1.1	Within scope	Add to 1.1 Purpose – <i>Active modes of transport provide alternatives for community, getting to school, fitness, exercise and social connection.</i>

		centres/shops/cultural/spiritual places, fitness, exercising dogs, social connection, enjoyment of the outdoors, connecting to public conservation areas/coast/waterways for activities such as hunting, fishing, kayaking or rock climbing. Then the above could be referred to as recreational use rather than referring to a combination of modes and reasons for use.				
		We strongly support using a live spatial data set to replace printed maps. Using digital maps improves readability, adds flexibility for change and can be viewed using a variety of base layers. We note that the GIS system used in the initial stakeholder engagement was not fit for purpose, cumbersome and unreliable for external users.	Spatial Mapping	1.3	Within Scope	No changes to plan. Staff will explore alternative options or improvements to the existing spatial data system.
		Herenga ā Nuku encourages the council to engage more specifically with mana whenua. By the nature of these principles, 'we will work together' etc., could be strengthened to read: Sometimes tangata whenua find it difficult to access wāhi tapu (sacred places) on private land or to cross private land to sites of particular significance. We will seek opportunities to create tracks and trails that enable mana whenua to connect to the whenua, for example, to enable access to sites for mahinga kai, restore ancestral trails	Mana Whenua	2.	Within Scope	Amend wording to read "We will work together to address access to <i>wahi tapu</i> , restore ancestral trails and access site of cultural significance like <i>urupa</i> ."

		and access sites of cultural significance like urupā or wāhi tapu areas. Such trails could be either exclusively for those who hold mana whenua or for public use, depending on the wishes of mana whenua.				
		<p>Under National Context – legislation, add: Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014 Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Amendment Act 2019</p> <p>Also: Waka Kotahi’s guidance, including ‘Streets for People’ and ‘Healthy Streets’. Under Local context, add: Our vision: Livable, Thriving Connected Communities [Waikato District Council]</p>	Planning and Policy	3.	Within Scope	Include the relevant legislation/principles provided in the submission to the Strategy.
		<p>We support the reasons outlined for promoting walking and cycling [outdoor recreation]</p> <p>Add key benefits: -Economic benefits arising from greater use of tracks and trails -Passive surveillance can help reduce crime</p> <p>Increased social connectivity. Post-Covid lockdowns have highlighted the value of being able to recreate locally</p>	Benefits of walking, cycling, mountain biking and horse riding.	4.	Within Scope	<p>Includes the following points within the section.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic benefits arising from greater use of tracks and trails • Passive surveillance

						can help reduce crime
		<p><u>Meeting community needs</u> Respecting property rights private property rights: Private landowners can be key to creating new access. Herenga ā Nuku can assist in this process. (see https://www.herengaanuku.govt.nz/about-us/news/news/barbarastuart-of-cable-bay-station-talks-about-allowing-public-access-on-farmland) We suggest amending this to ensure that trails are created on either public land or private land where enduring permission for the trail has been secured from the landowner.</p>	What are the key issues we face?	5.	Within scope	Amend the first bullet point under <u>Meeting Community Needs</u> to read: Respecting property rights of private landowners whilst encouraging <i>enduring</i> access agreements.
		<p><u>Meeting Community Needs</u> Balancing the needs of different user groups: We note the importance of recognising that recreationalists' abilities cross a spectrum from those with limited mobility to users with expert and specialist skills. Some tracks will cater for a wide range of user abilities, and other trails will meet highly targeted user groups, such as downhill mountain bike tracks.</p>	What are the key issues we face?	5.	Within scope	Amend the third bullet point under <u>Meeting Community Needs</u> to read: Balancing the needs of different user groups, a variety of fitness levels, mobility impaired and ages. <i>Some tracks will cater for a</i>

						<i>wide range of user abilities, and other trails will meet highly targeted user groups, such as downhill mountain bike tracks.</i>
		<u>Strategic Planning</u> Replace the term “paper roads” with “unformed legal roads”, as this terminology emphasises that unformed roads are public roads with rights of access.	What are the key issues we face?	5.	Within scope	Amend the third bullet point under Strategic Planning and replace “paper roads” with “unformed legal roads”
		<u>Strategic Planning</u> Have a process to manage working with known and unknown archaeological sites and sites of significance to tangata whenua to reduce the risk to the council of inadvertently damaging sites of significance.	What are the key issues we face?	5.	Not within scope	This issue is best dealt with by WDC’s Heritage Strategy. Recommended made.

		<p><u>Health & Safety</u></p> <p>While the council needs to ensure compliance with health and safety protocols when designing, constructing and promoting trails, it is not responsible for the health and safety of recreational users (refer to Work Safe Guidelines). An overly cautious approach to the recreational use of trails will unnecessarily limit recreational opportunities for specialised activities.</p> <p>While Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) is a consideration for track location and design, we recommend balancing this with recognising the value of passive surveillance arising from increased public use of specific areas.</p>	What are the key issues we face?	5.	Within scope	Amend the third bullet point under Health & Safety to read: Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) and general safety concerns, <i>noting that trails can provide passive surveillance.</i>
		<p>We recommend the replacement of Objective One: Our trail network will be safe....with:</p> <p>Objective One: Our trail network will support, encourage and stimulate current and future use of our trails, promoting the improved physical, mental and social wellbeing of our community.</p> <p>The proposed version provides an aspirational objective with community wellbeing at the core. It should be a given that the council will create trails that are safe.</p>	Objectives & Policies. Objective 1: Our trail network will be safe and promote the mental and physical health benefits of connecting people and places together.	6.1.1	Within Scope	Amend Objective 1 to read: <i>Our trail network will support, stimulate and encourage current and future use of our trails, promoting the improved physical, mental and social wellbeing of our community.</i>

		<p>Objective Three</p> <p>Amend Policy 2 to include the potential for new connectivity within and through new subdivisions:</p> <p>Ensure transport and land use planning, particularly proposals for new subdivisions, facilitates trails being well integrated into the active transport network.</p>	<p>Objectives & Policies.</p> <p>Objective 3: Environmentally sustainable design is at the heart of our connected network.</p>	6.3	Within scope	<p>Amend Objective 3, Policy 2 to read:</p> <p><i>Ensure transport and land use planning, particularly proposals for new subdivisions, facilitates trails being well integrated into the active transport network.</i></p>
		<p>Objective Four</p> <p>Policies</p> <p>Add 6. Recognise that not all trails require formation to be valuable</p> <p>Add 7. Recognise the economic benefits that can arise from a strong trail network for both domestic and international tourism</p>	<p>Objectives & Policies.</p> <p>Objective 4: Continue to evolve a well planned network to meet our community needs</p>	6.4	Within scope	<p>Include the two policies proposed in submission under 6.4:</p> <p><i>6. Recognise that not all trails require formation to be valuable</i></p> <p><i>7. Recognise the economic benefits that can arise from a strong trail network for both domestic and international tourism</i></p>

	<p><u>Land ownership/accessibility</u></p> <p>We endorse the concept of having a way of prioritising trails so that council investment can proceed rationally.</p> <p>We recommend that land ownership/accessibility criteria be described as enduring public access.</p> <p>The rationale for using land ownership/accessibility is not provided. It might be to give greater weighting for access over public land compared to private land. Herenga ā Nuku suggests that a more useful criterion would prioritise creating access where there is enduring public access over the underlying land. This is more relevant than the underlying landownership. The key issue is not the nature of landownership but if enduring public access can be created for the trail. This would cover public and private land where enduring public access can be secured (via easements or covenants). We recommend that this criterion is changed to:</p>	Prioritisation Assessment Criteria	9.1	Within Scope	<p>Amend 9.1 Assessment Criteria Land Ownership/Accessibility to <i>Enduring legal access for the length of the trail.</i></p> <p>Amend the analysis point 3 to read: Ownership or legal accessibility established/<i>can be achieved.</i></p>						
	<table><tr><th>Assessment Criteria</th><th>Weighting</th><th>Assessment Criteria and Weighting Analysis</th></tr><tr><td>Enduring legal access for the length of the trail</td><td>0.08</td><td>Ensuring that enduring legal access for the whole trail means the trail route is secure, which is important when public money is used to create public assets.</td></tr></table>	Assessment Criteria	Weighting	Assessment Criteria and Weighting Analysis	Enduring legal access for the length of the trail	0.08	Ensuring that enduring legal access for the whole trail means the trail route is secure, which is important when public money is used to create public assets.				
Assessment Criteria	Weighting	Assessment Criteria and Weighting Analysis									
Enduring legal access for the length of the trail	0.08	Ensuring that enduring legal access for the whole trail means the trail route is secure, which is important when public money is used to create public assets.									

	<table><tr><th>Assessment Criteria</th><th>Weighting</th><th>Assessment Criteria and Weighting Analysis</th></tr><tr><td>Connectivity</td><td>0.15</td><td>Does the trail connect communities and other trails (for example, DOC, Te Araroa, Te Awa and other WDC trails)? Does the trail provide connectivity to areas that provide recreational activities (for example, fishing or hunting) or areas of scenic value? Does the trail provide connectivity within, between and through residential areas?</td></tr></table>	Assessment Criteria	Weighting	Assessment Criteria and Weighting Analysis	Connectivity	0.15	Does the trail connect communities and other trails (for example, DOC, Te Araroa, Te Awa and other WDC trails)? Does the trail provide connectivity to areas that provide recreational activities (for example, fishing or hunting) or areas of scenic value? Does the trail provide connectivity within, between and through residential areas?	Prioritisation Assessment Criteria	9.1	Within scope	No change to plan. The Assessment Criteria <i>Significance</i> covers off the proposed amendments to the <i>Connectivity</i> criteria.
Assessment Criteria	Weighting	Assessment Criteria and Weighting Analysis									
Connectivity	0.15	Does the trail connect communities and other trails (for example, DOC, Te Araroa, Te Awa and other WDC trails)? Does the trail provide connectivity to areas that provide recreational activities (for example, fishing or hunting) or areas of scenic value? Does the trail provide connectivity within, between and through residential areas?									
	We encourage the Council to facilitate volunteer involvement in trail construction and maintenance by having clear and practical policies and procedures for volunteer work on trails, including support for the reasonable disturbance of the surface of unformed legal roads to create a new trail.	Other Considerations	9.3	Within scope	Amend 9.3 to include a heading for: <i>Volunteers: Is there volunteer interest in the construction and maintenance of the trail?</i>						
	We encourage the council to uphold the public right to pass and repass on unformed legal roads and consider how the network of unformed legal roads can contribute to creating new low-cost trails for the district. In particular, we encourage the council to focus on facilitating public use of unformed legal roads that connect people and areas where there is either limited or high demand for public access, for example, to the West Coast (including to Whaingaroa Harbour), areas of significance like the Waikato River, and in areas with anticipated high population growth like Pokeno and Tuakau town centres.	Other Considerations	9.3	Within Scope	Include a new policy for 6.4 to include “Consider how to improve access to unformed legal roads to improve access to areas of significant”						

		We submit that the strategy would benefit from referencing the WDC Climate Response and Resilience Action Plan Framework so that the benefits and actions to facilitate active transport are written into the strategy.	Planning and Policy – Setting the context of the Connectivity Strategy	3.	Within Scope	The Climate Response and Resilience Policy will be incorporated within the table listed in Section 3 of the Strategy.
		The strategy would benefit from referencing the council's vision of Liveable, Thriving, Connected Communities. For example, we encourage the council to focus on establishing the habit of exercising as a social norm for the community. A good first step is to ensure that places of learning (for example, schools) have practical off-road walking/cycling options for communities to access their local learning centres, supported by no vehicle access at the start and end of the school day, or reduced speed limits around schools, during those times if key routes.	Vision	1.2	Within Scope	Council's vision of Liveable, Thriving and Connected Communities will be incorporated within Section 1.2 of the Strategy. Other aspect of this submission point are either outside of scope or incorporated within the existing strategy or recommended changes.
		Tracks and trails need to be closed occasionally for various reasons, and if the closure is not effectively communicated, it can be frustrating to track users. We encourage the council to consider how it communicates the closure of tracks and trails, and we recommend adding this process to this strategy.	Other Considerations	9.3	Not within Scope	This is an operational issue. Closures do occur for various reasons and the response and communications may differ depends on the situation.

		<p>Concluding comments</p> <p>In summary, we commend updating the 2016 Trails and Trails Strategy, especially using digital mapping.</p> <p>This new strategy provides the council with the opportunity to reference the changes within the community (planned population growth) and changes to the environment (climate change), and changes in how people recreate (greater self-directed recreation and increasing interest in active transport options). It provides opportunities to realise the connectivity aspirations of tangata whenua. Most importantly, it gives the council a framework to practically implement its vision, Liveable, Thriving, Connected Communities. We encourage the council to embrace these opportunities.</p>	Miscellaneous Comments		Within Scope	No changes recommended. Staff appreciate Herenga a Nuku's submission.
Sport Waikato	Yes	<p>Thank you: On behalf of the people of Waikato District, Sport Waikato thank you for your ongoing contribution to play, active recreation and sport. District and city councils are key enablers of physical activity, and your effort and investment are noted and sincerely appreciated.</p> <p>Specifically, we celebrate council's consistent approach to highlighting walks and activities through its social media channels.</p>	Miscellaneous Comments			No changes. Staff appreciate Sport Waikato's submission.

		<p>A successful Connectivity Strategy document will address the range of active recreation and commuting needs of communities, understanding multi-modal travel options, with the purpose of connecting people, places, and purposes. Importantly, this balance should also consider accessible tracks, trails, and bridle paths required to access bush, off-road, and nature settings (blue and green spaces), as well as footpaths and cycleways of urban settings (grey spaces). Sport Waikato recommends reviewing the terms, definitions, and language used throughout the document to ensure that this balance is met, and for clarity and consistency. Specifically, the use of the word "trails" throughout the document implies an imbalance away from grey spaces, whereas the term "connections" is more balanced and coherent within a Connectivity Strategy document.</p>	Purpose	1.1	Within Scope	<p>No changes. "Connections" is deemed as an ambiguous term that could incorporate more widely other forms of transport outside of the scope of the strategy. Appropriate terms such as tracks (mountain biking), trail (walking) and paths (bridle, foot) have been used to acknowledge readability.</p>
		<p>Waikato adults are active in a range of spaces and places. According to Active NZ (2021), 40% of adults living in the Waikato district are physically active using roads and footpaths, 28% use walkways, 16% access public parks, fields, playgrounds, skateparks or BMX tracks, and 14% are active in or beside rivers, lakes and streams. Community survey results also indicate that walkways/footpaths, beaches, rivers or lakes, parks and reserves, aquatic facilities and cycling tracks are some of the most used locations in the Waikato District for being active, among both individuals and families. For example, 17% of Waikato District's community survey respondents used cycle tracks as individuals to support their physical activity, while 30% of respondents indicated that they use these facilities with their families.</p>	Strategy Objectives and Policies	6.1 Our trail network will be safe and promote the mental and physical health benefit of connect	Within Scope	<p>No changes. Submission point outlined supports the policies outlined in Objective 6.1</p>

				ing people and places together.		
		Sport Waikato recommends that infrastructure that supports families (i.e. toilets, drinking water, shade, seating, tables) and promotes overall quality of provision is considered where appropriate throughout the Connectivity Network. This is because 38% of Waikato District residents who responded to the community survey were either dissatisfied or extremely dissatisfied with walkways/footpaths, while 31% were dissatisfied or extremely dissatisfied with cycle paths.	Other – Amenities		Out of Scope	No changes. Submission point outlines matters that are addressed within WDC Parks Strategy.
		Sport Waikato has recently prepared and submitted a DRAFT Play, Active Recreation and Sport (PARS) plan for the Waikato District to Council staff that includes many comments and recommendations that are relevant to your Connectivity Strategy. We recommend that this PARS document is read and sits in conjunction with the Connectivity Strategy and is used to help guide the 2024 LTP process.	Planning and Policy – Setting the context of the Connectivity Strategy	3.	Within Scope	Inclusion of the Play, Active Recreation and Sport (PARS) (and action plans) plan within the local context diagram.

		We suggest Council consider options to support safe walking, cycling, skateboarding and scootering routes near primary, intermediate and secondary schools to support sustained and increased active transport among young people.	Prioritisation of Future Connectivity Projects	9.1 – Prioritisation Assessment Criteria	Within Scope	Include Schools within the assessment criteria for the Benefit of the Connection assessment. New assessment will read <i>3= connection direct link to a park/open space, township centre or school.</i>
		We encourage Council to consider ways to better connect parks and reserves, shared paths and cycleways to extend the active recreation network and enable active transitions between spaces for walkers, runners/joggers, cyclists and those using skateboards and scooters.	Purpose	1.1	Within Scope	No change – These factors draw the purpose of the Connectivity Strategy.
		We encourage Council to continue to support connections between the Waikato District communities and the natural environment – lakes, rivers, bush – for active recreation, including the provision of cycling, walking/running and hiking trails and safe access to natural bodies of water.	Prioritisation of Future Connectivity Projects	9.1 – Prioritisation Assessment Criteria	Within Scope	No change – These factors are noted under the significance heading within the assessment criteria.

		We suggest it would be useful for Council to undertake an active recreation space/facility stocktake to ensure existing network of active recreation facilities meet the needs of users (e.g., provision of seating, shade, amenities).	Strategic Actions	Appendix 1	In scope	Include within Appendix 1 “Undertake an active recreation space/facility stocktake to ensure existing network of active recreation facilities meet the needs of users (e.g., provision of seating, shade, amenities).”
		We encourage Council to consider provision for the horse-riding community in the district	Other – Bridle Trails		In scope	No change – This strategy will outline the provision for bridle trails within the district.
		<p>The Waikato Regional Active Spaces Plan (2020) states the following summary recommendations to support active recreation;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with New Zealand Walking Access Commission to develop a network map that provides a hierarchy of provision, reflecting access, proximity and challenge of each track and trail 	Other – Trails Spatial Map	Appendix 3	In scope	No change – Staff have developed a spatial map to identify proposed trail. Further work is required and the sole purpose of the existing map is to show proposed trails, not to highlight our existing network.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a connected, boundaryless cycling and walking network that links to other play, active recreation and sport sites • Continue investment in development of cycling and walking tracks & trails where need is identified • Focus on optimising and maintaining existing assets • Focus on flexible, accessible, and inclusive provision for all, including low participation groups and aging population. <p>Sport Waikato encourages Council to consider these priorities within the development of the Connectivity Strategy as a key partner in the Waikato Active Spaces Plan.</p>	Prioritisation of Future Connectivity Projects	9.1	In scope	The priorities in the submissions are set out within the prioritisation assessment criteria within the strategy.
		71% of young people in the Waikato District are using active transport to travel to and from school, according to Active NZ (2021). Sport Waikato celebrates this figure and encourages the council to use the Connectivity Strategy and town concept planning opportunities to support more people to choose safe active transport modes for their short-trip journeys. Organisations such as LivingStreets.org.nz make specific recommendations and considerations for school travel.	Prioritisation of Future Connectivity Projects	9.1 – Prioritisation Assessment Criteria	Within Scope	Include Schools within the assessment criteria for the Benefit of the Connection assessment. New assessment will read <i>3= connection direct link to a park/open space, township centre or school.</i>

		Additionally, the opportunity to provide play and playful opportunities outside of formal playground settings through choice-architecture could be explored and included.	Types of users/Categories	7.	Within scope	Amend under the Paths (Walking) heading to read: Can include suitable access for disability <i>and scope to provide play and playful opportunities outside of formal playground settings.</i>
		The Waikato District Community Survey also indicates that 46% of respondents used active transport to access locations to be physically active. The most common modes of active transport were walking/running (30%), cycling (13%), Horses (4%) and skateboarding/scooter (3%). Connectivity was highlighted as both a barrier and opportunity to support active recreation in the district, with many Community Survey respondents indicating a need for increased connectivity between existing walking/cycle networks within the district (from town to town) and between districts (e.g., Franklin): “[There are] so few [paths] that actually link up into a nice walking experience that is safe around the town.” (Tuakau resident) “I’d love more walking options esp. 10km loops with footpaths and fewer scary dogs.” (Te Kauwhata resident)	Other: Proposed Trails		Within Scope	No change to strategy. The spatial data map outlines a number of potential trails/paths that could connect townships together.

		<p>Sport Waikato recommends that access barriers should not be the default solution. Instead, innovative ways should be investigated to retain access for as many people as possible. In addition to the steps, stiles, turnstiles, and kissing gates mentioned in the strategy, many alternative solutions exist, such as gates, squeeze barriers, bar gates, croquet hoops, and other bespoke solutions. These should be considered where appropriate. Additionally, where barriers are installed, they should be clearly communicated to users through websites, signage, and images. This will empower mobility-impaired users to make challenge-by-choice decisions for themselves before arrival about what is or is not suitable, rather than having these decisions imposed by the council.</p>	Types of users/Categories	7.	Within scope	Further discussion with the applicant required.
		<p>Sport Waikato has recently made submissions to the General Policy Reserves Management Plan, Taiao (Nature) in the Waikato, as well as the earlier pre-engagement draft version of this Connectivity Strategy. All of these documents, policies, and strategies play a role in supporting active recreation and physical activity opportunities. Sport Waikato encourages Council to ensure a coherent and coordinated inter-agency approach is taken to fully realize the opportunities and benefits of projects taking place within the Waikato District.</p> <p>We are, of course, committed to sharing with Council the range of insights we have about the need for better connectivity in the district, as well as information about participation trends gleaned from a range of data collection mechanisms such as national, regional and local surveys, ActiveXchange and other data sets.</p>	Other – Interagency relationships		Within scope	No changes to Strategy. WDC will continue to work alongside Sport Waikato and other agencies to deliver projects and support recreational opportunities.

Tamahere Community Committee	Yes	Walking, cycling and bridle trails have been an important feature of the Tamahere ward for many years. They are well supported by the Community and having great trails available during the Covid-19 lockdown vindicates their importance.	Other		Within scope	No change – Staff acknowledge the role trails have had in the Tamahere Community
		TCC generally supports an update of the Connectivity Strategy for Walkways, Cycleways and Bridle trails.	Other		Within scope	No change – Acknowledge TCC's support for the Strategy.
		<p>For many years:</p> <p>a. TCC has supported locals engaged in the improvement and development of walking and cycling tracks along the gullies in Tamahere together with the amazing work of the Tamahere Mangaone Restoration Trust which is now being supported with a recently approved targeted rate, and</p> <p>b. a top priority in the TCC Blueprint for Tamahere is the support for restoration, revegetation and construction or extension of shared walking and cycling tracks through natural areas, along the gullies in Tamahere, along the Waikato River and the Mangaone Stream (mostly Council reserve land plus the rear of private properties, in</p>	Other – Tamahere Gully Restoration Work		Within scope	No change – Acknowledge the work done by the Tamahere Mangaone Restoration Trust, as well as private property owners for the continued development of trails throughout Tamahere's gullies.

		consultation with, and agreement of, private property owners).				
		<p>The recent upgrade of established Walkways, Cycleways and Bridle trails (particularly in the Newalls zone), with the Te Awa cycling and walking trail, has seen a lot of concrete laid for this trail.</p> <p>Horses and concrete are not a good mix – generally horse riders will walk or ride their horse on a turf surface – avoiding the road (seal) and concrete of the walkways. Council is invited to consider the potential “unintended consequences” of concreting the walkways, cycleways and areas where horses are ridden as bridle trails.</p>	Types of users - Multi-use Tracks	7.	Within scope	No change – Staff acknowledge the large volume of submissions received from the horse riding community. More consideration will be made during the scoping process for trail on suitable surfacing if it is deemed as a possible route for horse riders.
		<p>Priority for all trails need to be Community driven, with appropriate consultation. Each may have a different purpose or reason, so its design may be different. Development of trails, walkways, shared spaces etc. should always be Community prioritised and driven. E.g. TCC has really found it difficult to get a walkway agreed by Council for Woodcock Road, which is now a really busy area. TCC and the Tamahere Model Country School have expressed multiple safety concerns for Devine Road where a pathway was required from Lil Pumpkins to the</p>	Other – Consultation		In scope	No change – This strategy outlines where trails will be prioritised across the district. Walkways for example along Woodcock Road is rated high priority. During the project process, any

		School (a crossing was then put in the wrong place!) Council has informed TCC that it does not currently have the funds to do both the pathway and the crossing				proposed trail will receive consultation.
		Council is to be congratulated for its mahi in mapping the trails across the District. Thank you, keep up the good work.	Structure of the Strategy	1.3 – Spatial Mapping	In scope	No change - Acknowledge TCC's support for the spatial data set.
		The recent consultation process for the Tamahere targeted rate, to support the work of the Tamahere Mangaone Restoration Trust, exposed confusion over general rates spent by Council for developing and maintaining trails.	Other – Tamahere Targeted Rate		Out of scope	<p>To aid clarification, the strategy will guide decision making & prioritise trails across the district.</p> <p>The TMRT targeted rate will aid the maintenance of trails and ecological enhancement alongside tracks. A forward works programme will be</p>

						<p>supplied by TMRT annually for approval by WDC to ensure appropriate supporting works are undertaken.</p> <p>For Tamahere, the building of new tracks will remain in WDC LTP budgets as Capital Works programmed.</p> <p>Alternative funding sources may be sought by community groups to assist the development or maintenance of trails in their area.</p>
		<p>Council needs to clearly address this issue as the deterioration or lack of maintenance of existing trails and associated recreation areas suggests that the Council is not allocating sufficient resource or priority to such assets in our communities. E.g. The Waikato River bank trail link to the Te Awa Reserve has become so eroded as to be unsafe and overgrown with blackberry and weeds, so is now impassable. This is due to a failure of maintenance by Council – evidencing a lack of funding allocation.</p>	Other – Maintenance		In Scope	<p>Objective 3, point 3 – consider reworking to emphasises consequential operation expense to trail building.</p> <p>Consider inclusion of operation expense availability in the matrix criteria</p>

		<p>The Councils 2023-24 Annual Plan discloses that the General Rate income is projected to be \$84,884,000. Spending on roading is 28% - a total of \$23,767,520. Footpaths, walkways and cycleways are included in the “roading” expenditure, including maintenance. What is not stated is how much is budgeted for maintenance! \$957,900 (0.0128%) is budgeted to be spent on “new footpaths”. Where is the maintenance budget???</p> <p>Priority (be) given to allocating a specific budget to maintaining existing trails and associated recreation areas and adopting more efficient and cost effective ways of completing such maintenance in a timely manner.</p>	Other – Maintenance budget		Out of scope	<p>Trails maintenance is included within the key partnership contract with Citycare. Further correspondence can be required through the TCC communication channel if required.</p> <p>No changes proposed to the strategy document.</p>
		<p>Councils Annual Plan:</p> <p>a. expresses a Vision for “Liveable communities ... well-planned and people-friendly, providing for a range of quality residential options, social infrastructure, walkways and open spaces. ... and ... Connectivity through roads, cycleways, walkways ...”, and</p> <p>b. makes an aspirational statement “considering the overall financial picture, Council’s approach continues to be ... Maintaining existing assets ...”, but</p> <p>c. fails to identify the funding allocated for actioning that Vision and aspiration!</p>	Other – Maintenance budget		Out of scope	<p>No changes proposed to the strategy document.</p>

		The Council Annual Plan records “Residents and ratepayers get value for money because we find innovative ways to deliver strategic, timely and fit for purpose infrastructure and services at the most effective cost.” but those of us who have dealt with Council over many years know this is NOT true.	Other – Strategic Thinking		Out of scope	This matter is out of scope of the strategy.
		The current bureaucracy of Council, red tape, compliance requirements to the nth degree, all add substantially to the delay and cost of making things happen. E.g. the current chair of the Tamahere Community Centre Inc found dealing with Council staff so suffocating and impossible that he took the initiative to do the critical and overdue repairs to the Community Centre in a business-like manner direct with contractors and saved the Tamahere community well over \$100,000.	Other – Red tape and compliance		Out of scope	This matter is out of scope of the strategy.
		Staff turnover, competency issues and the need to avoid repercussions within the Council has compromised efficiency and hugely increased costs, so Council is now doing less and paying much more as a result.	Other – Staff competency		Out of scope	This matter is out of scope of the strategy.

		<p>Most people we talk to report it is currently a costly, cumbersome, time & energy sapping exercise dealing with Council. This needs urgent change.</p> <p>Council should be concerned about its reputation (an easy target for the select few contractors Council recognises/uses) and changing how it “does business” in the community.</p>	Other – Council public relations		Out of scope	This matter is out of scope of the strategy
--	--	---	----------------------------------	--	--------------	---