

BRIGHT FUTURE ROTORUA – COMMUNITY OUTCOMES

The Local Government Act requires Council to carry out a process to identify community outcomes for the intermediate and long-term future of the district and, not less than once every 3 years, to report on the progress made by the community in achieving these community outcomes.

The purpose of the community outcomes process is to:

- Provide the Rotorua community with an opportunity to discuss its present situation and prioritise issues in terms of their importance for Rotorua's future
- Influence and guide priorities in relation to the council and other organisations' activities
- Help the community, council and other organisations to work together in a more efficient and co-ordinated manner, to better promote wellbeing in the district
- Check how we are progressing towards Rotorua's agreed outcomes

Community Outcomes are overarching strategic goals that councils and other organisations can use to guide their service delivery and resource allocation. They are also a focal point for promoting closer working relationships, to ensure resources are used more effectively and in a coordinated manner.

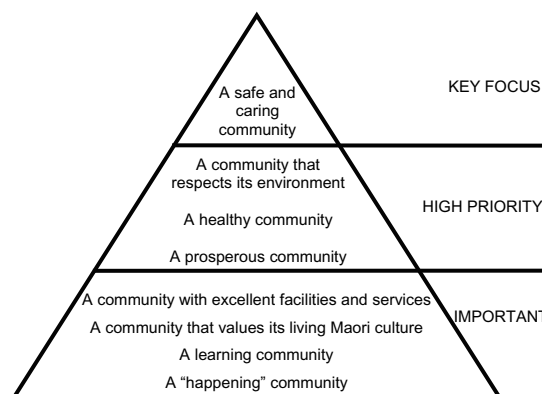
Rotorua District Council's contribution to promoting the community outcomes is described in this LTCCP. It is a requirement of all LTCCPs to describe which community outcomes different council activities will contribute towards.

In accordance with the letter and spirit of the Local Government Act, Rotorua District Council is taking a collaborative and inclusive approach to identifying and monitoring community outcomes. In mid-2003 the council discussed the community outcomes requirements with other key organisations that promote community wellbeing in the Rotorua District. These organisations endorsed a process of public consultation which took shape in the latter part of 2003 as the Bright Future Rotorua project.

First, information from previous community feedback was compiled into a set of eight draft community outcomes. This information was used as the basis for a community survey which asked residents to prioritise the draft outcomes according to what they felt was most important for the District over the coming decade. More than 800 responses were received from a broad cross-section of people. The results show that a safe and caring community is the most important outcome for Rotorua residents. Other high priorities include a healthy community, a prosperous community and a community that respects its environment.

Many survey respondents also suggested additional issues they felt were important for Rotorua, including supporting

young people, promoting multi-culturalism and ensuring strong leadership. These and other ideas will be considered over the coming two year period as part of a thorough review of the community outcomes pyramid.



Monitoring Reporting

In addition to identifying community outcomes and showing how it will promote them through its LTCCP, Council must also facilitate the development of a framework to monitor the community's progress towards outcomes, and to report on this at least every three years.

Rotorua District Council is continuing to work with other agencies and organisations, in consultation with the community, to develop a monitoring framework. Once a good set of indicators has been agreed, regular monitoring will take place and progress will be regularly reported back to the wider community. The monitoring programme will provide valuable information for Council and other organisations to help them ensure their activities and services are meeting the requirements of the community. Development of the monitoring framework is scheduled for completion in September 2004 with the first report-back to the community in October 2005.

Much of the value of the Bright Future project will only be realised if different organisations and sectors of the community work together. Rotorua District Council is exploring ways in which all agencies and organisations can work collaboratively to ensure service delivery is consistent, effective and aligned with community expectations.

Learn more about Rotorua's Bright Future at www.rdc.govt.nz.

