

The Kollektive, 145 17<sup>th</sup> Ave West, Tauranga, Post: c/o The Kollektive, DX HP40007, Tauranga 3112. Ph 07 987 0920

[www.socialink.org.nz](http://www.socialink.org.nz)

*Socialink is a registered charity based at The Kollektive in 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Tauranga. It aims to support “a thriving social and community sector improving Western Bay of Plenty communities” through research, innovation, collaboration, information, networking and advocacy.*

## **Submission on Tauranga City Council’s Strategic Framework**

### **Our Direction – Tauranga 2050**

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission. Socialink makes the following comments and suggestions:

#### **1. Vision: Tauranga, together we can.**

We support the vision emphasising the word ‘together’ to give an aspirational focus on collective and inclusive responsibility and participation.

It is heartening that the three key themes expressed by local communities are contained as part of the vision: ‘prioritising nature’, ‘lifting each other up’ and ‘fuelling possibility’ as three vital and aspirational goals.

We strongly endorse the emphasis on Te Ao Māori as one of the three underpinning approaches and the concept of Hoki whakamuri, haere whakamu, acknowledging the past as we look to the future.

#### **2. General comments on the Strategic Framework and Outcomes**

a). Many strategies and actions are applicable to more than one Outcome. How they fit together could be teased out more to reduce potential silo planning and silo implementation.

b). We suggest there could be more explicit focus on the diversity of the people living in Tauranga, the value and contribution they bring to the city and the importance of promoting a harmonious environment free from discrimination, harassment and hate. Diversity can include ancestry, place of origin, colour, ethnic origin, disability, citizenship, sexual orientation, gender identity, same sex partnership, age, marital status, family status, immigrant status, political affiliation, religious affiliation, level of literacy, language and/or socio-economic status.

c). An equity lens should be used as a tool to prioritise equitable planning and delivery of programmes and services. Using an equity lens recognises that not everyone: • starts with the same advantages; • has the same life chances or opportunities; • enjoys similar access to employment, goods, services and resources; and • benefits equally from living and working in Tauranga. (For a comprehensive example of equity lens see <https://www.toronto.ca/city-government/accessibility-human-rights/equity-diversity-inclusion/> )

d). Social Procurement: We recommend implementing a social procurement programme to give practical application to achieving the vision of 'Tauranga: Together we can'. It would support enactment of the sustainability approach and the community outcomes in the strategy. Social procurement is the achievement of strategic social, economic and workforce development goals using an organization's process of purchasing goods and services. See Toronto City Council's approach to social procurement which includes a focus on reduction of poverty and on inclusion of groups who will benefit from improving equity: <https://www.toronto.ca/business-economy/doing-business-with-the-city/social-procurement-program/>

e). There are many strategies and outcomes to achieve. A monitoring/advisory group with community members from outside of the council would be beneficial to keep regular track of progress.

## **Feedback on Community Outcomes**

### **Outcome: An Inclusive City Strategy Tauranga-Mataraunui**

It is good to see the Inclusive City Community Outcome acknowledges the three iwi Ngāti Ranginui, Ngāi Te Rangi and Ngāti Pukenga which provides the foundation stones for an inclusive city and the values of manaakitanga, kotahitanga and whanaungatanga are highlighted.

An Inclusive City has 5 goals: Goal 1 Wellbeing; Goal 2 Access; Goal 3 Inclusion and Diversity; Goal 4 Safe Communities; Goal 5 Strong Neighbourhoods and Liveable Communities.

### **Comment on TCC partnering and working with other organisations in the Inclusive City Strategy.**

- TCC has identified a range of strategies at a general level; however it tends to focus on its own role, whereas a more explicit collaborative approach would be helpful to outline in fulfilling the 'together' aspiration in the Vision.
- There is hardly any mention of working with other agencies in partnership other than in a very general way (eg a 'social support' agencies, 'wide range of agencies'; 'tertiary forum and other providers'. (We note TCC has identified Priority One as an agency whose work it will support in Improving access to lifelong learning, education and work).
- Organisations that have peak body or overarching roles in Tauranga city that should be cited in the Inclusive City Strategy as partners include Socialink as the umbrella organisation for the social and community sectors, and organisations such as Western Bay of Plenty Disability Support Trust, Multicultural Tauranga , Age Concern, Sport BOP, Rainbow Youth, Creative BOP and others. They provide a great deal of knowledge and expertise and networks to help achieve the Vision, together.
- Under Goal 4 and 5, we acknowledge the Strategy does provide examples of other agencies and organisations such as NZ police, community patrols, Maori Wardens and Hauora a Toi Bay of Plenty (formerly BOPDHB); Neighbourhood support and Good Neighbour.

### **Comment on Goal 2: Access**

- The strategies under this Goal are very broad, compared to some quite specific ones mentioned under Tauranga Taurikura/Environment strategy.
- There is no mention of specific populations (eg older people, people living in poverty, children, parents, people with disabilities) who need specific strategies to improve their

access to services and community/neighbourhood facilities. These include access to playgrounds, passive reserves and nature in general and to public transport.

### **Outcome: A well planned city Strategy Tauranga – Tātai Whenua**

#### **Comments**

This outcome is linked to the Connected Centres Programme 2020 (urban development focus UFTI).

- We think there should be a greater and strong focus on adapting to climatic change in this Outcome.
- In particular TCC should focus on improving social equality in adapting to climatic change in Tauranga. There is obviously a close synergy with the Inclusive City and Valuing Our Environment community outcomes. The equity lens would assist with this.
- For example, people on low incomes who live in poor quality housing have fewer options to decrease the impact of heat than people living in more affluent areas and on higher incomes. In poorer suburbs there may be less tree cover, attractively landscaped and safe reserves may be some distance away and difficult/expensive to reach. It can be costly to cool houses through installing and using air-condition units, which pump out hot air into the surrounding area.
- Planning to mitigate these inequitable issues will help. For example, the orientation/placement of buildings can trap heat as can a lot of hard surfaces/paving. Improving or retaining natural air flow in communities and increasing tree coverage, particularly in poorer or more densely populated suburbs could help mitigate heat-related health risks for the most vulnerable.
- Planning for and encouraging effective areas of greenery adjacent to each other in school grounds, business precincts, private-owned lands, and under-utilised lands, can lower temperatures in the most crowded areas<sup>1</sup>.

### **Outcome: A city that supports business and education Strategy:Tauranga a te kura**

While its aspirational to be known as a university city, as an inclusive city it would be valuable if Tauranga was equally well known in offering opportunities and support in skills and employment for all young people (and other age groups), not only for those going to university. It is good to be supporting Ara Rau (Priority One) skills and employment hub.

### **Outcome: A city that values, protects and enhances the environment Strategy:Tauranga Taurikaura**

- The Strategy outlines specific actions which is good and which could be applied to other Outcomes such as Inclusive City.
- Best practice environmental design could be more purposefully applied to housing catering for particular groups in Tauranga, for example Lifestyle/retirement Villages. This is a growing sector in Tauranga (and the Western Bay of Plenty) and villages may vary in how well they value, protect and enhance their natural environments to take into account improving

---

<sup>1</sup> Wan-Yu Shih, City Planning for heat waves must be strategic, Newsroom, July 22<sup>nd</sup> 2022.

biodiversity, reducing heat for vulnerable residents, providing tree cover and reducing their carbon footprint.

- We recommend specific planning requirements be developed for mitigating these issues in more densely populated land use areas such as lifestyle villages and best practice environmental design should continue to be sought in new developments, social housing settings and existing suburbs, especially in low income areas.
- More emphasis could be placed on weed control around urban streams, reserves and other places. Tauranga has a wide and vigorous range of pest plants. Having regular clean-up days between community, local environmental groups and other community organisations, with TCC support, would be one way of people feeling included in their local community as well as protecting the environment.