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A long-term council community plan must set out any steps the Council intends to take to foster the development of Maori capacity to contribute to its decision-making processes.

The Council enjoys a strong working relationship with local Maori. The Council continues to work at developing processes to provide for opportunities for Maori to contribute to the decision-making process of the Council. The review is being undertaken in consultation with Maori to ensure that the new arrangements will meet the best interests of all parties.

It is expected the new arrangements will emerge over time.

For the 2006/07 year, the Council has made specific provision of \$122,374 for consultation with Maori, in addition to general provision for consultation with the community.

