

4. **PROGRESS REPORT ON THE REVIEW OF THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL WELL-BEING POLICY**

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Corporate Plan Output: Policy Advice	

The purpose of this report is to advise on progress of the review of the Community Development and Social Well-being Policy.

BACKGROUND

The Community Development and Social Well-being Policy was adopted by the Council in October 1996. At the time of its adoption it was identified that the policy should be regularly reviewed.

There has always been a certain level of confusion about the policy, both in terms of its status as an umbrella policy and also in its actual meaning. Even the original team which developed the policy appeared to be unclear about the meaning of many elements of the policy. For example, when that team was called together to clarify the outcomes statements for the indicators work, it was difficult for members to explain or reach agreement on the meaning of statements in the policy.

More recently, staff and elected members have reiterated the desire that the policy be clearer, more specific and measurable. Many have expressed concerns that there are no strategies or guidelines for implementing the policy and no means of measuring the outcomes.

A Policy Review team was established based on the guidelines set out in Mike Richardson's CLAS Review Report. The Team is lead by the Policy Unit and has members from the Community Relations Unit, Leisure Unit, Canterbury Development Corporation, and a community sector representative.

The Community Services Committee endorsed the review process at its meeting on 3 April 2000.

THE REVIEW PROCESS

The process is a staged review process in which those responsible for implementing the policy, including staff, elected members, Community Boards and community agencies, will have an opportunity to have input. To date there have been workshops with staff, discussions with Community Boards and the Community Services Committee, and interviews with some elected members.

The initial stage of the review identified that the general principle or essence behind the policy was generally supported. Most felt that, rather than relitigate the policy, the policy statement needs to be tightened and a strategy developed to implement the policy.

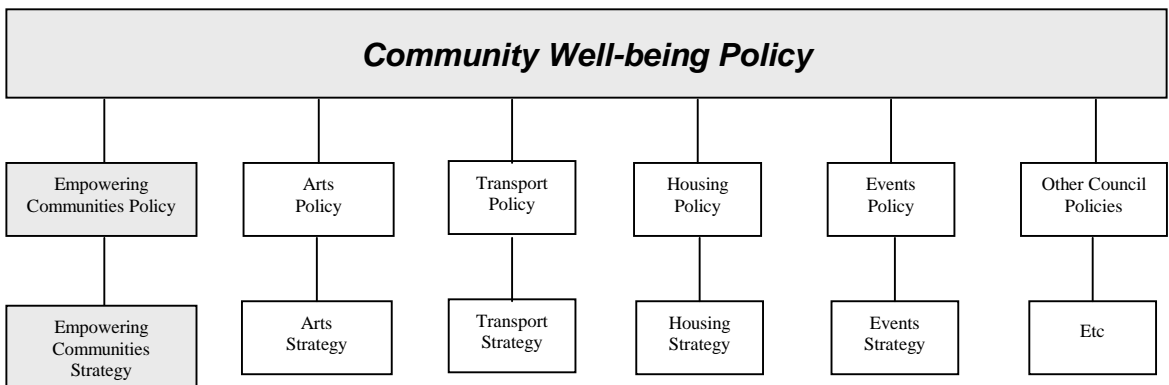
CURRENT PROPOSAL

The review process has identified that there is still the need for the broad umbrella policy focusing on community well-being. It has also identified that there is also need for more detailed or specific work in the area of strengthening communities.

We are therefore proposing that the existing policy be retitled *Community Wellbeing* and remain as the umbrella policy. The policy statement would be refined and the superfluous words removed. The outcome statements would be reworded as principles. As an umbrella policy, all other policies and strategies would be seen to be contributing to that policy. In fact, most Council activities, including waste and water, leisure, parks, etc do, in fact, contribute to community well-being. Most areas have policy and strategies in place, for example, in the sports leisure area there are policies and strategies for arts, events and sports. The youth area has a policy, strategy and annual plan. These policies and strategies form the broad community well-being strategy.

However, there is a large gap in the area of *Empowering Communities*, for example, community development, community building, community advocacy, community governance, etc. This is also an area where there has been less strategic planning. We are therefore proposing to develop a strategy that looks specifically at “Empowering Communities”. **The policy and strategy would be developed together so it is clear from the outset how objectives are to be implemented and outcomes achieved and at what cost.**

Once that work is completed we can look at pulling the threads of all the strategies together and identifying a coherent package of Community Well-being strategies.



PROCESS FROM HERE

Based on the feedback, we are currently redrafting the Community Well-being Policy and developing an Empowering Communities Policy and Strategy. These will be circulated in early May. There will be a further series of discussions with Boards and the Committee regarding these drafts.

A Community Services Seminar will be held in early June.

Recommendation: For information.

Chairman's

- Recommendation:**
1. That the Committee note that policy and strategy are to be developed together so it is clear from the outset how objectives are to be implemented and outcomes achieved and at what cost.
 2. That the Committee note that the draft policy and strategy document will be presented at the seminar set down for 13 June 2000.