



# Community Facilities for the Future

Reimagining our Community Places  
for a Thriving Central Hawke's Bay

What is most important  
to you for Community Facilities  
of the future?

## Background

Central Hawke's Bay's Community Facilities are much more than bricks and mortar. They provide opportunities to strengthen our communities, support our local identities and enable our people to fully participate in society. They contribute to building strong, healthy and vibrant communities, providing spaces where the people of Central Hawke's Bay can connect, socialise, learn and participate in a wide range of social, cultural, art and recreational activities. Their activities improve our sense of wellbeing and belonging, as well as create pride among our residents.

When it comes to investment in our facilities, the bricks and mortar, spaces, equipment and technology, we need to ensure that our community facilities are meeting the needs of our growing District, and that we are prepared for the growth already occurring in our community and forecast to further increase over the next 30 years.

We need to look to the past and to our future and recognise some significant investment is overdue to ensure our investment in our communities is best placed to support our community intergenerationally.

We've been thinking carefully about the challenges and opportunities ahead for us. In response to challenges particularly in Otane, Waipawa and Waipukurau, we have done some early thinking about opportunities for the future of our community facilities. Incorporated in our

draft Integrated Spatial Plan – a blueprint for the next 30 years, the plan identifies a number of key short to immediate quickwins for community facilities in our three main centres of Otane, Waipawa and Waipukurau – as well as medium and longer term opportunities to deliver on Project Thrive!

It's important that we hear from you to check-in with where we have landed in terms of our future community facilities, as well as to know what else we should be planning for. We know we have challenges, in particular about how we fund our community facilities for the future, however these challenges simply mean we have to use every tool in our toolbox and develop new and innovative delivery and funding partnerships to make our vision our reality.



You can give feedback on our Integrated Spatial Plan by visiting [www.chbdc.govt.nz/our-thriving-future](http://www.chbdc.govt.nz/our-thriving-future) and choosing to 'Have your say' by leaving us a note on a range of interactive maps which provide a snapshot of what the future might look like. You can also provide written feedback by email at [our-thriving-future@chbdc.govt.nz](mailto:our-thriving-future@chbdc.govt.nz), in person at the Council office, Waipawa Library or Waipukurau pop-up centre, or post at PO Box 127, 28-32 Ruataniwha Street, Waipawa 4240.

For more information, including access to the full Draft Integrated Spatial Plan, head to [www.chbdc.govt.nz/our-thriving-future](http://www.chbdc.govt.nz/our-thriving-future)



**CENTRAL  
HAWKE'S BAY**  
DISTRICT COUNCIL

## Opportunity

- There are opportunities to centralise and hub some services and activities – both Council and community, reducing duplication and maximising efficiency across our network of community facilities.
- Community Facilities have an important role to play in supporting the economic recovery and future of our District, providing spaces for modern working to occur, as well as training and supporting business to transition to new business working practices and technology.
- Our existing services have a strong reputation in our community, providing a strong base to build new services, reflective of emerging technologies and customer demands.
- Central Hawke's Bay is experiencing significant population growth, which is increasing the demand for warm, dry and fit for purpose facilities to allow our people to gather and celebrate.
- Several of our buildings are over 100 years old and require remedial works to ensure they're kept fit for purpose. However, with this comes the opportunity to improve design, and modernise our facilities for today's use. This means ensuring that all of our buildings are inclusive and accessible to all. This would require strategic planning for the future, rather than continuing with band-aid solutions.
- The replacement of the Waipawa and Districts Centennial Memorial Pool as part of the last Long Term Plan saw the whole community come together in support of its successful upgrade. Phase 1 was completed with the help of Council and community fundraising of \$1.2 million. Phase 2 will see the entrance and changing facilities upgraded, and the swimming pool surrounds more family friendly with better accessibility, shade and seating.

## Barriers

- Council currently has no strategic plan for its community facilities, meaning previous investment has been ad hoc or not directed to areas of maximum benefit or where it is needed most.
- Many of our buildings are no longer fit for purpose or reflect a Central Hawke's Bay of the future or the level of expectation many new residents expect.
- As part of the development of asset management plans for the 2021-2031 Long Term Plan, Council is taking the

time to review the condition of its key assets, including our Community Facilities. This is identifying a number of deferred maintenance or renewal issues that have not been funded.

- Seismic Assessments of many of our key buildings have been completed or are being completed as part of our preparation for the 2021 -2031 Long Term Plan. The result of this is that a number of our buildings are likely to require further assessment and potential structural work, in time.
- In June this year, Council made the difficult decision to close the Waipukurau Library until further notice, while a full detailed seismic assessment report takes place to determine the safety of the building. We understand this is frustrating for our community, particularly as the building was renovated in 2016, with the expectation of both Council and community that it be earthquake strengthened as part of this. The community will need to consider how to approach the provision of library services in Waipukurau.
- We know many of our privately owned Community Facilities also face similar challenges and opportunities to Council, that they will wrestle to achieve in isolation.
- Currently, there is minimal funding allocated to our Community Facilities. This means we need to make a tough decision on just how much investment we put into our buildings, to either bring them up to standard, or improve them for the future.

## Our Current Community Facilities

Community facilities include but are not limited to our libraries, the Central Hawke's Bay Municipal Theatre, Council Administration Building in Waipawa, Community Halls spread across the District, as well as the Waipawa and Districts Centennial Memorial Pool.

Council also provides operational support, grants and funding to some Community Facilities, such as the AW Parsons Indoor Heated Pool, The Central Hawke's Bay Settlers Museum and the Civic Theatre in Waipukurau.

Within our community, we also know many privately owned Community Facilities that are not owned or funded by Council play an integral role in the fabric of our community. The Waipukurau Little Theatre and Central Park Rugby facilities are two examples of this.