

Processes for Maori to contribute to the decision-making processes of Council

The Local Government Act 2002 sets out principles and requirements for local authorities to facilitate participation by Māori in Council decision making processes. These principles and requirements are intended to show recognition for the Crown's responsibility to take account of the Treaty of Waitangi/Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

Papakura District Council has enabled a number of mechanisms which enhance its partnership with Māori and provide opportunity for Mana Whenua and the Māori community to input into the decision making process of the Council.

Council and Mana Whenua have an established forum, Te Roopu Kaitiaki o Papakura, for discussion of issues of mutual interest. The forum consists of four appointed elected Council members and two representatives from each of the District's five iwi and hapu. While the Forum is a collaborative meeting, with all parties responsible for their own decision making, the minutes of the Forum are received by the Council as part of the formal agenda. Under the auspices of Te

Roopu Kaitiaki o Papakura, Council facilitates the work of the officers of the iwi so that they can work together collectively on issues of concern to the Council. This arrangement includes the provision of office space and technical support as necessary and is formalised through a work programme and performance agreement.

Council also continues to engage with the wider Māori community through hui-a-iwi and through discussion with a Māori community group known as Whaitiaki. This group formed through the 2006 Community Outcomes process. Council contributes to and supports the Māori Outcomes Plan developed by Whaitiaki. This sits alongside and is aligned to the Long-Term Council Community Plan.

In broader terms, Council supports the development of Māori capacity to contribute to its decision-making processes through the position of a Kaitakawaenga (Māori Liaison Officer). The role includes an outreach function in relation to key Council decision making processes.

