

Community partnerships

Our community partnerships are important to us

We believe that it is essential to build strong connections in our city – not only for us to be successful in our work but also understand the needs of our diverse community.

We work in partnership with a number of community organisations, informal groups, central government agencies and funding bodies to support the important contribution they make to the social, cultural and environmental wellbeing of the city.

A large number of our partnerships have strong links to our four strategic priorities and are focused around:

Protecting Te Awarua-o-Porirua Harbour and the catchment areas.

- Ngāti Toa, Greater Wellington Regional Council, Guardians of Pāuatahanui Inlet, Regional Public Health.

Partnering with local communities to enhance Porirua's villages and neighbourhoods through the village planning programme.

- Some highlights are Plimmerton Community Shed, Whitby Lake aeration project and the Takapūwāhia Waka Ramp.

Engaging and partnering with children and young people to ensure they reach their full potential, have a healthy and beautiful place to grow up in, and that their voice is heard.

- Engagement programme with schools around amplifying student voices.
- Regular e-newsletter to Porirua schools on what's happening around the city and how they can get involved.

Partnering with community and schools to encourage waste reduction and minimisation.

- EnviroSchools, Compost Classrooms and community education, such as Love Food Hate Waste and recycling education.

Keeping the city graffiti free and supporting communities to beautify their own place and be proud of where they live.

- Through adopt-a-spot programme with local communities and mural and planting programmes in schools.

Our partnership with Māori

Te Tiriti o Waitangi – the Treaty of Waitangi – is the founding document between Māori and the Crown. The Council has delegated responsibilities from the Crown to ensure that local authorities observe the principals of the Treaty. The Local Government Act 2002 requires the Council to engage with Māori in decision-making processes relating to a wide variety of issues.

We ensure that through our Long-term Plan, we actively engage, promote and collaborate with our local iwi and wider Māori population.

Ngāti Toa Rangatira

We partner with Ngāti Toa Rangatira, to honour them as mana whenua and our commitment to the Treaty of Waitangi. We regularly engage with Ngāti Toa through their iwi authority, Te Rūnanga O Toa Rangatira. The Council and Te Rūnanga have also recently signed a Partnership Agreement that outlines our shared commitment to our partnership with each other and to the future wellbeing of Porirua. It provides the opportunity for Te Rūnanga to contribute to Council decisions and to provide leadership with the Council for Porirua.

This is done through input into our Long-term Plan as well as other activities:

- advice and input into policy, strategy and management plans
- consultation on resource consents
- input into annual and long term plans
- cultural advice on specific projects.

We provide opportunities for Māori to engage in discussions with the Council to ensure their perspective is reflected in decisions affecting the environmental, economic, social, and cultural wellbeing of our city – now and into the future. For example, Te Rūnanga's chairperson, Taku Parai, is also Porirua City's kaumātua. He provides tikanga Māori advice and support, and can attend all Council and Committee meetings with full speaking rights. We consult with Ngāti Toa through the iwi authority Te Rūnanga O Toa Rangatira, on a range of issues and processes.

In addition to fostering partnerships with Ngāti Toa through their iwi authority, we will engage with and build relationships with the wider Māori community.

Working together to review the District Plan

We are also reviewing our District Plan in partnership with Ngāti Toa. We are collaborating on sections of the plan of particular importance to Ngāti Toa, such as protecting sites of historical significance and addressing planning issues on Māori-owned land in Takapūwāhia and Hongoeka. It is important that our new District Plan reflects our partnership with mana whenua, and fulfils our responsibilities under the Resource Management Act.

Projects and initiatives such as these ensure the inclusion of a Māori perspective across Council activities and supports cultural inclusion and understanding in our city. Internally, we continue to work on building our capacity to be more effective for Māori in the work that we do and our contribution to strengthening Māori communities.

Our partnership with Pasifika

We are working to partner more closely with our Pasifika community and have increased our partnership team to include a dedicated resource to focus on Pasifika and Māori.

We have monthly shows on Samoa Capital Radio, which is a respected channel for many in our community, and continue to build relationships with Samoan and other Church Ministers in our city.