

Waikato Regional Council – working principles Future for Local Government Review.

Council confirms the following 17 working principles for engaging with the Future for Local Government Review (from September 2021 meeting, confirmed minutes October 2021 meeting):

Roles, functions and partnerships

- a. Effective partnerships between iwi/Māori and central and local government are supported and appropriately resourced now and for the future.
- b. Delivery that recognises and provides for the diversity of the region through local placemaking and protection of local democracy.
- c. Clarity of roles and responsibilities in local government so that it is simple for the community to know who is accountable for what and duplication of roles and oversight is avoided.
- d. Structures and processes need to be agile, resilient, and adaptable to changing natural, economic or social systems.
- e. Regulatory functions are appropriately located to ensure clarity, independence and accountability.
- f. A local and central government partnership based on clarity, respect, and best entity to deliver best service to the community.
- g. The collective experiences and successes of local government are used to foster learning organisations focused on continuous improvement.
- h. Institutional knowledge, information and capability held by local government is retained and enhanced.

Representation and governance

- a. Nimble and meaningful engagement models that ensure the local voice is heard.
- b. Electoral processes are well resourced and achieve significant increase in interest, engagement, and diversity.
- c. Decision making is at the closest level possible to the community impacted where the focus is on equity and equality of opportunity and wellbeing.
- d. Efficient and effective performance management strategies for elected representatives.

Funding and financing

- a. The benefits of aggregation and scale are maximised to deliver cost-effective and financially sustainable local community services.
- b. Local government is appropriately resourced with customer service at its core, and that new technology and data is shared and used to improve efficiency and effectiveness for communities.
- c. Local government values effective partnerships with iwi/Māori and advocates to the Crown to fully fund Treaty of Waitangi settlements in perpetuity as required by settlement arrangements (as legislated)

d. Nationally significant infrastructure, such as flood management infrastructure, is funded in a partnership between local and central government.

e. All funding and financing opportunities, including new economic tools, have been explored and no unfunded mandates occur now or in the future.