

**Subject:** Navigational Traditions Project

**Prepared By:** Nedine Thatcher-Swann (Community Planning & Development Manage)

**Meeting Date:** 25 March 2010

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## Report to COUNCIL for decision

### SUMMARY

The Navigational project is a Tairāwhiti Development Partnership (TDP) driven work stream and has been in development for over five years. Recently, the TDP (with the support of New Zealand Trade and Enterprise) commissioned Tourism Resource Consultants to undertake a pre-feasibility study that identified the key contributors and actions required in order for the project to be implemented. Council has been identified as one of those contributors given its regulatory and planning functions.

At its meeting on 10 March 2010, the Community Development Committee agreed to recommend to Council that it "incorporates the Tairāwhiti Navigational project into relevant Council plans and projects (existing and or new)". This report provides supplementary information to assist Council with its deliberations on that recommendation. The Officers report (10/124) to the Community Development Committee and the Tourism Resource Consultant's Prefeasibility Study are also attached.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

#### That the Council

1. receives the report
2. agrees to incorporate the Tairāwhiti Navigational project into relevant Council plans and projects (existing and or new).
3. notes the recommendation 2. (above) is still subject to statutory processes.
4. notes that a decision to support recommendation 2. (above) not mean that Council will be committing itself to any funding for the project unless Council resolves to do so.

Nedine Thatcher-Swann  
Community Planning & Development Manager

Hans van Kregten  
Environment & Planning Manager

## **1. BACKGROUND**

The Navigational Traditions project (also referred to as the Tairāwhiti Navigational project) is managed under the auspices of the Tairāwhiti Development Partnership. It comprises a series of innovative economic, cultural, social and environmental initiatives that leverage off the region's rich culture and heritage. The project aims to utilise the local history of 'the meeting of two cultures' (Maori and Pakeha) and seeks to establish historic interpretations centred on the Turanganui River and the site of the rock Te Toka a Taiau (the meeting place of two cultures) that will then expand out across the region with a unifying theme.

The Tairāwhiti Development Partnership (TDP), with the assistance of the New Zealand Trade and Enterprise (NZTE), recently commissioned a 'prefeasibility study' that draws together the components of the Navigational Traditions work (a project that the TDP has been progressing for over five years) and outlines the key contributors to this work. Council is one of the main contributors given its regulatory and planning functions.

The Navigational Traditions project has some key bodies involved including the TDP (comprising Council, Te Runanga o Turanganui-a-Kiwa, Te Runanga o Ngati Porou, Wairoa District Council, Kahunugnu), Tairāwhiti Museum, Eastland Port, Eastland Infrastructure Limited, Department of Conservation, Te Unga Mai and Historic Places Trust.

## **2. DISCUSSION AND OPTIONS**

Through the Partnership, Council has given support for the project. His Worship the Mayor is currently the Chair of the Navigational Traditions working party and staff from the Community Planning and Development department have also been actively involved. It is evident from the prefeasibility report commissioned by the Partnership that the project itself has many implications for Council's work. The project involves infrastructure development, regulatory requirements and social, cultural and economic development aspects. If the project is to succeed, then aspects of the Navigational Traditions project will need to be embedded into Council's existing plans and projects (for example review of the district planning provisions for the Inner Harbour and the Inner Harbour project itself).

Council staff from Environment and Planning and Community Planning and Development departments have been working collaboratively on the project given the interrelationships and potential interdependencies that the Navigational Traditions project has with the formal planning framework concerning the inner harbour. Council staff see opportunities to support the Navigational Traditions project through leveraging off existing projects and plans. Therefore, a decision to support the recommendation will give staff the formal mandate to promote this.

The Navigational Traditions work has already been incorporated in the Urban Development Strategy and identified in the Community Outcomes document Tairāwhiti by Choice. The recommendation in this report (if supported) gives further weight to the project and enables Council staff to start incorporating it into plans, policies and strategies in development or requiring a review (for example art in public places policy, art and culture strategy, proposals for the inner harbour development etc).

Any amendment of Resource Management Act statutory plans will be subject to formal consultation and submission processes, and will need to be consistent with Part II of the Act. In that regard the Council will also need to take into account other relevant considerations. Interested and affected parties will be able to participate in plan change processes, and will have rights to formally challenge any plan changes that the Council may promote.

The recommendation, if adopted by Council, therefore does not automatically mean that the RMA plans will be changed to incorporate all of the Navigational Traditions projects' provisions. However, the recommendation will provide a clear steer as to the importance of the project when plan changes will be considered.

It is important for Council to note that a decision to support the recommendation does not mean that Council will be committing itself to any immediate or future funding. Funding required from Council for the project will still be subject to the same recommendation and approval processes as other 'new' projects. Given the nature of the project, it is also likely that funding for infrastructure works and historic interpretations can be sourced externally.

Council could choose not to support the recommendation. However, the implication of such a decision would mean that existing and future planning and projects may encroach on the plans set down for the Navigational Traditions project. Given Council is also a key contributor to the Navigational Traditions project, a decision not to support the recommendation may also see the project significantly delayed.

### **3. SIGNIFICANCE**

In accordance with Council's significance policy, a decision to incorporate the Navigational Traditions project into Council's plans and projects is not significant.

### **4. CONSULTATION**

Council's involvement with the Navigational Traditions project is included in the 2010-11 Draft Annual Plan. Council's 2009-2019 Ten Year Plan highlighted Council's continued support for the TDP and its activities and the Urban Development Strategy was consulted on as part of the Ten Year Plan process.

### **5. COMMUNITY OUTCOMES**

The recommendation to include the Navigational Traditions project into Council's plans and projects will contribute to the outcome Vibrant Tairāwhiti. The Navigational Traditions work is included as an action in the Tairāwhiti by Choice document.

### **6. LEVELS OF SERVICE**

Levels of service will not be affected.

### **7. FINANCIAL**

There are no immediate financial implications for Council. It is further considered that the major costs for the infrastructure works for the Navigational Traditions project can be sourced from external parties that have a "major stake" in the work and from culture and heritage grants. Through leveraging of Council's plans and projects, any future costs can be minimised. An example of 'leverage' could be the inner harbour redevelopment. The design and development work for the inner harbour could also take into account the historic significance of the area and Navigational Traditions objectives rather than two discrete projects occurring in isolation.

## **8. LEGAL**

There is a related legal matter concerning the Cone of Vision. While the Navigational Traditions project has no direct influence over the matters currently on the table, one of the developments proposed concerns improved access to the Cook Landing Site.

Changes to Council plans prepared under the Resource Management Act 1991 will need to be subject to separate procedures under that act, and will need to involve all relevant considerations. Full submission rights to interested and affected parties will need to be provided.

## **9. POLICY**

The policy related to this work is the Art in Public Places policy that is currently under review. This work is also supported by the Urban Development Strategy and the Community Outcomes document Tairāwhiti by Choice.

## **10. ATTACHMENTS**

1. Officers report 10/124 "Navigational Traditions"
2. Prefeasibility study "Tairāwhiti Navigational Project"