

Taupō District Council

Notes of Council Workshop

Group	Council
Date	Thursday 7 March 2024, 11.30am-12noon
Venue	Council Chamber
Topic	Taupō Play, Active Recreation and Sport Plan
Facilitated by	Events and Venues Manager (S Giles) and Sport Waikato Regional Manager (S Dalgety)
Elected Members present	Mayor David Trewavas (in the Chair), Cr Duncan Campbell, Cr Sandra Greenslade, Cr Kylie Leonard, Cr Danny Loughlin (via MS Teams), Cr Anna Park, Cr Rachel Shepherd, Cr Yvonne Westerman
Officers present	Chief Executive (J Gardyne), General Manager Organisation Performance (S Matthews), General Manager Operations and Delivery (A Moraes), General Manager Strategy and Environment (W Zander), Policy Manager (N Carroll), Events and Venues Manager (S Giles), Executive Manager Mayors Office (J Later), Parks Manager Open Space (A Moor), Parks Manager Town Centres (J Gordon), Governance Quality Manager (S James), Committee Advisor (D Periam)
Public / media present	Steve Dalgety – Sport Waikato Regional Manager
Documents either pre-circulated or tabled	Taupō District Play, Active Recreation, and Sport (PARS) Plan 2023-2033 DRAFT (A3513422) – pre-circulated to Elected Members via Diligent on 28 March 2024 Taupō District Council Play, Active Recreation and Sport Plan PowerPoint presentation (A3513425) – presented at the workshop to Elected Members
Public or closed¹	Public
Notes²	The purpose of this workshop was to present Elected Members with the Draft Taupō District Play, Active Recreation and Sport (PARS) plan. This document was evidence based with information gained from Active NZ, Stats NZ and the 2018 Census. The key themes of the document were reducing barriers for participation, barriers included time, school commitments, costs, quality opportunities, accessibility, and connectivity. Partnerships were also very important and there were opportunities to work with local sports groups, schools, etc.

¹ Workshops are public (and are always advertised whether public or closed), unless there is a good reason(s) for information to be withheld and there is no overriding public interest in holding the workshop in public. Withholding grounds set out in the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA) are a guide. If closed, cite relevant LGOIMA section.

² Workshops are not decision-making forums, therefore this document contains notes of key points discussed only, not decisions.

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Play

Play was defined as intrinsically motivated, freely chosen activities. It is fun, spontaneous, accessible, and challenging. Play is directed by children who are playing with little to no involvement from adults.

Key recommendations were highlighted which would help overcome barriers that had been identified. Low-cost options were a focus for the recommendations, they wanted to focus on something that is low cost and accessible for different families.

Active recreation

Active Recreation was defined as including all other forms of activity that require some level of physical exertion excluding sport. Active recreation was more flexible allowing people to choose the time and date they participate in active recreation.

Key recommendations were increasing communities' connection to their physical spaces. It was about finding low-cost options that can get people participating in active recreation. It was about finding different opportunities to engage with community members who were not linked to organised sport.

Sport

Sport was defined as having institutionalised rules, competition, and conditions of play such as time, space, equipment. Activities could be both active recreation and sport. Rugby for example could both be active recreation (playing with family in the park) and a sport (playing with a sports team during the rugby season).

Key issues identified such as memberships were down, costs were increasing, finding volunteers was hard and the upkeep of facilities. Key recommendations included shared facilities that create opportunities for the community to compete in sport. Providing low-cost and localised options. An example provided was rugby and league have shortened their season so that children are able to have a turn at both sports. Another issue was the perception of some sports, such as a sport being for older people. Sport Waikato had been engaging with schools and local sports clubs to encourage different sports to the children and change perceptions.

Spaces and places

Spaces and places were defined as the locality where community physical activity occurs, this could be play, active recreation or sport and the space could be infrastructure or informal natural settings.

Recommendations included maintaining current levels of services but also connecting with local schools, clubs etc to get the most use out of facilities in the district.

The Events and Venues Manager explained that the document was designed to inform the Long-term Plan 2024-34 and challenge decision making and thinking. It was not to add more costs into the budgets.

Members thanked the Events and Venues Manager and the Sport Waikato Regional Manager for the update.