# Community Places Package

### Why do we need this package?

In the next 30 years, we anticipate that 90 per cent of Waipā's population will reside in urban areas (towns and villages), a 20 per cent increase from the current numbers. Community facilities such as community halls, libraries, museums, sports fields, and aquatic facilities play a crucial role in meeting the diverse needs of both urban and rural residents. We also need to ensure that all individuals feel a sense of belonging in those places by aligning customary practices with present and future needs. The role of these communities' facilities and spaces will evolve to encompass a broader range of functions that are increasingly relevant to the communities they serve.

### What will we work towards?

These activities will be measured against the achievement of the following Strategic Opportunities:

#### Critical Community Infrastructure

- Improve community resilience and wellbeing by maintaining high-quality community infrastructure, including lifeline utilities, and adapting to climate change.
- Maintain Waipā's quality of lifestyle while meeting the changing needs of both an ageing population and a growing youth demographic.

#### Local and Regional Economic Development and Resilience

Optimise social and economic benefits in towns and villages by taking a place-based approach to community planning to balance traffic levels and pedestrian amenities.

#### Environmental & Cultural Stewardship

Foster a sense of belonging and cultural continuity for all members of our community by actively promoting and safeguarding the district's rich cultural heritage – including its expression through natural features like the Waikato and Waipā rivers.

### What's included in this package?

In the medium term (3-10 years), Council will:

- Conduct a Parks and Public Facilities Needs Assessment for Future Direction to identify the level of service and investment needed.
- Review needs for multi-cultural funeral facilities, including urupā facilitation.

