

Part 1: Community Adaptation Planning – Adaptive Pathways Approach

Meeting: Council Briefing
Date of meeting: 01 September 2021
Reporting officer: Katy Simon, Policy Analyst

Purpose | Ngā whāinga

To introduce the Adaptive Pathways approach to community adaptation planning in preparation for Council's future decision on the pilot project location.

Context | Horopaki

Please note: Beside certain adjustments to the dates, this report is a duplication of the August Council Briefing item that staff were unable to present.

Community adaptation planning is, planning for wellbeing and resilience in an uncertain and changing climate. Councils need to do adaptation planning because of their responsibility to mitigate climate change risks and to provide for the wellbeing of current and future generations. Councils need to do adaptation planning *with* communities so that they can make informed and community-supported decisions around future infrastructure planning, resource management planning, and financial planning.

There are several approaches territorial authorities can take for community adaptation planning. These approaches change based on the climate change risks, impacts and implications, the existing needs of the community, and the cultural and historical context of the place. Adaptive Pathways¹ is a best-practice approach recommended by current Ministry for the Environment guidance². This approach is recommended when the community needs are varied and complicated and when there is uncertainty around climate change risks, impacts and implications.

Discussion | Ngā kōrerorero

The Adaptive Pathways approach is first run as a project cycle across several years. The project cycle is community-based and requires considerable engagement, governance, and technical support. By the end of the project cycle, community and Council have formally approved decisions on a series of adaptation response options, 'adaptive pathways', that are feasible, that meet community values and goals, and that account for a range of possible futures. Council and community will also have decisions around when to *change* from one combination of response options to another, from one pathway to another. These decisions will likely be called community adaptation plans (also referred to as adaptive strategies). Council will use the community adaptation plans to help guide infrastructure planning, resource management planning, and financial planning.

Council has committed to two Adaptive Pathways project cycles in the 2021-2031 LTP. The Adaptive Pathways pilot project begins this year. Council is set to decide on the pilot project location at the November meeting.

This briefing item is part one of a two-part series to introduce and work through the Adaptive Pathways approach. All further information on the Adaptive Pathways approach will be distributed at the September Briefing part 1 and October Briefing part 2.

Next steps | E whaiake nei

Next steps will be discussed during the workshops.

¹ Also known as Dynamic Adaptive Pathways Planning or Adaptive Pathways Planning.

² *Coastal Hazards and Climate Change Guidance for Local Government* (2017).