

**Community & Services Committee**  
**18 October 2017**

**Report for Agenda Item 3**

**Department: Corporate Services**

**Key Principles for the Disability Policy**

**Purpose**

- 1 To introduce the concepts that will underpin the proposed Disability Policy.

**Recommendation**

- 1 That the Community & Services Committee:

**Approve** the key principles proposed for the further development of the disability policy.

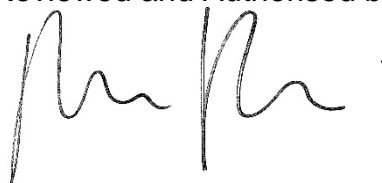
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19/10/2017

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## Background

- 2 QLDC does not currently have a disability policy that can be used to guide decision making for internal and external programmes.
- 3 A disability policy is currently under development and draft key principles have been formulated. Approval of these key principles is required in order to progress the policy further.
- 4 The draft key principles are consistent with those represented in similar policies within local and central government bodies.

## Key Principles

- 5 The QLDC Disability Policy is aligned with the New Zealand Disability Strategy 2016-2026 in its acknowledgement of three principles which “will help make sure the disabled community is visible, acknowledged and respected on an equal basis with others, and that disabled people can live a life with dignity and feel valued”.
- 6 The three principles are:
  - a. Te Tiriti o Waitangi (The Treaty of Waitangi)
    - i. Partnership: Māori and the Crown have a relationship of good faith, mutual respect and understanding, and shared decision-making.
    - ii. Participation: the Crown and Māori will work together to ensure Māori (including whānau, hapū, iwi and communities) participate at all levels of decision-making. This includes the right to seek opportunities for self-determination and self-management.
    - iii. Protection: the Crown actively contributes to improving the wellbeing of Māori, including support for independent living and the protection of Māori property and identity, in accordance with Māori values. Māori have the same rights and privileges as other citizens.
  - b. Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
    - i. Respect for inherent dignity, individual autonomy including the freedom to make one’s own choices, and independence of persons
    - ii. Non-discrimination
    - iii. Full and effective participation and inclusion in society
    - iv. Respect for difference and acceptance of disabled people as part of human diversity and humanity
    - v. Equality of opportunity
    - vi. Accessibility
    - vii. Equality between men and women

- viii. Respect for the evolving capacities of disabled children and respect for the right of disabled children to preserve their identities.
  - c. Ensuring disabled people are involved in decision-making that impacts them.
- 7 QLDC will also adhere to the following guiding principles:
  - a. Recognise the diverse needs of disabled people and acknowledge that disabled people are experts in their own experience.
  - b. Recognise the need to provide all people with equity of opportunity and access.
  - c. Ensure that quality standards and safety are maintained and barriers to access are removed.
  - d. Maintain an ongoing partnership with disabled people built on mutual trust and respect.
- 8 There are many words and terms that are used to identify disability and at present there is no consensus on this within the disability community. This policy will use specific terms proposed within the NZDS when referencing disability. These include:
  - a. Non-disabling – refers to the removal of removing the barriers in society that disable people with impairments. This is stronger and more meaningful terminology than ‘enabling’, which infers that disabled people need to get around barriers rather than remove them completely.
  - b. Disabled people - The NZDS uses the term ‘disabled people’. This is based on advice from the New Zealand Disability Strategy Revision Reference Group and in recognition of the history of the term in the 2001 Strategy.

## **Options**

- 9 It is recommended that the committee accept the proposed Key Principles in order for further development of the disability policy to be undertaken.

## ***Significance and Engagement***

- 10 This matter is of medium significance, as determined by reference to the Council’s Significance and Engagement Policy because of its positive impact upon affected parts of the community.

## ***Risk***

- 11 This matter relates to the strategic risk SR1 as documented in the Council’s risk register. The risk is classed as low. This matter relates to this risk because it mitigates the risk of failing to meet the current and future needs of the affected members of the community.

## **Local Government Act 2002 Purpose Provisions**

12 The recommended option:

- Will help meet the current and future needs of communities for good-quality local infrastructure, local public services, and performance of regulatory functions in a way that is most cost-effective for households and businesses by catering for the needs of disabled people within the community;
- Can be implemented through current funding under the 10-Year Plan and Annual Plan;
- Is consistent with the Council's plans and policies; and
- Would not alter significantly the intended level of service provision for any significant activity undertaken by or on behalf of the Council, or transfer the ownership or control of a strategic asset to or from the Council.

## **Consultation: Community Views and Preferences**

- 13 The persons who are directly affected by or interested in this matter are disabled people within the community, their support networks and advocates. It will also affect all other residents, ratepayers and businesses within the District.
- 14 The Council will engage and consult with disabled people in the community in the creation and finalisation of the disability policy.