

HIKURANGI SPORTS HUB – BRIEFING PAPER

What is a sports hub? Traditionally it is a collection of people within a community who come together collaboratively to achieve a common goal relating to facility development.

Together a sports hub can achieve more than can be achieved if individual sports are seeking support from funders or Council than could be achieved if they were working individually.

Importantly it creates a focus on what is best for the community, rather than what is best for individual sports (although individual sports may benefit from having support of the wider community).

The sports hub may be formalised (with a constitution and incorporation) or it might be a collective of people who come together around a particular project with no long-term commitment. Membership may change depending on the project at the time. At this stage of the consultation, it is important to have full representation from all sports clubs in Hikurangi.

The purpose of the current study is to provide direction to the Whangarei District Council to assist with the prioritisation of future sport and recreation facility investment in Hikurangi. It is designed to provide direction on what should be done and crucially, what should not be done.

The plan will ensure that any investment is in-line with the priorities identified and assist in ensuring that ad-hoc development is limited. It is designed to focus thinking at a community wide sports facilities level.

The most tangible outcome of the current study will be a master or development plan for Hikurangi Sports Park that includes more diverse and well-designed facilities and amenities to cater to the needs of the community. The Hikurangi Placemaking Plan identifies the need to consider provision of quality recreational and youth activities in Hikurangi.

Suggestions for what could be established at the Hikurangi Sports Park (ideas drawn from WDC and Sport Northland documents):

- Multi-use clubroom
- Indoor sports centre
- Enclosed multi-sport artificial surface for field sports
- Playground (proposed within 400m (5-minute walk))
- Recreational walking and cycling loop (planned)
- Pump Track
- Disc Golf
- Half court for basketball (or two half courts)
- Space for traditional Māori sports such as ki-o-rahi and mahi a te rehia
- Cricket pitch and nets

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