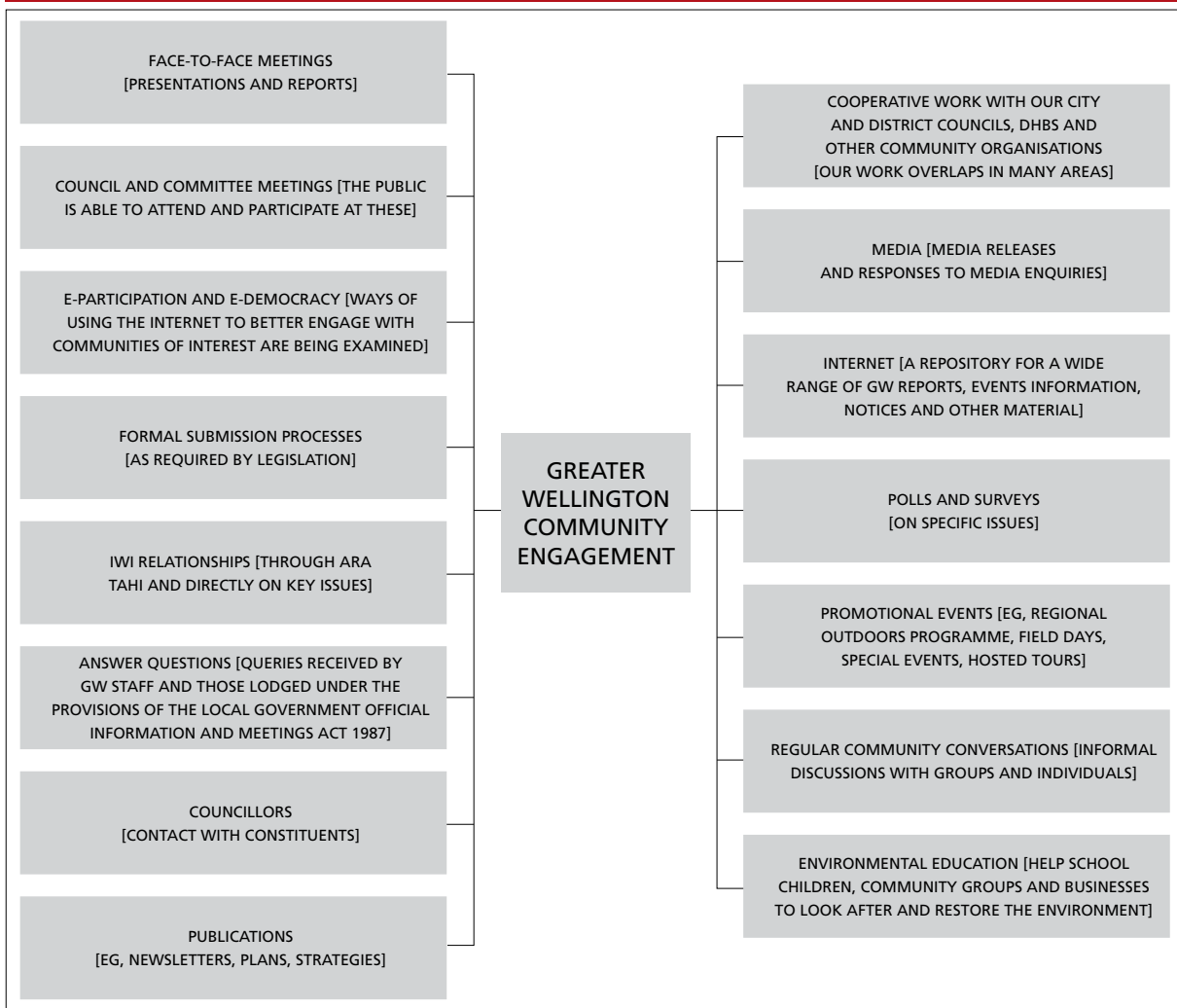


COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

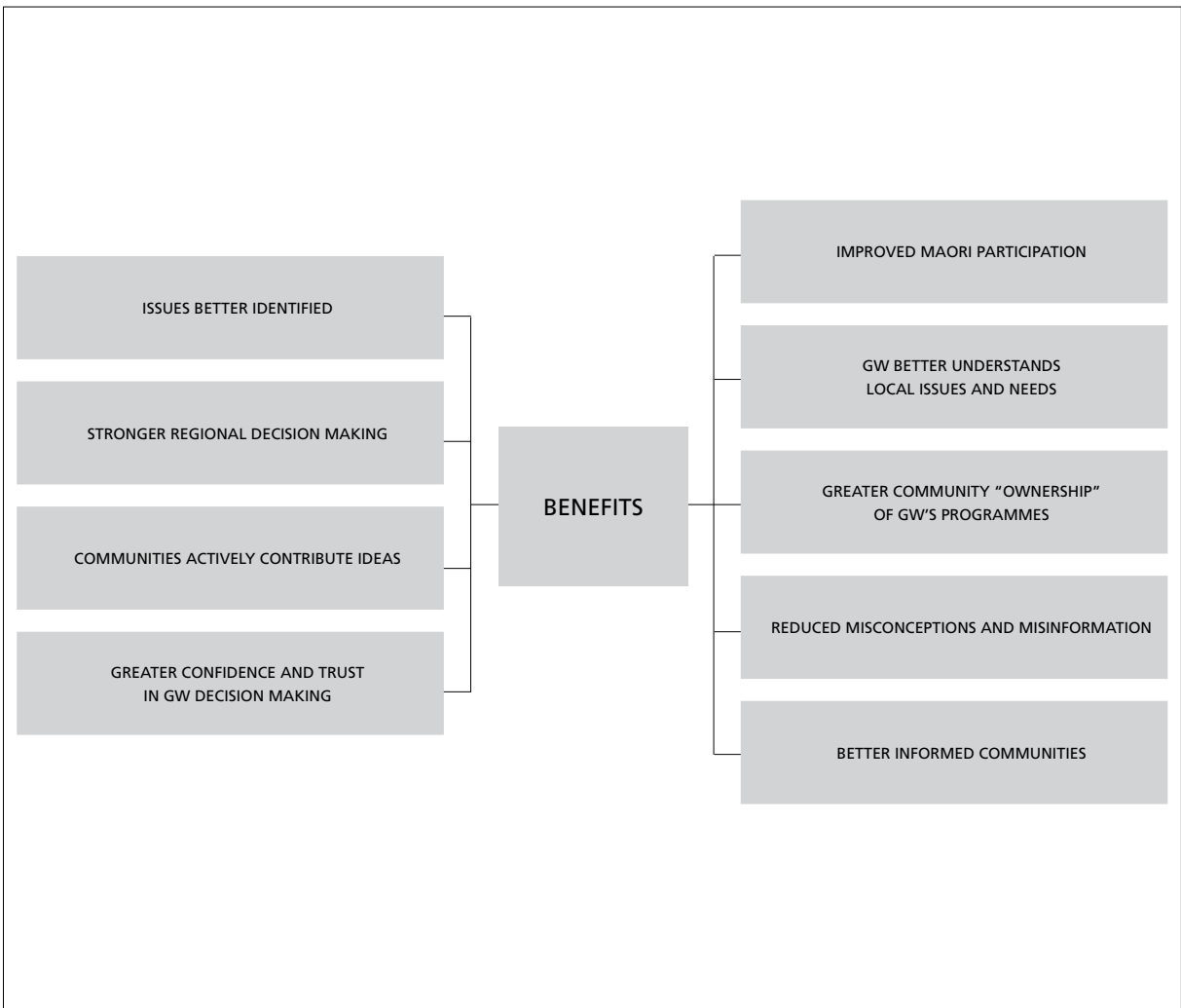
part 7

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

How we will involve the community in our work



Why we want to engage the community more in our work



MĀORI CAPACITY

Māori participation

Māori participation contributes to decision making. Greater Wellington has a longstanding and well-developed relationship with Māori in the region. This relationship is based on a Charter of Understanding that was signed by Iwi and Greater Wellington in 1993 and reviewed in 2000. A further review commenced in 2008. This review is moving the Charter towards a partnership approach which will define Council-Iwi operational engagement in a shared work plan. The Charter of Understanding is based on the principles of partnership that derive from the Treaty of Waitangi, with an emphasis on engagement of Māori in Greater Wellington's decision-making processes. The Charter of Understanding gives priority to the relationship between Greater Wellington and individual Iwi, and recognises Iwi in their role as kaitiaki in the region. The Council employs two Kaitakawaenga/ Māori Liaison Officers to facilitate relationships with Iwi and support Ara Tahi, the Council's inter-iwi representative group.

Ara Tahi – one pathway

Ara Tahi, meaning one pathway, is a collective of the seven Iwi authorities of the Wellington region and includes two Regional Councillor representatives. Ara Tahi meets regularly as a forum for discussion, to provide policy advice to the Council and to provide input sought by officials on operational matters. An example of Ara Tahi's role is the significant input into the development of the Regional Policy Statement that provides the regulatory framework for resource management in the region. The Regional Policy Statement has for the first time integrated Māori content throughout the document and has an emphasis on the sustaining of mauri – a fundamental Māori environmental concept.

Ara Tahi also holds regular technical workshops to undertake new learning and to progress the Ara Tahi workplan set at the Hui a Ara Tahi annual planning workshop.

Iwi capacity contracts

Iwi capacity contracts support engagement. Greater Wellington supports individual Iwi engagement in resource management activities through capacity contracts that enable Iwi to respond to non-notified consent applications and other matters of common interest between Council and Iwi.

Māori representation on Council committees

Iwi interests in resource management have grown over time from an environmental focus to now include all aspects of Council business. Greater Wellington has responded by increasing representation of Māori in decision-making processes. Persons, nominated by Ara Tahi, have been appointed to the Council's committees to represent the interests of Māori in the Wellington region. The Council considered that the appointments were required to provide a Māori perspective supporting Council decision making. The appointees also participate in Ara Tahi technical workshops to support the sharing of knowledge between Iwi representatives and Ara Tahi members.

Supporting Iwi involvement in resource management decision-making

Greater Wellington provides funding for Māori, nominated by Ara Tahi, to undertake training under the Resource Management Act Making Good Decisions Programme. On successful completion of the training, each person may be appointed by any local authority to participate in decisions on resource consent, plan changes and designation hearings.

Iwi project funding

Iwi project funding supports tino rangatiratanga. Iwi drive their own resource management projects which align with the work of Greater Wellington. Examples of recent projects include the development of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) capability, coastal and marine mahinga kai surveys and stream restoration projects.

Genuine progress indicators of well-being for tangata whenua and Māori communities

Greater Wellington is working with Ara Tahi to ensure that specific indicators relevant to tangata whenua in the region, as well as indicators of more general relevance to Māori well-being, are incorporated into the Genuine Progress Index (GPI) which is being developed to measure the well-being of the regional population.

Working towards partnership

Greater Wellington has developed a workplan of activities that support the increased capability of Councillors and staff to work in partnership with Iwi to achieve regional resource management outcomes. Activities include:

- Establishment of a Māori resource base that aims to improve access to information through collation of data pertaining to Māori engagement in regional resource management
- Working towards the establishment and inclusion of cultural health indicators in Greater Wellington's environmental monitoring programme
- Implementation of a Te Reo and Tikanga Strategy that provides ongoing workshops, support and advice to Councillors and staff