



Media Release
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Community Centres and Halls Strategic Plan Adopted

A new plan has been adopted by the Council to guide the future of community centres and halls in Selwyn District.

The plan recognises that these facilities are very important to communities but that some change is required to ensure they continue to be well used and valued by the district's communities. The views of hall committees and the public about how they see facilities being used and managed in the future have helped to develop the plan.

The Council's Manager of Open Space and Property, Mark Rykers, says that a number of community centres and halls in the district will be upgraded or replaced within the next few years.

"The Council is currently working with, or planning to work with, communities in Dunsandel, West Melton, Hororata, Greenpark, Lakeside and Tai Tapu to look at the options around developing new community facilities which suit the needs of these communities. In a number of cases this is the result of damage to facilities in the earthquake events."

The review also identified the need for community facilities to receive additional support and to work more closely together. "The policy encourages community committees managing facilities to work together more closely in the future and to share resources. The Council will also provide additional expertise and advice to support committees," says Mr Rykers.

The targeted rates system for funding community centres and halls will continue but the plan signals the need for the Council to look at other funding approaches to ensure the right mix is provided. Any proposals to alter funding would be consulted on as part of future Annual or Long Term Plans.

"There are no plans to close existing facilities but where usage continues to decline and major capital investment is needed to upgrade them we will work with communities to look at future options. This will include looking at whether upgrading or a new facility is required or if the facility is still needed. Ultimately it will be up to communities to decide what they want for their area and what kind of facility they want to fund," says Mr Rykers.

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