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**HCC candidate name: *Allan Halse***

Please type in the space below each question, and use as much space as you require for each answer.

Please email your responses back to [info@sustainablewaikato.org.nz](mailto:info@sustainablewaikato.org.nz) not later than **Monday, September 5<sup>th</sup> 2016**.

**1. Have you personally been involved in any group, organisation or activities that relate to sustainability? Please give details and outcomes.**

I've been involved in numerous organisations including Chairing Target Te Aroha, a n organisation set up in the late 1990's to manage sustainable growth for the town. I was also on Environment Waikato (later renamed Waikato Regional Council) Executive Sustainability committee.

**2. Please rank, in order of (1) to (7), what you consider to be the most pressing needs for sustainability today, (1) being the most pressing and (7) the least. Please also add one of your own ideas.**

Adapting to the impacts of climate change	Rank: <b>2</b>
Reducing our contribution to climate change	Rank: <b>6</b>
Sustainable economic growth	Rank: <b>3</b>
Sustainable transport options	Rank: <b>5</b>
Sustainable urban design	Rank: <b>4</b>
Water quality in our rivers and lakes	Rank: <b>1</b>
<u>Other (enter here):</u>	Rank:

*You may comment on your ranking if you wish:*

As a general comment to these rankings, I am of the thought that sustainability can never be achieved while we operate in a world underpinned by the ideal of 'free market' determination. However, the realist in me, also views a world that is well past the point of being able to 'throw the baby out with the bath water' and create a different paradigm in one foul-swoop. Having said this, global and local economies cannot continue to support the repercussions - increasingly devastating extreme weather events, the range of social ills, degraded water and air quality, flora and fauna stress, and so on - of our current neoliberal approach.

It is on our present day leaders to step up now and embed the concept of sustainability as the overarching principle to all public decision making and to employ effective measurements of our progress toward improved life quality. There are tools out there that leaders and managers can utilise. One example is ISO 37120:2014 which aims to help cities to assess their performance

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and measure progress overtime across a number of elements that fall within the overarching concept of sustainability; Good governance, education, the natural, urban and rural environment, energy, health, recreation, safety, shelter, sound urban planning and infrastructure management for solid waste, wastewater, water and sanitation, telecommunications and transportation, as well as fire and emergency response support services and achieving a healthy economy, finance and level of innovation.

Actively pursuing good governance and management of the tensions that naturally exist between the above elements of our cityscape is the only way we can start to address the embedded drivers that support short term, economic gain and individualist thinking at the expense of our social and environmental needs.

### **3. In your view, what is the most effective thing Council could do to improve wellbeing for those of lower socioeconomic status in our city?**

The most effective thing Council can do to improve lower socio-economic status is to stimulate more 'working together' opportunities, where greater inter-agency and local community groups can collaborate to achieve better collective impact around social inclusion and equity needs. Addressing poverty, violence and literacy needs within the city takes a 'whole village' approach. In this way, an integrative social strategy can be developed along side of the existing range of intervention programmes that are already hard at work.

### **4. What do you see as future priorities for transport in Hamilton City and what benefits do you believe these changes will bring?**

In actively pursuing a more 'liveable' city - and by this I am not referring to the a city that is economically powerful so we are able to build more roads for heighten private vehicle movement - but rather one that actively strives for improving all of the transportation modes of our city.

To me this means having 'joined-up' transportation solutions. This integrative approach must promote improved uptake of shared & public transport use by create commuting options that improve connections within and around the city and between the city and neighbouring towns. They must be accessible, convenient and affordable for all. Every solution must result in lowering overall emissions and achieving safe travel in and around the cityscape for all users – walkers, bikers, public and commercial transport and private vehicles.

What I see for example is that while the ring road has certainly enabled faster and more fluid vehicle movement around the city, it also encourages heightened private vehicle use, we still have issues with across city movement where private and commercial vehicles are in conflict with kids getting to get to their schools, we have public paths that are not fully accessible to all user abilities and walk and cycle ways that don't fully connect around the city. These are some of the areas that we need a joined-up approach which sits within an overarching principle of sustainability.

### **5. What sustainable water management strategies do you think Council should implement?**

Water quality is critical to the survival of our communities, our city and our planet.

Providing reliable and safe potable water, healthy 'in and above' ground water sources and river ecologies is a public responsibility and a core infrastructure function of Council business.

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While NZ is blessed with a level of high rain fall, we cannot guarantee that this will always be the case – especially with our current climate changes. I see that promoting the critical nature and responsible use of our water sources, is also a core requirement of Council.

Therefore, in moving toward greater sustainability and seeking a more ‘liveable’ city, Council must practise both prudent infrastructure management, while taking an integrative approach that not only continues to work with local Iwi and across with our neighbouring Councils, but support education programmes especially those that are already working at a ground-up community level.

- 6. Do you see the Council as having responsibility towards managing native biodiversity within the city? If yes, what policies would you like to see in place to support this? If no, please explain.**

Absolutely, one of the features of a liveable city is a healthy biodiversity.

- 7. What strategies do you think Council should employ to minimise the City’s waste?**

Ensure that the waste management contract enable all forms of recycling, introducing the introduction of green waste, twice annually collections of household furniture etc

- 8. How can Hamilton celebrate cultural diversity while helping to strengthen cross cultural ties?**

Through the support of Migrant Resource Centre in Boundary Road and the actions of various ethnic groups, Hamilton has already created a cultural diversity, the envy of most towns and cities in New Zealand. I have been an active supporter of the Migrant Resource Centre.

- 9. Do you think Council has a role in supporting businesses, schools, families and individuals to make more sustainable choices? If no, why not and if yes what ideas do you have to support this?**

I believe that it is the Council’s role to provide leadership to the community on sustainability. I would be promoting sustainability at all levels and would be listening to the community and supporting sustainability issues at every level.

- 10. Do you think Council has a responsibility to have policies to mitigate climate change and manage its impacts? Could you please give some examples?**

The mitigation of climate change is an unachievable goal, but the slowing of climate change and effective management of its impacts is something worthy of our attention.

- 11. Suppose that your Council is considering a proposal for economic development. The development would increase regional GDP and create a significant number of jobs. It would also add significant pollution to waterways and further degrade their ecosystems. Would you support the proposal or not? What is your reasoning?**

If Council established an overarching principle of sustainability and set in place a mechanism for measuring the Cities progress toward improved life quality, the economic development proposal would have a transparent vehicle for enabling collective decision making based ‘integrative value’. Within this framework, the choice may not need to be one of adversarial conflict – economic gain measured against degraded ecosystem, but may present opportunities for a restorative development approach - economic gain and ecosystem enhancement.