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

No

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: 2

Reducing our contribution to climate change Rank: 1

Sustainable economic growth Rank: 4

Sustainable transport options Rank: 4

Sustainable urban design Rank: 7

Water quality in our rivers and lakes Rank: 7

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?

Social housing and training courses that equip people with workforce and home management skills

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

As Hamilton continues to grow economically, this gives rise to traffic congestion, affects the city's liveability and hampers growth. By investing in, and encouraging the use of, public transport, cycling and walking, there will be less cars on roads, and our city will keep moving and growing sustainably. Education programmes are also needed.

The introduction of a Hamilton-Auckland commuter train would relieve roading congestion on the Southern Motorway, ease the housing crisis, reduce the number of cars on the road, and therefore enhance road safety. A commuter train is also an economic and efficient option for employees and students who want to live in Hamilton but work or study in Auckland.

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

It is vital to keep rivers clean and protect river networks for a sustainable future. To achieve green growth, effective management is essential. Institutions have to be strengthened and partnerships formed to ensure collaborative solutions. Particular focus should be on cooperation with the rural sector and developing rural water infrastructure. Water quality, rather than quantity, should be addressed. Strategic planning is needed.

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.

I think it is important to conserve Hamilton's diverse natural heritage and unique gully networks. Policies could include strengthening legal frameworks, the introduction of more predator control, education that targets all strata of the community, restoration projects that encourage community involvement, enhancing partnerships with businesses, and valuing and promoting voluntary contributions, again on all levels, from schools through to corporations.

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

Education programmes that aim at highlighting the need to reduce waste. Offer courses on composting, reducing and reusing. Implement recycle schemes and introduce zero-waste plans, and innovative and cost-effective strategies to divert waste from landfills. Have green bins available around the city.

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

Lead by example; employ culturally-diverse staff; enhance the good work already being done by inviting groups to participate in Council meetings where appropriate, and participating in festivals and celebrations, and making groups feel valued. Continue to showcase our multicultural community through events like the Indigo Festival. Make use of community spaces, such as the museum and art gallery, and open air venues (e.g. Garden Place) to showcase our diversity. Meet regularly with representatives to strengthen ties and enhance cross cultural dialogue.

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?

Yes, Council comprises elected representatives of the community and, as such, should provide a strong support role. Adopt a charter, such as the International Campaign for Compassionate Communities, so everyone feels safe, valued, and cared for. Listen and network with people, become apprised of their needs so they receive the appropriate support needed to take action. Partner with like-minded organisations and groups who take the lead in the community to achieve tangible outcomes. Work with businesses, schools and households to assist them in taking practical, concrete steps to be more sustainable; with special emphasis on energy efficiency, transport, water and waste. Ensure tools, information and programmes are accessible and available. Create a strong framework for action that targets and embraces all strata of the community. Develop and promote a shared vision. Provide a (community-driven) vehicle for sharing results, challenges, ideas and successes.

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?

Council can support the work being undertaken by Environment Waikato.

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?

Any proposal would have to be balanced and compared with other cities. An integrated approach would be necessary in order to preserve the integrity of the waterways and ecosystems. Feasibility studies would be required.