

Waitomo Housing Strategy

Workshop Report

March 2023





Overview and Background

The Waitomo District is currently experiencing distinct housing challenges. The issues are multiple, often interlinked, and can be complex. Where other provincial towns have experienced strong population growth over recent years, Waitomo's has remained relatively modest in comparison. This doesn't mean that property prices have remained stable, and Waitomo's cost of housing has steadily risen in recent years. This is a particular problem as the district has low median household incomes, and the quality of housing is poor, and the supply of housing constrained.

The current situation on housing in the Waitomo district can be summarised as follows:

- Waitomo's existing housing stock is generally old and on larger sections
- most Waitomo's community has many renters on low incomes.
- there is very low rental stock making it hard for employers to attract staff and for families to move or remain in the district
- afford ability is paramount
- in the long-term, quality and suitability of housing cannot be compromised by our need for the quantity of housing
- there is the need for more public and assisted rental and ownership housing.

To address these issues, Waitomo District Council is leading the development of a Housing Strategy which will set out a plan of actions to be taken to improve the situation.

The Housing Strategy will involve key housing stakeholders and partners because solving housing issues is complex and will take many committed hands. The more individuals, agencies and entities involved in the kaupapa the stronger our community and response will be.

Housing Strategy Development Process

The development of the Housing Strategy will generally encompass seven key stages.

ESTABLISH	Establish the project with Waitomo District Council and set up the approach to the Strategy so it is a success.
PREPARE	Prepare to engage with key housing partners and stakeholders by drafting key issue statements and objectives. Create a user- friendly workbook to guide an engagement workshop.
ENGAGE	Hold workshop with key housing partners to discuss and confirm issue statements and discuss potential actions and responses
DRAFT	Write Draft Housing Strategy and Action Plan and continue engagement with housing partners where required
TEST	Circulate Draft Housing Strategy and test direction and proposed actions with Council and key housing partners. Obtain Feedback.
FINALISE	Finalise Housing Strategy based on feedback
ADOPT	Council adopts Housing Strategy / Action Plan

Workshop One

8 March 2023

Les Munroe Centre, Te Kūiti Hosted by Waitomo District Council and facilitated by Veros

The purpose of this workshop was to share conversations to start to develop an action plan to improve housing outcomes in the Waitomo District. A workshop workbook was sent to participants in advance, this workbook outlined key background information, housing issues identified, and draft housing objectives for further discussion.

Workshop Participants

A successful co-design approach relies on participants openly sharing all the knowledge and experience they have. We acknowledge the following individuals and organisations that are participating in this process and thank them for their time and their willingness to share their knowledge.

Organisation / Stakeholder	Participant	Organisation / Stakeholder	Participant
	Kurt Houghton	Te Puni Kokiri	Alonso Mason
Houghton Builders Te Kuiti	Dylan Harrison	Kānoa - Regional Economic Development & Investment Unit	Nick Willis
Waina Duildana	Jack Mckenzie	The Lines Company	Jared Murrell
Waipa Builders	Eli Brown	The Lines Company	Anne Terry
	Lorrene Te Kanawa	Maru Trust	Jo Meads
1st Scaffolding	Les Te Kanawa	Habitat for Humanity	Nic Greene
	Tony Dickson	Women's Refuge	Wendy Valler
Pil Group	Olivia Buck	Waikato Housing Initiative	Aksel Bech
	Pat Rore Stafford	Claymark Sawmill	Dale Rendell
Maniapoto Marae Pact Trust	Dawn Magner	Latitude Homes	Ross Hughey
	Dawn Magner		Lee Hughey
	Ashleigh Turner	Cambridge Homes	John Riggir
Te Nehenehenui			Tim Santer
	Kristen Pari		Gloria Campbell
Te Kuiti Pā	Shannon Manwaiti	Ministry of Social Development	Danny Hall
Local Real Estate Agents	Mary Tapu		Candice Reid

Organisation / Stakeholder	Participant	Organisation / Stakeholder	Participant
Houghton Builders	Kurt Houghton		Jackie Fitzgerald
Te Kuiti	Dylan Harrison	1 st Scaffolding	Lorrene Te Kanawa
	Jack Mckenzie	1 st Scarrolding	Les Te Kanawa
Waipa Builders	El. D	Pil Group	Tony Dickson
	Eli Brown	Pil Group	Olivia Buck
Waitomo District Council Mayor	John Robertson		Alister Duncan
Waitomo District Council Deputy Mayor	Allan Goddard	Waitomo District	Melanie Stannard
	Gavin Todd	Council Staff	Ale x Be ll
Elected Members Waitomo District	Janette Osborne	-	Shyamal Ram
Council	Jenene New	Otorohanga District Council	Michelle Holland
	Ben Smit	Waikato District Council	Sheryl Paekau
	John Robertson	Momentum Waikato	Ke lvyn Eg linton
Waitomo District	Rangiwhiua Ngatai	Ministry of Housing and Urban Development	John McDonald
Council Staff	Charmaine Ellery	Ministry of Housing and Urban Development MAIHI	Patricia Nathan
	Jenelle Burnell	Kainga Ora	Andy Mannering
	Sarah McElroy	Ū	Mata Turner

Key discussion points at the workshop were:

- Introductions, relationship building and context setting.
- discussion and confirmation of the key issues identified.
- discussion and confirmation of the housing objectives identified.
- potential key actions identification.



Exercise 1: Discuss and Confirm Housing Issues

For this exercise, the participants broke into smaller groups to discuss the identified housing issues which were presented to them in the workshop workbook. The purpose of the exercise was for participants to discuss each presented issue as a group and outline in their words what contributed to these issues, if they agreed with them and how they are applicable to the district. The group was also asked to identify and discuss any additional housing issues that had not been identified for discussion within the workbook provided.

Groups recorded their discussion on paper, with reference to the four identified issues. The images of the recorded notes from this session are included in Appendix 2.

The table below summarises the general themes discussed and raised by the groups. The right-hand column in the table reflects the number of times each theme/topic was noted down by all the groups combined:

Housing Issue 1: Housing is unaffordable for our whānau		
Reasons / topics / subjects discussed regarding this issue		
Inflation and increasing costs (including inflating construction cost)	6	
Low incomes of people who live in Waitomo	5	
Market demand / supply imbalance and factors	4	
High cost of land	3	
Lending laws / deposit requirements as a barrier to ownership	3	
Lack of knowledge of subsidies / support / help for those who need it	3	
Data and information availability and accessibility	1	
Types of work and employment opportunities	1	
Mindset of availability may not meet what is available (land and houses)	1	
Limited growth	1	
Increasing rent	1	
Ongoing costs for housing	1	
Lack of life stage housing options	1	
Low education levels within the community	1	

Housing Issue 2: We do not have enough homes to support and grow our community	Times Noted
Reasons / topics / subjects discussed regarding this issue	
Incentives / funding avenues to support development lacking	4
Barriers within local government	3
Limited land available	3
Infrastructure constraints	2
Intensification is not supported	2
There is a lot of māori and non-māori whenua that could be developed need unlocking	2
Need to support the whenua hauora (land health) before land development, particularly iwi land	2
Need more permissive / enabling council rules	1
No coordinated group to deliver homes	1
Low incomes of people living in Waitomo	1

Housing Issue 3: Our homes are old making them unhealthy and costly to heat	
Reasons / topics / subjects discussed regarding this issue	
Lack of knowledge of funding and support avenues to help make homes healthy	8
Lack of finance / unaffordable / cannot recover cost in rental income	7
Lack of Knowledge of rights as renters	5
People put up with unhealthy homes	3
Lack of tradesman in the local community	3
Lack of maintenance of homes	2
Red tape and the regulatory process	1

Housing Issue 4: Our housing needs (size, location, type) are different, but our homes are generally the same.	
Reasons / topics / subjects discussed regarding this issue	
Lack of housing diversity - enabled through zoning and location	6
Support for investors and others to invest is needed	2
Need to fully understand what housing people need and where	
Kainga Ora could support new / different types of homes	
Increase support for cultural change of how we live - living together, papakāinga etc. is needed	

Exercise 2: Discuss Objectives and Action Planning

Exercise 2 involved breaking out into smaller groups and participants were asked to discuss the housing objectives presented in the Workbook and consider the actions required in-order to meet these objectives.

Participants were asked to record the specific actions that would be required to achieve the housing objectives identified. Participants were also asked to add any additional housing objectives that they see as important for the Housing Strategy. After one round of drafting actions, the groups were mixed up to sit onto different tables with participants from different perspectives and organisations to stimulate further discussion and cross-pollination of ideas, and the exercise was repeated.

The table below summarises the themes captured by the groups, and the number of times each theme was noted down by all the groups combined. The images of the recorded notes from this session are included in Appendix 3.

*Many proposed actions did not include timelines or responsible agencies / organisations; therefore, Veros has included preliminary timelines and delivery entities based on the notes available and discussions on the day.

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Ref	Action	Time line *	Who*	Times Noted
1	Needs analysis - Identifying the exact housing needs of the population. (Including rental demand)	Imme d iate	Council led / Iwi / Waikato Housing Initiative (WHI)	7
2	Undertake a Land stock take & detailed housing stocktake Look at whenua holistically: What we have, where is it, what value it adds, best long-term use, right development in the right way (not fertile lands)	Im me d iate	Council led / Iwi	6
3	Deliver an enabling policy to support the development of land and housing in the right locations and the right type of housing. Propose district plan > 2 years - to enable a range of housing typologies, uses, and development of Māori Land	Medium - Long	Council	6
4	Retrofit and improve existing public homes - prioritise healthy homes upgrades	Immediate - Short	Kainga Ora	5
	Creation of a central hub to distribute knowledge and help around healthy homes requirements, support, and rental rights	Imme diate	Council	5
	Provide finance and budget education	Immed iate	Council collab with banks and mortgage brokers / MSD	5
	Intensify KO properties, by utilising the land to support more than one dwelling.	Short - Medium	Kainga Ora	5
	Undertake a needs analysis and Identify ownership models and alternative opportunities that could be suitable and needed in Waitomo (Traditional owner occupied, private rental, CHP, rent to own, Papakāinga, Joint Ventures)	Short - Medium	Council led / Iwi / CHP's	5
	Undertake an infrastructure capacity stock take and analysis and identify (what can existing infrastructure handle and where	Imme diate	Council led / Iwi / WHI	4
	Identification of possible funders of housing that will take a lower a ROI of 3-6% to benefit the community and local economy. Develop a funding plan	Short	Council led	4
	Direct engagement with mana whenua to develop and unlock suitable māori land	Immediate - Short	Council/ Iwi	3
	Develop an affordable development model (e.g., 50 homes over 5-10 years). Consider a council standard for defining "affordable"	Short	Council led / Iwi / WHI	3
5	Infill housing and intensification-Ensuring community is on the journey for social acceptance	Short - Medium	Council	3
6	Mechanism to join funders / investors / developers with landowners who are interested in selling or developing their land. Joining opportunity with investors.	Im me d iate	Council	2
7	Audit of unoccupied homes – Understand why they are empty and if they can be utilised	Imme diate	Council	2
8	Make it easier to rent out houses (reduce risks), Including uplifting standard of home	Short - Medium	Council led / homeowners / mana whenua	2

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9	Develop a community land trust to support housing	Me d iu m		2
10	Connect with the Waikato Housing Initiative to gain further connections to funders	Im m e d iate	Council/WHI	1
11	Support Lawrence Development (11 new homes)	Im me diate	Kainga Ora	1
12	Establish and support a locally based Community Housing Provider – Te Kopaki	Im me d ia te	Council led / Habitat for Humanity / Maniapoto (PACT Trust) / Momentum Waikato / Te Kopaki	1
13	Identify surplus Council owned land and divest or develop for housing	Immediate - Short	Council and other landowners	1
14	Support Lawrence Development (11 new homes)	Imme diate	Kainga Ora	1
18	Identify properties that can be purchased to easily increase density	Short - Medium	Council	1
19	Le verage Kainga Ora balance sheet to purchase along side their homes to enable more comprehensive development	Short - Medium	Council/Kainga Ora	1
20	Accreditation of Healthy Homes - adding this to the LIM	Short	Council	1
21	Create a network of funders and service providers to work on housing improvements for those who need it most	Short - Medium	Healthy Homes Initiative	1
22	Intentional procurement of industry to the district - training and education to supply	Me d ium	Te Waka	1
23	Support Smart Builds - environmentally friendly, efficient, sustainable			1
24	Focus on create a more vibrant and thriving town - sell the area to support growth			1
25	Provide funding to help landlords and owners improve and remediate homes (targeted rates)		Regional Council, WDC	1
26	Incentivise Landlords to improve their homes			1

Additional Discussion Post Workshop

During closing of the workshop, an open invitation was provided to participants to attend the Papakāinga Whanau workshop to be held at the Les Munro Centre, April 29, 2023. Veros and Waitomo staff also invited all attendees to send through any additional notes or thoughts that they may have over the coming days that could help inform the strategy. The following notes are a summary of the correspondence received after the workshop:

- South Waikato District Council Three Heating Schemes Available tailored to suit different situations and incomes, targeted at helping provide warm, dry, healthy homes.
 - $\underline{https://www.southwaikato.govt.nz/our-services/warmhomes/three heating schemes available}$
 - The 'Evaluation of Warm Up New Zealand: Heat Smart programme' outlines the net benefit of the home heating schemes introduced throughout NZ under the Heat Smart programme.
- Palmerston North City Council have built 50 new pensioner housing units since 2018, all meeting healthy homes standards, built with universal design front of mind, and achieving a Lifemark 4-star rating (Well designed for ageing in place. A high percentage of the design features are built in, plus the home can be can be adapted further if required). Graham, the owner of Latitude Homes has expressed his willingness to share ideas and feedback from constructing this project. https://www.pncc.govt.nz/Services/Social-housing
- There are significant costs attached to land intensification and often long lead in times of one to two years to achieve title. The services required every time this is done are:
 - o Surveying/Conveyancing
 - o Engineering assessment
 - o Resource consent/land use consent
 - o Council fees
 - o IINZ

Recent initiatives implemented at MBIE have reduced the cost of land intensification for Crown owned land and made the process quicker. Can similar processes be investigated and implemented for private and iwi landowners locally, in areas of town where the approval process is easily repeated, e.g., block by block instead of section by section. If an en-bloc approach is taken, the fees should be less if bundled, and only names and engineering differences would apply. Infrastructure assessments/upgrades/repairs would be for the council to bear. to fast-track in-fill land title applications. If this initiative were backed through Regional/Govt backed initiative, financing options could be easier, like deferred interest only periods and or grants to pay or contribute for these services as options.

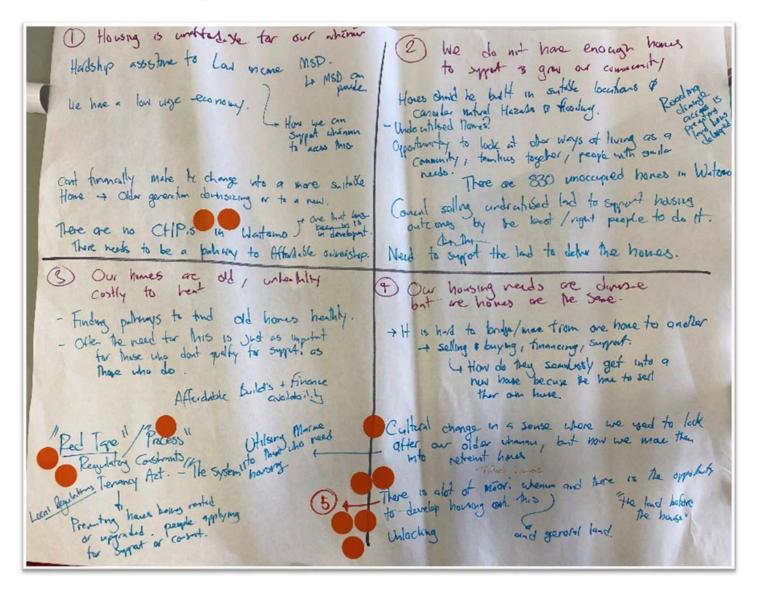
- In regard to land currently owned by Council, within the town limits of Te Kuiti, serviced/infrastructure ready there are two points to consider:
 - 1. The existing WCLT (Waikato Community Lands Trust) is already established with a region wide mandate. This could be a solution.
 - 2. If building to rent, there is a current fund open for capital cost grant application. https://www.hud.govt.nz/funding-and-support/affordable-rental-pathway/
- Kāinga Ora currently has 95 homes in Waitomo District. Residential Tenancies (Healthy Homes Standards) Regulations (2019) sets out minimum standards for heating, insulation, ventilation, moisture ingress/drainage, and draught-stopping. Kāinga Ora has to ensure all homes across our portfolio comply with these standards by 1 July 2024. Work is underway in the District to

ensure all our homes meet these standards, of the 95 homes in the District, 67 now comply, 26 have work in progress and the 2 remaining homes will be addressed before July 2024."

Next Steps in Development of the Strategy

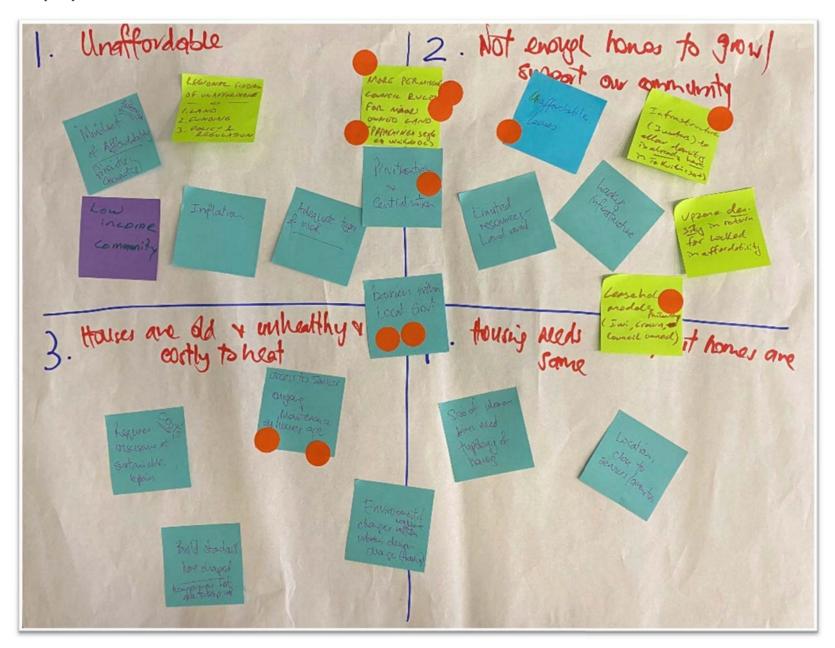
- 1. Waitomo District Council officers in conjunction with Veros will draft the first version of the Housing Strategy and Action Plan.
- 2. Throughout this process Council and/or Veros may contact participants to discuss potential actions in more detail.
- 3. Once the Draft Strategy is completed it will be provided to all participants for review and feedback.

Appendix 1: Exercise 1 – Participant Notes

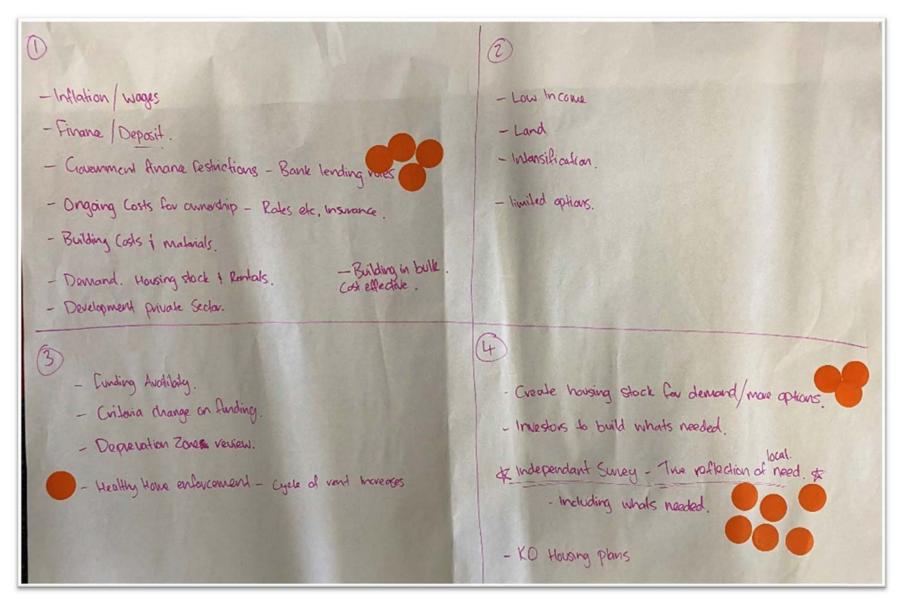


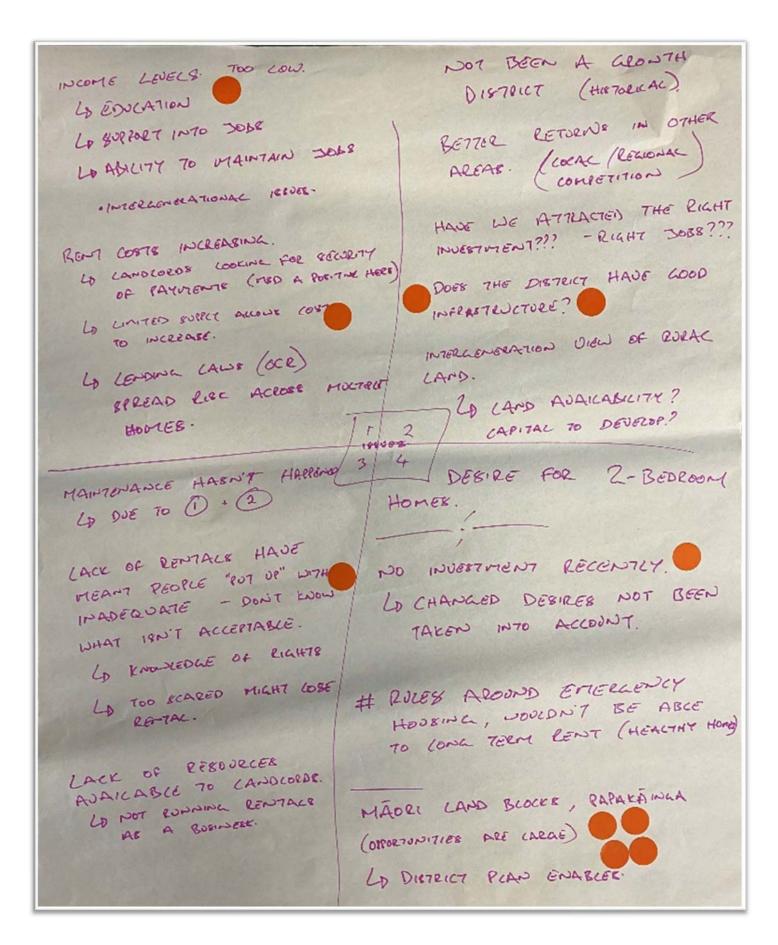
Cost of land vs. leturn Up fant investment to get 9% return Market demand puts of development Limited growth " Section size e density	Co-ordinated group to deliver homes. Actual number of homes agained e.g. 20-20 2 bed nauses.
3. Additional regulations have make renovertions unabfordable Cannot recover from rent. Awareness of funding a programmes to retro-lit Knowledge of how to fix olde homes.	4. Need seed Doding to create right & sized sections Section size is first domino to All Land availability





Thousing is unaffordable for our whoman Stimulate local economic development to preed to address Figeto second users. Get people to Stry in employment. Municipal of Mynominant touring sources to how to access it. CMHIND fourly. Thou to enable office ties in building supplies a Cie soule of developments	our community -> After Encourage Infill developments -> Incentives good curban design of Infill -> supportive funding environment. Create relationships with finder/developments -> Provide right typologies in 2/3 bedienes right Lewiss. -> Incentives / encouragement for funder/trusts/philanthropic etch pood funding.
3 Our homes one old making that unhealthy \$ costs to home? → Refresh \$ reducelop hours I my stock → Encourage anexamous of substidies \$ government trading.	4 Our housing needs (8124,1000than, type) are different, but one hours are generally the same. > Perform to redevelop > Oreste of mursub in housing steed - in Enoughled Through PDP.



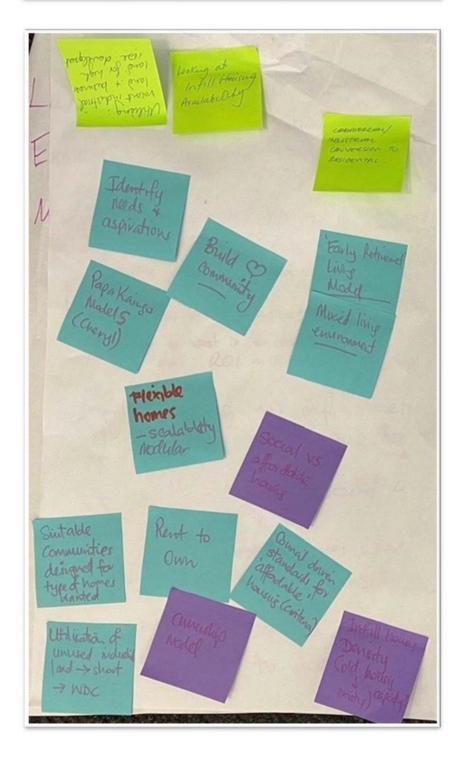


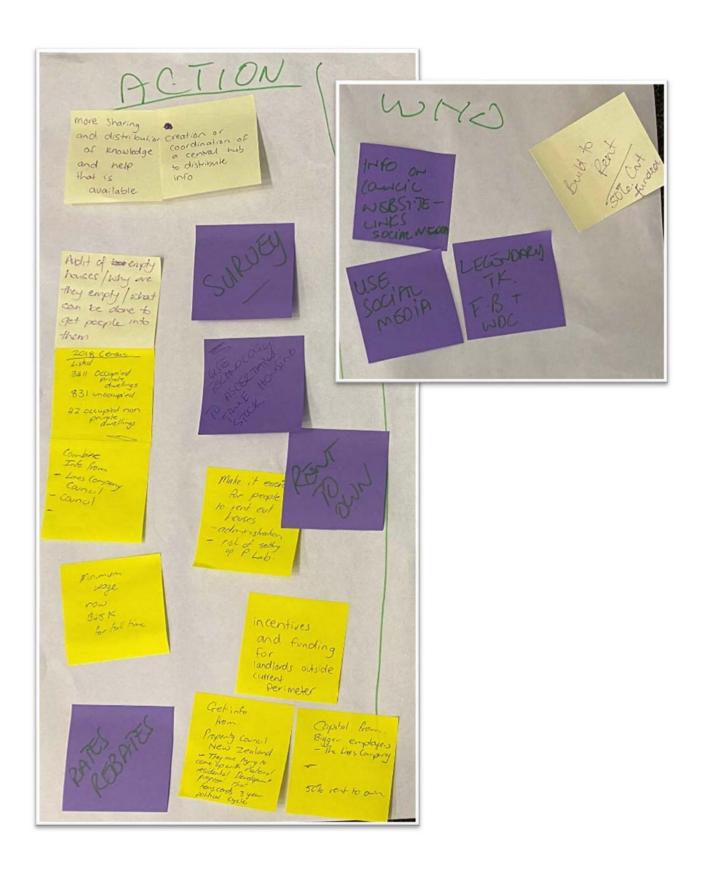
Appendix 2: Exercise 2 - Participant Notes

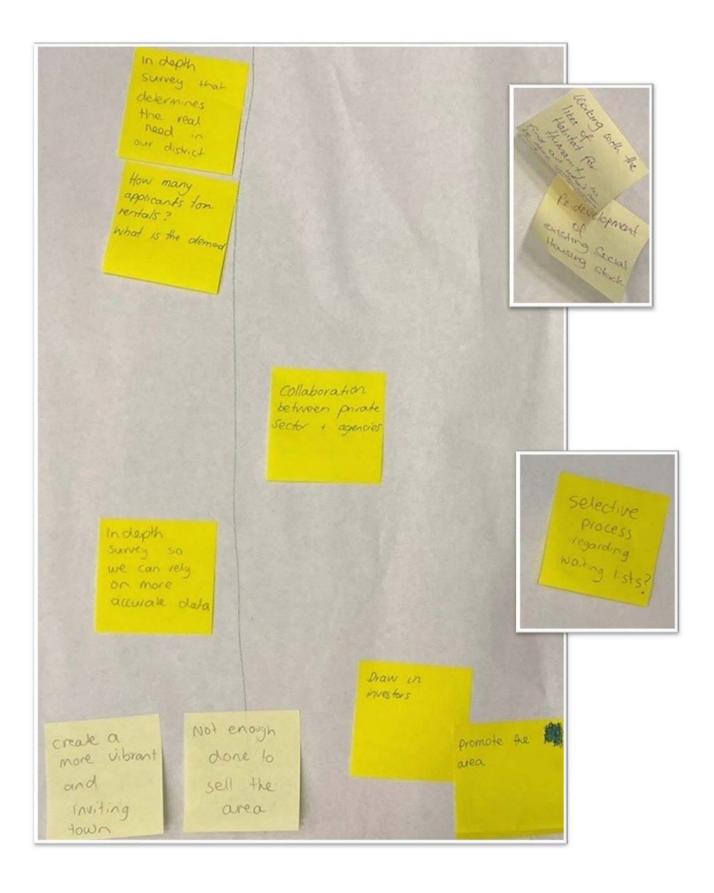
Action we are taking	Timing
Improving the abilty for people to understadi how to buy a hone, access support a assistance. Let Education at support Let Education at support A Education at support Improve access to services. Approach local Bishesses who would trind the deulopmit of homes Improve undestading on what support a funding here is to Improve the quality of homes	Council - Short tem. DHD / Te Whetnesia.
Delver Funding Support to help improve / remediate homes. - torgetted rate - Investment support in different housing Budget Services - shared - Jacksofte Utilise INI / Marke land for housing examine rules & regs! around this.	+ Regional Cewell W Council - reclaimed Through rates - Louis for insulation - especially Landlards in Models in aguity. MSD.

-> Getting an organisation to the District to explain
how tending models ate could work. (i.e Nees, developents of the same to develop a programme of housing to the moset a programme of housing. (Mayoral Farm).

-> Understanding finding tools to the program of housing (what is needed in the comments).







What actions are ne toking things thing to	Who Who
3 the Carcial and - convertly cored/serviced (moment	WOC
There a deede how to utilise above for I haved	WDC & Iwi & other stakeholders
(Kanga Ova to prioritise healthy homes ingrade to complete all 90 homes by 2024 (HHACT)	Kauga Ora
2) Utilisation of whenva maori long term	7 RMA Men review
4 ind. Affor OFGE LENTE GRANTS TON SUPPOR Juned / of infrastructure, new Momentum Fund	Short was
	Term wock zuit others take holders
Twill LOCAL CONTRACT + CENTRAC	GOVERNONELT
LELATION SHIP / MUST WORK IN UNISON	TO ACHECU: ALL OF ADOLE

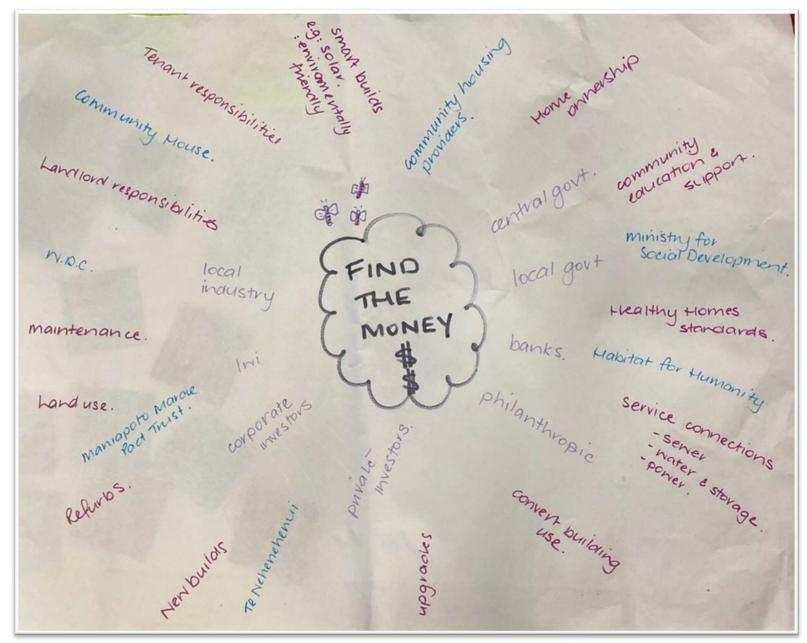


Actions ("old homes)	Timing	Who
Network of funders, service poorders Network or housing improvements	Immediate	Healthy homes hiliatur
Actions (%) old homes) Network of funders, service providers to work on housing improvements Capture e co-coodinate refferals to the group (above)	Immediate	Community organisations
Accreditation of homes rating to come eg. and healthy homes rating to com	Short	Carcil



Ac	tian Plan	
Immediate > Make a connection with the housing i-intive (Supports housing development across the Warkate). -> they could run a markshop - wo to outline \$ connect fundas.	Medium ter- > PDP -> 2yrs - enables a range of howing typologies, to use \$ decelopment of majori land.	-> carnets lad that
-> Understand the needs 1- the pental maket & harsing demand at a granewood level -> what is required. -> Agency to understand need Cle. who what is exact demand 5-10 grs 2 for housing \$ complayment)	->	







What Action are We Taking	Timing	Who.
Finance, Funding options, Collective funding. Financial literacy, Budgetting etc. education.	Immediate.	WDC & Collaborative with Banks Workgage lorokeus, etc. + comunity advertising
Independant local Survey Housing & Land.	Immediate.	WDC to And out what lands available Land ownership.
Progressive planing from land availibility. Including wider yegions.	1-3 years.	
Rezone existing properties. I relocating as needed. + Intensification.	1 year.	



Action by whom.	Who is involved
Stark take of land In, hope & Wheen . The people having + quality	Come 1, Leadership Towns Manule a M All Process
Enabling by "" "" 6. developments +	gest. Agains - change makers. Treaty Ourseship claims.
Robert or Reprose Private owners, local Body.	
Unoccupied homes Local Body. Research (8300pprox.)	Comments. (Commission channels.
Up Infting Standard of	Hore owners, Francis. Monumentum. Bon este gest.
Making it easier) Where are the opportunities Countils,	
to grow in whitemed to grow in whitemed some soring	



Land Stocktake. Land Stocktake.	Timeline Immediate.	Who. Council - livi - Other bage land outers.
Enabelity Policy	Manaderte - Stars	Council led - Involves community
Needs Analysis = What do the people Meed!	Immedate.	Council led.
Ly Identify Ownership model needs. Ly CHPs - Owner Occupied - Rental Wi - J.V.	(Poul). Shalf.	Council led - lw: - CHPs
Ly Willow to must in the community for lower ROI ~ 3-6%	Short.	Larger Local Business.
Infill housing) infras	structure enty	
I rderlify homes provides den	al acceptance whee buying nex	folia
-> leverage & to purcha	Lainga and b se along sixter	alance sheet



Action	Timing	Who (lead)
Solution for land investment	Shart	Council INI
Data, knowledge (market), price point	Immediate	WHI IN
Develop affordable model for Naitomo 19. 40 homes belt 10 puper (5-10 yrs?)	Short	Council/WAI/IN
Co-vidinated group (skills bosed)	Short	Garnail / WNI / los funders, builder
- audit Whats happening now - understand demand : sound - understand demand : retirement - look at efficiencies		runders,

Hamilton

25 Ward Street, Hamilton 3204PO Box 112, Hamilton 324007 838 2887

Tauranga

78 Second Avenue, Tauranga 3110 PO Box 324, Tauranga 3144 07 579 9747

Rotorua

1072 Haupapa Street, Rotorua 3010 PO Box 1027, Rotorua 3040

veros.co.nz

info@veros.co.nz



