

# SOUTH WAIRARAPA DISTRICT COUNCIL

27 AUGUST 2014

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## AGENDA ITEM D1

### GRAFFITI PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT POLICY FOR ADOPTION

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#### **Purpose of Report**

To request adoption of the Graffiti Prevention and Management Policy as recommended by the Policy and Finance Committee.

#### **Recommendations**

Officers recommend that the Council:

1. *Receives the information.*
2. *Adopt the Graffiti Prevention and Management Policy.*

## **1. Executive Summary**

The Graffiti Prevention and Management Policy has been recommended for adoption by the Policy and Finance Committee, a Council resolution is now required to formalise the adoption.

## **2. Background**

### **2.1 Recommendation Received From Policy & Finance Committee 16 July 2014**

The requested change to this policy has been made and is shown in Appendix 1.

#### **Graffiti Prevention and Management Policy**

*P&F RESOLVED (P&F2014/19):*

1. To recommend to Council the adoption of the Graffiti Prevention and Management Policy subject to a minor grammatical correction.  
*(Moved Cr Jephson/Seconded Cr Olds)*

Carried

### **3. Supporting Information**

#### **3.1 Long Term Plan - Community Outcomes**

The purpose of policy documents is to enable the effective and efficient management of Council resources and to assist staff and Council achieve an equitable decision making process.

Written policies also enable the community to be aware of the reasoning behind administrative and Council decisions, and to be familiar with the philosophy behind individual decisions.

The above policy help achieve all five Council community outcomes.

### **4. Appendix**

Appendix 1 – Graffiti Prevention and Management Policy

Contact Officer: Suzanne Clark, Committee Secretary

Reviewed By: Paul Crimp, Chief Executive Officer

# **Appendix 1 – Graffiti Prevention and Management Policy**

# GRAFFITI PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT POLICY

## 1. Rationale:

To ensure a consistent approach across the whole of the South Wairarapa to the prevention and management of graffiti, and to ensure consistency with the Wellington Regional Graffiti Prevention Strategy adopted by Council in July 2013 (DC2013/132).

Graffiti vandalism is an affront to civic pride. It damages the appearance of our towns to residents and visitors alike. It leads to reduced perceptions of safety in the community, and can be viewed as an indicator of the potential for more serious crimes.

[South Wairarapa District Council \(SWDC\)](#) and the communities of the South Wairarapa have zero tolerance for graffiti vandalism.

## 2. Purpose:

- 2.1 To define graffiti vandalism and provide guidance on the use of associated terms
- 2.2 To provide direction and guidance to address graffiti vandalism in neighbourhoods, communities and businesses
- 2.3 To encourage a collaborative approach to working with communities and stakeholders to promote ownership and action in preventing and removing graffiti vandalism
- 2.4 To promote a sense of ownership and safety through prompt removal of graffiti on public and private property
- 2.5 To promote the effective use of legislation in enabling our communities to be free of graffiti vandalism

## 3. Guidelines:

### 3.1 DEFINITIONS

3.1.1 **“Graffiti vandalism”** is the act of a person damaging or defacing any building, structure, road, tree, property or other thing by writing, drawing, painting, spraying or etching on it, or otherwise marking it:

- a. without lawful authority; and
  - b. without the consent of the occupier or owner or other person in lawful control
- [Source : Ministry of Justice STOP Strategy]

3.1.2 The term “graffiti art” should not be used. Graffiti should always be referred to as “graffiti vandalism”. The term **“street art”** can be used to describe authorised public art which incorporates elements such as the use of spray paint, stylised lettering etc.

3.1.3 A **“tag”** is a stylised signature.

### 3.2 LEADERSHIP

3.2.1 SWDC has adopted the Regional Graffiti Prevention Strategy, and will actively participate in the Wellington Regional Graffiti Forum.

- 3.2.2 Advice will be provided to the community on graffiti prevention and removal, and there will be mechanisms for reporting of all graffiti whether on Council property or private.
- 3.2.3 The use of CPTED (crime preventions through environmental design) principles will be encouraged both for Council facilities and other commercial projects.

### **3.3 ENGAGEMENT**

- 3.3.1 A Graffiti Working Party has been established under the Council to develop policy and strategy for the prevention and management of graffiti. The Working Party will include representatives of the community, business and youth.
- 3.3.2 Joint activities with community groups, particularly Neighbourhood Support, and businesses will promote the zero-tolerance message, and encourage community and youth involvement in initiatives to beautify the towns and foster a sense of ownership and pride.
- 3.3.3 Public art, such as murals, will be encouraged in appropriate locations.

### **3.4 ERADICATION**

- 3.4.1 Council will remove graffiti vandalism from its own properties as soon as possible, with particular urgency where the content is offensive.
- 3.4.2 Council will provide advice to owners of private property to encourage them to remove graffiti vandalism as quickly as possible. Graffiti removal kits will be made available free of charge from locations in each town.
- 3.4.3 Graffiti vandalism hot-spots will be identified and targeted for additional prevention/protection measures.

### **3.5 ENFORCEMENT**

- 3.5.1 All graffiti vandalism on council properties will be reported to the Police, along with all available evidence. If offenders are identified, Council will encourage Police to follow through with prosecution under the appropriate legislation. If offenders are convicted, Council will seek reparation for the damages/repair costs.
- 3.5.2 The focus of graffiti vandalism monitoring will be to identify repeat offenders so as to result in their eventual prosecution.