Tena Koutou katoa,

He mihi mahana kia koutou ki te hui tuatahi o te tau, mo tenei Huia Kaimanawa. Good afternoon and welcome to everyone both in chambers and online to this our very first Policy & Planning Hui for the Year.

As a newly appointed Chair, I look forward to the guidance and support of Staff, the Mayor and other elected members in this space and will try my hardest to be an effective chair who can listen, contribute in a positive and go forward manner and strive to keep our thinking at a Strategic Level so we can allow Staff to get on with the doing of our council work.

We are fortunate that we already have a well-defined and cohesive Strategic Framework (Kowhai) that shows a pathway forward to keep our strategic thinking and council priorities foremost in our minds. This will also help us as we work towards our Long-Term Plan and into the future.

We should also be looking at opportunities for us to work in a much more joined up or cohesive manner, so we avoid the situation where "the right hand doesn't necessarily know what the left hand is doing!"

I look forward to some of the ideas, thoughts and recommendations that will be discussed around our table to ensure we are working smarter as a council and are on top of issues when it comes to reviewing things such as Legislation and submissions, the data that is gathered, collated and then fed into council, as well as other areas within council that need reviewing.

He whakatauki!

Te tōia, te haumatia

Nothing can be achieved without a plan, workforce, and a way of doing things!

Nga mihi mahana Piki Te Ora Hiroa Tiamana