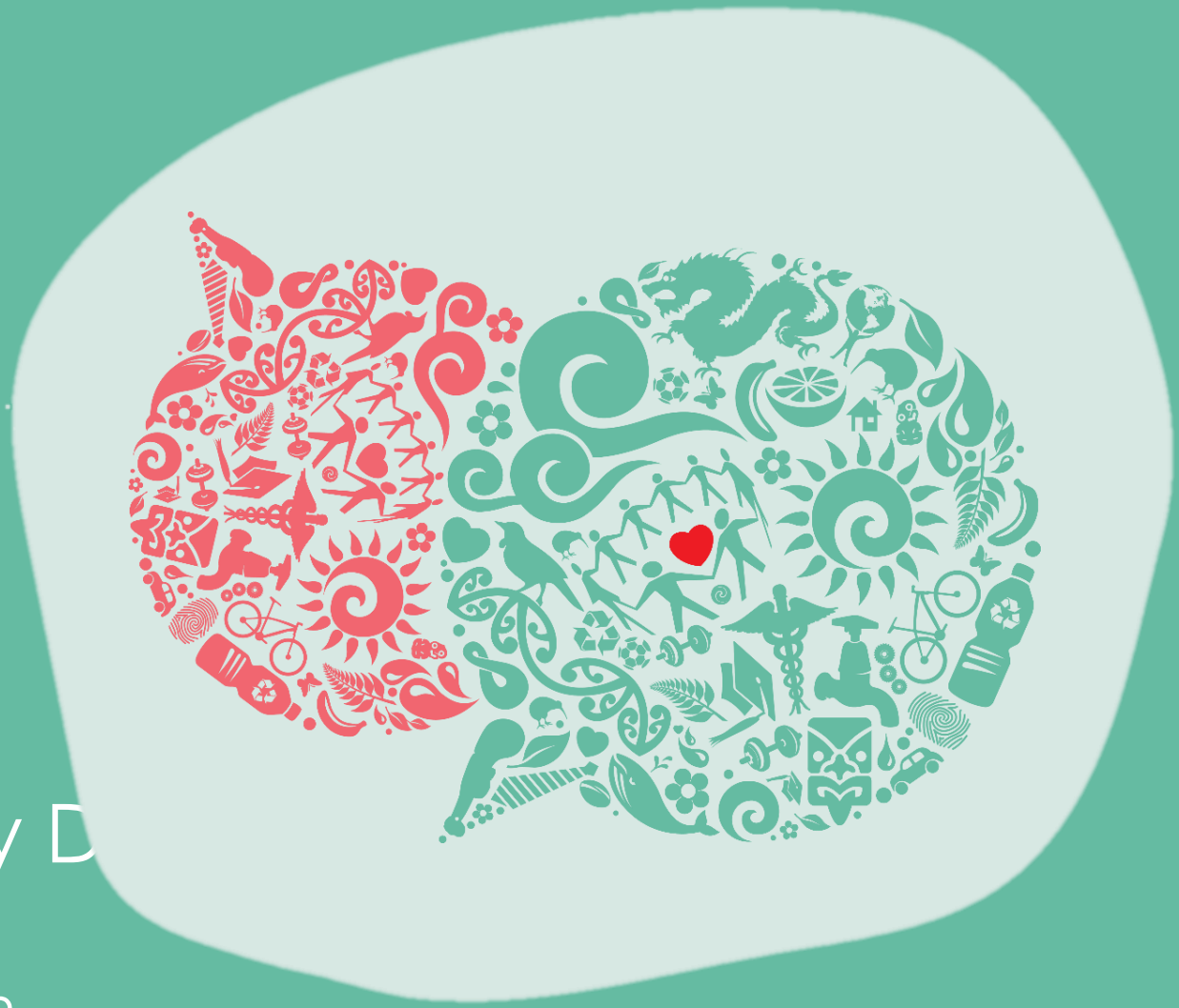
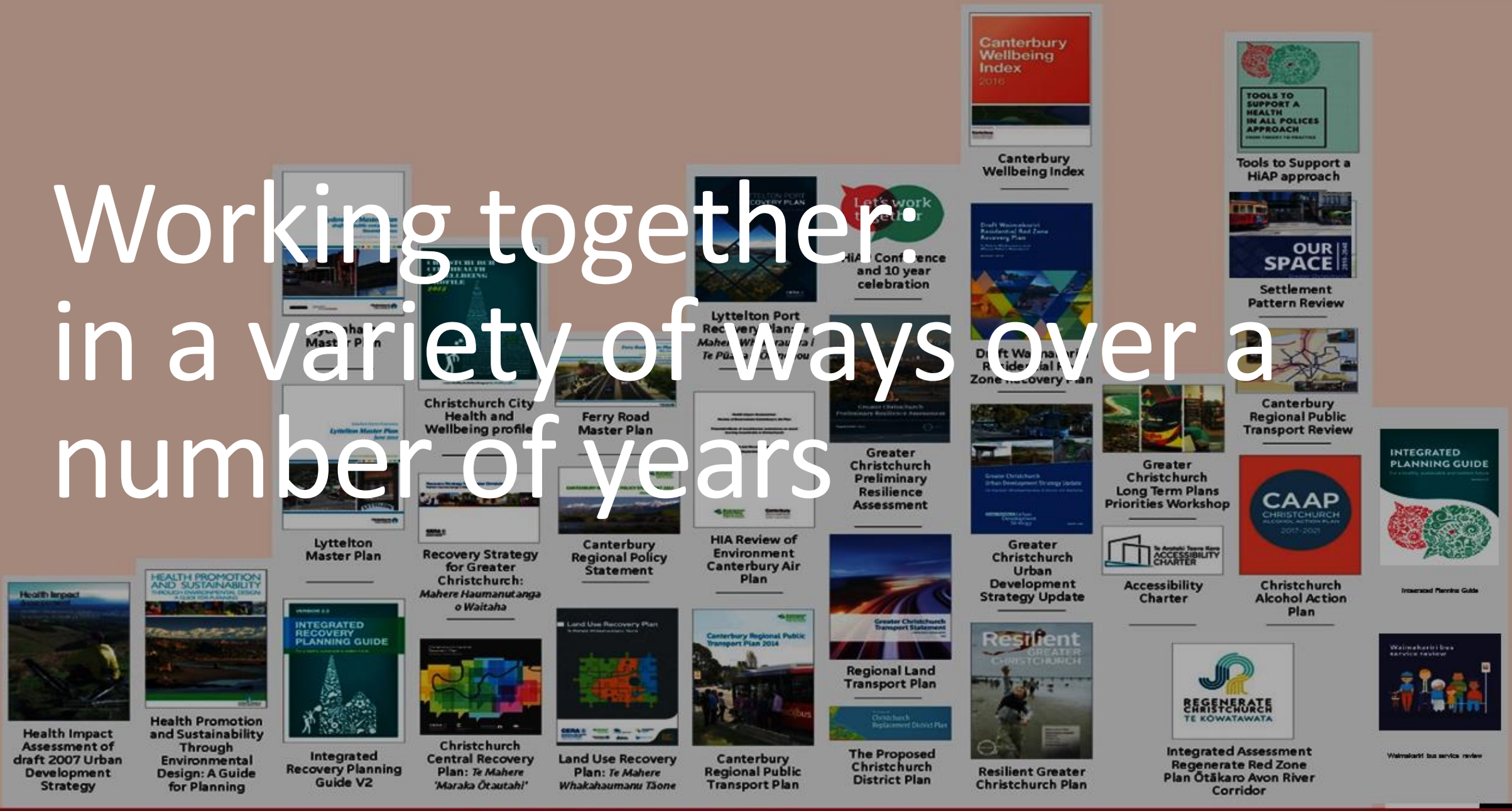
A pandemic responsive planning tool



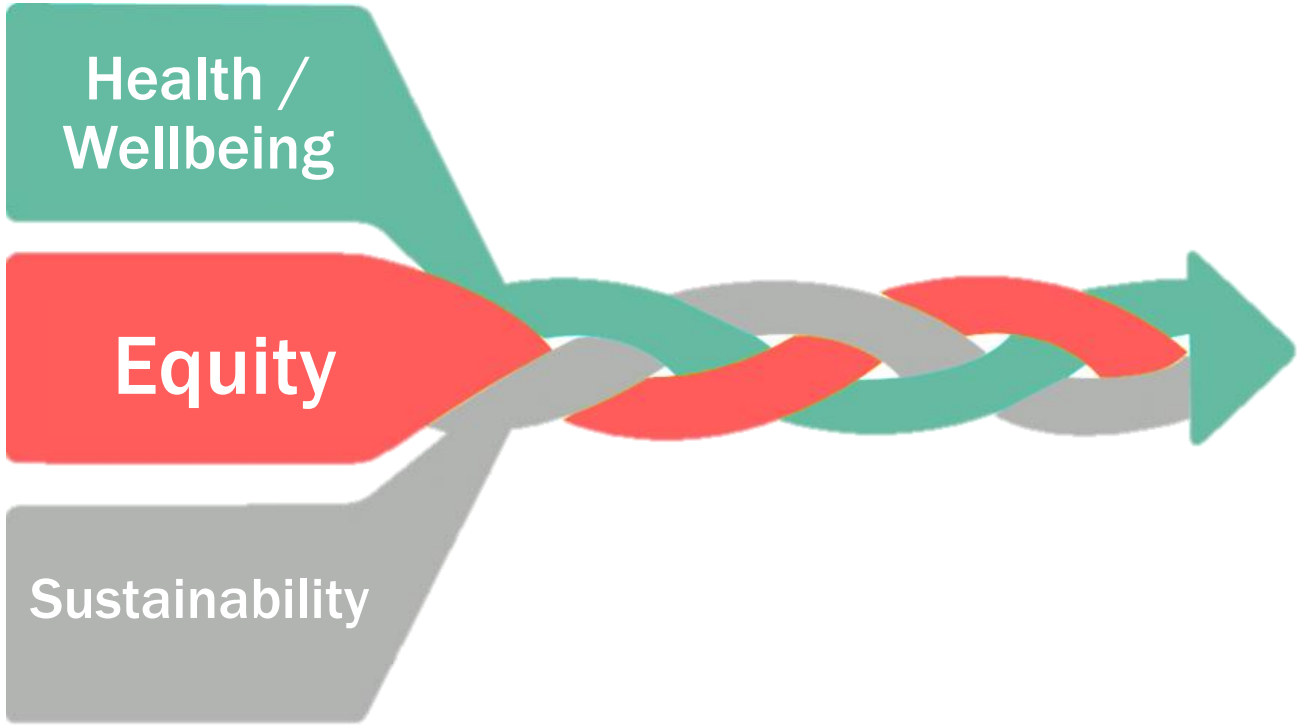
Chantal Lauzon, Canterbury D

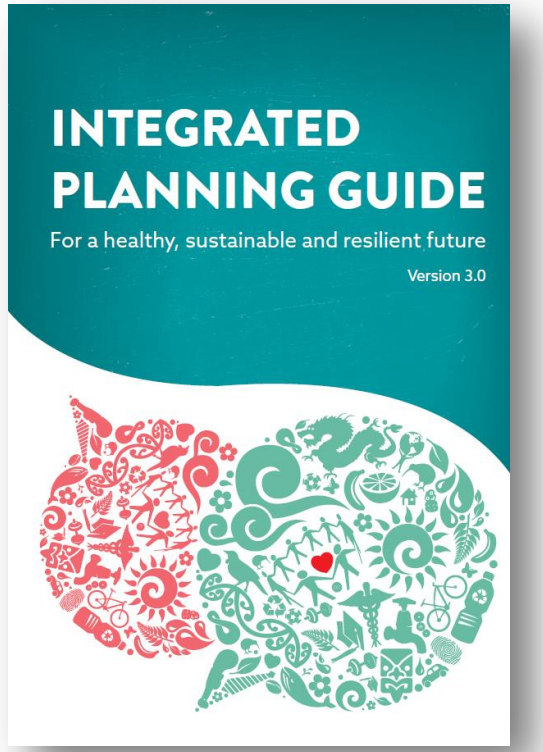
2021 NZAIA Conference, Christchurch

Working together in a variety of ways over a number of years



Health
Planning/Policy
Let's work together





Our interpretation of integrated planning

Positive and negative factors affecting health and wellbeing for all population groups are considered *during development* of a plan or policy

Broaden perspectives

Result is better plan or policy that will have positive impacts on population health and wellbeing

Bonus!

- Cross-sector relationships
- Share resources/skills

Benefits of integrated planning

Figure 2. The building blocks of health and wellbeing

Integrated Planning Guide

Can be a roadmap, a brainstorming tool or a checklist.

Can be used during planning or during project management

14 themes based around wellbeing

Promotes community engagement and consultation and can help identify impacted communities

Social and community capital

Strong communities have strong social connections.

- Does the project help communities work together for the common good by building social capital[5] and/or supporting social cohesion?[6]
- Does the project provide opportunities for social interaction, leisure activities, especially for rural or less connected communities?
- Does the project present opportunities for shared decision making? Whose agenda are you working to? Can communities be involved in proposed solutions?
- How will community involvement build trust and engender cooperation?

More specific questions:

- Does the project support voluntary action and provide opportunity to grow community skills?
- How does it support and involve existing community networks such as service and volunteer groups, communities of faith, marae, clubs and sports groups?
- Can use of shared facilities or resources (e.g., greenspace) be increased through local communities taking up or sharing management of local areas?
- Can transport planning increase social connectivity (e.g., location of bus stops and routes, work/school travel planning, cycling safety)?
- Does the project present opportunities to improve the physical environment? (See the Healthy Streets Indicators™ for examples.[7])

Performance measure examples

- % of people who feel a sense of community with others in their neighbourhood
- % of people who are members of sports (and other?) clubs
- % of people who are volunteering
- See social capital indicators in the Canterbury Wellbeing Index[8]
- See Ngā Tūtohu Aotearoa indicators for social connection and social capital[9]

Applying the themes

Each theme has prompting questions - just a starting point!

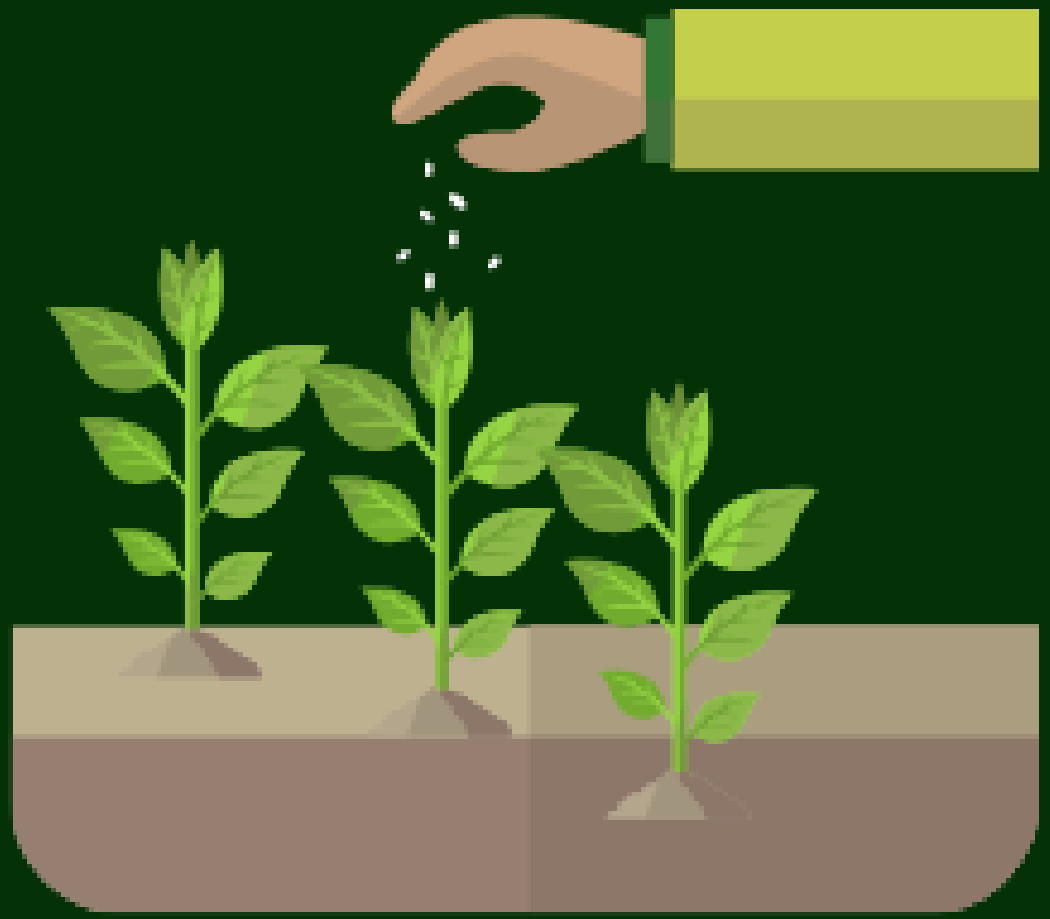
Answering these can be simple or complex depending on the initiative

Each theme also has performance measure examples

Consider links between the different themes/building blocks

Why focus on wellbeing?

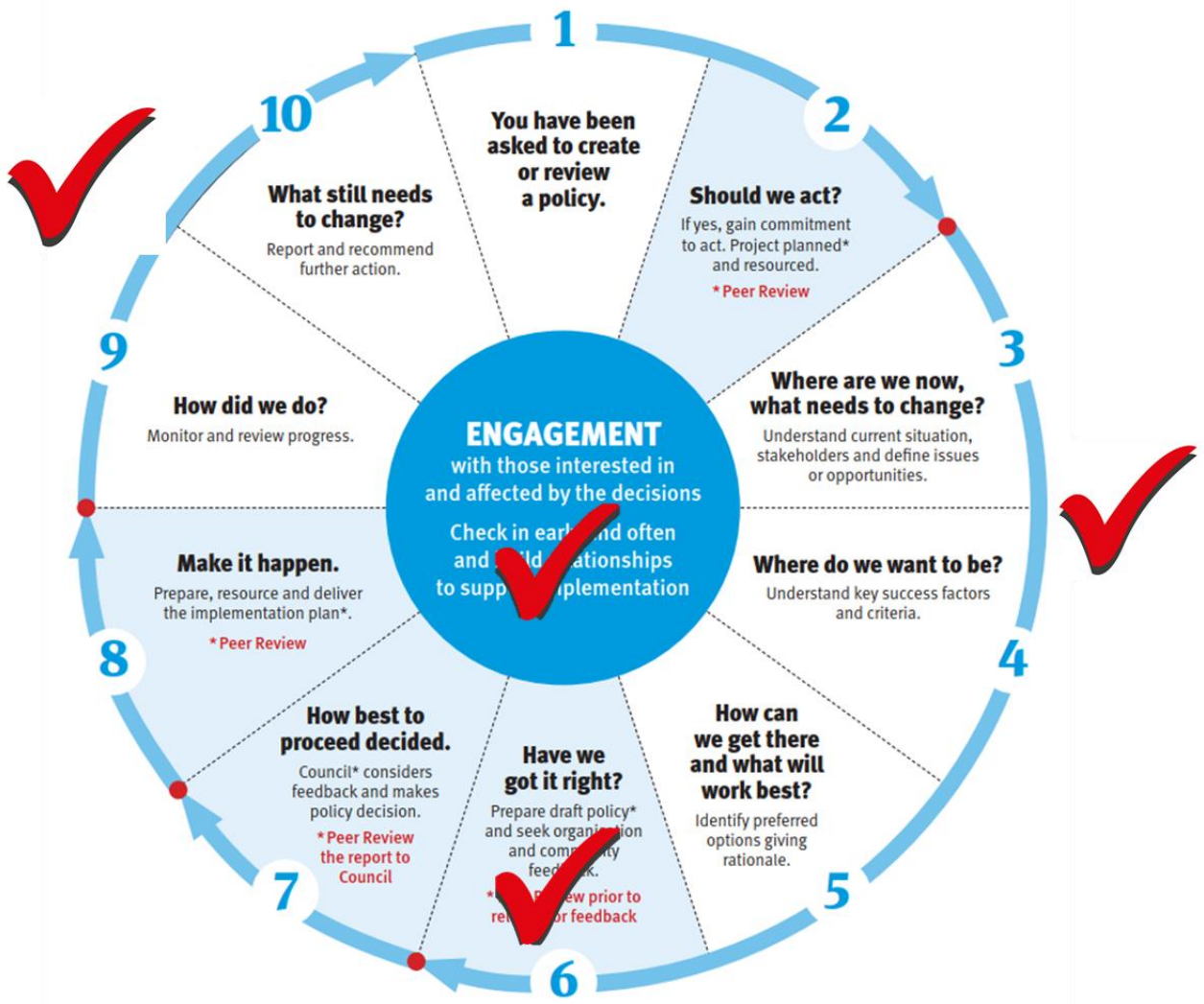
Figure 2. The building blocks of health and wellbeing



Equitable health outcomes for Māori is a responsibility of all sectors

Waitangi Tribunals Hauora Report: WAI 2575 (2019)

When to use



CCC Policy & Planning Cycle

Uses

MASTER PLANS

RECOVERY PLANS

FACILITY DESIGN

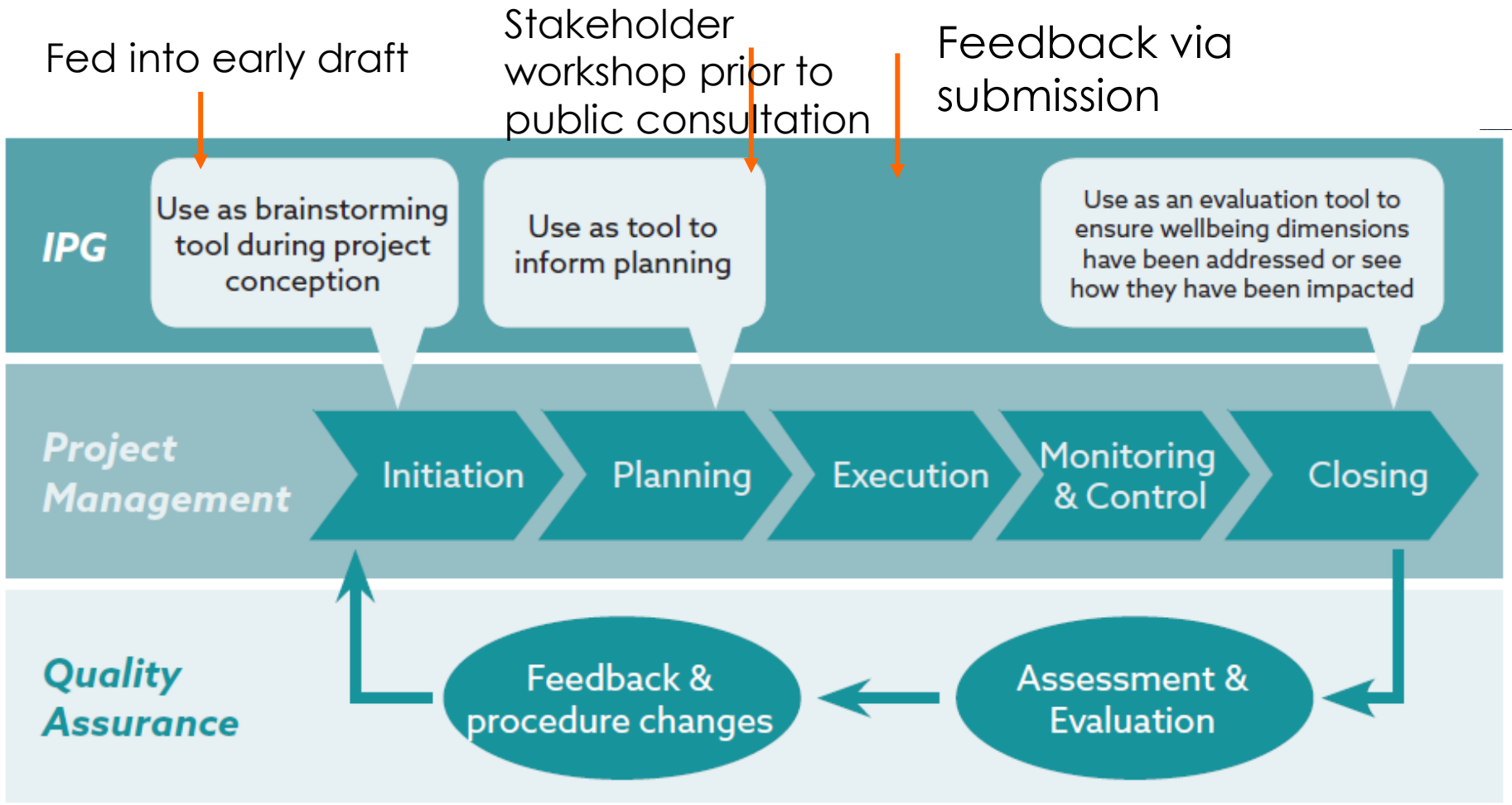
URBAN DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY UPDATE

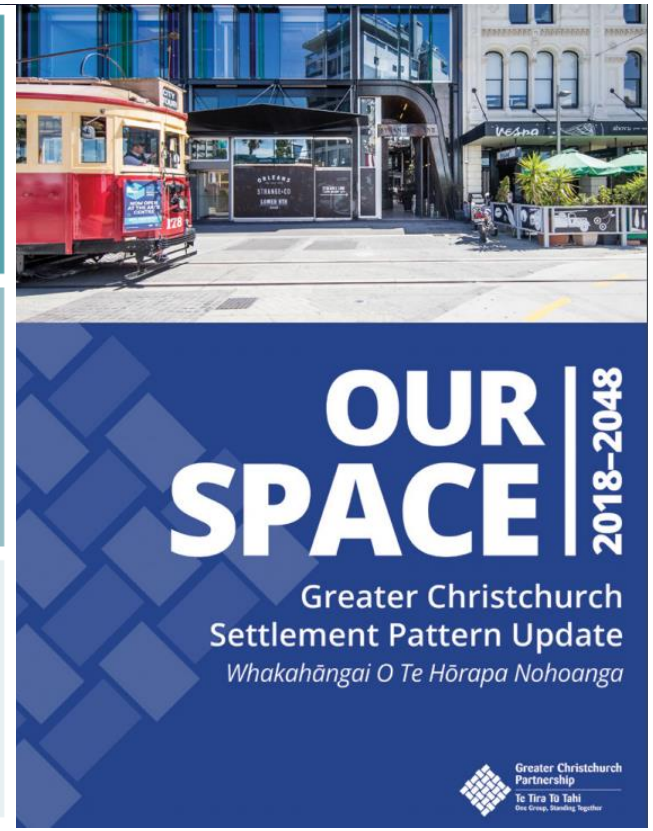
DISABILITY SECTOR

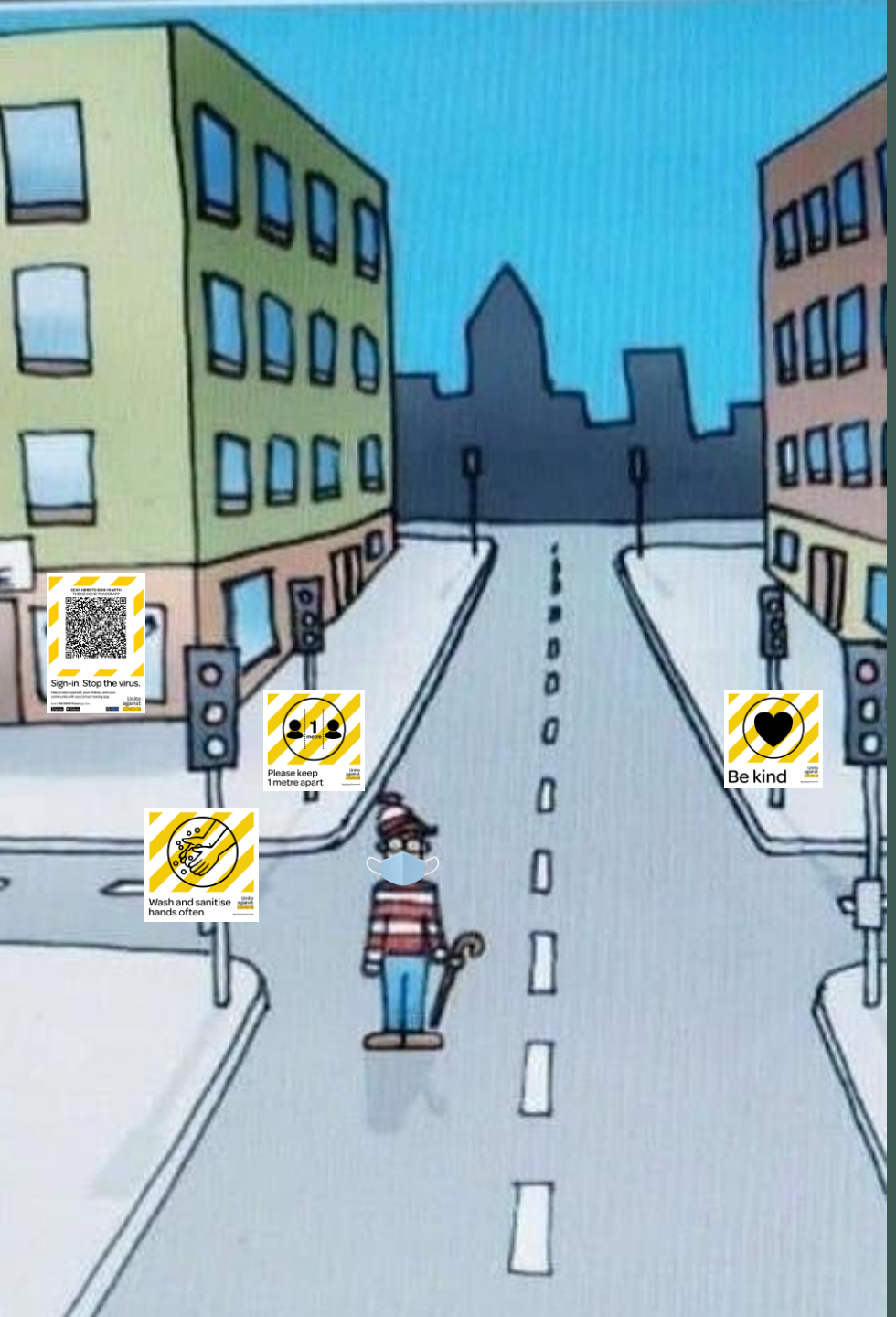
SUBMISSIONS

TRANSPORT

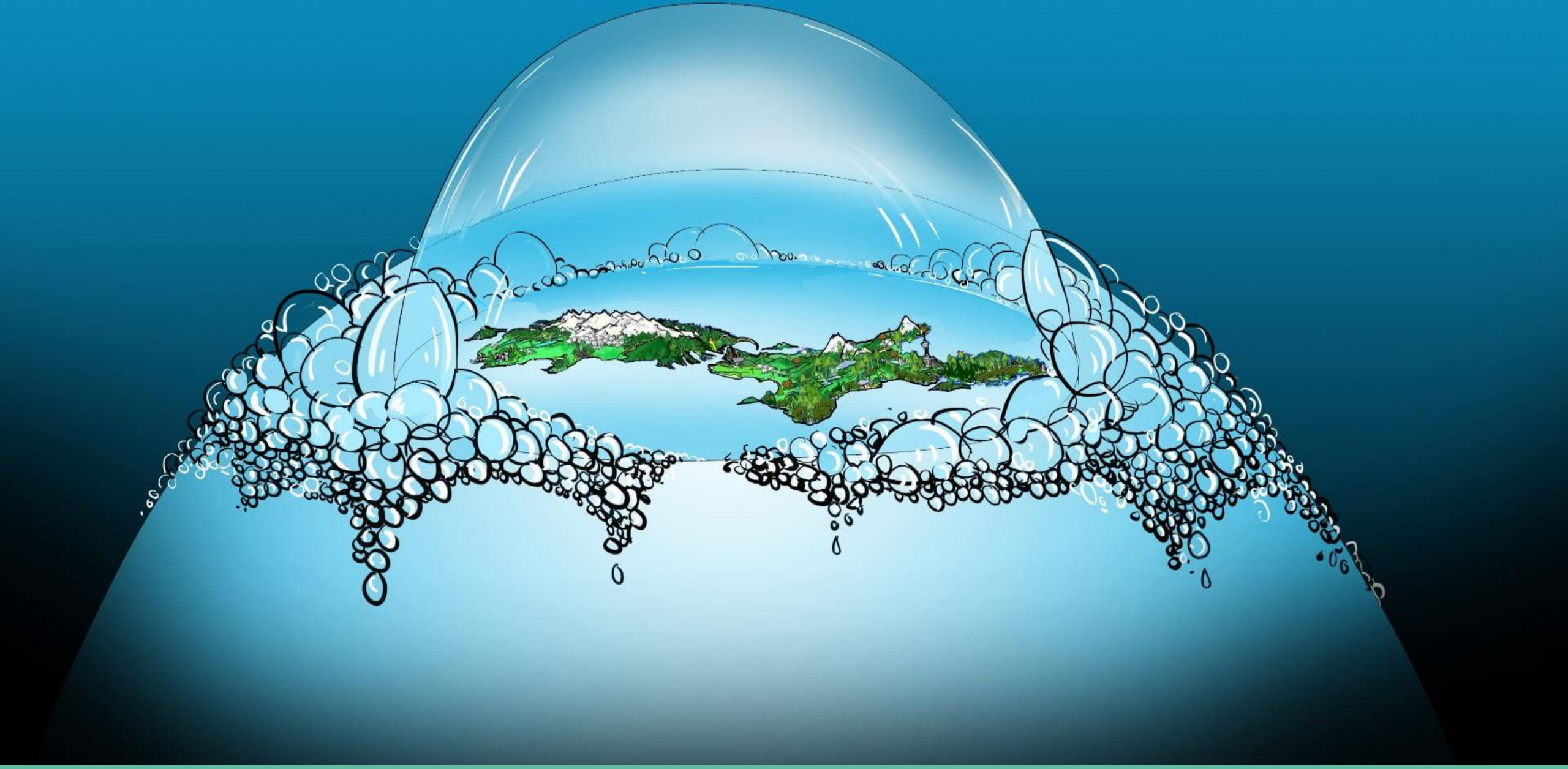
Example: Our Space - Regional Settlement Planning






Sign-in. Stop the virus.
Please keep 1 metre apart
Be kind
Wash and sanitise hands often

And then…



NZ bubble cartoon by Mark O'Brien.

Challenges and Opportunities

Uncertainty remains a challenge

No playbook for addressing issues

Most affected largely those already vulnerable to public health or other crises

Cities had to respond urgently to specific needs for space, mobility and access to services

Opportunity to create places and systems that are safer, more equitable and work better for everyone

How prepared are we to handle a health crisis in the future?

How can we use what we have learned to improve quality of life?

PANDEMIC SUPPLEMENT:
INTEGRATED PLANNING GUIDE

For a healthy, sustainable and resilient future

KEY QUESTIONS AND CONSIDERATIONS FOR RECOVERING FROM AND PREPARING FOR FUTURE PANDEMICS

Equity (Page 25)

Pandemics have disproportionate impacts. The lower a person's socioeconomic status, the more limited their resources and ability to access essential goods and services, and the greater their chance of suffering from chronic disease. Infectious diseases can also pose greater risk to Māori and Pasifika communities, where underlying conditions such as diabetes, asthma and heart disease are more prevalent.

- How does this project redress inequity from a pandemic perspective?
- Does this project protect Māori and Pasifika health, and place equity at the centre?
- Who are the newly disadvantaged?
- Does the plan make assumptions based on traditional concepts of inequity?
- Have you considered how to reach, engage with and support those who lack digital connectivity?

Community Safety (page 31)

Community safety is the overriding concern during a pandemic. While public health advice will dictate immediate actions to protect public safety, keeping our communities safe and functional in the long term can help protect from future epidemics.

- What are the changes to safety needs due to the pandemic response and recovery?
- How is your project affected by that?
- How can the project protect front-line services workers?
- What long-term hygiene safety solutions will be needed to protect public health? (e.g., hand-sanitizing stations, reduced seating capacity)
- What cleaning/safety standards need to be updated now so that long-term improvements are implemented?
- Can spaces be designed with more flexibility to accommodate physical distancing?

Community resilience (Page 26)

Resilience is about understanding risks, vulnerabilities, and interdependencies, as well as building strong networks and relationships. Well-designed public spaces and infrastructure combined with strong social networks support community resilience.

- What are the key threats facing your community, organisation, and the people served?
- How can the project improve solidarity and decrease social isolation?
- Where can you gather data to better understand and better address the challenges ahead?
- What model of resilience are you applying and is it still relevant in the pandemic response and recovery context?

Neighbourhood amenity (page 29)

Good neighbourhood amenity supports physical and mental wellbeing, and allows people to remain physically distanced but socially connected.

- Is there enough space in local parks, and along pathways and streetscapes to support physical distancing? What changes are needed to support this?
- Are there other spaces (parking lots, road) that could easily be converted to public spaces, or used to set up temporary medical facilities or housing? Could design plans leave small parcels of land for this purpose?
- Does the neighbourhood amenity support an easy transition between pandemic alert levels?
- How can public buildings or facilities be retrofitted to accommodate physical distancing? Can ventilation and energy efficiency also be improved?
- How can local services be supported? What other elements will people be looking to their local neighbourhoods to provide?

Active lifestyles (page 32)

It will be important to safeguard and support safe physical activity when physical distancing is recommended.

- How can planned and current infrastructure be adapted for active and distanced recreation and mobility? Can the environment along current walking/cycling routes be improved by planting or beautification?
- Can motor traffic be removed from residential streets and/or pavements be extended near shops, schools and parks to make walking safe and enjoyable for transport and exercise?
- Could more safe access routes on foot, bike and scooter from homes to parks and green spaces be introduced?
- Have the intended impacts of your project on active lifestyles changed in the pandemic response and recovery context? What adaptations are need to improve impact?

Housing (page 34)

Sheltering in place has highlighted the impact of housing on wellbeing. Poor quality housing and overcrowding increases vulnerability to infectious disease, and increases energy costs at a time when many people may struggle to pay their bills.

- How have housing needs changed due to the pandemic response and recovery? Are there new factors affecting housing needs?
- Is housing now a consideration in your project? (i.e. if more people work from home)
- How can building standards for housing be raised to create healthy and efficient homes?
- How can pre-fabricated and modular building approaches be encouraged to provide more housing?
- What needs to be in place to support those who struggle to maintain their accommodation (for financial, social or psychological reasons)?

Cultural diversity (Page 28)

A strong sense of cultural identity is recognised as a key factor for an individual's health. Long term physical distancing measures put current ways of building cultural identity and the creative economy at risk.

- How do pandemic mitigation measures affect different cultures or groups? Are there long-term implications? Can these be mitigated?
- What aspects of culture may change, or have changed, due to a pandemic response?
- How can creative spaces (art galleries, museums, theatres, music venues) be supported to make interim and long-term changes in the way they operate?
- Does your project include cultural assumptions (about behaviours, values, etc.) which may not be relevant in the pandemic response and recovery context?

Public services (page 30)

Poor access to essential services exacerbated the challenge of responding effectively to pandemics and can make it difficult to comply with lockdown orders.

- What new public services might emerge as part of the pandemic response and recovery? How can barriers such an access and discrimination be reduced for people accessing them?
- What public services may no longer be operating the same way?
- How do changes to public services as part of the pandemic response and recovery affect your project?
- Do public facilities have efficient, effective and flexible reuse plans for future crises? How can these be incorporated into new building projects?
- How can pre-fabricated, modular or 'pop up' building approaches be used to provide public services?

Transport (page 33)

Measures to reduce viral transmission have had a profound impact on transport. Flexible working from home practices and uptake of walking and cycling may result in long-term behaviour change. If harnessed by investment, the health benefits of active transport can also be boosted.

- How has the pandemic impacted the transport considerations in your project?
- Can you change the approach to transport in your project to better align with the new pandemic response and recovery context?
- How can public transport systems be fortified and public trust rebuilt? (i.e., better hygiene, spaced seating, minimal touch payments)
- Can more, wider paths and slower, narrowed roads be used to provide safer ways to get around?
- What technology could be implemented to reduce contact points and support physical distancing for pedestrians/cyclists?

Natural capital (page 36)

A healthy environment is essential to health and wellbeing. Nature and open spaces throughout a city also support resilience and wellbeing during an emergency.

- How can open spaces, waterways, forests and parks be prioritised during planning to safeguard their availability?
- Are green and blue network, and green technologies included as a core part of city infrastructure?
- Has equitable access to nature and open spaces been satisfactorily addressed?
- Has the importance of natural capital to your project changed due to the pandemic?

Example: Community resilience

What are the key threats facing your community, organisation, and the people served?
How can the project improve solidarity and decrease social isolation?
Where can you gather data to better understand and better address the challenges ahead?
What model of resilience are you applying and is it still relevant in the pandemic response and recovery context?

What next?

Updated version

Good feedback/suggestions for main guide during supplement development & need update te Tiriti/Māori perspective section

Upcoming projects

Ōtautahi Christchurch Spatial Plan

Training and other opportunities

Can work with your team to use guide or work on specific project

Available as consultants/advisors

Many tools – can help choose which suits your project best

Download from Community and Public Health website

https://www.cph.co.nz/your-health/health-in-all-policies/