



Submission to

Henderson-Massey Local Board

Draft Annual Plan 2014/2015

from

Community Waitakere

Submission – Auckland Council Draft Annual Plan 2014/15
Democracy Services
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Submission to the Henderson-Massey Local Board

Community Waitakere welcomes and supports Auckland’s vision of the ‘World’s most Liveable City’ and the seven community outcomes stated as the key goals of the Auckland Plan:

1. a fair, safe and healthy Auckland
2. a green Auckland
3. an Auckland of prosperity and opportunity
4. a well-connected and accessible Auckland
5. a beautiful Auckland that is loved by its people
6. a culturally rich and creative Auckland
7. Te Hau o Te Whenua, Te Hau o Te Tangata – a Māori identity that is Auckland’s point of difference in the world.

As we know, West Auckland will continue to experience intense growth and with that comes many challenges, including how to ensure our communities remain thriving and connected. We are already seeing the result of communities becoming disconnected throughout West Auckland and are working with partners to be responsive to these complexities. Community Waitakere is in a strong position to work closely with the Local Boards and our communities to address these challenges and seize the opportunities that will make a positive difference.

We wish to stress the importance of our relationship with local communities and the Henderson-Massey Local Board in helping to navigate some of the contentious issues the amalgamation has raised. The collaborative partnerships between local communities, local and central government built over three decades have contributed to local authority decision-making in West Auckland being focussed, clear, transparent, effective and accountable. Community Waitakere has years of experience in this effective way of working and believe that despite the now more complex co-governance arrangements, the spirit and will of all partners remains strong and determined to ensuring positive outcomes for our communities.

Community Waitakere has been a part of the West Auckland community for the past 30 years. Our mandate has come from community organisations and other stakeholders to: 1) promote the ethos and principals of community development; 2) support community organisations to undertake the great work they do for the benefit of our community by assisting them to build capability; 3) be an advocate for community and the community sector, bringing concerns into the public arena for discussion and working with decision makers to find solutions and identify opportunities. We do this with a lens to social justice, providing pathways for the most vulnerable in our communities to have a voice and ensuring the vision for our wonderful city is a reality for all, not just the few.

Community Waitakere’s work has a strong emphasis on community development; this includes initiating and supporting neighbourhood-led initiatives, community economic development and social enterprise. We believe in an asset approach rather than a deficit approach and look to see how we can capitalise on the opportunities that exist. We have a unique position as a locally based convening organisation which is essential to ensuring that regional activities are grounded in solid

local community experience and our communities remain safe, prosperous, resilient places to live. Places where people have a sense of belonging to their neighbourhoods and take pride in their region.

Community Waitakere wishes to speak to our submission at any public hearing.

Submission

1. This submission is from **Community Waitakere Charitable Trust**. It is in response to the Auckland Council's Draft Annual Plan 2014/2015 and is specific to the **Henderson-Massey Local Board**.
2. Our submission acknowledges the two complementary decision-making parts of Auckland Council (i.e. the Governing Body and the Local Boards) and the co-governance model.
3. Community Waitakere is committed to playing a key role in contributing to the co-governance model.
4. Community Waitakere will continue to work in partnership with the **Henderson-Massey Local Board** to assist in the achievement of responsibilities deferred to it under legislation; allocated to it by the governing body in line with the principles in the legislation or regulatory or non-regulatory activities allocated to it by the governing body.
5. Community Waitakere will work with the **Henderson-Massey Local Board** to engage with the communities within your area to enhance the planning process and to enable the communities' preferences and aspirations to be incorporated into the development of Local Board plans.
6. Community Waitakere will work both individually and collectively with the three Western Local Boards as appropriate to address specific local area issues and priorities, whilst retaining the cohesion of the unique identity of the wider community that is Waitakere.
7. Community Waitakere, in general, supports the priorities as outlined in the Draft Annual Plan 2013/14. We have comments to make on the following:
 - We congratulate the board on their commitment to the completion of the new **Ranui Library** and the construction of the **Te Atatu Library and Community Centre**, all of which are important sites for community connection and resident-led development.
 - We welcome an integrated programme to enhance Henderson's centre and environs, including Catherine Plaza and believe we are in a strong position to support a **Henderson Coordinator**. We are currently contributing to the thinking and action around key social and economic challenges facing Henderson and will continue to work in collaboration, bringing a community development approach to the table.
 - We strongly support the funding of the Coordinator's salary and operational budget for the Ranui Action Project and are committed to playing an active role in the project's development.
 - We are delighted to see the board supporting the establishment of a Henderson Business Improvement District (BID) and look forward to supporting the BID as part of our community economic development portfolio.
 - We agree with the board's stated opinion that the quality of **intensification in Henderson-Massey** will greatly influence the desirability and demand for intensification by other parts of Auckland. As such, Community Waitakere firmly believes it is crucial to have community development principles and practices at the heart of this intensification. We encourage the

board to consider inviting Community Waitakere to be a key player in ensuring the intensification developments are future-proofed for good community outcomes.

- We support the board's advocacy of **local improvement funding** and the development of the **Local Board Funding Policy** to ensure the board and its stakeholders can be as responsive to community needs as required.
- We welcome the board's ongoing commitment to championing community participation in enhancing and protecting their local environments and acknowledgement of the successful outcomes of Community Waitakere's contribution to the collaborative initiative, **Project Twin Streams**.
- We welcome the board's focus on enabling residents and community organisations to be active in local, place based community development and offer our skills and experience in developing usable, dynamic resources for the benefit of our communities.
- We thank the board for including Community Waitakere in your draft agreement and would like to highlight that we can provide more than just leadership and capacity building training to meet local needs. We are currently working on the development of a West Auckland community research hub and other initiatives which will add value to the board's work in meeting community needs and realising community aspirations.

We believe Community Waitakere is ideally placed to partner with the **Henderson-Massey Local Board** in identifying opportunities and progressing them in a sustainable way that meets the objectives of the Local Board and our communities. Community Waitakere would like to extend the 'shared work programme' in a way that is of benefit to the community.

Community Waitakere commits to continuing the work it does within the community and extends an open invitation to the **Henderson-Massey Board** to attend or link into the following:

8. Community Waitakere will continue to convene regular meetings of the **Community Chief Executives' Roundtable** where leaders of key West Auckland community organisations come together to address issues and trends encountered by a wide range of sector organisations. The **Henderson-Massey Local Board** is welcome to attend and participate in these meetings, which provide a snapshot view of up to 21 representative community sectors including Sport, Environment, Art and Culture, Health, Community Law, Youth, Housing etc.
9. Community Waitakere will continue to facilitate regular **Open Door Days** at the **Waitakere Community Resource Centre**. Open Door Days provide an opportunity for community groups, individuals, small businesses and local government officers to network and identify links and connections which contribute to building resilience and community capacity. The **Henderson-Massey Local Board** members are welcome to attend and participate in these sessions.
10. Community Waitakere can organise and host **forums and workshops** in the community on behalf of and in partnership with the Henderson-Massey Local Board to ensure community is contributing to council decision-making on their "own turf" which will demonstrate the Board's collaborative approach, **with** the community and **in** the community.
11. Community Waitakere has longstanding relationships with several schools in the Henderson area as a **Project Twin Streams** community contract partner. Through these local environmental and educational programmes young people are engaging with the environment and becoming role models for their whanau and neighbourhoods.
12. Community Waitakere has for many years operated a **daily e-noticeboard** which coordinates and distributes notification of community events, activities and news widely across Auckland.

This can provide the **Henderson-Massey Local Board** a two-way conduit for keeping informed as well as connecting with communities at the grass-roots level.

13. Community Waitakere continues to manage the **Waitakere Community Resource Centre** on behalf of Auckland Council. This facility is home to up to 7 multi-ethnic community organisations, many who have previously worked in total isolation. The centre offers them affordable office space and a place to share facilities, meeting rooms and networking opportunities. The Resource Centre is also used widely for community meetings by many community groups. This space could be useful for the Henderson-Massey Local Board to utilise as a place embedded in the community as part of their community connection and engagement process. We are currently re-imagining this space and will be involving community throughout to ensure a positive, dynamic and usable space for all.
14. **Community Waitakere**, through the Resource Centre, also provides relevant and affordable training and capacity building opportunities for community organisations, which also contributes to building resilience and community capacity. We are currently working on a capabilities strategy to provide a cohesive and responsive series of programmes.
15. We ask that the **Henderson-Massey Local Board Members** support, strengthen and expand the collaborative work with Community Waitakere through the **3 year partnering agreement** (2014-2017) and the annual shared work programme developed in partnership.

Thank you for the opportunity to make this submission.

Regards
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