



Submission to
Henderson/Massey Local Board Plan
2011/2012

from

Community Waitakere

Submission – Auckland Council Draft
Annual Plan 2011/12
Democracy Services
Auckland Council Private Bag 92300
Auckland 1142

30th March 2011

Submission to the Henderson/Massey Local Board

Introduction

Community Waitakere is a Charitable Trust, dedicated to achieving our vision of a sustainable Waitakere with thriving, connected communities. We have a thirty year history of supporting and strengthening community organisations, building and maintaining relationships with central and local government and communities, undertaking and supporting community development initiatives and fostering collaborative actions that achieve our vision.

The values that we hold are:

- Acting with integrity
- Growing sustainability
- Inspiring
- Partnering
- Inclusion

Community Waitakere is recognised nationally as a key linkage between national, regional and local networks. We provide the “glue” which joins diverse community organisations with each other and with local and central government agencies and funders. This brokerage function enables the sharing of resources, knowledge and networks across a broad sector.

Our submission acknowledges the commitment demonstrated by our partners at Auckland Council (and previously Waitakere City Council) in developing collaboration and partnering with our communities and citizens. There are many examples of successful initiatives which have emerged through this way of working (now recognised and commonly referred to across Auckland as the “Waitakere Way”), which unites Council and the people they represent in a participatory democratic process. The Waitakere Wellbeing Collaboration Project and the internationally acclaimed Project Twin Streams are fine examples of such initiatives.

Collaborative partnerships between community, local and central government built over three decades have contributed to local authority decision-making in Waitakere being focussed, clear, transparent, effective and accountable. We have 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 Waitakere remain strong and determined. This was clearly demonstrated at the West Communities Summit on March 30th 2011.

Over the past two years in particular, Community Waitakere has been proactive in responding to the governance changes both locally and regionally. This has included the formation of the Community Coalition for Auckland (CC4A) and co-founding the Auckland Community Development Alliance (ACDA). We are increasingly being called upon by Council and Communities, to act as consultants, at both regional and local levels. We have begun to enable communities and our three Local Boards to connect through facilitated workshop sessions such as the Community Chief Executives' Roundtable workshop in December 2010 and the West Communities Summit in March 2011.

Our unique position as a locally based convening organisation is essential to ensuring that regional activities are grounded in solid local community experience and our communities remain safe, prosperous resilient, places to live, 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

- 1.1 This submission is from **Community Waitakere Charitable Trust**. It is in response to the Auckland Council's Draft Annual Plan 2011/2012 and is specific to the **Henderson/Massey Local Board Plan 2011/2012**.
- 1.2 Our submission acknowledges the two complementary decision-making parts of Auckland Council (ie the Governing Body and the Local Boards) and the co-governance model.
- 1.3 Community Waitakere is committed to playing a key role in making the co-governance model work, based on our successful experience of working in partnership with local governance in Waitakere over many years.
- 1.4 Community Waitakere will 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.
- 1.5 Furthermore Community Waitakere will work with the **Henderson/Massey Local Board** to engage with the communities within that area to enhance the planning process and to enable the communities' preferences and aspirations to be incorporated into the development of Local Board plans.

- 1.6 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.
- 1.7 Community Waitakere will continue to convene regular meetings of the **Community Chief Executives' Roundtable** where leaders of key Waitakere 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 17 representative community sectors including Sport, Environment, Art and Culture, Health, Community Law, Housing etc.
- 1.8 Community Waitakere will continue to facilitate regular **Open Door Days** at the Waitakere Community Resource Centre where community groups, individuals, small businesses and local government officers have the opportunity to network together finding 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.
- 1.9 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.
- 1.10 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.
- 1.11 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 and connected with communities at the grass-roots level.
- 1.12 Community Waitakere continues to manage the Waitakere Community Resource Centre on behalf of Auckland Council. This central Henderson 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. This space could be useful for the Local Henderson/Massey Local Board to utilise as a place embedded in the community as part of their community connection and engagement process.

- 1.13 The costs of operating in the new environment were never factored in to the reforms. The escalation on demands for Community Waitakere's involvement and leadership role have placed stress on our already limited resources, and the expectations being expressed by Council and communities alike are not able to be sustained.
- 1.14 Community Waitakere seeks **\$15,000 + GST** from the **Henderson/Massey Local Board** in order for us to broker relationships between the Local Board and the communities of Henderson/Massey, so that the Board is able to progress on achieving their 2011-2012 planned outcomes.
- 1.15 Community Waitakere recommends that the **Henderson/Massey Local Board** works collaboratively with Community Waitakere to develop a **3 year partnering agreement** and shared work programme for the **2012 – 2015** period.

Thank you for the opportunity to make this submission.

Pat Watson
Manager
Community Waitakere Charitable Trust
(09) 838 7593 w
027 683 8958
pat@communitywaitakere.org.nz