



Submission to

Whau Local Board

Draft Annual Plan 2014/2015

from

Community Waitakere

24 February 2014

Submission to the Whau 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 Whau 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 **Whau 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 **Whau 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 **Whau 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 have comments to make on the following sections of the Whau draft local board agreement:
 - We acknowledge the rich ethnic diversity of the Whau area and welcome the opportunity to work with you in an inclusive way.
 - Under local community services we'd like to commend the key initiatives planned for 2014/2015, particularly around community development resources and programmes and cross-sector collaboration.
 - In particular, Community Waitakere is available to support community hubs within your area, bringing our wealth of knowledge and experience.
 - We have led research into New Lynn local businesses, including New Lynn Night Market vendors and are currently working on the next steps for this project with relevant partners in Council. We bring a strong community economic development frame and will have a presence on the working group to develop community resources for new residents into New Lynn as part of the intensification and transformation of the city centre.
 - 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 **Whau Board** in identifying opportunities and progressing them in a sustainable way that meets the objectives of the 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 **Whau 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 **Whau 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 are soon to begin facilitating regular **Open Door Days** within the Whau area. 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 **Whau 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 Whau 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 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 **Whau Local Board** a two-way conduit for keeping informed as well as connecting with communities at the grass-roots level.
12. 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. We are currently re-imagining this space and will be involving community throughout to ensure a positive, dynamic and usable space for all.
13. **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 that could be delivered within the Whau area also.
14. We ask that the **Whau 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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