

Submission to

The Whau Local Board Plan 2013/2014

from

Community Waitakere

Submission – Auckland Council Draft
Annual Plan 2013/14
Democracy Services
Auckland Council Private Bag 92300
Auckland 1142

20 February 2013

Submission to Whau Local Board

Community Waitakere has recently appointed a new Chief Executive and would like to acknowledge the work that Pat Watson has done, with her team, to build relationships with staff and Board Members in the Whau Local Board. As the new Chief Executive, I would like to confirm the importance Community Waitakere places on the relationship with the Local Boards in the Western Cluster and the ongoing commitment we have to continue our partnering and to act as a connector between the Local Boards and the community.

We would also like to acknowledge the work the Whau Local Board has done through the transition to the unified Auckland Council. We congratulate the Local Boards in the Western Cluster for their tenacious persistence to work together as a 'cluster' and the progress they have made to ensure their communities are vibrant and sustainable. In particular, we acknowledge the Local Boards' role in advocating to the Auckland Council on behalf of their communities.

We also wish to stress the importance of our relationship with local communities and the Local Board in helping to navigate some of the contentious issues the transition has raised.

It has been the collaborative partnerships between local communities, local and central government, built over three decades that have contributed to local authority decision-making in Waitakere 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 Waitakere remain strong and determined.

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. 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

- 1.1 This submission is from **Community Waitakere Charitable Trust**. It is in response to the Auckland Council's Draft Annual Plan 2013/2014 and is specific to the **Whau Local Board Plan 2013/2014**.
- 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 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.
- 1.5 Furthermore Community Waitakere will work with the **Whau 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. As such we are also submitting to the **Western Cluster** and attach a copy of that submission for your information.
- 1.7 Community Waitakere in general, supports the priorities as outlined in the Draft Annual Plan 2013/14. However we would like to develop a deeper relationship with the Whau Area and believe we are ideally placed to work with the **Whau Board** to identify opportunities and progress them in a sustainable way that meets the objectives of the Whau Local Board and our communities. Community Waitakere has skills and expertise to work alongside the Whau Local Board and assist in community led development, innovative thinking and connecting and supporting local community groups.

We also believe there is an opportunity to strengthen, support and network **Community Houses and Hubs** across the three Local Board areas.

As well Community Waitakere commits to continuing the work it does within the community and extends an open invitation to the Whau Local Board to attend or link into the following:

- 1.8 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 **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.
- 1.9 Community Waitakere will continue to facilitate regular **Open Door Days** at the Waitakere Community Resource Centre where a wide reach of 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 **Whau Local Board** members are welcome to attend and participate in these sessions.

- 1.10 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.
- 1.11 Community Waitakere has longstanding relationships with several schools in the Waitakere 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.
- 1.12 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 **Whau Local Board** a two-way conduit for keeping **informed and connected** with communities at the grass-roots level.
- 1.13 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. There is an opportunity to partner with the Whau area to consider a similar model. This space could be useful for the **Whau Local Board** to utilise as a place embedded in the community as part of their community connection and engagement process.
- 1.14 **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.
- 1.15 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
Sue Russell
Chief Executive
COMMUNITY WAITAKERE
09 8387904
sue@communitywaitakere.org.nz