

**Submission to**

**The Western Local Boards Cluster**

**from**

**Community Waitakere**

**Re: Combined Local Board Plans 2012/2014**

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

20 February 2013

### **Submission the Western Cluster**

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 across the three Local Boards. As the new Chief Executive, I would like to confirm the importance Community Waitakere places on the relationship with the three 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.

The last couple of years have been full of uncertainty while the Local Boards develop how they would work with the Auckland Council and what their role and responsibilities would be within and to the local community. We congratulate the Local Boards in the Western Cluster for their tenacious persistence to work together as a 'cluster' as well as for the progress they have made and their intentions to ensure their communities are vibrant and sustainable. In particular, the acknowledgement of their role in advocating to the Auckland Council on behalf of their communities.

We also would like to acknowledge the effort the three Local Boards have put into working effectively as a 'cluster'.

Although a lot has been achieved there is still uncertainty regarding how the Local Boards and the Auckland Council will work together.

Community Waitakere's key message to the Western Cluster is to protect and further develop the partnering concept through the changes. We are in a prime position to work with the Local Boards across all three areas to provide

- knowledge and expertise of the community sector and community led development
- co-hosting information and community consultation meetings around key issues in an open forum space outside of the local board space
- encourage and support innovative discussions to achieve positive outcomes for West Auckland communities
- networking and resource sharing across the three Local Board areas

Community Waitakere believes there is an opportunity to work across the Western Cluster in saving resources and time rather than duplication.

Community Waitakere would like to further discussions with all three Local Boards as to how an effective three way partnership between local communities, Local Boards and Auckland Council could work to the benefit of all.

Thank you for the opportunity to make this submission. We would like to speak to this submission if the Local Boards hold 'Cluster' hearings.

Regards  
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