



T/24/02

MINUTES

DRAFT ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSIONS HEARINGS MEETING

Date: Monday, 25 March 2024

Time: 3.00pm

Place: Trust Office, Perry House, 360 Tristram Street, Hamilton

PRESENT: Trustees Afeaki (Chair), Chew, Harvey, Johnston, Silverton, Strange & West

IN ATTENDANCE: Chief Executive Officer, Grants Manager, Finance Administrator, Grants Advisor, Trust Administrator & Emerging Director, Andrew Corkill

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATIONS: Nil

KARAKIA TIMATANGA: All

AGENDA ITEM

T/24/01/1.0 2024-25 DRAFT ANNUAL PLAN AND BUDGET – SUBMISSION HEARINGS (Ref: 35/5)

Trustee Afeaki welcomed those present and was pleased to advise that there had been over 80 submissions to the Trust's draft Annual Plan, and that 14 community groups/individuals had requested the opportunity to speak at today's hearing. She acknowledged staff for their efforts in preparing for the meeting, and reminded speakers that they would have 10 minutes to address Trustees and answer questions. The following were heard in support of submissions:

- Hamilton City Council
- The Waterboy
- Waikato District Council (via Microsoft Teams)
- Waikato Environment Centre
- Te Waka
- Creative Waikato
- Norm Hill
- Waikato Wellbeing Project
- Margaret Evans
- Smart Waikato Trust
- Insight Endometriosis
- Waikato Regional Council
- Sport Waikato
- Joe Wilson

Hamilton City Council (HCC) – Councillor Tim Macindoe, Lisa Topcsov (Acting City Investment Director)

The following was noted:

- Mr Macindoe thanked the Trust for the opportunity to speak to HCC's submission and conveyed an apology from Janet Carson (General Manager Partnerships, Communication and Maaori)
- HCC appreciates the Trust's intention to increase engagement and partnerships with Capital Beneficiaries
- HCC currently faces unprecedented challenges that will impact on its investment and expenditure decisions
- The change of Central Government presents a degree of uncertainty with regard to funding, and the implementation of new policies that could affect the delivery of local community outcomes and wellbeing
- HCC is grateful for the support the Trust offers to the community, and for the funding it has received previously for projects of inter-generational benefit, totalling \$790,000 over five years
- HCC would hope to see an increased level of investment in light of it being the Trust's largest Capital Beneficiary, in order to continue to respond to the growing needs of the community
- HCC commended the Trust on establishing the Distribution Fund which will provide greater opportunities to deliver major projects in the future
- HCC highlighted its own Long Term Plan, currently open for public consultation, noting the importance for stakeholders to make submissions given the difficult choices facing Council

Trustee Chew thanked HCC for their well-written submission and sought clarification as to the disclaimer that it did not necessarily represent the views of Council. Mr Macindoe confirmed that the submission had not yet been formally adopted by Council resolution, but had been circulated to elected members who had not sought any amendments.

Trustee Chew enquired as to HCC's expectation with regard to the Trust prioritising support of climate change projects. Ms Topcsov communicated that, unlike other priority projects, climate change currently does not require external funding, but HCC would like to engage with the Trust further on this topic in order to align with its priorities. She confirmed that at present it can be ranked against all other projects.

Trustee Silverton thanked HCC for their submission and established that the amount of \$790,000 was made up of grants that went directly to Council, and excluded the likes of community event funding. Ms Topcsov reiterated HCC's appreciation of the Trust's funding to community organisations that Council also supports.

Trustee Strange enquired as to the capital/infrastructure projects in HCC's Long Term Plan for which it would be seeking support, to which Ms Topcsov confirmed HCC had approved a number of key priority projects that will require external revenue.

The Waterboy – Thomas Nabbs, Director

The following was noted:

- Mr Nabbs indicated the proposal submitted by The Waterboy for Trustees to consider, noting the Trust's Vital Impact Fund mechanism for larger grants

- Mr Nabbs enquired as to the likelihood of such proposals being funded to some extent, to support the impact needed
- The Waterboy relies heavily on external funding, and this year had been the most challenging with regard to attracting sponsorship
- Mr Nabbs also enquired as to the Trust's appetite to further support coalface organisations that have proven track records and established systems and processes in place, and that are struggling in the current economic climate

Trustee Chew asked about The Waterboy's expectations with regard to the timing(s) of payment if the proposal was to be supported, to which Mr Nabbs replied that the amount outlined was per annum, and such contracts are usually paid quarterly.

In response to Mr Nabbs' queries, Trustee Afeaki clarified that Trustees would be reviewing all submissions after the meeting with a view to finalising the Annual Plan. She mentioned that Trustees were also taking a long-term view, beyond the financial year ahead, and she thanked Mr Nabbs for his presentation.

Waikato District Council (WDC) – Mayor Jacqui Church, William Durning (Strategic Mayoral Manager), Nick Johnston (Advocacy and Investment Advisor, Strategic Initiatives and Partnerships) (via Microsoft Teams)

The following was noted:

- The Mayor thanked the Trust for hearing WDC's submission
- As a Capital Beneficiary, WDC would hope to be consulted prior to the setting of the Annual Plan, as part of a collaborative approach
- WDC supports a higher grants-versus-discounts ratio and would like to see more consistency in the Trust's strategy in this regard as there have been significant changes over the years
- The Mayor highlighted clause 9.5 of the Trust Deed which states Trustees will take into account the recommendations of the relevant Territorial Authorities with regard to regional or community projects or grants
- WDC sought clarification with regard to who is being funded through the Waikato Wellbeing Project (WWP), and why, and what the mandate is

Trustee Strange thanked WDC for their submission and asked for elaboration on their recommendation with regard to funding being directed to community groups ahead of WWP. Mr Johnston clarified that WDC sought for a review to assess the potential benefits of this approach, rather than a specific outcome, conveying that WDC was encouraging the view to deliver maximum impact with the limited resources available.

The Mayor added that, like WDC, the WWP covers a wider region than the Trust's catchment area so clarity was needed with regard to funding and overheads, and with regard to alignment as a second party with the Long Term Plans of the Capital Partners. She stressed the importance of supporting community groups who work collectively and towards sustainability.

Trustee Silverton addressed WDC's concern with regard to lines revenue, confirming that the reintroduction of the discount was not based on increased lines charges.

The Mayor asked to what extent submissions affect the draft Annual Plan. Trustee Silverton stated that one of the reasons for hearing the submissions at a separate meeting was so that they could be given due consideration before the adoption of the final Plan.

The Mayor reiterated the importance of involving Capital Beneficiaries in the initial stages of the Annual Plan process.

Mr Johnston referred to the additional questions in WDC's submission around the discount scheme, and Trustee Afeaki conveyed that these would be responded to in future correspondence.

Waikato Environment Centre (WEC) – Jo Wrigley (Chief Executive)

The following was noted:

- Trustee Afeaki was congratulated on her appointment as Chair
- WEC's vision is very much in line with that of the Trust's
- Acknowledgement was made of the Trust's support to WEC
- Some background on WEC's involvement with WWP was given
- Climate change is a significant threat to community resilience and wellbeing
- WEC's work is underpinned by Te Tiriti o Waitangi
- Research undertaken on the impacts of COVID-19 and extreme weather events has helped to inform WEC strategy and policy
- The wellbeing of the community is an integral part of WEC's climate resilience work, which includes education about energy, food and waste
- WWP has been integral in communicating the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) relating to health, wellbeing, economics and the environment
- WEC would like to see a greater pool of funding towards education on the 'literacy of life'
- WEC would like to see an even spread between grants and discounts, as well as reduced energy charges to ease cost of living
- WEC would like the Trust to honour the Agreement with Waikato Regional Council (WRC) as the investment in WWP has lifted WEC's work and there is great potential for the community

Trustee Chew initiated a brief discussion with regard to targeted electricity discounts for community groups, which there is currently no mechanism for.

Te Waka – Fiona Carrick (Chief Executive), Rosie Spragg (General Manager Economic Development)

The following was noted:

- Te Waka thanked the Trust for the opportunity to present their submission, and offered congratulations on a robust process
- Te Waka is supportive of the draft Annual Plan and endorses a partnership approach and cross-regional collaboration
- The regional economic priorities for the Waikato include not just economic growth opportunities, but also economic enablers and social outcomes
- One of the key growth opportunities is energy and sustainability
- Renewable energy is a fundamental enabler that will facilitate the region's transition to a low-carbon economy
- Te Waka is developing a low-emissions economic action plan, working closely with WRC and industry to build real capability in terms of growth outcomes for the region, and for Waikato communities, by enabling specialisation in renewable energy
- Te Waka offered congratulations on the Trust's Distribution Fund initiative

Creative Waikato (CW) – Dr Jeremy Mayall (Chief Executive Officer)

The following was noted:

- CW was pleased to have the opportunity to speak on the Annual Plan, alongside so many other groups
- Social cohesion and community connectedness were identified in recent research as key areas of need, and the role of arts, culture and creativity is key to addressing these
- Access to and engagement in arts, culture and creativity are predictors of wellbeing
- CW has run targeted initiatives that support soft infrastructure, such as Whiria te Tāngata, the impact report from which showed a significant increase in self-determined wellbeing for participating communities
- While not specifically mentioned in the SDGs, arts, culture and creativity are woven across all of them, and as part of its mahi for WWP, CW is a manu taki for SDG 3 in particular (Good Health and Wellbeing)
- CW encourages the Trust to consider how the arts, culture and creativity, which are under-funded regionally, can be a key driver of future impact and community change
- Mr Mayall remarked on the success of the 'Lots of Little Fires' WWP initiative, which is producing positive outcomes through projects such as Takoha Puoro

Trustee Strange thanked CW for the work they do and asked Mr Mayall what positive impact the Waikato Regional Theatre (WRT) will have on the local arts community. Mr Mayall expressed his belief that the benefits will be measurable, and recounted that CW had been involved in the development of the WRT from the early stages, which included community engagement, feasibility studies and the launch of the Performing Arts Strategy. He added that the WRT, as part of the ecosystem of theatres in the region, presents an exciting opportunity to meet the demand from local arts groups who have not been able to operate at their full scale.

Trustee Chew asked Mr Mayall about the benefits of WWP to organisations such as CW. Mr Mayall highlighted improved outcomes as a result of the cross-sector conversations that WWP has facilitated, and the effectiveness of the 'Lots of Little Fires' storytelling.

Norm Hill

Mr Hill gave a cultural address to those in attendance which included a mihi and waiata.

The following was noted:

- Mr Hill has been involved with WWP since its inception, and attends in his capacity as Chair of Matawhaanui Trust and Environmental Consultant for Ngāti Awa Iwi Trust
- WWP was born through collaborative efforts of the leaders of the WEL Energy Trust and WRC
- Manu taki united with a shared understanding of the SDG framework and interconnectedness between health, the environment, social cohesion and economic prosperity within the rohe

- An agreement was reached between the Trust and WRC to provide funding for WWP, signalling full, long-term support toward this kaupapa, and Mr Hill was a witness to its signing, and to the mana of the leaders
- WWP stands as a testament to what can be achieved when leaders come together with a shared vision and desire to create a better future for all
- Significant milestones have been achieved, but there is still much to be done
- Mr Hill requested that the funding for WWP be maintained at the agreed level, therefore upholding the leadership responsibilities and mana, and honouring the commitment made

Trustee Afeaki acknowledged the work that had been done by WWP to-date.

Waikato Wellbeing Project (WWP) – Mike Rolton (Co-Chair, Kaitiaki Advisory Board), Harvey Brookes (Executive Director)

The following was noted:

- Mr Rolton gave thanks to the Trust for the opportunity to speak and conveyed an apology from Co-Chair, Delwyn Abraham
- Mr Rolton asked that the Trust continue to support WWP through to FY26 as per the Agreement
- As the General Manager of Saint Vincent de Paul in Hamilton, Mr Rolton sees hardship every day, as do many others doing similar work in the community, and it has never been as dire as it is now
- WWP provides data and insights to make informed and sound funding decisions, and maximise impact
- Waikato has proven to be the best region in terms of knowledge-sharing and collaboration across the sector
- WWP undertakes action-based research on challenges relating to youth, wellbeing, hunger, food, housing and environmental restoration, and listens to the voices of those experiencing hardship, freeing up organisations such as Saint Vincent de Paul to focus on their work
- The 'Lots of Little Fires' series of videos are highlighting people in distress and are having a major impact
- Mr Rolton urged Trustees not to create an 'either/or' argument between support for WWP and community grants, expressing his view that these should be independent, and to reconfirm their funding commitment

Trustee Strange asked WWP to respond to WDC's suggestion to assess the benefit of providing WWP funding directly to community groups. Mr Brookes conveyed that WWP is not a pass-through funder, but rather a backbone organisation set up to provide collective impact by generating data and knowledge to facilitate community groups to carry out their work more effectively. He remarked that good quality data also enables funders to make better decisions and strategic plans.

Trustee West gave some background with regard to the establishment of WWP, and its evolution to-date.

Margaret Evans

The following was noted:

- Ms Evans presented a proposal in response to Central Government's review of the 'Food in Schools' programme

- The 'Kitchens in School' holistic learning proposal is supported by the former Principal of Rhode Street School, where a similar model has been running successfully
- Ms Evans produced the original kitset folder from EnviroSchools for Trustees to look through, and conveyed an apology from Heidi Mardon of Toimata Foundation
- Schools that have their own kitchens produce better, cheaper food and positive outcomes for children
- There are 25 schools in Hamilton participating in the 'enviroschools' project
- There is a lot of support and enthusiasm for the proposed project
- It is widely acknowledged that children learn better when they are fed, and the sustainability aspect of growing/preparing the food equips them for life
- The cost to develop a kitchen is \$50,000 (maximum) per school
- Operational costs would continue to be met by Central Government
- Ms Evans asked the Trust to consider ringfencing funds and engaging in further discussion to support the 'Kitchens in School' social initiative

Trustee Strange enquired as to whether Ms Evans would be seeking funding for a business case, or for actual equipment/kitchens. Ms Evans responded that her supporting group has specific knowledge and would not require money for business cases. She added that at this stage it was unclear how much funding the Trust might offer, and how much would be required, but she would envisage an amount of \$1M being tagged, and conveyed that the programme could be delivered quickly. It was determined that many businesses operate out of schools across the country.

Trustee Chew asked about the cost-effectiveness of the proposal, to which Ms Evans replied it was more economical than the corporate model as schools were not required to make a profit.

Smart Waikato Trust (SWT) – Mary Jensen (Chief Executive)

The following was noted:

- Ms Jensen thanked the Trust for the opportunity to present SWT's submission
- The Trustees were congratulated for significantly increasing distributions to community initiatives that will achieve real impact
- SWT supports the Trust's aims towards a Thriving Community, Healthy Environment, Equitable Outcomes and Maaori Aspirations, and its intentions to be responsive to the community, but believes an education component is missing from the Plan
- SWT supports social investment being aligned with impact, and is also supportive of systems change, which needs wide-spread action
- There is much to be done to reduce the number of Waikato youth Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET)
- SWT is supportive of the Trust's community investment action priorities and overall objectives, of maintaining core granting activities and continuing to offer Convening and Organisational Development grants, and of enhancing strategic intent outcomes via the \$3M Distribution Fund
- Education forms the backbone of every community, both in terms of social cohesion and creating opportunities for individuals, and schools need to be supported to maximise student engagement

- Student attendance at Waikato schools is dropping while NEET figures are rising, and schools need assistance from trusted agents of change to reverse these trends
- SWT would appreciate the opportunity to present the 'Smarter Futures Waikato' initiative to the Trust at a later date
- The Trust was asked to consider the question "How can we support proven large-scale initiatives at the coalface that involve co-ordinated networks of collaborative action?"
- SWT recommended that the Trust look to proven initiatives that have brought about change, before investing in new initiatives

Trustee Chew highlighted a Hamilton school with high presentation and low truancy rates, whose philosophy could potentially be shared with other schools to produce similar outcomes.

Insight Endometriosis (IE) – Annette Evans (Manager/Educator)

The following was noted:

- Ms Evans encouraged the Trust to consider adding 'health' to its focus areas under its Equitable Outcomes aim
- Health is the biggest inequity issue that no funder is talking about
- In the last several years, the number of people in the Waikato unable to access primary care has jumped from 33% to 70%
- Many people with chronic health issues are not able to enrol with a GP, including endometriosis sufferers who need to be referred for specialist care/surgery
- IE has started to work proactively with Hamilton Girls' High School to see students who experience period pain in an effort to reduce the number who go on to have fertility problems later in life as a result of endometriosis
- With one in seven women suffering from endometriosis, such efforts need to be massively upscaled

Trustee West pointed out that health organisations were able to apply for grants from the Trust under the current strategy and asked if IE had been successful in doing so, to which Ms Evans replied in the affirmative. She reiterated that health is not included as a priority in the Trust's Equitable Outcomes aim, despite the importance placed on wellbeing. Trustee West asked if Ms Evans was aware of other health organisations that had been declined grants from the Trust. The Grants Manager acknowledged that there probably had been a number of declines, just as there had been declines in other sectors.

Waikato Regional Council (WRC) – Pamela Storey (Chair), Karen Bennett (Executive Manager – Chief Executive's Office)

The following was noted:

- Ms Bennett conveyed an apology from Chris McLay (Chief Executive)
- Ms Storey expressed appreciation for the opportunity to speak to WRC's submission
- WRC is pleased to see the Trust's commitment to continue supporting collective impact, which is needed to address the significant issues facing the community

- The milestones and accountability measures as outlined in the WWP Agreement have to-date been met
- WRC seeks to have the full WWP funding amount reinstated, as per the Agreement, so that the planned work can continue
- Funding for WWP has been included in WRC's Long Term Plan

Trustee Strange thanked WRC representatives for their leadership locally and enquired as to the financial support provided by WRC for the operations of WWP. Ms Bennett replied that support is given through a raft of in-kind services, such as administration, IT systems and processes, risk and contract management, vehicle use, research and analysis. Ms Storey added that WRC had secured funding to put towards SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production). Ms Bennett noted that WRC includes the Trust's Capital Beneficiaries' interests in many of their projects.

Trustee Strange asked whether there had been discussions about other sources of funding when the Agreement was made. Ms Bennett confirmed that additional funders, such as other trusts, ministries and WRC, have been contributing increasingly as the Trust's commitment has reduced.

Trustee Chew speculated that WWP had been attracting external funding over and above budget, which would suggest sustainability going forward. Ms Bennett clarified that the external funding was most likely attributed to projects outside the Trust's catchment area so could not be accounted for within the reporting.

Trustee Chew asked whether WRC would match any additional funding from the Trust, to which Ms Storey replied that alternative funding sources could have been investigated if there had been an opportunity to discuss the possibility during WRC's Long Term Plan development process. She communicated that WRC sees real value in continuing the partnership with the Trust at the agreed level.

Sport Waikato (SW) – Matthew Cooper (Chief Executive Officer), Shane Brodie (Spaces and Places Lead)

The following was noted:

- Mr Cooper thanked Trustees for the chance to present SW's submission, and acknowledged them for their vision of a thriving, connected and equitable Waikato
- Through its partnerships, SW is well placed to achieve outcomes related to the Trust's core focus areas in the Plan, in particular, wellness and place-based opportunities
- There is a strong alignment between the Plan and the 'Moving Waikato' strategy, which focuses on collaboration and partnerships resulting in a well-balanced network of facilities and spaces
- SW supports the Trust's continued commitment to community/grants-based funding through its Quick Response and Community Support rounds, and endorses the Trust's strategic consideration around distribution of funding through avenues such as the Distribution Fund
- A report on the Social Return on Investment of Recreational Physical Activity in Aotearoa shows that recreational physical activity generates significant value for society across multiple wellbeing domains and outcomes – for every \$1 spent there is a social return of \$2.12, meaning the value of wellbeing outcomes is greater than the costs of providing these opportunities

- Significant investment is required for sport and recreation infrastructure so a strategic funding lens needs to be applied to ensure the best outcomes
- Value is provided to the Trust by making its investment go further through SW's partnerships
- With inadequate type and quality of supply of spaces creating barriers to participation, SW encourages the Trust to continue to invest into areas such as sports fields and lighting, as well as to consider funding innovative all-weather solutions/artificial turf to maximise participation outcomes

Trustee Strange asked SW to elaborate on the important role that sports infrastructure plays, and its inter-generational aspect. Mr Brodie highlighted that there is a shortfall of spaces and places in the region, and that there are many local sports clubs, where community connection takes place, that are in need of quality infrastructure/upgrades.

Trustee Strange also enquired as to the need to fund operating costs as well as infrastructure. Mr Cooper replied that the Waikato is losing five to six weeks of participation in the winter months due to the pressure on sports grounds, and this would be alleviated by adequate lighting and surfaces.

Trustee West raised the subject of impact investment for sports groups that could make a small financial return. Mr Brodie communicated that, due to significant capital costs, a strategic approach was needed with other funders that focused on asset location across the network. Mr Cooper added that SW works with other trusts and Local Government and has a good knowledge about what is required in terms of facility infrastructure. He highlighted the Waikato Regional Active Spaces Plan, which aims to provide comfort to funders and help inform decision making.

Trustee Chew asked if SW is benefited by WWP. Mr Cooper acknowledged that there is certainly alignment with WWP, given that sport contributes to wellbeing, but SW's specific focus is around sport, recreation and play.

Trustee Afeaki invited comments from the audience and Joe Wilson took the opportunity to address Trustees.

'Lots of Little Fires' – Joe Wilson (WWP Contractor)

The following was noted:

- Mr Wilson works with WWP in the area of social innovation and was speaking on behalf of people in the community that he works alongside, as they were unable to attend the meeting due to their work commitments
- As someone with a background in youth services, education and social justice, he has found that WWP has provided a platform that allows flexibility and enables him to do work that cannot be done through other organisations, such as Councils that go through restructures and often have changing priorities
- There have been tangible outcomes from what might seem to be invisible projects, such as the 'Stronger Together' Business Collective which connected 15 construction businesses with over 50 youth service providers, and this was enabled through trusted relationships Mr Wilson holds, and through research into the youth sector on safe employment which includes high pastoral care, strong role modelling, culture and ethics

- The 'Stronger Together' project has led to work with Fairview Motors where a Youth Culture policy will be embedded over the next four years within its education trust, and to businesses in Raglan championing youth sector change
- The videos from the Business Collective have been seen nationally and Mr Wilson presented at the Youth Employability Aotearoa Conference in 2023 – he will be meeting with the Conference Manager to discuss how the model could be rolled out in other parts of the country
- Tangible benefits are created through maintaining relationships so when roles change and/or funding gets cut, good work is unpicked and has to be started again
- Although unquantifiable, there have been significant wellbeing and growth outcomes for the teen mothers in the 'Lots of Little Fires' He Puaawai video
- The He Puaawai video, in connection with the Twenty 20 Sustainable Housing video and the Youth Homelessness Collective that Mr Wilson is involved in has led to collaboration with the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development and the Ministry of Social Development to source a house that now homes eight young parents
- The organisations behind the videos want to continue their relationship with Mr Wilson and value his role as connector, storyteller and facilitator
- There is power in storytelling and cross-sector collaboration to create change
- The 'Lots of Little Fires' shines a light on groups that feel vulnerable, and portrays them in a way that makes them feel safe and included

Andrew Corkill left the meeting at 5.13pm.

Trustee Harvey shared that she had been listening deeply to the speakers and wanted to assure them that Trustees do see what goes on in the community, and are involved in community work.

Trustee Strange acknowledged Mr Wilson's work and thanked him for speaking on behalf of those he works with. He asked if the work being done by Mr Wilson would be picked up by others if he was not contracted to WWP, to which Mr Wilson replied in the negative as his work is specifically unique in that it serves to make connections between groups that bring about change. Mr Wilson thanked the Trust for the chance to be heard.

Trustee Afeaki thanked those remaining for taking the time to present and/or offer support at the meeting. She gave assurance that Trustees would be taking all submissions into consideration and engaging in further discussion at the meeting the following day, when the Annual Plan would be finalised. She also reiterated her thanks to staff for their efforts.

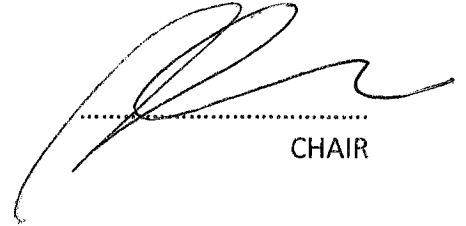
MOVED: (Afeaki/Harvey) That the verbal submissions be received.

CARRIED

KARAKIA WHAKAMUTUNGA: All

The meeting closed at 5.18pm.

Confirmed at T/24/04 on 23 April 2024 as a true and correct record.



CHAIR

