

CHAIR'S REVIEW – COMMUNITY, SPORT AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

1. Purpose of Report

This report provides the Chair's review of the Community, Sport and Recreation Committee work against its purpose and responsibilities to June 2014.

2. Recommendations

The Chair recommends that the Governance, Finance and Planning Committee:

1. *Receive the information.*

3. The Purpose of the Committee

The purpose of this Committee is to build strong, safe and healthy communities that improve the quality of life for Wellingtonians. The Committee is responsible for social infrastructure (including social housing) social cohesion, encouraging healthy lifestyles, supporting local community events, protecting public safety; and the provision of a wide range of recreation and sporting facilities such as marinas, libraries, sports fields and the golf course for residents and visitors to use and enjoy.

4. The Committee's focus to June 2014

The focus of the Committee has been to understand the issues and opportunities that rest within its areas of responsibility. We have received briefings – both formal and informal – on a wide range of issues which will inform part of the Committee's ongoing work programme.

We also made a number of significant decisions that will contribute to our community's quality of life. We endorsed 'Te Mahana', the Homelessness Strategy, and supported the Graffiti Vandalism Management Plan. These initiatives are important as they address social issues within the City. The additional funding for graffiti removal in the Annual Plan, along with an increased coordinated response by Council, is expected to make significant progress on reducing graffiti across the City.

Further, the Committee has taken a key decision on how to advance the redevelopment of the Council's social housing portfolio at Arlington in Mt. Cook. The proposals put forward by officers enabled the Committee to find a way to retain unit numbers, redevelop the site and include other housing options. Arlington is a key development site close to the central City that provides an opportunity to continue to set high standards for social housing development.

We also approved a number of grants within the School Pools Partnership Fund which will improve pool facilities at local primary schools city-wide.

4.1 *The focus of our Monitoring programme*

The Committee has focused on monitoring the implementation of the Alcohol Management Strategy and Local Alcohol Policy. We also received an update on the WHO Safe City Accreditation Monitoring report.

All councils in the region are Safe City Accredited and Wellington can claim to be one of the safest capitals in the world. Crime rates continue to fall and the Council is continuing to work with the Police to ensure that the City remains that way. In particular, we will continue to work through our Local Host and City safety programmes.

4.2 *Our Portfolio work has included*

We received briefings on a range of strategic issues including:

- Libraries
- Community recreation and recreation facilities
- Homelessness and progress of the Te Mahana Homelessness Strategy
- Approving the business case for the Arlington redevelopment
- Community events
- Psychoactive Substances

We have reviewed and endorsed the Graffiti Vandalism Management Plan and are expecting a further briefing on the actions that will be taken over the next year to strengthen the Council's and community's action in this space.

Committee members have also been involved in a number of village planning or community venue initiatives, including in Brooklyn, Karori, and Johnsonville.

5. Our focus for the next six months

- **Strategy:** Officers have been asked to advise the Committee on developing a social development strategy. The primary aim is to ensure the City has a much sharper focus on the social issues impacting on Wellingtonians. There is also a desire to better understand the work of other social agencies so Council can support and contribute to the work they do in the City. Relationships with the social sectors also need to be built and a Social Issues Forum is proposed.
- **Housing:** We will review of Council's Housing Policy including review the rental policy for our social housing stock and the Business Model for our housing operations. These related projects and are important due to changes in social housing frameworks by the Government and to ensure the Council's housing portfolio is both sustainable and continues to provide high quality social housing that is affordable for the tenant.

- **Psychoactive substances:** The Government has implemented legislation governing Psychoactive Substances. The Committee will need to consider the Council's response to this and the need or otherwise for any local controls on the sale of these substances. The new legislation provides powers to TLAs to restrict the locations of where legal highs are sold and any policy would need to be in place by early 2015.
- **Libraries and Community centres:** Work towards planning the proposed new Johnsonville library is a priority as is future spending on community facilities for the long term plan. We need to review the governance model for community run centres and consider other models that could be applied. We will continue to work with officers on more effective use of other community facilities including sports and recreation facilities. This will include consider further funding applications in the School Pools Partnership Programme.
- **Alcohol:** The local alcohol plans and implementation will continue to be monitored to ensure that the interests of the city are represented in a balanced and measured way based on sound policy advice.
- **Resilience:** We will continue to work with residents and organisations across the City to ensure emergency preparedness plans are in place.

A number of other business papers will also be considered by the Committee including a policy that considers how we manage commercial activities on public land (concessions) and the implications of changes in the Food Bill legislation.

It is vital that the committee has a good understanding of the priorities for the long term plan and the funding for the City's community and recreation facilities and services continue to provide value for money to our rate payers.

6. Project priorities for the 2015-2025 Long-Term Plan

- **Swimming Pools Partnership Fund** – resolution passed to consider \$2m being added in the 2015/16 and beyond
- **Social and Recreation Fund** – a review to ensure we're funding those organisations that deliver our City outcomes
- **Recreation Facilities Partnership Fund** – investigate a fund that provides financial support to organisations undertaking major asset development work, or a feasibility study for amalgamating existing facilities
- **Additional pool space at the Wellington Regional Aquatic Centre**, noting the link to new facilities for sporting codes on Kilbirnie Park and the possibility of a new community space
- **Community centre redevelopments for Aro Valley, Miramar, Strathmore Park** – and Newtown, noting the opportunity for a 'Fale' to be incorporated

- Karori Events Centre – subject to fundraising target being met
- Johnsonville Library funding secured and other library initiatives investigated
- Artificial turfs for the National Hockey Stadium (no. 3) and Tawa
- Allocating funding for projects detailed in the 10 year plan for the Basin Reserve; and those in the future vision for the Westpac Stadium
- Establishing Maori, Pacific and ethnic Wardens in Wellington City
- Implementing 'Village Plans' for Brooklyn and other communities
- Implementing the alcohol and graffiti management strategies
- Expansion of our role and need for more social housing stock

Councillor Paul Eagle

Chair– Community, Sport and Recreation Committee