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**REPORT 3**  
*(1215/11/IM)*

## **ATTENDANCE AT THE GIFTING OF A POU WHENUA TO HARROGATE**

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### **1. Purpose of Report**

This report seeks the Council's approval for the Cultural Wellbeing Portfolio Leader to represent the Wellington City Council at the gifting of a pou whenua to the New Zealand Garden at the Valley Gardens in Wellington's sister city, Harrogate. The ceremony is scheduled to take place at 4.30pm on Thursday, 12 August 2010.

### **2. Recommendations**

It is recommended that the Council:

1. *Receive the information.*
2. *Agree to the Cultural Wellbeing Portfolio Leader, Councillor Ahipene-Mercer, representing the Wellington City Council at the gifting ceremony of a pou whenua and associated functions in Harrogate, United Kingdom, on Thursday, 12 August 2010, with the costs being met from the Elected Members' budget (GVEM01), International Relations budget (COST01 and C145) and the Treaty Relations budget (COCM03).*
3. *Note that the Harrogate Borough Council has agreed to fund the cost of in-land transfers between London and Harrogate, and accommodation and meal costs while in Harrogate, of the Council's representative.*
5. *Note that there is a Strategy and Policy Committee Pre-Meeting Session and an Elected Members Briefing on Tuesday, 10 August 2010, and there are meetings of the Regulatory Processes Committee and Youth Council on Wednesday, 11 August 2010, and the Strategy and Policy Committee and the Tawa Community Board on Thursday, 12 August 2010.*
6. *Agree that the Cultural Wellbeing Portfolio Leader will report back to the Strategy and Policy Committee on the trip.*

### **3. Discussion**

#### **3.1. *Sister City Relationship***

Wellington City has a historical sister city relationship with Harrogate. The relationship dates back to World War II when 23 young New Zealand airmen perished while they were stationed in the town. The men were laid to rest in Harrogate's Stonefall Cemetery amongst other servicemen and women.

There are records of a number of exchanges between Harrogate and Wellington over the last sixty years. Wellington City Council donated a number of native plants for use in the New Zealand Garden in Harrogate's main parkland. The civic mace, donated by Harrogate to Wellington City Council in 1954, is still used for Council meetings and on ceremonial occasions.

Harrogate's other sister city relationships include Luchon in France and Harrogate City in Tennessee in the United States of America.

#### **3.2. *The Valley Garden and Harrogate***

The Borough of Harrogate is located in the county of North Yorkshire in the north-east of England. The district is home to an estimated population of 160,500 residents (Harrogate Borough Council, 2008), the largest area within North Yorkshire.

Harrogate is a popular tourist destination for Britons and famous for its spa waters and the number of prized parks and gardens in and around the town. The town motto is *arx celebris fontibus* ("a citadel famous for its springs") and originated in the seventeenth century. The town sits astride the Yorkshire Dales, an area of rolling hills popular with visitors to Harrogate.

The Valley Gardens form the main public park in Harrogate. The park includes a pavilion, golf and mini golf courses, tennis courts and a bowling club. The New Zealand Garden is situated in the north-west corner of the Gardens, sheltered by tall British mature trees with flourishing New Zealand native plants, originally planted by Wellington Council in 1953. The Gardens were chosen as the country's best public park by the Royal Horticultural Society's Britain in Bloom judges. The Deputy Mayor of Wellington at the time, Councillor E R Topp, attended the opening ceremony of the New Zealand Garden on 21 June 1954.

The gift of a pou whenua from Wellington City will feature prominently within the New Zealand Garden as it is being refurbished and replanted by Harrogate Borough Council to give focus to the sister city relationship with Wellington.

### **3.3. The Pou**

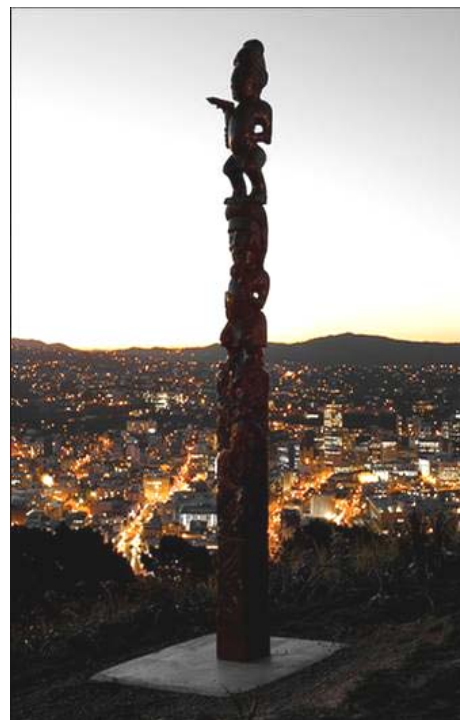
Pou whenua are large carved posts that acknowledge the relationship between the tangata whenua and their turangawaewae. The posts are significant to Maori and their contribution to New Zealand's cultural heritage and identity.

Wellington's pou whenua is symbolic of the relationship between mana whenua and the heritage and origins of the City. Moulds of the pou whenua are used through the Maori Heritage Trail through Wellington City.

The pou whenua, pictured below, is three metres long and will weigh approximately 75 kilograms. Council officers have been working with Air New Zealand and the Council's iwi partners on freight arrangements for the pou.



*Above Left: Wellington's pou whenua standing over Owhiro Bay on the South Coast.*



*Above Right: Wellington's pou whenua atop Mount Victoria overlooking Wellington's central business district.*

### **3.4. Other Artworks**

In addition to the donated pou whenua by Wellington City Council, other pieces of New Zealand-themed art are being carved for installation in the refurbished New Zealand Garden in Harrogate. The Harrogate Borough Council commissioned a chainsaw sculptor to create a bench featuring New Zealand patterns, a marlin post and a kiwi out of the Valley Garden's 8ft tall Lelandi trees.

### **3.5. Considerations**

#### **3.5.1 Travel, Accommodation and Expenses**

Air New Zealand has agreed to sponsor a significant part of the cost of the Wellington City Council representative to travel from Wellington to Heathrow to attend the ceremony in addition to sponsoring the freight of the pou.

The Harrogate Borough Council has offered to fund return transfers between Heathrow and Harrogate and will pay for the accommodation and meals for the delegates, including mana whenua who attend, in Harrogate.

The estimated balance of costs to be met by the Wellington City Council for an elected member to attend is approximately \$3,700.

#### **3.5.2 Mana Whenua Representatives**

The Wellington City Council will be supporting the Port Nicholson Block Settlement Trust for two kaumatua to travel to Harrogate and participate in the gifting ceremony of the pou and the formal re-opening of the New Zealand Garden in Harrogate's Valley Gardens.

## **4. Conclusion**

The opportunity for Wellington City Council to gift a pou whenua to Harrogate Borough Council for the refurbished New Zealand Garden in the town's main park area strengthens the historical sister city relationship between Wellington City and Harrogate. The Council is required to make a decision on whether the Cultural Wellbeing Portfolio Leader can represent the Council in the gifting ceremony of the pou whenua.

Contact Officer: *Svea Cunliffe-Steel, City Secretary*

## Supporting Information

### **1) Strategic Fit / Strategic Outcome**

*This project supports long-term outcomes 1.2 – Engagement (including mana whenua partnerships), 3.2.2 – Regional and external relations, and 4.3 – Community Arts and Cultural Support.*

### **2) LTCCP/Annual Plan reference and long term financial impact**

*Relates to C534: Elections, Governance and Democratic Process.*

### **3) Treaty of Waitangi considerations**

*There are no Treaty of Waitangi implications.*

### **4) Decision-Making**

*This is not a significant decision.*

### **5) Consultation**

#### **a) General Consultation**

*Not required.*

#### **b) Consultation with Maori**

*Mana whenua have been consulted in regards to the production and gifting of the pou whenua by Wellington City Council to the Harrogate Borough Council. Mana whenua may be represented directly by delegates attending the ceremony.*

### **6) Legal Implications**

*Nil.*

### **7) Consistency with existing policy**

*Harrogate is a sister city of Wellington and this report supports that relationship.*