

Councillor Questions and Answers

Pūroro Rangaranga | Social, Cultural and Economic Committee meeting of 2 September 2021

The following questions were received from Councillors regarding items on the agenda of the Pūroro Rangaranga | Social, Cultural and Economic Committee meeting of 2 September 2021.

Item 2.1 Petition: That Khandallah Summer Swimming Pool remains open until the end of the Easter holidays

When does that Thorndon pool cease operating?

The normal season for Thorndon closes on the first Sunday in April.

Would agreeing to this petition create any anomalies with other Council pools?

One impact would be on available resources to run all of Council's pools. The Khandallah Pool season closely aligns with university holidays. The majority of the additional fixed term lifeguards required to operate Khandallah Pool come from university students on their summer holidays.

Item 3.1 Pōneke Promise safety initiatives

Para - 50. any more updates on how Te Wahi Awhina outcomes that are supporting Pōneke Promise?

In the 4 months that Te Wāhi Āwhina has been open, there have been nearly 300 individuals who have asked for service or advice. These have ranged from requests for emergency accommodation, housing, food support, psychosocial support, and personal benefits. It has also provided an opportunity for a number of our local businesses to stop by and report anti-social behaviour and issues with some of our street people, which we have been able to deal with in a very timely and proactive manner. This space has been invaluable so far, and we definitely see a need for the service to carry on.

This has also reinforced partnerships with many organisations including MSD, Salvation Army, DCM, Police and Maori Wardens in having a regular presence

Para 51. great news - how is it expected that the Central City Community center will deliver on the Pōneke promise?

Two of the deliverables of the Pōneke Promise are for the Activation of Places and Spaces, and the Development of Places for the Community. A community centre is being set up on Manners Street across from Te Aro Park as a place to support the local community which will provide a safe space for people and families who are currently living in the central city, as well as in emergency accommodation. There is a desire to have this site open as soon as possible to be able to meet the needs of local residents. The centre will have a focus on programmed activities and events that

programmes responding to local needs. It will be available for community bookings enhancing the central city as a neighbourhood and a space to connect and socialise with others.

How many adult shops/ clubs are on the Courtenay place area?

There are three adult “entertainment” venues:

1. Dreamgirls
2. Mermaids/Splash
3. Calendar Girls

Is there a way we can ban images that use the exploitation of women in Wellington city?

Unknown. We are unsure as to what role Council can play in this space. Further discussions would need to be held.

Is there a correlation between incidents related to adult bars and clubs?

We are not aware of any correlation.

Has there been any work done on how the area that is and around the Oaks complex could contribute to safety in the area?

This will be considered and developed as we redesign the area where the toilets currently are placed. Safety will be one of the guiding principles in the co-design of this area in line with the principles guiding all Pōneke Promise workstreams. Stage one of the physical improvements include the area between the Oaks and the Te Aro Park artwork as well as Dixon St adjacent to Te Aro Park.

Is working on the opportunity to make the Oaks complex a place that contributes to the Poneke and City vision something that could be looked into?

The privately owned Oaks complex building is on land leased from the Council. Officers are open to discussing opportunities for regeneration of the area, however we are aware there is active interest from developers better placed and resourced to do this than is the Council.

Page 27. How many alcohol off-licenses are now open in the area?

There are 8 off licenses in the area.

Please identify who the Council has spoken to about steps to end sexual violence in Wellington?

Since the LTP was adopted, we have spoken to the following stakeholders about steps to end sexual violence in Wellington:

- The Wellington Alliance Against Sexual Violence
- The Police
- Hospitality NZ
- RespectEd Aotearoa
- Victoria University of Wellington
- Victoria University of Wellington Students Association (as a Don't Guess the Yes member)
- Wellington HELP
- Wellington Rape Crisis
- Inside Out (invited to a hui postponed due to lockdown)
- Gender Minorities Aotearoa (invited to a hui postponed due to lockdown)
- Take 10 (invited to a hui postponed due to lockdown)

The kōrero has been in the scoping stage - understanding the issue, where Council and partners might best place our efforts, and where the funding could be focussed in broad terms. A Sexual Violence Prevention Action Plan is being developed, and a Stakeholders Group has been proposed to enable people with specialist experience in sexual violence prevention and people lived experience to have input into this work.

Engagement to date has included an initial hui with specialist sexual assault providers, a couple of hui between the urban design team and the Wellington Alliance Against Sexual Violence, and a number of hui to scope the Sexual Violence Prevention in Drinking environments project - hosted by Council and Hospitality NZ. Our most recent hui about the drinking environments project needed to be postponed as it fell a couple of days after lockdown.

Has the Council engaged with organisations who Council currently give contract funding to in order to access their specialist expertise in how to end sexual violence?

Yes, three of the above organisations are contracted organisations and have specialist expertise and we have started to engage with them.

These specialist sexual violence prevention and intervention services have also suggested we engage with WellStop, as behaviour change with offenders is crucial. The Strategic Projects Advisor is planning to reach out to them when emergency welfare responsibilities allow.

If so, were they paid for their advice and assistance?

Payments have not occurred for advice received so far as it has been in the context of initial communication and scoping these initiatives. However, the importance of valuing people with specialist expertise in sexual violence prevention and with lived experience has been stressed by Council officers in all interactions, and the proposed Stakeholders Group will provide reimbursement for people's time.

Local specialist experience in sexual violence in a Wellington context will be brought in to assist in the preparation of the Sexual Violence Prevention Action Plan, and these people/organisations will be paid for their time.

Who will employ the FTE to work “in partnership with licenced venues to develop their capacity to be effective bystanders via training and a proposed accreditation scheme”?

It is proposed that this person be employed by an NGO - but work across Council (the suggestion is to be based part time in Council alongside the Strategic Projects Advisor) and work extensively with the hospitality sector.

This is to ensure that the worker can tap into the specialist expertise in sexual violence that already exists amongst our NGO partners, as well as embed whatever processes are developed through this project within Council - building our organisational capability in sexual violence prevention, and further connecting the Council teams that have a role in harm reduction.

This approach has been initially tested with stakeholders, and positive feedback has been received that this will help harness specialist knowledge plus build enduring processes to support sexual violence prevention.

Why is the limited to training re bystanders? What about bar managers and bar staff?

It is proposed that “bystander training” delivered through the Sexual Violence Prevention in Drinking Environments Project mentioned above, will include bar managers and staff as a key audience - to help build their capability in identifying and responding to sexual violence and delivering bystander intervention.

The Sexual Violence Prevention Action plan will aim to connect the training made possible through the LTP in settings such as licenced venues, with the training happening under other settings such as schools - to ensure a strategic approach.

Why not use the existing expertise within agencies?

We will be using existing expertise to inform any training delivered. Don’t Guess the Yes members, RespectEd and Hospitality NZ are around the table in scoping the project. This will help ensure that good links are established between existing expertise and providers of training - and any new work made possible through the LTP funding.

Will the FTE actually deliver the training?

This level of detail has not been finalised yet, as the project is still in scoping stage. The training will need to be delivered in a way that is informed by a knowledge of the hospitality sector in Wellington, is well connected with existing prevention training, demonstrates sexual violence prevention training delivery expertise, and complements and deepens what is already here through programmes such as Don’t Guess the Yes and the existing programme delivery by RespectEd.

How will it be linked to our liquor licensing team?

Part of the rationale for basing the proposed FTE position at Council part of the time, is that it will allow for regular contact with the Public Health team, given their significant role in the regulation of alcohol licences and minimisation of alcohol related harm.

What is the “proposed accreditation scheme”? What are the details of the scheme?

This level of detail has not been finalised yet, as the project is in its initial scoping stage with stakeholders, including Hospitality NZ. However the broad concept is of a voluntary scheme that will encourage licenced venues to sign up to ensure things like minimum levels of staff training in sexual violence prevention, and have the ability to display a sign advising the public of their participation in the scheme. Models such as [Green Dot](#), [MVP](#), [Arizona Safer Bars](#) are being explored with stakeholders.

Had HELP been consulted or involved in this given their role in suggesting this in the last LTP?

Yes, Wellington HELP have been initially engaged via a hui with other sexual violence specialist services in Wellington - these services are very supportive of allocation of funding to prevention, and Council will continue discussions around any impact on demand for services.

If so, have they been paid for the work on the proposed scheme?

Engagement as part of the new LTP projects has been initial only - to communicate about, and scope, these projects. If they choose to join the proposed Stakeholders Group (see questions 9 and 11, we will provide reimbursement for participants’ time.

What is the evidence base for the know your limit campaign?

The Know Your Limit campaign has been monitoring its effectiveness via process measures (e.g. “reach” in social media etc) to date. However, Council officers are working with the Police and partners to collect data on breaches of the alcohol ban and roll out both a baseline and follow up survey of the under 30 age group in October 2021 and April 2022 - to measure things like knowledge of the alcohol ban area, beliefs about whether it will be enforced, and trends in numbers of breaches and warnings.

Has the Council previously been involved in this?

Yes, we developed this campaign in partnership with the police, and it was originally a campaign which targeted students during O-week. We have had positive feedback about the messaging - e.g. it is bright and seeks to bring the community on board to know their city limit of the alcohol ban

What has happened to Don’t Guess the Yes campaign?

This campaign is very much alive - the Police continue to lead the campaign and are currently working with students from Victoria University around a refresh of the messaging for the festive season 21-22. Over coming months, the yearly information session to bar staff in Wellington will be delivered. Members from Don’t Guess the Yes programme are engaged in scoping the Sexual Violence Prevention in Drinking Environments project.

Have the businesses around Te Aro park been involved in this work yet?

The Businesses around Te Aro Park formed a group of interested stakeholders to provide an opportunity to raise concerns and discuss possible solutions to these issues. Council officers, Police, Councillors and social agencies were in regular attendance. This group were key stakeholders in the development of the Te Aro Report and in early development of the Pōneke Promise. We see ongoing dialogue at early stages of projects will continue to be important component in developing the detailed programme of work

How often have the CCTV operators contacted the Police re concerning activity in Courtenay Place in the last three months?

Although this varies, the range of this two-way communication is between 5 and 15 daily. The CCTV operators use the Police radio to communicate with the Police in live time as needed.

How often have Police contacted the Council seeking footage in the last three months?

There have been 70 requests from Police (1 June- 31 August).

Can you please provide a copy of the current MOU between the Council and the Police?

[MOU CCTV.pdf](#)

Why are DCM not a partner to the MOU?

Why are no sexual violence prevention agencies part of it?

Why are no tertiary education providers part or it?

There will be opportunities for DCM and other interested agencies to become partners as we confirm the MOU and the programme develops.

Is the Council paying First Retail to be involved?

With a focus on businesses within the CBD, the Council retains the services of First Retail Group under the OurCBD initiative. The objectives include connecting the Council with business sector voices that would not otherwise be heard through other channels such membership-based organisations - RetailNZ and the Chamber of Commerce.

If so, how much?

First Retail Group is retained for \$45,000 per year.

Is the Council paying City Mission or others to be involved? If so, how much?

We are not paying them for involvement in the Pōneke Promise.

Did the Council try and get Government agencies to agree to be part of the MOU?

We are still working through the MOU process.

Who do First Retail represent in terms of the businesses around Te Aro Park and Courtenay Place?

First Retail facilitate the conversation between Council and local businesses.

Please send through the latest version of the MOU?

[Pōneke Promise Partners MOU](#)

Pōneke Promise partners discussed and agreed this MOU on Tuesday 31 August. It will be signed once we return to L2/1 and can meet in person.

Why are elected members only invited on a quarterly basis?

As well as being a community driven initiative, elected members are a key part of the programme and therefore quarterly sessions have been instigated. The Mayor requested an opportunity to be connected at this level of the programme so that he has an opportunity to hear directly from the Partners in this forum. It was felt that quarterly meetings with the Mayor was sufficient in terms of regularity. The other partner meetings are very operational in nature.

This group has a much more limited membership than the previous group which included Government Agencies (e.g MSD, MHuD and the DHB), why?

Previous groups have been coordinated by various businesses and members of the community outside of the Pōneke Promise and before the programme was established. We are working to identify and communicate with members of these groups to make sure that they are aware of the work that is underway and that their initial forums and conversations have helped build momentum to launch the programmes and have shaped the development of our work overall. Also See Q 23

Many of the initiatives outlined in the Pōneke Promise are collaborations with multiple agencies. MSD, HUD and CCDHB are all key stakeholders in these collaborations, both at the operational and at the strategic levels

How will those agencies be involved in addressing identified needs?

These agencies are part of our stakeholder delivery groups and we include them in collective planning for resolving issues and concerns presented.

How will issues raised in these monthly meetings be escalated to Government if need be?

Now that a formal programme and governance structure has been developed, any issues that are raised can be formally escalated through to the Pūroro Rongorongo | Social Cultural and Economic Development Committee. From there, the Committee can formally direct the programme to engage Government Ministers or appropriate agencies.

What budget is there to address issues that arise in these meetings?

If there are new and emerging issues that need to be addressed in partnership with Government, we would recommend they should contribute. Some issues may be addressed through BAU and other allocated funding from the LTP.

Please provide the measuring and monitoring tools to react the progress of the programme?

Police data, in house dashboards such as the combined city safety dashboard and other data sources such as graffiti and dark spaces dashboard are being measured alongside with measurements and monitoring of outcomes that are being developed by the research team.

We are also collecting qualitative data – stories of success from partners and measuring physical changes such as lighting upgrades and the relocation of the toilet.

Do they include less violence, anti social behaviour and an improvement in the perception of safety from residents?

Yes, see above question.

What are the plans for interpretive signage in the Park?

These will be designed and developed as a part of the design process.

How did the Police indicate they would “increase their enforcement” of the liquor ban? Have they?

Police have communicated to Council that they if they see a breach of the alcohol ban, they want officers to take action, and that this action must be recorded. Police are now logging all warnings given around breaches of the alcohol ban.

Data provided to Council indicates that warnings and Alcohol Offence Infringements Notices (AIONS) increased from March this year. Between February, March and April there was a consecutive increase from 40, to 67, to 91 warnings plus AIONS issued for Wellington City. In July the total number of warnings plus AIONS came to 122. Police have provided assurance to Council that enforcement of ban has, and will, continue.

What is the evidence base for the proposals?

When the Poneke Promise was launched three months ago it was on the premise of wanting to see practical action rather than more meetings and further investigations. Nearly all the initiatives identified in this early phase have been the result of council investigations including the attached CPTED and safety reports. Partners like City Mission and other key stakeholders working in this space operate on a strong evidence-based approach and we trust their advice.

What international research has been relied on in developing the programme?

See above question.

Why is Take Ten not mentioned?

Take 10 is certainly one of the initiatives that make up the Pōneke Promise and is one we will highlight on our website and public information.

Have they been spoken to?

They are a key stakeholder and as such have a dedicated relationship manager who is in regular contact with them. For example, they have been invited to join the next hui (postponed due to COVID level changes) scoping the Sexual Violence Prevention and Drinking Environments project.

For the FTE for sexual violence training, is there budget for their work?

Yes, an FTE has been budgeted for over the 3 years of the LTP.

The role of FTE will extend beyond making sure that training takes place. It will also include engagement of licenced venues and other stakeholders and, the development of the proposed scheme.

Can we factor in support for Security Liaison Officers?

This is being supported by the Hospitality sector.