

TO Whaitua Te Whanganui-a-Tara Committee

FROM Committee Co-Chairs – Kara Puketapu-Dentice and Louise Askin

DATE 7 May 2019

TOPIC Co-Chair Approach

Purpose

This paper provides an overview of how the Co-Chairs intend to support the work of the Te Whanganui a Tara Whaitua Committee (the Committee).

Background

The Committee unanimously agreed at their March 7 2019 meeting that the leadership of the Committee required the establishment of ‘Co-Chair’ functions representing, at very high level, a Treaty of Waitangi partnership approach. Both Co-Chairs working together in partnership represent the interests of the entire Committee.

Role at Committee Meetings

The Co-Chairs will both contribute to chairing each meeting, ensuring that the meeting is managed efficiently and that all Committee members are engaged. The Co-Chairs have intentionally decided against a ‘one meeting on, one meeting off’ approach as they believe this could stunt the flow of the meetings month-to-month and potentially create inconsistencies in the ‘chairing’ functions. The Co-Chairs will work together to ensure the agenda is adhered to, Committee members’ voices are heard, Project Team input is supporting the role of the Committee and that actions are being noted and completed. They will also undertake preparatory work and other tasks needed for the appropriate running of the meetings and the broader Whaitua process – including guiding the development of meeting agendas and regularly liaising with Tim and Phil on the direction of the Committee and broader Whaitua progress.

In addition to full Committee meetings, one of the Co-Chairs will also be present in each Subgroup. Their role is to contribute as a Committee member and to ensure that Subgroup work is well connected to the wider work and direction of the Committee. Over the last few months, the Co-Chairs have helped develop the Committee’s *Foundational Framework (Kawa)* and participated in the first meeting of the Communications & Engagement Subgroup. (Updates on these pieces of work will be provided by the workstream/Subgroup leads.)

Committee Decision Making

Decision making regarding the content of the Whaitua Implementation Programme and its development is by consensus. The Co-Chairs will facilitate this approach in the first instance but also have the ability to engage an external facilitator where required. The Co-Chairs want to ensure strong decision making within the Committee while also fostering a community-based approach that is flexible and approachable. As a result, the Co-chairs propose a semi-formal approach where most 'operational' matters will be decided through consensus of the Committee – not by vote but by seeking agreement from the Committee and noting it as 'agreed' or 'not agreed'. The Co-Chairs will actively seek any view of disagreement with the aim of understanding the issue more fully so as to create a possible way forward. Decisions will be recorded and actioned. To enable this approach to be effective, it will be important that each Committee member expresses their view at Committee meetings.

Public Role

The Co-Chairs are the recognised 'spokespeople' of the Committee and will be the 'voice' of the Committee on outside media platforms – with the assistance and in co-ordination with the Project Team and the Communications and Engagement Subgroup. The Communications and Engagement Subgroup and the Project Team will provide Committee members with guidance, support and advice in relation to other communication opportunities and tools that could be utilised within their own circles, groups and communities.