



## Community Development and Wellbeing Committee

Minutes of a meeting of the Community Development and Wellbeing Committee held in the Council Chamber, 156 High Street, Dannevirke on Wednesday 4 June 2025 commencing at 1:00 pm.

### 1. Present

Cr S M Gilmore (Chairperson), Her Worship the Mayor - Mrs T H Collis, Crs E L Peeti-Webber (Deputy Mayor) (via Teams), N L Chase, P A Johns, K A Sutherland, S A Wallace, A K Franklin (via Teams) and S M Wards

#### In Attendance

Mr B Nicholson	- Chief Executive
Mrs K Tani	- Group Manager – Strategy and Information
Ms S Lowe	- Group Manager – People, Capability and Customer Experience
Mr K van der Oord	- Communications Team Manager
Ms Z Brighthouse	- Human Resources Business Partner
Ms F Chase	- Manager - Facilities
Mrs S Anthony	- Democracy Support Officer

### 2. Welcome and Meeting Opening

Cr Naioma Chase opened the meeting with a karakia.

### 3. Apologies

***That the apology from Councillor M Long be accepted, and leave of absence granted from the meeting.***

***Gilmore/Collis***

***Carried***

### 4. Public Forum

#### 4.1 Hato Hone St John

Gareth Collings, Area Operations Manager, MidCentral of Hato Hone St John was in attendance. He gave a presentation and spoke about the Hato Hone St John

service and how it services the Tararua District. He provided an overview of the organisation including highly trained personnel, specialty fleet vehicles, and services provided, noting that he covers the MidCentral region in his role, which is the second busiest region after Christchurch and outside of Auckland, and has many challenges such as large roading systems and complicated geography, and communication black spots where connectivity is unavailable. He spoke about the challenges of having a lack of volunteers to sufficiently resource the service and of having a single hospital for the region and of the region being split by the Ruahine and Tararua ranges, and acknowledged that the new highway would improve the ease of access and travel time once opened. The aging population and higher level of deprivation contributed to higher need for services. He described the valuable relationships the organisation has with other emergency services and how they support each other. He advised that while an ambulance may be stationed in a specific district, it can be dispatched to another district if required due to limited resources, and the dispatchers are the deciders of where staff are dispatched to.

A question was asked about the policy for dispatching a helicopter to remote rural areas and Gareth advised that there is set criteria including acuity of patient and nearest other resource. He noted that the dispatchers do not necessarily understand the geography of the Tararua District and he is working continuously to inform them for better understanding.

A concern was raised regarding the Woodville Ambulance Station and the impact once Pahiatua Station was complete and what the cost would be to run an extra ambulance to keep the Woodville site going, and it was advised that Hato Hone St John did not own the Woodville building so this could not be sustained, and the cost of a new ambulance is approximately \$300,000.00 and requires 8 staff to run the service for day shifts only.

#### **4.2 Te Kahu Hauora**

Tania Chamberlain, Chief Operations Officer for Te Kahu Hauora was in attendance, she spoke of the long term vision for Ngāti Kahungunu ki Tāmaki-nui-a-Rua to establish a GP practice and when Iwi were approached by clinicians who were leaving area, they realised they had to establish a clinic quickly. She advised that the practice receives no funding and is currently supported by Iwi until it is able to this pay back and be self-sustainable. She raised the concern that space in the current building will be an issue in the future for the practice as they continue to receive staff requests to join the practice and as more patients enrol.

Tania provided an overview of the Hauora services offered and the wrap around care the hub provides that works well in action, and the future focus to mobilise GP and Nurse-Led services to provide access to rural areas. Their model of care is attracting interest from Te Whatu Ora and other large practices due to its success. She advised she is a member of the Hauora Taiwhenua Rural Health Network and

has been asked to do presentations on the Tararua model of care.

She spoke of the concerns regarding funding, smaller practices will not benefit from flexible funding but they will be working with THINK Hauora around this.

A question was asked regarding after hours collaboration with other providers with the recent budget announcement offering additional after hours funding and where will this be utilised in Tararua. Tania responded that she is communicating with Te Whatu Ora on this and at this stage there is not a lot of information available. Te Whatu Ora are moving quickly to establish new sites and Dannevirke is down the list for 2027; she is advocating to ensure fairness in distribution of funds and to encourage services and practices work together. She noted that the Iwi focus with this service has always been to support the entire Tararua community.

The Committee acknowledged the great work and service that is provided to the community and encouraged her to reach out and work with Council for support as the practice grows. It was noted that Tania will be invited back to a future meeting to speak more about the Hauora services offered by Te Kahu Hauora.

## **5. Presentation**

### **5.1 Presentation – Update on Te Pae Oranga o Ruahine o Tararua Iwi Māori Partnership Board Community Health Plan**

Naomi Manu, Chief Executive of Te Pae Oranga o Ruahine o Tararua Iwi Māori Partnership Board was in attendance and provided an overview of the Partnership and the roles and responsibilities it held, and noted it represents seven Iwi in the region to ensure collective impact and drive services for the community. She noted the importance of reporting, monitoring, evidence and policy to identify areas of need and possible solutions; where to utilise skills already existing to scale up services.

Naomi advised that Health New Zealand developed the Regional Health plan for the Ikaroa (Central) Region where the whole population project determines funding received and they are working to integrate the Community Health Plan into the Regional Health Plan.

A question was asked regarding which are the priority areas of health concern for Tararua. Naomi advised that 3 areas were identified: mokopuna ora, oral health and reduction in family harm, although new and emerging priorities are now surfacing since the community plan was created last year, and a specific monitoring programme will be put in place to identify the priorities with the view to integrate with Health New Zealand's Regional Health Plan from 1 July 2025 when there will be an opportunity to have a seat at the table to address the priorities for the district.

*The meeting adjourned at 2:32pm and resumed at 2:47pm.*

## **6. Confirmation of Minutes**

*That the minutes of the Community Development and Wellbeing Committee meeting held on (date) (as circulated) be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.*

*Wallace/Wards*

*Carried*

## **7. Notification of Items Not on the Agenda**

Nil

## **8. Declarations of Conflicts of Interest in Relation to this Meeting's Items of Business**

Nil

## **9. Reports**

### **9.1 Management Report**

The Community Development and Wellbeing Committee considered the report of the Group Manager – Strategy and Community Wellbeing dated 14 May 2025 that provided an update on key activities and items of interest over the period since the last report to the committee. It was noted that a new format was implemented for the report with a high level focus.

The Communications Team Manager noted that the large number of consultations, 7 in total, had put pressure of the Communications team. He expressed concern regarding the low level of community engagement during consultations and advised that the team were investigating solutions along with the Community Engagement Officer. He noted that the current priority is the local elections. There is a need to build trust and transparency with the community, the communications survey is currently being undertaken and this will inform the direction including incorporating feedback received from the last survey.

A question was asked if there is a process to manage risk regarding social media misinformation and it was responded that capacity is limited to manage social media full time and some topics that arise require higher level sign off or advice from subject matter experts which can slow the process down.

The Manager – Facilities spoke to the Facilities report. A concern was raised regarding the district tree register and it was requested that more information about this is brought to a future meeting to provide clarity and direction.

The Group Manager – People, Capability and Customer Experience spoke to the Customer Service and Libraries report. A concern was raised regarding the

Woodville I-site lunch time closure and the need to remain open to the public. It was responded that a full review will be undertaken; there are some challenges with the layout of the premises making it difficult for staff to monitor both areas, but this is being reviewed. It was advised that further processes for reporting and monitoring of sites will be implemented and data captured and brought back to the meeting.

The committee complimented the new reporting format as easy to read and containing a great level of information.

***That the report from the Group Manager - Strategy and Community Wellbeing dated 14 May 2025 concerning the Management Report be received.***

***Johns/Collis***

***Carried***

## **10. Items not on the Agenda**

Nil

Cr S Wards closed the meeting with a karakia.

There being no further business the Chairperson thanked those present for their attendance and contributions, and declared the meeting closed at 3:47pm.

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Chairperson