

## **HENDERSON LIAISON GROUP FOR CIVIC DEVELOPMENTS**

### **PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

The purpose of this report is to present to the City Development Committee a proposal that a liaison group of Henderson Business people is set up to operate throughout the development stages of the Waitakere Library/UNITEC and the Civic Centre projects.

### **BACKGROUND**

Currently the Henderson Business Association is not an operative group and this leaves a void for local business people to be able to collectively discuss issues that are of concern. It also means a loss of group communication with Council as needs arise. Over the past years as forward planning for Henderson has taken place, workshops and consultation processes have involved a large number of the local business community. These have provided an effective method for the community to input relevant information and to also be aware of the future planning direction for the area.

As Council now moves into the implementation phase of the new Civic Projects in central Henderson there is not an available group method for a flow of discussion around the implementation of the Henderson Concept Plan and the subsequent projects. The communication plans for both projects have a number of initiatives but these mainly focus on Council providing information to the community. There is not a method for issues that may have an impact on the town centre as a whole to be discussed.

### **STRATEGIC CONTEXT**

The decision was made by Council in 2002 to locate the new Civic Centre and Waitakere Library in Henderson to provide a stimulus to attract a high level of new investment to the area and to create a Central Business District for Waitakere City including environmental and public transport benefits. This involves presenting an image of a thriving bustling economically successful business area, with good public amenity and leisure facilities that is safe for people to live work and play in. Leveraging major private redevelopment is essential to the outcome and this involves working in close partnership with key stakeholders throughout development the design stages.

### **ISSUES**

Communication plans are in place as part of the project management for both of the Civic projects in Henderson. It has become evident that it would be advantageous to also have a regular liaison group operating that would provide a venue for the business community and landowners to raise and discuss issues of concern. This group would enable a proactive approach to issues as they are raised so they can be discussed in a timely way.

Currently a range of enquiries are coming into Council via a number of sources. This does not present an efficient way to deal with the enquirer, or to ensure correct and current information is being provided. Parts of the business community have also requested that such a process be put in place. There will still be the ability of individual callers to talk directly with the project manager or relevant staff.

## **Proposal**

It is suggested that a representative group consisting of the Mayor, the Chair of the City Development Committee, the three ward Councillors, two Community Board Members, two landowners and two business owners be set up and will be supported by appropriate staff. Meetings would be held on a regular monthly basis, perhaps prior to the meetings of the Henderson Community Board Meeting.

The land and business owner representatives within the group would provide a conduit for others in the business environment to represent their concerns. These representatives would also be able to maintain a direct relationship to the wider business audience providing information as required.

The proposed group would provide the following benefits:

- A regular process for the business community to engage with Council about the Civic projects when they have concerns;
- Members of the Business Community would feel confident that their issues are been heard and discussed;
- This process would help to prevent misinformation being circulated, as the business representatives would provide a first port of call;
- A direct point of contact in Council for enquiries, to ensure accurate information is supplied;
- That key feedback from the business community is discussed further by the project control group and fed into the project in an appropriate manner;
- This is a positive way to bring the community along with the projects so they feel involved.

This group should continue to operate throughout the design and construction phase of both projects. It may be necessary as the projects proceed that further business area representatives be added to the group.

## **TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The terms of reference for this group are proposed as follows:

- To provide liaison between Council and the Business Community;
- To ensure that issues of concern are addressed to Council officers and committees.

All matters for decision will be brought back to the appropriate committee of Council.

## **RESOURCES**

Budget and staff resources for the Henderson projects are provided for in the 2003/2004 Long Term Council Community Plan. No additional resources are required for the establishment of this group.

## **CONCLUSION**

It is important that during the development of the Waitakere Library/UNITEC and the Civic Centre sites that the local business community has a way to input ideas or raise concerns and to be able to receive attention in a timely and accurate manner. It is also important that Council has in place a process to manage these inputs.

These projects will have a major impact on the Henderson business community. It is important that people feel able to contribute to these projects and are able to understand the opportunities that will be presented.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. That the information be received.
2. That a Henderson Business Liaison Group be established with the proposed membership and terms of reference as set out in the report.
3. That the Henderson Community Board be invited to approve two members to the Business Liaison Group.

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