

Notice is hereby given that an ordinary meeting of the Community Wellbeing Committee will be held on:

**Date:** Tuesday 12 May 2020  
**Time:** 1.00 pm  
**Meeting:** via Audio Visual Link

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## Community Wellbeing Committee

### OPEN AGENDA

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#### MEMBERSHIP

**Chairperson**  
**Deputy Chairperson**  
**Members**

Cr Victoria Kaye-Simmons	
Cr Jo Mason	
Ms Kelly Bevan	Ms Katie Brosnahan
Ms Michelle Bussey	Ms Moira Campbell
Ms Samantha Coromandel	Mr James Etuale
Mr Mike Fletcher	Ms Eve Fone
Ms Sheree Garton	Mr Jim Greening
Ms Eleanor Gully	Ms Chiquita Hansen
Mr Keith Hilson	Ms Pauline Holland
Dr Betty-Lou Iwikau	Ms Tracy Merson
Ms Alice Mose-Tuialii	Sgt Beth Purcell
Ms Angela Rainham	Mr Patrick Rennell
Mr Mark Robinson	Mr Gavin Rooney
Ms Di Rump	Sister Sosefina
Mayor Bernie Wanden	Ms Margaret Williams
Ms Delphi Winters	

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*Please note:*

- *This meeting will not be live-streamed*
- *Focus Area Reports will not be covered at this meeting*



# Community Wellbeing Committee Officer Report

File No.: 20/155

## 1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide the Community Wellbeing Committee with an update on Council intertwined community development and COVID-19 pandemic response.

## 2. Recommendation

- 2.1 That Report 20/155 Community Wellbeing Committee Officer Report be received.
- 2.2 That this matter or decision be recognised as not significant in terms of s76 of the Local Government Act 2002.

## 3. Background/Previous Council Decisions

The impacts of COVID-19 on affected individuals, whānau, businesses and communities could be profound, long lasting and life changing. Therefore, recovery will be a long-term, multi-layered social and developmental process, that is more than simply replacing what COVID-19 has destroyed; it also includes the wellbeing rehabilitation of those affected.

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted New Zealand on a scale that will continue to unfold for many months, possibly years to come. Yet, it also shows us how people can come together to cope in the face of an epidemic in ways that are magnificent, creative and effective.

If we want a better future, for all people, we will have to work for it. This would include an economy in better shape to withstand the longer term effects of the pandemic, and also deliver a broad range of outcomes for people, places and our community into the future.

Recovery must take a longer term view; however, it also needs to drive immediate solutions. The critical measure here is to ensure solutions, particularly those in the short term are designed in a way to provide value and benefits over the long term.

## 4. Issues for Consideration

### Council Welfare Response

As part of the response to COVID-19, Horowhenua District Council established an Incident Management Team (IMT). The IMT work within the Civil Defence Emergency Management framework and decisions are guided by the National response.

As part of the IMT is the Welfare function, which has been coordinating and supporting welfare services within the district.

A freephone welfare line was established on 31 March 2020, for local Civil Defence groups to provide essential household goods and services to those who were unable to make arrangements themselves.

As of 30 April 2020 the Welfare team had received 188 requests for Welfare Support, including 5 non-food household item requests.

As of 30 April 2020, 356 food parcels had been distributed by Horowhenua Foodbanks. This number also includes direct referrals.

There are also other agencies within the district who are providing excellent support to our community during this time, by providing food, hygiene items, a friendly ear to talk to and much more. Their services and support for our community during this time is undeniably appreciated and welcome.

While we are at Alert Level 3 Central Government, through the National Emergency Management Agency, will continue to support local CDEM groups to provide assistance to the community. We are awaiting guidance as to what this support will look like during Alert Levels 1 and 2 and are mindful that support will continue to be needed for the foreseeable future.

Information on what services and support are available in Horowhenua are available on Council's website here - <https://www.horowhenua.govt.nz/Services/Emergency-Management/COVID-19-novel-coronavirus/Where-to-go-for-services-and-support>

### **Grants and Funding**

The grants and funding allocation for the 2019/2020 financial year are complete, which in effect does not leave any unallocated funds from the 2019/2020 grant rounds.

While there may be a small number of funds that are allocated that are unable to be spent in this financial year as a result of projects impacted by COVID-19, at this stage there are only two allocated applications where this may apply. The Community Funding and Recognition Committee have indicated they would like to work with these applications to understand how the funding could be used to support them in another way.

Council sought short term actions that it could consider and implement as part of the 2020/2021 year, while longer term requirements of the community with a particular focus on the social and economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic were developed through preparation of the Long Term Plan 2021-41.

Council identified Grants and Funding as one avenue that could be explored to provide potential targeted response in the 2020/2021 year to support community recovery.

Officers have prepared a report to Council for their meeting on 06 May 2020 to consider options for new grant criteria in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and to community recovery.

### **Other Council activities**

Council has been continuing to provide services and activities during this time. While many activities such as waste management and water services were considered essential during lockdown, most other activities were able to occur remotely.

As of the end of April, our facilities staff have managed to touch base with more than 1000 community members on their database. The Aquatics team called all Swim School customers and the Libraries Horowhenua staff have been calling customers who may not be on our email database. This has been to update them on our services still available, but to also check on their welfare.

Information on what Council services are occurring during Alert Level 3 is available on Council's website here - <https://www.horowhenua.govt.nz/Services/Emergency-Management/COVID-19-novel-coronavirus/Council-Services-in-Alert-Level-3>

During the COVID-19 response, the Community Development team have largely been providing the Welfare response. Therefore, the team have been diverted, largely from their Business as Usual activities, in order to provide the coordination and response.

Decisions were made during Alert Level 2, to cancel Network meetings as they were unable to be held in person while maintaining safe physical distancing.

As we have now moved into Alert Level 3 and are practiced at working remotely, we are exploring options to resume Network meetings. If this does occur, it will be via audio-visual link.

Additionally, the Community Development team are exploring ways and options for Community Capacity workshops to resume while keeping everyone safe in their own bubbles. At this stage, this will most likely be as a webinar or delivered digitally.

## Attachments

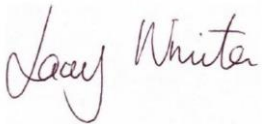
There are no attachments for this report.

### Confirmation of statutory compliance

In accordance with section 76 of the Local Government Act 2002, this report is approved as:

- a. containing sufficient information about the options and their benefits and costs, bearing in mind the significance of the decisions; and,
- b. is based on adequate knowledge about, and adequate consideration of, the views and preferences of affected and interested parties bearing in mind the significance of the decision.

## Signatories

Author(s)	Lacey Winiata <b>Community Wellbeing &amp; Engagement Manager</b>	
Approved by	Nicki Brady <b>Deputy Chief Executive</b>	