



SOCIAL EQUITY AND WELLBEING NETWORK

TUIA TE ORANGA

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The Mayor and Councillors
Christchurch City Council
53 Hereford St
CHRISTCHURCH

LTP submission additional information

Dear Mayor and Councillors

SEWN welcomed the opportunity recently to make a submission to proposed amendments to the Long Term Plan 2015 - 25. We were able to make only a very brief on-line submission before the closing date as I was on bereavement leave at the time. I would like to elaborate on that short submission and hope you will be willing to accept it.

Our submission related to grants on p. 105 of the Proposed Amendments document. We noted that over the life of the Plan the amount budgeted for Economic Development grants, excluding Regenerate Christchurch, increases by over 14%, while over the same timeframe the budgeted increase for Discretionary Grants, excluding specified recipients/time period grants, is only 2.7%.

The various discretionary grants are an extremely important source of funding for the many non-profit / community based groups and organisations that are so fundamental to developing and maintaining community wellbeing and resilience in Christchurch. SEWN urges that social / community development be treated equally to economic development, as both are equally essential to the wellbeing of Christchurch communities.

The recently released draft Resilience Plan makes frequent mention of the contribution that non-profit groups make to the wellbeing of the city and has a number of actions that the sector is seen as an integral part of. Under Goal 2: 'Participate', the Plan says:

Strong community organisations can maximise the use of public resources, reduce bureaucratic drag and improve the resilience of projects reducing dependency on public institutions who are often subject to financial, political or technical restraint. Supporting these community organisations as partners in maintaining the wellbeing of our communities is an essential investment in resilience.

While we see our most important value as maintaining and growing community wellbeing, the sector also contributes economically. The Dept of Statistics has just released its analysis of data that was gathered in 2013, which shows that nationally the sector contributed \$9.4 billion to GDP in that year. Christchurch's population is about 7% of the national population – if that same percentage is true of the non-profit sector then it's contributing about \$6.6 million annually here in Christchurch.

The council has often stated how much it values the contribution of the sector to Christchurch wellbeing. It is really important that decisions are taken that reflect that sentiment. SEWN strongly recommends that this could be demonstrated by increasing the budget increases for social / community development over the life of the Plan to match those for economic development.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Sharon Torstonson', written in black ink.

Sharon Torstonson
Executive Officer