



Report 09.97
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Committee Council
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Review of the Charter of Understanding with the iwi of the Wellington region

1. Purpose

To advise Council of the approach and timeframe for the review of the Charter of Understanding with the iwi of the Wellington region.

2. Background

At its meeting on 4 December 2008, Ara Tahi considered a report outlining the proposed approach to the review of the Charter of Understanding. The proposed approach involved the development of a Memorandum of Partnership that would drive an annual work plan of activities to be agreed by iwi and Greater Wellington.

While Ara Tahi agreed that a review of the Charter was appropriate at this time, and supported the intention to develop a shared work plan, it expressed the following concerns:

- That the essence of the existing Charter document should not be lost in undertaking the review – the Charter is an important symbolic document signifying the relationship, and any new document needs to carry at least the same status and weight.
- That the proposed approach and timeframe would likely exceed the capacity of iwi to provide effective input into the review.
- That the signing of any new or revised document would be an important milestone in the relationship.

Ara Tahi asked officers to present a revised work plan and timeframe to its February 2009 meeting, with the view to the outcomes of the Charter review being able to be implemented by 1 July 2010.

3. Revised approach to the review of the Charter

In light of the comments from Ara Tahi in December, a simplified approach to the review was put forward to Ara Tahi at its meeting in February 2009. The new approach, which involves three phases, was endorsed by Ara Tahi. The three phases are as follows:

Phase One: Review of the Charter document

Ara Tahi and Greater Wellington places considerable importance on the Charter document, and accordingly, it is proposed that a revised Charter should continue to provide the foundation for the relationship moving forward.

The review of the Charter document will need to:

- Reference the statutory provisions in the Local Government Act 2002 relating to Māori participation in decision-making, and other statutory changes since the Charter was last reviewed
- Consider the basis for iwi representation on Ara Tahi, taking into account requests made for representation
- Update the wording of the document to generally reflect the current status of the relationship
- Recognise any upcoming changes that may occur through Treaty of Waitangi settlement processes.

It is proposed that the review of the Charter document will be completed for consideration by Ara Tahi at its meeting on 10 June 2009.

Phase Two: Stocktake of progress with agreed initiatives

Associated with the previous review of the Charter in 2000 Council agreed to a number of initiatives intended to support and further develop the relationship. These initiatives were set out in Attachment 1 to Report 00.113 (copy attached as Attachment 1).

It is appropriate to do a stocktake of progress with these initiatives and to record reasons as to why any initiatives have not progressed.

It is proposed that the outcome of this stocktake will be reported to the August 2009 meeting of Ara Tahi.

Phase Three: Development of initiatives to further foster the relationship

The third phase in the review will involve the development of initiatives that will support the relationship into the future. This phase will be guided by what comes out of the first two phases, and will likely include detailed consideration of the approach required to develop shared work plans with iwi.

It is proposed that a set of initiatives will be developed for consideration by Ara Tahi at its meeting on 1 December 2009.

4. Reporting process

It is proposed that the reporting process for each phase of the review will involve consideration by Ara Tahi and then by Council.

5. Tying it all together

Ara Tahi has emphasised the symbolic importance of a signing ceremony to give life to any revised Charter document and to formally acknowledge once again the longstanding relationship with Greater Wellington.

It is proposed that this signing ceremony will be held in the first half of 2010, with the agreed initiatives ready to be implemented from 1 July 2010.

6. Recommendations

That Council:

1. *Receives the report.*
2. *Notes the content of the report.*
3. *Notes that the approach to the review of the Charter, as outlined in section 3 of this report, has been endorsed by Ara Tahi.*
4. *Endorses the process for the review of the Charter.*

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Attachment 1: Attachment 1 to report 00.113