

8 February 2017

Memo

To: Chair and members Otara Papatoetoe Local Board
cc: Mary Dawson, Manager Strategic Brokers
From: Dr Tess Liew, Strategic Broker Ōtara-Papatoetoe
Subject: Update from the working party on accommodation for community groups

Background

The strategic broker has formed a working group to investigate whether any council facilities are available to accommodate local community groups, within The Southern Initiative (TSI) area. (This responds to local board resolution OP/2016/142.). This memo provides an update from the working party.

The working party includes staff from TSI; Community Facilities; Parks; Sport and Recreation as well as representatives from the following community groups:

- Feed the Need
- South Auckland Christian Foodbank
- Affirming Works (AW)
- Kolmar and Rongomai sports centres

The working party's findings are relevant to local board decisions regarding the future of current facilities.

November working party workshop

Staff convened a workshop with community groups on 8 November 2016. The groups represented were:

- Feed the Need Trust
- South Auckland Christian Foodbank
- a community collective made up of:
 - Paeneer Limited
 - the Roots Collective and
 - Affirming Works.

The groups presented their specific accommodation requirements and answered questions.

The community groups agreed that it was useful for them to get together, to meet with a range of council staff and to talk about how they might work together in the future on accommodation and other matters.

Conclusions from the working party

Staff searched their databases to ascertain whether those accommodation needs could be met and found that there are currently no council facilities with the particular requirements of the groups within The Southern Initiative (TSI) area.

The Kolmar sports centre, Rongomai sports centre and Te Puke o Tara community centre were not available for consideration.

Next Steps

The strategic broker will continue to work across council to respond to queries from the community and to keep them informed about opportunities to access council facilities.

As an example, the community collective has scheduled a meeting with Panuku Development Auckland about potential accommodation facilities in Otara and Papatoetoe for their work.

As part of the application process for new community leases, an assessment is made of each application against the criteria contained in the Community Occupancy Guidelines 2012, which includes alignment with the outcomes contained in the local board plan.

The application for a community lease asks whether the group is willing to share the facility with other users – this section could be expanded and given a greater weighting in the assessment process.

The value of a facility to the local board can be considered against the value of the outcomes anticipated through the lease of that facility by any particular community organisation.

For instance, where a group currently has exclusive use of a facility, they may be encouraged to seek additional community partners to share the facility so that community outcomes can be increased. This is a way of using existing facilities that can help address the shortfall of available community spaces to the increase in the demand for them.

A lease issued to a management committee made up of several community groups is expected to add more value to the local community than a lease issued to one individual group. This is the model used by community houses and might be replicated in our existing facilities to reap similar benefits.