

Submission by

Hamilton City Council

WEL ENERGY TRUST'S 2020-21 DRAFT ANNUAL PLAN

19 March 2020

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Hamilton City Council (HCC) supports the overall direction and intent of the WEL Energy Trust's 2020-21 Draft Annual Plan.
- 1.2 As the main capital beneficiary of the WEL Energy Trust, HCC looks forward to the ongoing working relationship that it has with the Trust to progress increased community wellbeing in Hamilton and the Waikato Region.

2.0 SUPPORT FOR SOCIAL INVESTMENT LINKED TO REGIONAL PRIORITIES

- 2.1 As with our submission to last year's Draft Annual Plan, HCC continues to support the Trust's Community Investment Strategy application of the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) framework to focus social and impact investment as outlined on page 13 of the Community Investment Strategy 2019-2022.
- 2.2 We also support the Trust's General Theory of Change outlined on page 3 of the 2020-21 Draft Annual Plan i.e. *"If we make coordinated use of different forms of financial capital and non-financial resources to support innovation and the wider innovation ecosystem, THEN we will begin to see the systemic change required for impact at scale"*.
- 2.3 HCC considers that the Community Investment Strategy's differentiation of investment into philanthropy, social/impact and sustainable/responsible investment provides a greater clarity for the community and region in understanding how to target applications for investment.
- 2.4 HCC supports the use of the Social Impact Investment to recognise the social value of investment by considering not only the financial return, but also the social and environmental outcome of the investment.
- 2.5 We would strongly encourage the Trust to consider opportunity alongside the risk, return and impact, as opportunity will provide for change that will improve wellbeing for our future communities rather than just the impact on current communities.
- 2.6 HCC acknowledge the significant investment in the Vital Impact Grant space but would like to encourage the Trust to ensure that the community sector actively working to reduce inequalities and deliver good health and wellbeing outcomes through their quick response and community support grants aren't compromised or at risk through reductions in any overall budget.
- 2.7 We support the setting aside of grant money to support the connective tissue to help navigate the complex ecosystems identified within the development of the Waikato Wellbeing project and subsequent Regional Targets but would advocate that change happens in local communities and targets should be set at local rather than regional level.
- 2.8 HCC applauds and acknowledges the Trust's commitment to ground its work in Te Ao Maaori, as evidenced by the recent appointment of the Strategic Relationships Manager.

3.0 MAXIMISING OUR PARTNERSHIP AROUND KEY CITY STRATEGIC IMPERATIVES

- 3.1 HCC believes there is greater opportunity to maximise our partnership on key city strategic imperatives.
- 3.2 We note there is opportunity for greater alignment with HCC's Annual and Long-Term Plans, which is of course supported and undergirded in the Trust's Deed i.e. *"Clause 9.5 REGIONAL OR COMMUNITY PROJECTS OR GRANTS: The TRUSTEES in making decisions on projects or grants in accordance with clauses 9.3(d) and 9.3(e), will take into account the recommendations of the relevant TERRITORIAL AUTHORITIES....."*
- 3.3 This is further articulated as an 'Outcome Area' on page 9 of the Draft Annual Plan i.e. *"Actively engage with Capital Beneficiaries both formally and informally to better understand their priorities and how we can work together, especially to achieve agreed regional targets."*
- 3.4 HCC welcomes further formal opportunities to discuss how the WEL Energy Trust can support Council around key projects, whether by seed funding, ongoing funding or other opportunities as they arise. Two key projects currently being developed (but by no means exhaustive) are the Waikato Community Lands Trust and the Zoo/Waiwhakareke development.
- 3.5 The Waikato Community Lands Trust is an early stage initiative that can significantly contribute to our city and regions housing challenges, which we note would fit well within scope of the SDG framework and notably the Waikato Well Being Project and specifically the Regional Housing Initiative work.
- 3.6 The Hamilton Zoo/Waiwhakareke project also has the potential to be a significant addition to the northern part of our city and will enable stronger economic, environmental, social and cultural opportunities, as well as having strong links to several SDG targets.
- 3.7 HCC, as the WEL Energy Trust's most significant capital beneficiary, understands and supports the ambitions of the Trust before it winds up in 2073, but is keen to unlock further opportunity and leverage points 'along the way.'
- 3.8 HCC looks forward to discussing this and other projects informally and formally and in particular leading in to our 10 Year Plan later this year and early next year.

4.0 FURTHER INFORMATION AND HEARING

- 4.1 Should the WEL Energy Trust require clarification of the above points, or additional information, please contact Julie Clausen (Unit Manager Strategy and Corporate Planning) on 07 959 9029, 027 808 3882, or email julie.clausen@hcc.govt.nz in the first instance.
- 4.2 HCC **does wish to speak** in support of this submission at the WEL Energy Trust's hearing that is scheduled for 25 March 2020.

Yours faithfully



Richard Briggs
CHIEF EXECUTIVE