

5. Old Harbour Board Building Referendum 2015

Reporting officer Paul Dell (Group Manager District Living)

Date of meeting 11 June 2015

Vision, mission and values

This item is in accord with Council's vision, mission and values statement.

Background

Council resolved on 12 November 2014 to hold a binding referendum to determine which option for the use of the Old Harbour Board building would be chosen.

The three options were:

- A. Harbourside
- B. Hundertwasser Wairau Maori Art Centre
- C. Demolish and Grass.

Significance and Engagement

Council resolved to hold a binding referendum to determine the community's view on reasonably practicable options for the use of the Old Harbour Board building. This process was supported by evaluation of proposals as outlined in the 25 February 2015 Agenda to Council.

While the significance of other major projects proposed to be included in the Long Term Plan (the LTP) was able to be considered through the process to develop the draft LTP this was not possible for the successful option for Old Harbour Board building until the outcomes of the referendum were known.

Council now has an opportunity to consider this alongside relevant LTP recommendations.

Council's Significance and Engagement Policy sets criteria for considering the degree of significance of any issue. A decision is significant if (in Council's judgement) two or more of the criteria / measures are triggered.

Of note in these criteria is the level of public impact and/or interest. While this criteria is considered to be triggered Council has undertaken engagement via a full referendum process which has provided a clear, and binding, outcome.

In terms of other criteria the project is not considered to result in a major and long term impact on either LTP levels of service or non cost capability and the net financial cost/revenue of implementation for Council does not exceed the measures outlined in the Policy.

The final criteria is whether a project has a major and long-term impact on Council's direction. While the Hundertwasser Wairau Maori Art Centre was submitted to Council as part of 20/20 Inner City Revitalisation, and the building will remain a Council asset, the proposal was put forward by the Prosper Northland Trust. In doing so the Trust cited economic benefit.

Council funding is limited to the capital budget already provided for (\$1,469,000 in year three and \$1,508,000 in year four). This results in no change to the funding allocation that Council consulted on. As a result the Hundertwasser Wairau Maori Art Centre is not considered to trigger this criteria.

Having considered the above Council's involvement in this project is not considered significant.

Supplementary Agenda Item No 1

Additional to Item 5

Discussion

The final results of the referendum were:

Option B	Hundertwasser Wairau Maori Art Centre	14256
Option A	Harbourside	5609
Option C	Demolish and Grass	8080

Therefore the community has chosen Option B – Hundertwasser Wairau Maori Art Centre as their preferred choice.

As there is a financial grant allowance of \$2.8 m allocated in year 3 – 4 of the draft LTP there is no need to make any financial adjustment to the draft LTP.

Recommendation

1. That Council receive the report.
2. That Council thank both groups for promoting their proposals to the community.
3. That staff are directed to meet with Prosper Northland Trust to discuss future planning for their project.