

3 September 2015

Angela Dalton  
Chairperson  
Manurewa Local Board

Dear Angela

Thank you for your letter of 25 August, 2015. I have noted your concerns around the staff restructure in the Community Development and Safety unit and also your board's support for the Empowered Communities model. I would also like to respond to the following question you posed:

*'How did a policy change as significant as the Empowered Communities Approach be presented to the Governing Body by officers for inclusion into the Long Term Plan with a 1.6 million dollar budget cut in the 2015/16 financial year after the local boards had consulted on and agreed their Local Board plans?'*

The Mayor's Proposal for the Long Term Plan 2015-2025 included developing a more empowered community led approach to the work of Auckland Council and sought changes to the community development function. This proposal was announced by the Mayor on 28 August, 2014 as part of the Draft Long Term Plan 2015-2025. The proposal went through a community consultation process and was subsequently approved by the Budget Committee on 7 May, 2015 noting that it would be implemented during the 2015/16 financial year with an associated savings target of \$1.6m in 2015/2016 and \$2.0 million per annum each year thereafter until 2025.

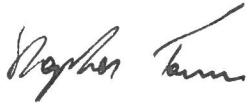
The Empowered Communities approach will be implemented in the 2015/16 year and will move towards a different method of delivery and subsequent empowerment of local communities.

As you are aware, the local board plans were adopted in October 2014 after a considerable time of planning, community engagement and refining, with the 21 local boards developing their plans from December 2013 onwards. Each plan is the local board's commitment to enhance community wellbeing and provides a local mandate to work with the governing body and other partners, such as Auckland Transport.

While the timeframes of the Long Term Plan Empowered Communities initiative and the approval of the Local Board plans were not aligned, it is my expectation that the local board plans can accommodate the new approach for community development and that the new Community Empowerment unit will work with your board and others to ensure that local delivery is transitioned to a more local approach, using the principles of the new model. You should see this transition begin to occur in this financial year.

I encourage you to work closely with Graham Bodman, General Manager CDAC and his team to ensure the transition to the new model reflects the intention and priorities of your local board plan.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen Town". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Stephen Town  
**Chief Executive**

cc Mayor Len Brown  
cc Councillor Wood