



## **NOTICE OF MEETING**

**Notice is hereby given of the Meeting of the  
Connected Murihiku Joint Committee  
to be held at Community Trust South,  
62 Don Street, Invercargill  
on Monday, 18 November 2024 at 1.00pm**

MICHAEL DAY  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

# Connected Murihiku Joint Committee - Public Agenda

18 November 2024 01:00 PM - 03:00 PM

<b>Agenda Topic</b>	<b>Page</b>
1. <a href="#">Values/Pou</a>	3
2. Welcome and Apologies	
3. Declaration of Interest	
4. <a href="#">Public Excluded Reasons</a>	4
5. <a href="#">Minutes of Connected Murihiku Joint Committee Meeting held on 5 August 2024 (A5485492)</a>	5
6. <a href="#">Connected Murihiku Project Administration (A5594806)</a>	10
6.1 <a href="#">Attachment 1 - Connected Murihiku Terms of Reference (A5425097)</a>	13
7. <a href="#">Connected Murihiku Project Lead Update (A5615910)</a>	19
8. <a href="#">Connected Murihiku Financial Report - November 2024 (A5629739)</a>	25
8.1 <a href="#">Attachment 1 - Financials as at 31 October 2024 (A5629745)</a>	27
9. Public Excluded Session	

## Connected Murihiku Values

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- **Tino rangatiratanga** – Concepts of self-determination, self-reliance and the desire to be in control of one's vision and destiny
- **Manaakitanga** – The acknowledgment of the mana of others and demonstrating mutual respect
- **Kotahitanga and mahi tahi** – Concepts of unity and working as one
- **Motuhaketanga** – Concepts of independence, autonomy and supporting self-reliance
- **Whakawhanaungatanga** – Concepts of collective wellbeing and relating well to others.

**PUBLIC EXCLUDED SESSION**

Moved \_\_\_\_\_, seconded \_\_\_\_\_ that the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting; namely

- (a) In Committee Minutes of Connected Murihiku Joint Committee Meeting held on 5 August 2024

The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under Section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

<b>General subject of each matter to be considered</b>	<b>Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter</b>	<b>Ground(s) under Section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution</b>
(a) In Committee Minutes of Connected Murihiku Joint Committee Meeting held on 5 August 2024	<b>Section 7(2)(a)</b> Protect the privacy of natural persons	<b>Section 48(1)(a)</b> That the public conduct of this item would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under Section 7.



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**MINUTES OF CONNECTED MURIHIKU JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING, HELD IN THE  
COMMUNITY TRUST SOUTH BOARDROOM, 62 DON STREET, INVERCARGILL ON  
MONDAY 5 AUGUST AT 1PM**

**Present:** Mrs Pania Coote – via Teams  
Cr Steve Broad - ICC  
Cr Sarah Greaney – SDC – via Teams  
Mrs Jess Domigan – Community Representative  
Mrs Robyn Morris – Community Representative – via Teams

**In Attendance:** Ms Trudie Hurst – Group Manager – Community Engagement and  
Corporate Services  
Ms Rebecca Amundsen – Project Lead  
Mrs Liz Williams – Team Leader – Executive Support

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**1. Apologies**

Mr S Hughes and Cr P McPhail

Moved Cr Broad, seconded Mrs Domigan and **RESOLVED** that the apologies be accepted.

**2. Declaration of Interest**

Nil.

**3. Minutes of Connected Murihiku Joint Committee Meeting held on  
1 July 2024**

A5429737

Moved Mrs Domigan, seconded Cr Greaney and **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of Connected Murihiku Joint Committee Meeting Held on 1 July 2024 be confirmed.

#### 4. **Connected Murihiku Report**

A5469849

Ms Amundsen spoke to the report and noted that the report covered up to 22 July 2024. She had been to Riverton and Te Anau for the roadshows and also held one in Invercargill.

She added that had also spoken at some community hui's recently, and that post attending meetings the number of hits on the website had increased.

She noted that Elm would prepare a report for the end of the year looking at website statistics. The most popular pages were the home page; who we were, stories and also Ingrid's story.

She added that there had been a change in staff around the volunteer network and so had new contacts and waiting to hear from them. Had gathered information around funding pages. She added that Environment Southland had access to Grants page and they were happy for that to be shared in the next newsletter, they had 50 licenses available. She added that there were over 500 funds available in the next 12 months and had highlighted a small number of those to look further into.

Work continued on the survey and she would send that to committee members to send out to their networks, she added that the tick boxes saying requiring help were being ticked.

The milestones to MBIE had all been ticked off.

A query was raised around what was coming through the roadshows, Ms Amundsen noted that the general feedback was that the website was easy to use and the suggestions were around things like supporting family members of new staff and linking into the work being done by Chamber, also Get a Life in Southland, a suggestion that change elderly to older persons and also some wording on disability pages. There had been discussion around smaller communities and would add a page linking to smaller communities to enable people being able to find quickly. Employment and employment support, also looking at Mayors Taskforce for Jobs. Also some ideas for stories, i.e. Winton transport to hospital appointments etc. Another one was around how to make submissions.

Mrs Coote noted that would need to look how people saw themselves around being elderly and disabled and Māori had different words that were used to describe. She added that in Bluff there was also transport for people to get to appointments too.

Mrs Coote noted that the administrator at the rūnaka spoke to her as they also received a large numbers of calls and she had directed them to Connected Murihiku and maybe having cards at the Marae might be useful.

Cr Greaney noted that there was also a transport service in Fiordland, and it would be good to collate them all.

Mrs Domigan noted that Community Trust South (CTS) received a large number of calls and would look to direct them Connected Murihiku.

A query was raised around the roadshows and who was attending, Ms Amundsen noted that Invercargill had three people but a number of people had attended at migrant and youth networking meetings. She added that she had attended the CTS meeting in Riverton and so had around 30 attending. She added that a number of people had said they were using the website and found it useful.

A query was raised around a presentation to councils, Ms Hurst noted that felt that August would be a better time to present the paper that she had written to Council. She did note that it was a light touch in terms of administration support and that the call on staff resource was not onerous and that could support using current resources. Ms Hurst noted that if extended to September 2025, that would cross two financial years.

There was discussion if June 2025 would be a better date, it was noted June seemed like a good date and it was then noted that elections were in October 2025 so September would take the committee to that point.

A query was raised around the information from Elm and it not being available until the end of the year, it was noted that it was to allow a good period of time to enable a good level of data collection and more reflective of the current use of the website, i.e. being promoted and then people settling in to use the website. It was noted that would be queried at Council around the work that had been done and the need for as many measurables as possible. Ms Hurst also noted that she wondered if due to there being such a light touch that it may simply be able to be approved by the Chief Executive. Would then also need to advise all councils.

A question was asked what would happen if declined, Mrs Coote noted that would have to look for community support.

A query was raised around taking a breathing approach and that would allow time to look at how long the process would take. The need to keep the expertise around the table was important to allow a handover in the future.

It was noted that ICC were due to meet on 26 November 2024 and may have the website analysis by then and so may be a better time to present. It was also noted that need to capture testimonials. It was noted that all committee members should attend the meetings to support the work done to date. Mrs Coote advised that did intend to visit all the councils and show them what had been done to date and hone in on the benefits.

The Committee then talked about the governance structure. Ms Amundsen noted that had listed the steps provided and noted that a first step would be to engage with the rūnaka, then the wider stakeholders, the idea of establishing a Charitable Trust had already been promoted with them. Ms Amundsen ran through the various steps provide in her report. Looking at continuity from this group.

Mrs Coote noted that there had been no decision around being a Charitable Trust and asked if that was what was being proposed. There was discussion around being a Charitable Trust, one point was that it would be more disciplined / structured and there may be a challenge getting the trustees but the Trust Deed would be simple to do. It was queried if Great South could be an umbrella organisation as they were funded by councils.

A query was raised if the governance structure was to be made up of individuals or organisations or both, it was noted that to get the expertise would be a combination of both. There would need to be caution around this as people leave organisations and so could lose them from any Trust formed. Ms Amundsen noted that she did speak to the Wheelhouse and it was noted that they would have preferred to start from a Charitable Trust.

It was noted that would need to look at the number of trustees, too many could make it unwieldy. Mrs Coote noted that they had eight and decision making worked well with that number.

Ms Amundsen would progress the work required to become a Charitable Trust and would look at other organisations to see how this had been done, also to investigate what the criteria was to become a Charitable Trust.

It was added that could still partner with other organisations, and being a Charitable Trust did not preclude that.

Ms Amundsen queried the rūnaka space and what the process would be to engage with them. Mrs Coote noted that there were quarterly meetings and that she would add Connected Murihiku to the next agenda.

Mrs Coote also suggested the potential of having portfolios, it would be a good way to spread the load. It was added that if targeting specific skills this would be a good way to look at what trustees were around the table. The Committee also discussed having a skills based matrix to help select new trustees once the Trust was set up.

The members talked of the one page strategic document and noted that would be valuable when looking for trustees.

Moved Cr Broad, seconded Mrs Morris and **RESOLVED** that the Connected Murihiku Joint Committee:

1. Receive the "Connected Murihiku Report".

Moved Cr Greaney, seconded Mrs Domigan and **RESOLVED** that the Connected Murihiku Joint Committee:

2. Progress the work required to become a Charitable Trust.

## 5. Public Excluded

Moved Cr Broad, seconded Mrs Domigan that the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting; namely

- (a) In Committee Minutes of Connected Murihiku Joint Committee Meeting held on 1 July 2024
- (b) Sustainable Funding Report
- (c) Connected Murihiku Financial Report



The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under Section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

<b>General subject of each matter to be considered</b>	<b>Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter</b>	<b>Ground(s) under Section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution</b>
(a) In Committee Minutes of Connected Murihiku Joint Committee Meeting held on 1 July 2024	<b>Section 7(2)(b)(ii)</b> Protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information	<b>Section 48(1)(a)</b> That the public conduct of this item would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under Section 7.
	<b>Section 7(2)(a)</b> Protect the privacy of natural persons.	That the public conduct of this item would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under Section 7.
(b) Sustainable Funding Report	<b>Section 7(2)(a)</b> Protect the privacy of natural persons.	<b>Section 48(1)(a)</b> That the public conduct of this item would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under Section 7.
(c) Financial Report – 30 June 2024	<b>Section 7(2)(a)</b> Protect the privacy of natural persons.	<b>Section 48(1)(a)</b> That the public conduct of this item would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under Section 7.

There was discussion that would have a meeting at 1.00 pm on 14 October 2024, the Committee members agreed.

There being no further business, the meeting finished at 2.35 pm.

## CONNECTED MURIHIKU PROJECT ADMINISTRATION

<b>To:</b>	Connected Murihiku Joint Committee
<b>Meeting Date:</b>	Monday 18 November 2024
<b>From:</b>	Rhiannon Suter, Manager – Strategy, Policy and Engagement Manager, Invercargill City Council
<b>Approved:</b>	Trudie Hurst - Group Manager - Community Engagement and Corporate Services
<b>Approved Date:</b>	Monday 11 November 2024
<b>Open Agenda:</b>	Yes

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### Purpose and Summary

This report is administrative in nature and relates to the governance and coordination contract extension to enable the project to continue within the funding allocation.

### Recommendations

That the Connected Murihiku Joint Committee:

1. Receives the report "Connected Murihiku Project Administration".
2. Note that the Joint Committee was established for an initial eighteen month period with the Terms of Reference allowing for the group to recommend an extension in the circumstance that an ongoing governance structure had not yet been established.
3. Discuss the extent to which the governance needs of the group would be met by an informal structure in the short term and determine whether to recommend extension of the Joint Committee (Recommendation 5 below)
4. Request Invercargill City Council to extend the Project Coordinator contract beyond March 2025 within the budget allowance.

### Agree/ Disagree to recommend to Councils:

5. To extend the Joint Committee for a further eighteen months, to enable the project to administration to continue within the existing funding allocation.

## **Background**

Community stakeholders engaged through the Just Transitions process and provided feedback that they wanted a community rather than Council led project, with a less formal and flexible governance structure, including reflecting co-governance principles. The project governance structure was set following input from the Mayoral Forum in order to meet the funders requirement of a Southland-wide Council, Iwi and community supported project. The original Terms of Reference was designed to support the work of the Joint Committee as an interim body which would nurture Connected Murihiku through to a new community led organisation. The terms of reference anticipated a situation where this organisation was not fully formed within the first eighteen months and noted extension was a possible outcome.

Invercargill City Council's role in the project is to hold the funding, provide administrative support to the Joint Committee and employ the Project Coordinator. Direction to the Project Coordinator is provided through the Joint Committee, whose direction is required to extend the contract.

## **Issues**

### **Governance Structure**

#### **Joint Committee**

The original terms of reference envisaged the situation where extension of the work of the Joint Committee would be required. Setting up a new project is not a straight forward process and finding a governance structure which will meet the needs of project oversight of core participants while giving life to the vision of the community has taken time. Extending the work of the Joint Committee is appropriate within the terms of the original Terms of Reference. There are no direct budget implications, the Joint Committee structure provides clear perimeters for the work of the committee and confidence to other community organisations as to the status of the project.

#### **Informal Working Group**

If extension of the Joint Committee is not preferred than an informal group of the same members could provide guidance and act as a steering group to the project, given that the formal employment and contract management processes are undertaken by Invercargill City Council. This approach has some benefits of flexibility and bringing the group closer to the original vision of the community for a more grassroots approach. The members would take part in their own right rather than formally representing their councils. This approach requires collaboration with Invercargill City Council as the employer and contract manager. There is a risk that the community could view reduction in the status of the group (from Joint Committee to working group) is reflective of the council's attitude and lack of any meaningful ongoing commitment. This approach would also require an ongoing commitment from members that is different to a commitment as an appointed Councillor.

#### **Coordinator Contract**

On the basis of the budget put to the August Joint Committee meeting and on the basis that the contract must fit within the budget envelope, extension to approximately June 2025 is the maximum period.

## **Next Steps**

Following direction of the Joint Committee the new governance structure will be implemented and the contract extended.

## **Attachments**

1. Connected Murihiku Terms of Reference - A5425097



# Connected Murihiku Joint Committee

## TERMS OF REFERENCE July 2024

## Table of Contents

1.	<a href="#">Purpose of the Terms of Reference .....</a>	<a href="#">1</a>
2.	<a href="#">Background and Context.....</a>	<a href="#">1</a>
3.	<a href="#">Governance Approach.....</a>	<a href="#">2</a>
4.	<a href="#">Terms of Reference.....</a>	<a href="#">3</a>

## 1. Purpose of the Terms of Reference

These Terms of Reference (TOR) set out the parameters for how the Joint Committee will operate in governing Connected Murihiku.

## 2. Background and Context

As part of the regional delivery of the Just Transitions community capacity building workstream of Stronger Communities Murihiku, a working group was brought together to engage with the community and develop a project proposal to be considered by the Ministry for Business innovation and Employment (MBIE) and the Just Transitions Enduring Oversight group.

Engagement took place region wide over early 2022, with an initial project proposal delivered to MBIE in August 2022 and a refined proposal delivered in February 2023. The Mayoral Forum and each Council provided letters of support for the project. The Regional Public Sector Commissioner provided their support and the project was confirmed by the Enduring Oversight Group.

Through the workstream engagement process, the findings indicated that those who worked from a community-led approach often felt they worked in isolation. They struggled to be connected to others who worked in the same space across the region which created a range of barriers.

The suggestions from the engagement process ranged from improved communication, a better connectivity traversing social and community sectors across Southland, and a community hub. Project Connected Murihiku is in response to the suggestions from the engagement process.

Project 'Connected Murihiku' will create a connected social and community sector across Murihiku/Southland. This aligns with the Strong Communities Murihiku vision: Everyone Connected and Valued, as well as the framework that was developed to accompany the vision. It also aligns with the Just Transition goal to support social resilience and the Community Capability Building workstream goal of building the community's skills to enable more equal participation in long term efforts to develop an inclusive community, and sustainable and prosperous regional economy.

Connected Murihiku is proposed to be an online platform together with a co-ordinator and platform content creator. The platform will be a one stop shop for the community and social sector. Through this platform, people would be better connected, build resilience, and ensure the best outcomes from the community and social activities in Murihiku.

The framework developed by the Strong Communities Working Group prioritised improved communications as a pillar in response to the findings from the engagement process and was seen as being vital to the sector to be able to build its resilience. Suggestions for better connectivity to build resilience included the ability for people to:

- know what's going on in the sector
- avoid duplication
- learn from each other and share experiences
- seek help and guidance from others
- communicate what they are doing more effectively
- improve collaboration opportunities

The co-ordinator role will be to connect with the community and social sector and to start to champion the platform with them. It will also be to gather the information for the website by starting to build a picture of what exists and where the gaps are. They will also provide in person support to the community and social sector in the form of in person hui, and being accessible to those not able to access the online platform.

The content creator role will be to take the information and create content with it, to oversee development of the website and ensure it is regularly updated with content.

In this first stage the project will:

- provide updates on what is happening in the community and social sector
- host a range of resources and links to support those in the sector including data and research and training resources
- host news and information about what's happening in the sector in the region
- develop and send out a regular (quarterly) e newsletter
- provide information on shared opportunities that will lead to shared training opportunities
- host at least 2 in person hui per year which will include professional development as well as opportunities to meet and connect as the community determines and in response to community demands and issues
- Through the sharing of information, identify opportunities for shared training, support and mentoring to develop skills development
- provide an avenue for social agencies such as MSD to connect with communities on the ground

By taking a deliberate approach to sharing information and connecting those in the community and social sector, the sector will not only become better connected but also more resilient. As a starting point to build on over time, it will create the ripple effect that goes out to the region and will take a community-led approach to grow and develop in future. Building a strong foundation is fundamental and critical to the platform's usefulness and success. Other examples of what the platform could provide is targeted volunteer support and connecting, or online welcome packs for newcomers to the region.

This project would meet Southland Just Transition's goal to build social resilience, by connecting those who work in the social and community sector better. Through this, the sector becomes more resilient and so then does the community itself. During the pandemic, it was evident that when a shock occurs the social and community sector needs to and does act quickly to support its community. It is a high possibility that this will happen with the closure of Tiwai as well, as such if the sector is better connected it will be more resilient and better able to respond and support the community. A similar project in Taranaki, the Wheelhouse, found that during Covid they became the go to platform for trusted Covid information when misinformation and disinformation was rampant. This is the type of thing that builds resilience for the community and social sector.

### **3. Governance Approach**

The Mayoral Forum stated that a Joint Committee would be the preferred governance structure and would include Iwi, councils and direct community representation. The Joint Committee is intended to be a transitional body which will steer the project through its first stages. It may be replaced by a different structure such as a Trust board in the future. This reflects the views of the community through the engagement process as desiring a governance structure as close as possible to the community.



The Joint Committee will govern the project, including overseeing the recruitment process for the coordinator, ensuring the delivery of the milestones under the MBIE contract, support the coordinator in their work to seek the remaining funding required and utilise their connections to support the project to align with other community work in the region.

## 4. Terms of Reference

<b>Type of Committee</b>	Joint Committee
<b>Subordinate to</b>	Councils <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gore District Council (GDC)</li> <li>• Invercargill City Council (ICC)</li> <li>• Southland District Council (SDC)</li> </ul>
<b>Legislative Basis</b>	Joint Committees' delegated powers by Council as per Schedule 7, Clause 30A, Local Government Act 2002.
<b>Membership</b>	Membership of the joint committee shall comprise of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Iwi representation from the four Murihiku Papatipu Rūnanga – Te Rūnanga o Awarua, Te Rūnaka o Oraka/Aparima, Te Rūnanga o Hokonui, Te Rūnaka o Waihōpai (to be determined by themselves)</li> <li>• One councillor and one alternate from Gore District Council (TBC)</li> <li>• One councillor and one alternate from Invercargill City Council (TBC)</li> <li>• One councillor and one alternate from Southland District Council (TBC)</li> <li>• At least three Community representatives selected to represent the interests of the diverse Murihiku community bringing relevant skills experience and mana, with the final number and selection to be determined by the selection committee.</li> </ul>
<b>Term of membership</b>	To 30 September 2025
<b>Term of the project</b>	The Joint Committee shall operate for a period no less than 18 months and agree continuation beyond this point with the three Territorial Local Authorities if required – This version of the Terms of Reference extends the term of the Joint Committee beyond the original eighteen months
<b>Quorum</b>	A quorum shall be half of the members (including vacancies) if the number is even, and a majority (including vacancies) if odd and must at any time have an elected member from each of the territorial local authority
<b>Reporting</b>	The committee will report to each member authority via the minutes of the Joint Committee.
<b>Administering Authority</b>	The administering authority will be Invercargill City Council and will provide administrative and governance support of the Joint committee.
<b>Standing Orders</b>	The current Invercargill City Council Standing Orders of the administering authority shall govern the conduct of the meetings.

<p><b>Administering authority's voting structure</b></p>	<p>As per current Standing Orders of the administering authority -</p> <p><b>Decisions by majority vote/Mā te nuinga e whakataū</b></p> <p>Unless otherwise provided for in the LGA 2002, other legislation, or standing orders, the acts of, and questions before, Invercargill City Council (including the Bluff Community Board) must be decided at a meeting through a vote exercised by the majority of the members that are present and voting.</p> <p><i>LGA 2002, sch 7, cl 24(1).</i></p>
<p><b>Process for changes to the Terms of Reference</b></p>	<p>The Joint Committee to determine and agree on appropriate changes for recommendation to each member authority.</p> <p>E.g. An alternate and appropriate voting structure could be agreed and recommended.</p>
<p><b>Code of Conduct</b></p>	<p>In accordance with clause 16 of Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA 2002) and applies to all members, and all appointed members to the Joint Committee will agree to be bound by the Code of Conduct.</p> <p>The Joint Committee, in addition, could adopt its own governing principles for members' conduct.</p>
<p><b>Meetings</b></p>	<p>The Joint Committee shall meet as and when necessary to carry out its functions, and the meetings shall take place no less than three times annually.</p>
<p><b>Delegations</b></p>	<p>The functions and responsibilities of the Connected Murihiku Joint Committee are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Recruitment and selection of the project coordinator</li> <li>2. Support the coordinator in seeking external funding</li> <li>3. Noting the transitional nature of the Joint Committee, support the coordinator to develop an ongoing governance structure to guide the project</li> <li>4. be the high level decision making committee for the implementation and carrying out of the activities</li> <li>5. receive reports and recommendations from the coordinator</li> <li>6. receive and approve financial monitoring reports as to the accounting in relation to the activities</li> <li>7. provide a forum for:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. the exchange of views and information relevant to the goal of the project;</li> <li>b. discussion as to the effectiveness of the activities including ways in which value can be added through partnership and by building social connections across the region</li> <li>c. the identification of opportunities for joint initiatives</li> <li>d. identification and resolution of points of tension or difficulties</li> </ol> </li> <li>8. review terms of reference and make recommendations to the administering authority in relation to the following:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. the exit by a territorial local authority from any or all of the activities</li> <li>b. the inclusion of other territorial authorities into any of the activities</li> <li>c. vacancy in membership arising from vacating of post</li> </ol> </li> <li>9. make decisions generally in relation to the implementation of the Connected Murihiku project</li> </ol>

## CONNECTED MURIHIKU PROJECT LEAD UPDATE

<b>To:</b>	Connected Murihiku Joint Committee
<b>Meeting Date:</b>	Monday 18 November 2024
<b>From:</b>	Rebecca Amundsen, Project Lead
<b>Approved:</b>	Rhiannon Suter, Manager – Strategy, Policy and Engagement
<b>Approved Date:</b>	Monday 11 November 2024
<b>Open Agenda:</b>	Yes

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### Purpose and Summary

This report provides the Project Lead's overview of the project after eighteen months of Joint Committee (JC) operations with suggestions on next steps for consideration.

### Recommendations

That the Connected Murihiku Joint Committee:

1. Receives the report "Connected Murihiku Project Lead Update".
2. Considers the advice of the Project Lead in determining the next steps for the Joint Committee or alternative interim governance structure.
3. Agrees/ disagrees to established a Charitable Trust and confirms the draft preamble and objectives (Appendix 1).
4. Notes and provides feedback the action points outlined in this report under Preferred Option for Governance.

### Background

#### The Connected Murihiku Model

The Connected Murihiku project came from engagement during the Just Transition process that showed that community organisations need to be supported to be more resilient. This in turn would support more resilient communities.

This support includes areas such as:

- Building visibility of their work.
- Building better connection between and across organisations.
- Opportunities to build capability of organisations.
- To build resilient communities, organisations that work in the community sector need to be resilient by having access to the support they need to thrive.

There is no entity in Murihiku with the focus of supporting community organisations in this way. There are a range of entities who do limited activity in this space such as Southland Business Chamber, councils, Community House and Community Trust South (CTS).

Connected Murihiku (CM) has started the work to be the vehicle to bring together existing activity and filling the gaps. Feedback from the work of the CM project lead and a survey conducted show there are a lot of gaps or perceived gaps (where there is a lack of awareness of what is available). In addition community organisations are varied in their size, shape and the services they deliver and how they deliver them. This makes their needs equally varied and the support they require needs to be varied.

Across the country there are a range of organisations designed to support community organisations in their community. Community Networking Trust (CNT) in Gore is one such example with a focus on the social sector organisations in Hokonui. Socialink in Western Bay of Plenty is a leading example. Other roles for such organisations is advocacy both locally and nationally.

The Socialink website states the following which could be useful to consider:

*The sector sought a vehicle to facilitate capability building within the sector, to provide a collective social sector voice and become more connected to and valued in community, city and regional decision making. <https://socialink.org.nz/about/our-story/> - see short video*

While Gore is well served by CNT, the rest of Murihiku does not have this kind of support for their community sector organisations. CM has started to fill this gap but this is just the beginning. The first steps have been to engage a Project Lead to continue the engagement started through the Just Transition process and to establish a website as a tool to help with visibility and sharing resources. This work has helped highlight the needs community organisation across the region have.

## **Issues**

### **Community Survey Results**

A survey of the sector has helped drill down into areas on particular need.

Key insights have focused on governance and board upskilling, working with volunteers and funding as areas of support required by community organisations.

Survey summary – 45 survey responses were received.

*Governance and board upskilling:*

Top areas of support required: Board roles and responsibilities 27; Governance including good governance 26; Strategic planning 28

*Comment on barriers:*

“Time and resources. A lot of governance is run by volunteers, and often times can mean they need to take time off paid work to attend training and work around family commitments.

Training can be expensive, community organisations normally have tight budgets meaning less opportunities are available."

*Also of note:*

- Don't know what you don't know - lack of understanding.
- Formality.
- We make it more complex than it needs to be.
- Gatekeeping.
- Not being able to tell your organisation's story.
- Working with volunteers:
  - Top areas of support required: Attracting volunteers; developing roles and responsibilities; place to advertise roles; adapting org to be volunteer friendly; templates
- Barriers to organisations working with volunteers:
  - Consistency and reliability from volunteers - train and then leave or don't follow through.
  - Skills of volunteers.
  - Time.
  - Compliance e.g. Health and Safety.
  - Dynamic and/or rub between paid role and volunteer role.
- Funding:
  - Top areas of support required: Finding funds and other ways to raise funds (30+).
- Barriers:
  - "Everyone is different, wants different information, for different reasons and criteria and different times."
  - "Most community groups need certainty year on year to cover their basic operational overheads. More and more funding is project based adding extra strain on community groups to add services to an otherwise underfunded and under resourced organisation. More funders accepting that core work done well can be more effective than looking for constant innovation."
- Also comments regarding overheads not being funded and needing certainty for employing staff.
- Time for doing forms especially when volunteer.

### **The Connected Murihiku Website**

The Connected Murihiku website is a useful tool to support community organisations across the region. However it is only part of the solution required to grow resilience across the sector. Real and measurable support will come from a range of other activities such as regular e-newsletter providing information about training and opportunities available to support the sector and opportunities for the sector to meet and connect for professional development opportunities. (See Socialink video above for their comment on the value of the monthly e-newsletter they provide).

Again within parts of the sector there are well developed opportunities occurring such as within the youth and migrant sector. But there are still gaps in other parts of the sector and in some cases limitations on the type of support provided through these networks. (For example these

networks provide great networking opportunities but do not provide professional development in areas such as governance and board upskilling, funding etc, all areas identified through the survey). Through ongoing connection with these networks CM can help fill these gaps and ensure duplication is limited.

*Could the Connected Murihiku website be hosted as part of another organisation?*

Yes the CM website could be hosted by another entity and be the final result of this project. However this would require some commitment by that organisation:

- A small cost to continue to host the website.
- Monitor the links and information to ensure they still work.

Ideally in addition to this the organisation would:

- Continue to add information and links to the site.
- Continue to provide a monthly e-newsletter with information useful for community organisations.

These latter areas would require a commitment of time and energy but would ensure the website was maintained as a useful tool for the sector. Without these activities, at a bare minimum, the website would unlikely continue to be useful or utilised.

There are a range of organisations, such as those identified above as undertaking limited activity to support community organisations across the region, who may be interested in supporting the website in this way. However I would wonder if it would be a priority for them among competing priorities and suggest that perhaps that the overall goal of supporting community organisations in a genuine and community-led way could be lost if this option was undertaken. I do not think this option should be the preferred option for the Joint Committee.

### **Preferred Option for Governance**

The project so far has laid the foundations to develop Connected Murihiku into an organisation that will support and harness the collective power of social and community organisations in Murihiku and to do this through empowering organisations (as per CM Mission).

In order to continue this journey the next step for the project is to establish a community-led Charitable Trust to oversee the work. Based on the one page purpose and mission document presented in the August meeting draft charitable purpose and objectives have been developed and are attached as an appendix:

- The remaining MBIE funding will cover budgeted costs until 30 June 2025 as per the budget presented in the August meeting.
- The following steps should be undertaken. They could be undertaken by the JC in an informal capacity and could be completed within the first quarter of 2025.
- JC to appoint an appointment panel for the Charitable Trust.
- JC to consider extending the Project Lead contract until 30 June 2025 (currently 14 March 2025).
- Advertise the appointment opportunity to the Charitable Trust - alongside a skills matrix.
- Consider existing JC members to be retained on the Trust for continuity and handover.
- Finalise the Trust Deed.
- Set up a bank account.

Project Lead to:

- Liaise with Southland Community Law or legal advice for the charitable deed.
- Liaise with councils and stakeholders such as CTS, Southland Business Chamber and Citizens Advice Bureau on partnering or collaboration opportunities.
- Discuss with CTS ongoing office and equipment use and identify alternatives if required.
- Continue to develop funding applications.
- Develop a Business Case for Connected Murihiku based on the information provided here.

## **Next Steps**

Following agreement by the Joint Committee on the next steps for the governance structure the agreed actions above will be implemented.

## **Attachments**

### **Appendix 1 - Charitable Purpose and Objectives**

#### ***Preamble***

Through the Just Transition process and Connected Murihiku project the importance of a collaborative voice to support the community and social sector's vital role in fostering empowered, healthy, equitable and inclusive communities that were resilient, was identified. In response to this need, it was identified that a trust structure would be the best entity to sustain the Connected Murihiku project, benefiting the public, enabling fundraising and partnering with community and social sector organisations to build a resilient Southland community.

The mission of Connected Murihiku is to support and harness the collective power of social and community organisations across the region. We do that by empowering organisations. We use community-led principles to undertake this work.

#### ***Objectives***

The objectives of Connected Murihiku are:

- Enhance the visibility of the community sector through sharing stories.
- Provide leadership to the community sector through identifying insights about the sector and advocating on behalf of or to local and central government, national bodies and stakeholders.
- Promote and encourage co-operation, connection, collaboration and information sharing between and among organisations.
- Facilitate the building of the capability and capacity of organisations.
- Provide advice, support, and training to the 'for purpose' organisations delivering services to those in charitable need.
- Become a trusted friend of the providers of 'for purpose' organisations.
- Provide, facilitate and support the iwi, voluntary and community sector for the benefit of those in charitable need.

**Te Tiriti o Waitangi**

Connected Murihiku affirms Te Tiriti o Waitangi as the founding covenant of Aotearoa New Zealand and will honour and uphold Te Tiriti o Waitangi and its principles in all of our activities.

Connected Murihiku acknowledges the mana whenua of Southland and their historical and enduring connection to this whenua.



## FINANCIAL REPORT FOR CONNECTED MURIHIKU

<b>To:</b>	Connected Murihiku Joint Committee
<b>Meeting Date:</b>	Monday 18 November 2024
<b>From:</b>	Emma Strong – Finance Business Partner
<b>Approved:</b>	Rhiannon Suter – Manager, Strategy, Policy and Engagement
<b>Approved Date:</b>	Monday 11 November 2024
<b>Open Agenda:</b>	Yes
<b>Public Excluded Agenda:</b>	Yes

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### Purpose and Summary

This report is to provide the Committee with an update on financial position for the four months ended 31 October 2024.

- Total MBIE revenue received - \$200,000
- Total Council revenue in kind received - \$40,000
- Total costs incurred YTD - \$110,026.85
- Total unallocated funds YTD - \$129,973.15

### Recommendations

That the Connected Murihiku Joint Committee:

1. Receives the report "Financial Report for Connected Murihiku" for the four months ended 31 October 2024.

### Background

The aim of this project is to create a connected social and community sector across Murihiku/Southland. This aligns with the Strong Communities Murihiku vision: Everyone Connected and Valued, as well as the framework that was developed to accompany the vision. It also aligns with the Just Transition goal to support social resilience and the Community Capability Building workstream goal of building the community's skills to enable more equal participation in long term efforts to develop an inclusive community, and sustainable and prosperous regional economy.

Connected Murihiku is proposed to be an online platform together with a co-ordinator and platform content creator. The platform will be a one stop shop for the community and social

sector. Through this platform, people would be better connected, build resilience, and ensure the best outcomes from the community and social activities in Murihiku.

**Previous Year**

The total MBIE funds available for the Connected Murihiku project is \$200,000 split over two financial years. It is proposed this project will go over three years and so additional funding might need to be sought.

All of the \$200,000 revenue for both years has been received from MBIE as at 30 June 2024. The \$124,393.07 of unspent revenue at the end of the financial year on 30 June 24 has been transferred to revenue received in advance on the balance sheet, so it is available for use in the 2024/25 year.

In addition to the \$200,000 funding from MBIE, laptop, phone and the administration of the Joint Committee. This revenue totals \$20,000 as at 30 June 24 and is offset with the matching \$20,000 of expenses. A further \$20,000 has been provided for 2024/25.

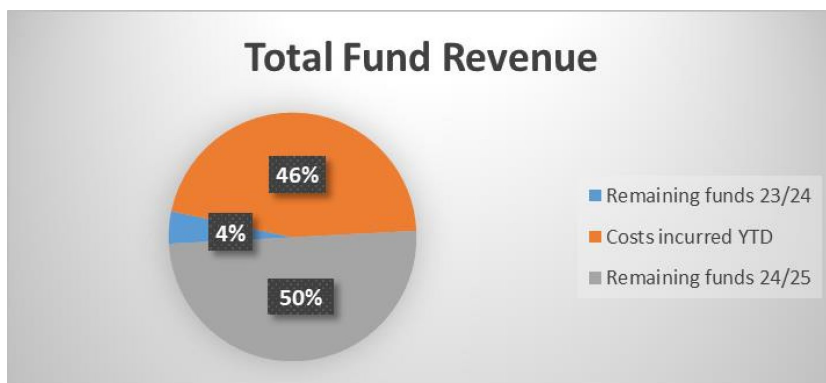
A total of \$95,606.93 costs have been incurred as at 30 June 2024 for the 2023/2024 year.

**Current Year**

A total of \$14,419.92 costs have been incurred as at 31 October 2024 for the 2024/2025 year.

These costs have been for:

- Project Lead salary and wages.
- Project lead travel allowance – mileage.
- Website and Mailchimp updates.
- Website development and content.



**Attachments**

1. Connected Murihiku Financials – A5629745

1 July 2024 to 31 October 2024		
Funds Available		
Connected Murihiku - Project 100762		Amount
<b>Total Fund Budget</b>		<b>240,000</b>
2023/2024 MBIE		100,000
2023/24 ICC		20,000
2024/2025 MBIE		100,000
2024/25 ICC		20,000
<b>Total Funds Received</b>		<b>240,000</b>
<b>Funds Remaining 23/24</b>		<b>9,973</b>
<b>Funds Remaining 24/25</b>		<b>120,000</b>
Expenditure		
<b>Jul 23 - Jun 24</b>	Total spend last financial year	<b>95,606.93</b>
<b>2024/25</b>	<b>Jul-Oct 24</b>	
Project administration	Administration costs	12,324.45
Website and Mailchimp updates	Elm Marketing Ltd Inv 344	357.75
Website development	Elm Marketing Ltd Inv 298	1,535.21
Website updates	Elm Marketing Ltd Inv 310	202.51
		<b>14,419.92</b>
<b>Total Costs Committed/Paid</b>		<b>110,026.85</b>
<b>Remaining Unallocated Funds</b>		<b>129,973.15</b>