



**Report** 10.568  
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**Committee** Council  
**Author** Riki Ellison, Manager Māori Relations

## Greater Wellington partnership with Iwi

### 1. Purpose

To update the Council on changes to the Greater Wellington-Iwi partnership model to provide more transparency to the engagement with Iwi.

### 2. Significance of the decision

The matters for decision in this report **do not** trigger the significance policy of the Council or otherwise trigger section 76(3)(b) of the Local Government Act 2002.

### 3. Background

Greater Wellington first established a Charter of Understanding with the seven manawhenua Iwi within the Wellington region in 1993. The Charter established Ara Tahi as a joint Council/Iwi engagement group. This group has continued to provide a focal point for Council engagement with manawhenua Iwi and over time has developed a reputation as an effective model for local government engagement with Iwi.

There have been significant changes to both the local government and mana whenua Iwi landscapes since the initial signing of the Charter of Understanding and the establishment of Ara Tahi in 1993.

Since 1993 there have been numerous changes to both the Local Government Act and the Resource Management Act. Manawhenua Iwi have continued to develop and strengthen their structures, and have made good progress with their Treaty settlements, including the settlement of the Port Nicholson Block claims, Ngāti Toa Rangatira nearing agreement on their Deed of Settlement with the Crown, and most recently, Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa, and Rangitāne o Wairarapa receiving their Waitangi Tribunal reports. These settlements will increasingly bring Iwi within the Wellington region more directly into the mainstream of economic development activities.

Greater Wellington has also established the Te Upoko Taiao - Natural Resource Plan Committee, as committee to develop the regional plan, as an embodiment of the Treaty partnership.

#### **4. Greater Wellington – Iwi Partnership Model**

The Chair of Greater Wellington has met with the Chief Executive and/or Chair of all 7 manawhenua Iwi groups within the Wellington Region to discuss the partnership between Greater Wellington and Manawhenua Iwi.

**Attachment 1** shows the partnership model between Greater Wellington and manawhenua Iwi that has evolved following discussions with Iwi. Details of each of the levels is outlined in **Attachment 2**.

Virtually all of this partnership structure is already in place, although much of it has been operating on an informal basis. The two new significant formal elements are the revised Ara Tahī leadership forum, and the individual Iwi – Council leadership forums. Officers are also undertaking a review of the Council’s Iwi funding structure to ensure the revised model is appropriately supported.

##### **4.1 Ara Tahī**

The most significant aspect of the proposed model is the elevation of Ara Tahī to a joint strategic advisory group comprising the manawhenua Iwi leadership and similar senior leadership from Greater Wellington.

The expectation is that Ara Tahī will meet bi-annually, or more often as required. Ara Tahī will set its own agendas including discussing and agreeing on high level strategies and joint Council/Iwi work programmes.

Ara Tahī will be supported by council officers and representatives from Iwi organisations.

The manawhenua Iwi members of Ara Tahī will also be responsible for nominating non-councillor representatives to Te Upoko Taiao – Natural Resource Plan Committee and other Council standing committees.

##### **4.2 Individual Iwi-Council Leadership Groups**

Paralleling Ara Tahī will be individual Iwi Leadership Forums. These will consist of the Chair and the respective local councillors meeting with the Chair and Chief Executive of the manawhenua Iwi groups. The focus of these forums will be on key local issues and priorities for joint action. This will include work required by Treaty settlements (e.g. joint management plan for Parangarahu lakes), as well as other areas where there is agreement between Iwi and Greater Wellington.

The Charter of Understanding already provides for these individual Iwi – Council relationships and the establishment of individual Iwi – Council leadership groups will put this on a formal basis.

#### **4.3 Review of Greater Wellington Iwi Funding Policies**

Consistent with the Charter of Understanding the Council provides funding to support Iwi participation in Council business. This has included funding for attendance at Ara Tahī meetings, payment for provision of technical assistance, annual capacity funding for the processing of non-notified resource consents, as well as a contestable Iwi project fund.

It is proposed to review the Council's Iwi funding policies and processes to ensure that the funding available is meeting the needs of both manawhenua Iwi and Greater Wellington as efficiently and as effectively as possible.

#### **5. Support from Manawhenua Iwi**

All of the manawhenua Iwi groups have indicated their support for the proposed partnership model.

The Iwi groups have all indicated their desire to strengthen the partnership with Greater Wellington and build a more strategic relationship both collectively through Ara Tahī, as well as through the individual Iwi leadership forums.

#### **6. Review of Charter of Understanding**

The Charter of Understanding will be revised to ensure it aligns with and supports the proposed enhanced partnership model.

#### **7. Next Steps**

We propose to initiate the new Ara Tahī leadership forum following the local government elections.

#### **8. Recommendations**

*That the Council:*

1. *Receives the report.*
2. *Notes the content of the report.*
3. *Notes Greater Wellington has a long standing relationship with the manawhenua Iwi of the Wellington region, including a Charter of Understanding signed by the respective parties in 1993.*
4. *Notes that the Chair and Council officers have met with manawhenua Iwi groups to discuss opportunities to strengthen and enhance the partnership.*
5. *Notes that the representatives of manawhenua Iwi are strongly supportive of the clarified partnership model.*

6. *Endorses the clarified partnership model between Greater Wellington and the manawhenua Iwi of the Wellington region as set out in Attachment 1.*

**Report prepared by:**  
Riki Ellison  
Manager, Māori Relations

**Report approved by:**  
Jane Davis,  
General Manager, Strategy  
and Community Engagement

**Attachment 1: Partnership Model**

**Attachment 2: Iwi relationships in the Wellington region**