

STAFF REPORT

TO: Community Services Committee

FROM: Administration Advisor/Community Services Administrator

REFERENCE: C776

DATE: 13 June 2007

SUBJECT: Nelson Housing Forum

PURPOSE/REASON FOR REPORT

To advise that the Chair of the Nelson Housing Forum has written inviting Tasman District Council to take an official partnership role in the Forum, which would include changing the name of the Forum to the Nelson Tasman Housing Forum and having an annual rotation of administrative responsibilities.

BACKGROUND

The Nelson Housing Forum emanated from an objective of the Nelson City Council Community Housing Policy:

“1.4 Facilitate a quarterly community housing forum.

1.4.1 Facilitate and provide administrative support for a quarterly housing forum comprising representatives of interested community, central and local government organisations and private landlord groups.

1.4.2 Initiate joint planning and co-ordination of services through the housing forum.

1.4.3 Monitor home affordability and other housing issues and when necessary, take an advocacy role.”

The Forum began in 2003 and enjoys a wide range of membership including elected representatives and staff from both councils, representatives from community housing providers, landlords, WINZ and Housing New Zealand. It meets quarterly at the Nelson City Council, is chaired by Councillor Gail Collingwood and is administered by Nelson City Council staff. Items usually discussed include: data on home affordability, NCC and TDC occupancy rates and building consents, housing NZ waiting lists, medium weekly rents and general updates from respective organisations.

Some of the significant things that have come from this forum include the establishment of the Nelson Tasman Housing Trust (which has purchased/built several community houses for rent), the establishment of an Interim Emergency Housing Group (which deals with emergency accommodation), and the promotion of Healthier Homes (retrofitting of homes built prior to 1977 both in Nelson and the Tasman district).

COMMENT/DISCUSSION

The Forum enables attendees to exchange ideas and information about housing issues in the Nelson/Tasman region.

OPTIONS

- 1) To decline the request of a partnership role with Nelson City Council in the Housing Forum.
- 2) To accept a partnership with Nelson City Council in the Housing Forum, that the Forum be renamed the Nelson Tasman Housing Forum and that Councils host quarterly meetings of the forum on an annual rotation basis and provide the necessary administrative support.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT option 2 be approved.

Sandra Hartley
Administration Advisor

Francie Wafer
Community Services Administrator