

Annual Plan 2017/18
Freepost WCC
Wellington City Council
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18 May 2017

Submission on the draft Annual Plan 2017/18

Thank you for the opportunity to submit on Wellington City Council's draft Annual Plan 2017/18.

Historic Places Wellington (HPW) is a community group who advocate for the identification, protection, and conservation of historic places in the Wellington Region. We are a member based group and consist of heritage professional, academics, and concerned residents. We are affiliated with the national organisation Historic Places Aotearoa.

HPW aims to work in cooperation with local authorities, Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga, and other organisation in the Wellington regional concerned with the preservation of historic heritage.

We consider that the identification, protection, and conservation of historic places contribute to creating a vibrant and engaging city. HPW wish to see Wellington as such a place. By achieving these aims a deeper connection with a place can be established which contributes to a vibrant and engaged city and public.

If there is an opportunity, we would like to be heard.

Our submission is in Schedule 1.

Regards,

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Historic Places Wellington Committee Member
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Schedule 1: Submission by Historic Places Wellington

Plan Change Provision	Support/Oppose/ Amend	Submission/Reason	Relief Sought Key: <u>underline</u> = addition strikethrough = deletion
Changes to Long-term Plan			
(D) Improving Wellington's reputation as the Capital of Culture Expand Wellington's arts and culture programme to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new public event celebrating Matariki • A diverse, city focussed outdoor event series 	Support with Amendments	HPW is generally supportive of both new events but would like an emphasis on Maori heritage and historic places within Wellington to be included in the celebration. HPW considers it important that Maori heritage and historic places are promoted within Wellington City as there is a lack of the recognition of Maori's historic places currently. Matariki is a chance to also emphasize the history of Te Upoko-o-te-Ika alongside Matariki celebrations.	Amend: Expand Wellington's arts and culture programme to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new public event celebrating Matariki <u>and Maori heritage in Wellington City</u>
(D) Improving Wellington's reputation as the Capital of Culture	New Provision	<u>Interpretative Heritage Plaques</u> Establish the funding of interpretative plaques around the city, either mounted on buildings or in the footpath, noting the historical significance of a place. Similar to the 1840 Shoreline or the Tinkakori Road plaques. HPW considers that these plaques provide a simple and accessible understanding of historic places and add to the vibrancy of the urban environment. HPW would consider to help fund plaques around the city and other community groups have also shown an interest in funding such projects.	New Provision: Expand Wellington's arts and culture programme to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>The funding of interpretative historical plaques in Wellington City</u>
(D) Improving Wellington's reputation as the Capital of Culture	New Provision	<u>Wellington City Heritage Week</u> In collaboration with community groups and other organisations, contribute to a Wellington City Heritage Week which celebrates the city's heritage and impressive heritage buildings. HPW and Heritage New Zealand is currently organising a Wellington City Heritage Week for October 2017 but would like to see Council contribute to the project formally in the future. As shown at the opening of Antrim House on Waitangi Day 2017 when hundreds of people came through in 4 hours, there is a strong demand for such a celebration.	New Provision: Expand Wellington's arts and culture programme to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>A Wellington City Heritage Week in collaboration with</u>

			<u>community groups and organisations</u>
(G) Improving community engagement Expand community engagement resources for key projects	Support	HPW is supportive of the provision. Community groups should be consulted as default in matters relevant to their interests. Early engagement with community groups would lead to an improvement in Council/community relationships and help the dispersal of information. HPW would appreciate being consulted on for matters of historic places and heritage in Wellington City.	Retain.
(J) Wellington Town Hall strengthening/Music Hub Town Hall earthquake strengthening	Support	HPW is supportive of the provision. The Town Hall is an asset that should be maintained. The high cost is significant, however creating a public space that is central to Wellington's civic history will socially and culturally pay off in the long term.	Retain.
(K) Resilience initiatives Carry out a resilience assessment of 500 Wellington homes and develop a programme to remove brick chimneys and secure subfloor structures	Amend	HPW is generally supportive of the intention behind the provision, given that it is to reduce the risk to human life from falling brick chimneys, however it is considered that the current wording may be destructive to historic places. Chimneys are an integral part of a building's architectural value, especially to historical places. By removing a chimney it may reduce the historical value of a place. While HPW generally supports improving dangerous buildings, HPW would like to see that the historical significance of chimneys is considered within these resilience assessments with securing, replacement, and non-removal options included alongside removal.	Amend: Carry out a resilience assessment of 500 Wellington homes and develop a programme to remove brick chimneys <u>reduce the risk to human life from brick chimneys</u> and <u>to</u> secure subfloor structures.
The 3 Year Work Programme			
Goal 3: People-focused Capital of Culture	Support	HPW supports the Goal for Wellington City to become the Capital of Culture. Additional support to historic places and their identification would support achieving this goal.	Retain.

Engagement Ideas

Identification and consultation with established community groups on relevant projects

With many projects in Wellington City it is clear which organisations may have an interest. It is proposed that established community groups are engaged proactively by the Council to consult early in the process with projects that are relevant to their interests. If this is achieved then communities would feel a greater ownership and connection with the city and Council. This will likely lead to less community backlash to projects, better outcomes, and a clearer line of communication between Council and interested organisations.

It is considered that Historic Places Wellington is an established community group that should be consulted on all issues dealing with historic places and heritage in Wellington City. HPW would welcome a closer relationship with the Council and seek to work together as a constructive partnership. For example, the Museum Stand at Basin Reserve should have been consulted on with HPW before the Master Plan was developed.