

# Community Services Committee

## AGENDA

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### Notice of Meeting:

A meeting of the Community Services Committee will be held on:

**Date:** Thursday 9 July 2020  
**Time:** 9.30am approx. *(to follow Environmental Services)*  
**Venue:** Council Chamber  
137 Havelock Street, Ashburton

### Membership

Chairperson	Angus McKay
Deputy Chairperson	Carolyn Cameron
Members	Leen Braam Lynette Lovett Diane Rawlinson Mayor Neil Brown (ex-officio)

2 July 2020

# Community Services Committee

<b>Timetable</b>
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9.30am (approx.)      Meeting commences
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## ORDER OF BUSINESS

- 1      Apologies**
- 2      Extraordinary Business**
- 3      Declarations of Interest**

### Minutes

- |          |  |          |
|----------|--|----------|
| <b>4</b> | Community Services Committee - 2/03/20 | <b>3</b> |
| <b>5</b> | Ashburton Youth Council – 3/06/20      | <b>5</b> |

### Reports

- |          |                                       |           |
|----------|---------------------------------------|-----------|
| <b>6</b> | Welcoming Communities Accreditation   | <b>7</b>  |
| <b>7</b> | Economic Development Quarterly Report | <b>15</b> |

### Business transacted with the public excluded

- |          |   |           |
|----------|---|-----------|
| <b>8</b> | Covid-19 Economic Recovery Advisory Group – 17/06/20<br>Section 7(2)(h) Commercial activities | <b>23</b> |
| <b>9</b> | Discretionary funding request<br>Section 7(2)(h) Commercial activities                        | <b>27</b> |

### ***4. Community Services Committee Minutes***

Minutes of the Community Services Committee meeting held on Thursday 12 March 2020, commencing at 1.40pm, in the Council Chamber, 137 Havelock Street, Ashburton.

#### **Present**

His Worship the Mayor, Neil Brown; Councillors Angus McKay (Chair), Leen Braam, Carolyn Cameron, Lynette Lovett and Diane Rawlinson.

#### **Also present:**

Councillors Rodger Letham and Stuart Wilson

#### **In attendance**

Hamish Riach (Chief Executive), Neil McCann (Group Manager Service Delivery), Brian Fauth (Contracts Manager), Andy Guthrie (Assets Manager) and Carol McAtamney (Governance Support Officer)

#### **1 Apologies**

Nil.

#### **2 Extraordinary Business**

Nil.

#### **3 Declarations of Interest**

Nil.

#### **4 Confirmation of Minutes**

**That** the minutes of the Community Services Committee meeting held on 30 January 2020, be taken as read and confirmed.

McKay/Rawlinson

Carried

#### **5 Biodiversity Advisory Group**

**That** the minutes of the Biodiversity Advisory Group meeting held on 5 March 2020, be received.

Wilson/Rawlinson

Carried

#### **• Biodiversity Advisory Group Terms of Reference**

#### **Recommendation to Council** [ratified by Council 9/04/20]

**That** Council adopts the Biodiversity Advisory Group terms of reference.

Lovett/Rawlinson

Carried

- **ADC Biodiversity Officer**

**Recommendation to Council** *[ratified by Council 9/04/20]*

- 1 **That** a business case for a Biodiversity Officer be prepared and considered in the Council's Long Term Plan 2021-2031.
- 2 **That** Council notes the pending changes to legislation in the biodiversity area that may override the need to progress the business case.

Lovett/Rawlinson

Carried

**6 Six Monthly Performance Report**

**That** the Community Services Committee receives the six monthly non-financial performance report.

McKay/Cameron

Carried

The meeting concluded at 2.10pm

## 5. Ashburton Youth Council Minutes

**Minutes** of a meeting of the **Ashburton Youth Council** held on Wednesday 3 June 2020, commencing at 4:05pm Council Chambers, Ashburton District Council, 5 Baring Square West, Ashburton.

<p><b>Present</b></p> <p>AYC Chairperson Kavan Faoagali  AYC Deputy Chairperson Maria Costas  AYC Secretary Neil Alombro  AYC Media Coordinator Jestena Raj  AYC Submission Coordinator Maddie Page  AYC Councillor Michael Baker  AYC Councillor Ian Teves  AYC Councillor John Magyaya  AYC Councillor Henry Goodes  AYC Councillor Estee Aiolu  AYC Councillor Lara Shierlaw  ADC Councillor Lynette Lovett  ADC Councillor Diane Rawlinson  ADC Events Coordinator Verity Jackson  ADC Economic Development Manager Bevan Rickerby</p>		
<b>1</b>	<p><b>Apologies</b></p> <p>Klara Harrison  Teresa Herewini  Jessica Hayman  Olivia Fox</p>	
<b>2</b>	<p>Introductions done for new Youth Councillors</p> <p><b>Youth Week Report</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- With circumstances arising, improvised into an Instagram event</li> <li>- Only missed three days (dates confused)</li> <li>- Neil, Maria, Teresa, John, Maddie involved in posts</li> <li>- Jestena did an amazing job as Media Coordinator</li> <li>- Possible recap on Facebook</li> <li>- Keep up with social media interaction</li> </ul>	
<b>3</b>	<p><b>EA Networks Idea Submission</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Send to Maddie by 12<sup>th</sup> of June</li> <li>- Outcome EA Networks are looking for is to get youth to engage with the EA Networks Centre</li> <li>- Target audience is the general youth (no specific age group)</li> <li>- Wants to hear from us, the youth, directly</li> <li>- Possible ideas are inflatables, movie night (gym or pool)</li> <li>- Probable timing of ideas should be July 1 and onwards</li> <li>- Ideas could involve an annual or monthly timing</li> <li>- Outside of the box thinking, do not let anything restrict your ideas.</li> </ul>	

4	<p><b>Bite Nite Brainstorming</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Naming could be 'Bite Nite Reimagined'</li> <li>- Will be held at EA Networks Centre.</li> <li>- Date is Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> of October</li> <li>- Donations could be given to 'Kānuka Trust'</li> <li>- Youth Councillors should search up to have a look at its values and aspirations</li> <li>- Sporting competitions idea for the day include Canterbury Rams (Basketball), Tactix, and Futsal</li> <li>- Wishlist are confirmed</li> <li>- Crowdfunding could be done for musical act</li> <li>- Tickets could be sold for \$5</li> <li>- Merchandise for AYC could fundraise</li> <li>- Open Mic if there is no musical act</li> <li>- Raffle could be feasible due to the numbers this year could have</li> <li>- Vouchers could be prizes</li> <li>- TASK: How many giveaway prizes? What we would like?</li> <li>- Once worked out, we could approach businesses for prizes</li> <li>- Verity has sent out timetable for last year's meeting</li> <li>- Possible zoom meetings for planning</li> </ul> <p><b>Motion:</b> That the gold coin donation of the Bite Nite goes to 'Kānuka Trust', a trust that work towards biodiversity in the local area.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Moved: Michael Baker/ Maria Costas                      Carried</p>	
5	<p><b>Discussion on AYC Future</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- We have remainder of the year for meetings</li> <li>- We will only have meetings here in Council Chambers and invite guest speakers to come in</li> <li>- Ideas for guest speakers are UN Youth, various politicians, Youth MPs, Universities and Scholarship Liaison</li> <li>- Jo Luxton and Andrew Falloon have connections for guest speakers</li> <li>- 'How to run a meeting' will be done in the near future</li> <li>- If people at school want to bring up an issue in the community, encourage them to come and share around</li> <li>- Contact Young Professionals mentors</li> </ul>	
	<p><b>Action Point List</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Jestena Raj: Recap of Youth Week on Facebook (Undated)</li> <li>- All Youth Councillors: EA Networks Idea Submissions due by 12<sup>th</sup> of June</li> <li>- All Youth Councillors: Research into Kanuka Trust and find out its values and aspirations as a trust</li> <li>- All Youth Councillors: Bite Nite – think about giveaway and the particulars on how it could work.</li> <li>- All Youth Councillors: Contact Young Professionals Mentors</li> </ul>	
	<p><b>Next Meeting</b> Wednesday 1 July, 4.00pm, Council Chambers</p>	
The meeting closed at 4:56pm		
<p>Approved and adopted as a true and correct record on ..... (date)</p> <p style="text-align: right;">..... Chairperson</p>		

## **6. Welcoming Communities Accreditation**

Author	<i>Janice McKay; Welcoming Communities Advisor</i>
Activity Manager	<i>Bevan Rickerby; Economic Development Manager</i>
General Manager responsible	<i>Hamish Riach; Chief Executive</i>

### **Summary**

- The purpose of this report is to provide an update of the Welcoming Communities Accreditation status of 'Established' (Stage 2) achieved on June 12, 2020.

#### **Recommendation**

- 1. That** the Welcoming Communities Accreditation report be received.

**Appendix 1 MBIE External Accreditation Assessment Report.**

## Background

### Short History

1. The Ashburton District Welcoming Plan was created by Council and the community in 2017 and adopted by Council in May 2018.
2. Since then, Council and the community have been implementing the plan which is based on the New Zealand Welcoming Communities Standard.
3. The Standard was set by ten communities that piloted the programme (of which Ashburton District was part of) along with the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE).
4. The Standard informs how councils and communities can actively include newcomers<sup>1</sup> in an intentional way to enable greater economic, social, civic and cultural success for all.

### Accreditation Application

5. In February 2020 an application was made containing over 90 pieces of evidence demonstrating how the Ashburton District has been implementing the plan.
6. The Panel (set by MBIE) has assessed Ashburton District Council and the community as meeting 25 of the 30 sub-outcomes at a rating of 3 or more.
7. This equates to over fifty percent of the sub-outcomes in the Standard, and therefore meets the requirements to be accredited as an Established Welcoming Community.

### Accreditation Stages

8. Accreditation formally recognises that a council and community have met the Standard's outcomes. Accredited communities benefit from a competitive advantage to attract and retain newcomers who contribute to the local economy.

Accreditation Stage	Description
<b>Stage 1 – a Committed Welcoming Community</b>	The Mayor, the council, its CEO and other community partners have signed up to the Welcoming Communities programme.
<b>Stage 2 – an Established Welcoming Community</b>	The Council and community are clear about what they want to achieve, have a Welcoming Plan and have started implementing activities.
<b>Stage 3 – an Advanced Welcoming Community</b>	The Council and community are moving towards fully implementing their Welcoming Plan. They are confident about how to deliver successful welcoming activities that make a difference and are trialling innovative activities.
<b>Stage 4 – an Excelling Welcoming Community.</b>	The Council and community have implemented most of their Welcoming Plan. They are reflecting on their successes and sharing their knowledge and experience with other councils and communities in the welcoming network.

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<sup>1</sup> In the Welcoming Standard and Plan, the term 'newcomers' refers to migrants, former refugees and international students.



## Results and Next Steps

- The MBIE External Accreditation Assessment Report is attached as Appendix 1.
- The report offers suggestions of improvement to help Council and the community progress to 'advanced' status.

## Legal/policy implications

### Purpose of Local Government Act 2002

9. This work contributes to the premise that democratic and effective local government recognises the diversity of New Zealand communities and promotes the social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of their communities, taking a sustainable development approach.

## Financial implications

There are no financial implications in relation to this report.

## Significance and engagement assessment

Requirement	Explanation
<b>Is the matter considered significant?</b>	No
<b>Level of significance</b>	Medium significance
<b>Level of engagement selected</b>	Inform – one way communication
<b>Rationale for selecting level of engagement</b>	Council will inform the community of its achievement in becoming an Established welcoming community through the usual media channels.
<b>Reviewed by Strategy &amp; Policy</b>	Toni Durham Strategy & Policy Manager

## Appendix 1

# External Accreditation Assessment Report

## Established Welcoming Community

<b>Council name(s)</b>	Ashburton District Council
<b>Name of community (city, district or region)</b>	Ashburton District
<b>Stage of accreditation applied for</b>	<b>Established Welcoming Community</b>

### Assessment

A review of Ashburton District Council's application for accreditation has been completed by the Welcoming Communities External Accreditation Assessment Panel (the Panel).

Ashburton District Council has a strong application for accreditation as an Established Welcoming Community. The council and its community have demonstrated the attributes and actions contributing to the Welcoming Communities programme within the Ashburton district. The Welcoming Workplaces video series highlights diversity within workplaces and strengthens the evidence provided for the Economic Development, Business and Employment element. The leaders within council and the Global Ambassador programme contribute towards a welcoming and inclusive community. The Welcoming Workplace videos are exemplars in welcoming communications and they suitably highlight the benefits of a culturally diverse workforce. It is evident the council and its community provide a range of opportunities for newcomers to feel welcome and included within the community and are outstanding at celebrating cultures and languages within the community.

Tables 1 and 2 at the end of this document provide the Panel's features assessment and the ratings against the Standard's sub-outcomes. General comments are provided below for each element of the Standard.

The Panel has assessed Ashburton District Council and the community as meeting 25 of the 30 sub-outcomes at a rating of 3 or more. This equates to over fifty percent of the sub-outcomes in the Standard, and therefore meets the requirements to be accredited as an Established Welcoming Community.

### Elements of the Welcoming Communities Standard

The review considered the evidence, ratings and comments provided by the council to demonstrate how it is progressing in meeting the sub-outcomes under each element of the Standard. Feedback is provided below on the strengths and suggestions for areas of improvement.

## **1. Inclusive Leadership**

Ashburton District Council has achieved a variety of programmes and activities relating to Inclusive Leadership. The launch of the Welcoming Plan and the six-month report on the plan outlines the programme of action within the district. The representation and participation of mana whenua and members of Hakatere Marae on the Advisory Group is instrumental in the governance of Welcoming Communities activities. Some leaders within council have modelled inclusiveness, openness, tolerance, respect and acceptance of cultures. Creating further opportunities for modelling these attributes is recommended. The Diversity and Inclusion policy within council is a successful endeavour that highlights not only the direction for all council workings but also models leadership within the community. The diversity of cultures within the Youth Council demonstrates inclusive leadership and is one example of how newcomers can participate in leadership roles.

### **Suggestions for Areas of Improvement**

The council has initiated new activities within this element and the implementation of these activities will be an important part of an application at an Advanced stage. In a future application, new activities along with ongoing published activities could be evaluated for their effectiveness to respond to the standards set out in the Welcoming Communities Accreditation programme. If changes are made to improve the effectiveness of activities and programmes then, where applicable, explain this in future applications. There is an opportunity for tangata whenua, mana whenua, iwi and hapū to have more prominent roles within welcoming activities. There is also an opportunity for further modelling of inclusiveness, openness, tolerance, respect and acceptance of cultures by council and community leaders.

## **2. Welcoming Communications**

The Welcoming Workplace videos are exemplars for positive communication about the local benefits of immigration and the Welcoming Communities programme. The videos collectively promote the benefits of a culturally diverse workforce. The community champions videos are another good example of positive communication. It is evident the council is gathering information about newcomers through their data which is important in understanding newcomers to the region. The Ezispeak interpretation service is a great example of a programme which contributes to reducing barriers for newcomers and promotes engagement within the community. Overall, the council's communication materials and messaging are inclusive and reflective of diversity within the community.

### **Suggestions for Areas of Improvement**

The introduction and monitoring of the newcomer engagement toolkit will enhance the suite of welcoming communications within the Ashburton district. The success of this toolkit requires the council's expertise in the prioritisation, planning and implementation of the toolkit. Facebook and the website have been well utilised, however, use of additional channels could reach a wider audience and target those in the community who do not use online mediums.

While the promotional tools such as Facebook may reach a certain number of people, it does not mean all followers on Facebook will have read the post or attended the event. More two-way engagement will enable an analysis of the best communication channels and the council acknowledged they intend to focus on improving this in the future. Additional data could be sought to inform the council about newcomers' experiences and the services and resources they are most likely to access. This may include engagement with community organisations who can contribute to the information about newcomers that the council may not have access to.

### **3. Equitable Access**

The council has demonstrated their support for services in the community, such as Toastmasters Speechcraft for migrants, Citizen Advice Bureau and the Refugee Resettlement Agency. The council has taken a leadership role in ensuring the design and services integrate the different circumstances and cultural backgrounds of the community including newcomers.

#### **Suggestions for Areas of Improvement**

The Welcoming Communities programme would benefit from the council working collaboratively with community organisations to enable better access to services. The council may also consider researching whether newcomers are aware of the services available to them and how well they are being utilised. The findings from this research could inform a more comprehensive plan to improve access to services, and if necessary create new services or improve existing services for newcomers.

### **4. Connected & Inclusive Communities**

Ashburton District Council has made the effort to ensure the community is connected and inclusive. The Newcomers Guide, cultural workshops, and groups within the community such as Safer Ashburton, and Hakatere Multicultural Council demonstrate the ways in which the community is connected and inclusive of a range of cultures. The Futsal extravaganza is a pivotal event for newcomers in the region and provides the opportunity for newcomers to feel connected and supported within the community. The council acknowledges the importance of this event and through this reflection has committed to supporting this event in the future. The Holi Festival of Colours is another event where connectedness and inclusiveness are fostered.

#### **Suggestions for Areas of Improvement**

The monitoring and evaluation of events and activities for their effectiveness of building relationships within the community would be valuable and can be included in an application at an Advanced stage. While a range of activities and events have been shared, it is recommended the council continue their oversight of events that foster connectedness and inclusivity. The council could consider ways in which newcomers and the receiving community report their experiences about 'if' and 'what' they have learnt from each other and to what degree newcomers feel they belong to the community.

## **5. Economic Development, Business and Employment**

The Skillsconnect event, Ashburton Employment Exchange, Welcoming Workplace video messages and the newly instigated Diversity and Inclusion business award contributes towards enabling economic development opportunities and connectedness between newcomers and business. The planned events, yet to be implemented, will also contribute towards these outcomes.

### **Suggestions for Areas of Improvement**

Further development of the events and activities will strengthen the community's business and economic development. There is an opportunity for more attention to be given to activities that promote newcomer business owners and skilled migrants' contribution to the region's economy.

## **6. Civic Engagement and Participation**

The council encourages civic engagement and participation through the activities delivered in the community. The Vote 2019 campaign incorporates messages with diverse cultural backgrounds and a range of languages. The volunteer workshop, supported by the Welcoming Communities programme, is an example of the opportunity to boost participation within the community.

### **Suggestions for Areas of Improvement**

The council's support and encouragement of civic engagement and participation should be ongoing beyond the 2019 elections. This will require the council to focus on other ways to encourage newcomers to feel welcome and to fully participate and engage in civic processes. Creating opportunities for two-way communication would also support the principles of this element and can be used as evidence to strengthen an application at an Advanced stage.

## **7. Welcoming Public Spaces**

The Holi Festival of Colours was an excellent example of using a public space to encourage the community's engagement and interaction with each other. This activity was well promoted and participation in the event was encouraged. The international dinner party at the museum highlighted the use of public spaces for the benefit of newcomers feeling welcome and comfortable in these spaces. The opening of the cultural garden adds to the creation of a welcoming public space while also celebrating cultures within the community.

### **Suggestions for Areas of Improvement**

There is a timely opportunity for the council to ensure the principles of this element are integrated into the initial phase of the public space projects currently underway involving the Civic centre, library, CBD and the Ashburton domain. For example, involving a co-design process with the diverse cultural community, during the planning and development phases of

these projects would encourage better community ownership of these spaces and ensure spaces reflect the diverse community and are welcoming to all.

## **8. Culture & Identity**

Ashburton District Council, working with the community, has provided many opportunities to learn about each other's cultures and values. This has been an exemplary process in which the council was instrumental in providing the platform for the sharing and celebration of cultures within the community. The promotion of events on Facebook is one way of sharing such information. The Neighbours Day, global language flags and the Holi Festival of Colours are just three examples which gave the opportunity for the community to have their culture respected and valued. The council has modelled the celebration of a culturally rich staff with the Round the World lunch. The collective activities in this element contribute well to creating a sense of pride of such a diverse community while also giving the opportunity to learn about each other's cultures.

### **Suggestions for Areas of Improvement**

The implementation of the diversity photobook, welcome mural, welcome forest, cultural intelligence app and Kiwiana evening adds to the good work already underway in the Ashburton district. Future applications for accreditation at an Advanced stage will require in-depth analysis of how the community considers their cultures are celebrated and shared, and particularly, the experiences needed to better understand and share the values of cultures within the community.

## **Recommendation**

It is recommended the Ashburton District Council and its community be accredited as an Established Welcoming Community.

**Lead assessor's name: Cathy McGachie**

**Signature:** 

**Date: 12 June 2020**

**Approved by the National Manager Refugee and Migrant Support, Immigration New Zealand**

**Name: Andrew Lockhart**

**Signature:** 

**Date: 12 June 2020**

## **7. *Economic Development Quarterly Report***

Author *Bevan Rickerby; Economic Development Manager*  
General Manager responsible *Hamish Riach; Chief Executive*

### **Summary**

- The purpose of this report is to provide councillors with a high-level update on Economic Development activity and progress from March to June 2020.
- The report is framed around the seven pillars included in Council's adopted Economic Development Strategy and Action Plan.
- Successful economic development requires an understanding of the continuing change of the district's demographics and a more holistic view than just generating economic output.
- The key to this period has been the Covid-19 Level 4 lockdown, the resulting outcomes for our district and how Council has interacted with industry to influence outcomes.

### **Recommendation**

- 1. That** the Economic Development Quarterly update June 2020 be received.

## Strategy and Development Plan Update

### Pillar 1: Signaling Council is Open for Business

*This pillar relates to Council setting up, establishing its position, and delivering its services in a way that supports economic development. With the outbreak of Covid-19 having a dramatic effect on all of New Zealand it has been key for Council to work with industry to ensure positive outcomes. Action was required to lead the district community as they navigated their way through the Covid-19 lockdown and the subsequent commencement of recovery.*

#### Update

- Essential services were paramount to ensuring the district continued to operate during the Alert Level 4 lockdown. An app was created to allow businesses with skills required by essential services were visible to the district.
- Communications was established including the Covid-19 Economic Recovery Advisory Group to inform and act where help was required. This included several business related webinars, the Open for Business website, distribution of key helplines, and involvement of the Canterbury Employers Chamber of Commerce as a key contributor to support functions. Business continuity seminars were launched to support the restart of business under alert level 2 and beyond.
- Training or retraining has been identified as a key to reacting to the recently unemployed and to ensure that business has a range of local participants willing to change careers under the yet to be completely defined business landscape. ARA has commenced new online products to align with local requirements and is in the process of developing new programmes to match local industry requirements.
- Another key to successful economic development is to ensure that existing businesses have the infrastructure and support required, and that new businesses are attracted to the district, resulting in new opportunities for the district. Discussions have indicated that, in general, existing business is satisfied with the infrastructure available, and with ongoing interest in the Ashburton Business Estate the foundations for growth are in place.
- To ensure attractiveness and ongoing growth there must be an available skilled workforce. A supply of young local people entering the workforce is key. The “My next Move” programme is being restarted alongside Council’s agreed driver licensing coordination initiative.
- Welcoming Communities has achieved stage 2 ‘Established’ of the New Zealand accreditation which formally recognises that a council and community have met the Welcoming Communities Standard’s outcomes. Accredited communities benefit from a competitive advantage to retain (and attract) newcomers who contribute to the local economy.



- Events have now been restarted and this commenced with a webinar on the new do's and don'ts as we exit the major Alert Levels of Covid-19. Plans are well in place for the NZ Mountain Film Festival, Bite Nite and other Council organised events such as Nights of Lights.

## **Pillar 2: Placemaking and Branding**

*Placemaking is about creating the space(s) where people want to live, work and play – places where people and business want to be.*

### *Update*

- Conversations have commenced with the communication team to update our messaging on the Ashburton District Council website. This will be ongoing for some months. A survey to all stakeholders in our community will be the first step. While this is a communications function, Economic Development will take an overseeing role to ensure that the needs of both employers and prospective employees are met along with the community needs.
- The Open for Business website has resulted in Council leading a 'shop local, be parochial' campaign covering all business dealings and fostering a feeling of community. As the recently appointed Covid-19 Economic Recovery Advisory Group continues to offer support and direction a clearer understanding of what the business landscape will look like post Covid-19 will emerge.
- With the imminent changes to the Experience Mid Canterbury direction of concentrating on local tourism as New Zealand borders remain closed, the attractiveness of the district as a good place to 'live, work and play' becomes a focus to ensure business has the required workforce.
- Welcoming Communities is continuing its implementation of welcoming activities that encourage people to live, work and play in the Ashburton District. Initiatives such as the 'Welcome to Ashburton' kids poster competition for refugees, help tell the Ashburton story through the eyes of our youth. The poster competition received 41 entries from children aged 8-12 and worked in collaboration with schools, Council facilities and Safer Mid Canterbury.
- Welcoming Communities is working with Open Spaces to deliver a Filipino cultural garden in November, amongst a host of other projects in progress.

## **Pillar 3: Unlocking Latent Potential**

*Developing a mechanism to deal with projects that come to Council.*

### *Update*

- COVID 19 has shown that the function of Economic Development is appreciated by the business sector. Instead of waiting for projects to be asked for we front-footed from day one.
  - The employment app was created to help with essential services employment
  - Communication network set-up using manager's personal database
  - MSD and CECC liaison to ensure information was coming from the right place and getting to the right people
  - ARA liaison to ensure training was available to those who need it
  - Creation of the Open for Business website
  - Webinar series to help business and community to recognise what the new normal would look like
  - Lead the setup of the Business Liaison committee
  - Worked with other Council departments to present to Government Shovel Ready projects
  - Applying for or assisting with funding applications for Halls/Marae/Pasifika Churches to gain funding from the available government grants.
- Outcomes of all of the above has:
  - Strengthened Council's place in being the enabler within the Economic Development space
  - Encouraged more activity from CECC with events and direct training and business support activity
  - The partnership with government departments has been enhanced.
- Created with available funding from the My Next Move and Drivers Licensing Liaison person using existing budgets and available funding within Council reserves. This project person will commence in two weeks' time and has been picked up by an existing staff member who is coming to the end of their fixed term in another department.
- Welcoming Communities is playing a key role in advising Māori and Pasifika groups with applications to the Provincial Growth Fund for capital projects with an intention to stimulate short term job creation.

### **Pillar 4: Agriculture and Technology**

*Assisting the agriculture and technology sectors' existing industry bodies to assimilate technology into the sector.*

## Update

- Economic Development is in the process of appointing the Agriculture Portfolio Advisor (APA). The purpose of this position is to work alongside the agricultural industry to identify opportunities, build resilience and future-proof the region's economy. The funding for this position has come via the PGF and is for a fixed term of 18 months. The APA will:
  - Assess the feasibility of projects, accessing funding if appropriate (including the Provincial Growth Fund processes) while providing additional capacity for economic development across mid and South Canterbury.
  - Connect with research and development organisations (eg MPI, Lincoln University) that can contribute to the goal of achieving sustainable practices in conjunction with economic growth in Mid-Canterbury's rural sector. Where necessary, funding applications will be instigated to gain and apply new knowledge and understanding of improved processes and systems for key areas of the local economies. Keeping pace and moving ahead of technological advancements is considered critical to improving the strength and viability of products, systems and services.
  - Liaise, assist and help to build the capacity of Māori business, leadership and wellbeing will be a further important aspect in this role. Similarly, there is a need to recognise the cultural values of the other significant cultures in both regions and ensuring a balance of developing enduring partnerships. Creating enduring welcoming communities is vital for the economy of both districts.
  - The role in Mid and South Canterbury will include work on improving the knowledge of environmental science. The position will help identify projects that will directly help improve the water, land and air of the natural environment. These projects will need to be inclusive of iwi and urban and rural communities.
  - These projects will directly relate to changes in farming practices, products produced and manufacturing required to meet any opportunities created by proposed legislative changes.
- Economic Development is also working with a division of ARA called the 'Ministry of Awesome' to bring an entrepreneurial program to the district to help with local technology problems and to solve them locally using local talent. The first event will be on the 10<sup>th</sup> of August.

## **Pillar 5: Natural Resource Management (a) water and (b) tourism and events**

*Protecting and enhancing the district's natural capital, particularly recognising water as a crucial resource.*

### *Update*

- Helping Mt Hutt Hall board transition from the EMC I-site to the community information centre
- The Agriculture Portfolio Advisor will be working and liaising in the water and natural resources space.
- Economic Development is monitoring the ongoing water comments and legislative possibilities being signaled by government.
- Economic Development and Events are supporting hospitality and accommodation were possible to identify events and other opportunities.
- The Welcoming Communities Advisor and the Event Coordinator are working together to raise capital and enable community-led development of certain events.
- Welcoming Communities and Events continue to work on youth development through the Ashburton Youth Council and Global Ambassador programmes. These programmes have re-started to business as usual since level 1 commenced.
- Youth Council are delivering the NZ Mountain Film Festival in August, this is the main fundraising activity for the delivery of Bite Nite. Six sponsors have come on board for the film festival to help cover costs.
- Bite Nite Reimagined is scheduled for October, a funding application will be submitted to the Office of Ethnic Communities.
- Nights of Lights Festival is on track for starting late November. A funding application will be submitted to the Office of Ethnic Communities for Festive Walk, Buskers Night and Family Movie Night.
- Citizenship ceremonies are still on hold from the Department of Internal Affairs, DIA are supplying the list of new citizens so that we can acknowledge them.
- Community events seem to still be on hold with the exception of Boulevard Day which was cancelled.

## **Pillar 6: Start-up, SME's and Business Support**

*Lobbying, advocacy and influencing policy settings important to business.*

### *Update*

- As mentioned in other parts of this report, Economic Development is working in partnership with external agencies to enhance their effectiveness and functionality in a local context. The connections include conversations between key areas of banking, Chamber of Commerce, Young Professionals, property developers and MSD.
- There is positive enquiry for sites at the Ashburton Business Estate.
- Supporting existing business with advice and direction to ensure a positive future as we enter the recovery phase after the COVID 19 pandemic
- Welcoming Communities is in the process of setting up a Migrant Business Network which purpose is to enable migrant business support and development while promoting the contribution that newcomer business owners make to the Ashburton District's economy.
- Welcoming Communities is supporting the agricultural industry by providing key information to and from Immigration New Zealand and the Filipino Dairy Workers Association, amongst other organisations.

## **Pillar 7: Connecting and Supporting Infrastructure**

*Acknowledging Ashburton District's reliance on key infrastructure like roading and telecommunications.*

### *Update*

- Key infrastructure projects to take place include the CBD Revitalisation Project and continuing to focus on good transport routes in and out of the district. The recent Rangitata river flood certainly reinforced the vulnerability of the transport infrastructure through and into our district.
- As reported in the last update there is universal agreement in business circles that the rail hub being moved from its present site would be optimal. There is very little appetite for this to happen from KiwiRail's perspective at this time, however dialogue is continuing.

## **Legal/policy implications**

This report directly relates to the 7 pillars agreed to and set under the *Economic Development Strategy and Action Plan*.

## Financial implications

1. The funding received for the “My Next Move” transition to work programme is subject to the funding guidelines set out by Ministry of Social Development.
2. The funding that will be applied to the PGF express grant will be subject to the funding guidelines as set out by MBIE.

Requirement	Explanation
What is the cost?	Covered within operating budgets and grant funding received.
Is there budget available in LTP / AP?	Yes
Where is the funding coming from?	‘My Next Move’ Transition to work funding is supplied by MSD. PGF express funding is supplied by MBIE. Economic Development is 100% funded by General Rates.
Are there any future budget implications?	No
Reviewed by Finance	No; not required.

## Significance and engagement assessment

The report discusses matters that are of significance to economic development, however, this report does not require any decision of Council.