PALMERSTON NORTH CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES ATTACHMENTS
EXTRAORDINARY ARTS, CULTURE AND HERITAGE COMMITTEE

9AM, MONDAY 9 SEPTEMBER 2019
COUNCIL CHAMBER, FIRST FLOOR,
CIVIC ADMINISTRATION BUILDING,
32 THE SQUARE, PALMERSTON NORTH
EXTRAORDINARY ARTS, CULTURE AND HERITAGE COMMITTEE MEETING

9 September 2019

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SYLO
SING YOUR LUNGS OUT

SYLO is group singing for people with COPD and other chronic lung disease, SYLO started in Palmerston North October 2017

Singing encourages healthy breathing patterns 😊

Group singing is fun 😊

Venue: Community Leisure Centre, 569 Fergusson St, PNth

Time: Fridays 12- 1

Cost: Free

Facilitators:
Christine Archer-Lockwood, Music Therapist; Sarah Dixon, Respiratory Physiotherapist
Arts Culture and Heritage Committee 9th September 2019

re Consultation Document in respect of Section17A Review of CCOs.

Madam Chair, Mayor and Councillors,

It is not our intention to make submissions in favour of any of the options referred to in the consultation document.

However, we expect the document to be neutral; it should present information in a way that does not suggest a preference for one option over the others.

In particular, we think that if there is to be implied or overt criticism of the current CCO operations there should also be responses from the various trusts, but in the absence of such responses it should be for the public to draw their own conclusions from all available information.

Statements in the document exhibiting what may be construed as “bias” include:

- “Would more hands-on control lead to more accountability for the spending of ratepayers funds?” (page1)
- “More needs to be done” (page 2)
- “The Trusts use the facilities rent – free” (page 1)

As to the issue of accountability for spending and control, note that no mention is made of the current processes except to say they are “cumbersome”. (Page 1)

These processes include:

- the Letter of Expectation – drafted by council
- the Statement of Intent – approved by council.
- the Half and Full year reports on key performance indicators presented to council
- the comprehensive financial and compliance audit required because public funds are involved.
- the Annual, three-year and ten-year budgets – set by Council, not by the Trusts.

Describing these processes would allow a more accurate assessment by submitters of existing accountability and control mechanisms.

Cont./page 2 on reverse.
As to “more needing to be done”, this suggests that the Trusts are failing to meet the goals set by Council.

Reference should be made to the Trusts’ current proposals in the SOI’s which would help submitters see whether current planning matches Council’s goals.

The statement “rent free use of facilities” suggests that the Trusts, which are creatures of Council itself, are getting a free ride and that better performing Trusts would pay rent, otherwise why mention it at all.

Clearly such an implication is quite misleading in a system where, as is stated, the Trusts are “predominantly funded by council”.

Moreover it is not made clear in the document that all the Trusts are running businesses and providing income towards their operations within the parameters that are placed on them.

The current wording appears to suggest that the Trusts are funded solely by council grants.

We have two suggestions:

- That the document be re-worked to remove any “unconscious” bias e.g. reference as to council’s abilities in establishing operations such as the Regent, the Library, Central Energy Trust Wild Base Recovery Centre, City Heart and He Ara Kotahi, and to deal with the specific matters we have mentioned above.

- The consultation document should provide the public with an online link to the current information held by Council in relation to the Trusts, namely: Trust Deeds, Statements of Intent, Financial Statements and Annual reports so that submitters can make fully informed comments. (To assist in this regard, we refer as an example to the following link:


Finally, we believe that the consultation document, which is short and simplistic, is unlikely to elicit useful submissions from the public without at least providing access to full financial and other data, and to cost comparisons between options.

Thank You.