

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

from 1 November 2020 to 31 December 2023

Between

Far North District Council (FNDC)

and

Te Puna o Kupenuku (TPOK)

Scope

This Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is to enable Te Puna o Kupenuku (TPoK) to manage the FNDC's Educational Reserve in Nimmo Street, Rawene (Hokianga Campus) on behalf of, and in the interests of, the community of the Hokianga for a period of three (3) years with the right of renewal thereafter.

This MOU sets out the time frame, the required duties of the parties (TPoK and FNDC), communication requirements and the level and type of reporting required by Council.

In addition, this memorandum outlines that a 'community enabling' approach will be undertaken by Council to ensure the community of Hokianga get the maximum benefit possible from wise and collaborative management of the facility.

Background

When the Local Government amalgamation occurred in 1989, the FNDC inherited from the Hokianga County Council, a two-acre Education Reserve in Nimmo Street, Rawene, which was leased by (then) Northland Community College for the purpose of community education. The college installed prefabricated classrooms on the site, and over subsequent years more buildings were added as the college grew and morphed into the Northland Polytechnic and then later to NorthTec.

Since 2013 a group known as the Hokianga Community Education Trust (HCET) had been negotiating with NorthTec for better community access to the Rawene Campus, and a greater level of community input into the programmes that were run there. However, before agreement was reached in 2019 NorthTec ceased its programmes and left the campus and its assets in the ownership of Council.

After the change in ownership HCET continued to discuss its aspirations for the campus, and requested a lease agreement and broadened its consultative activities in the wider Hokianga area to create a group of more than 180 Hokianga residents and a strong committee of 18 professionals including educators, accountants and lawyers. This group, Te Puna o Kupenuku (TPoK), is passionate about taking on the management of the campus and facilitating quality education and community services to the Hokianga and Far North communities.

The campus includes landscaping and grounds with heritage plantings, which the community is keen to preserve, as well as a number of buildings most of which are in sound condition and need cosmetic attention. The intention is that TPoK will offer education and community entities the opportunity to use the campus to provide educational and socio/cultural services. TPoK has advised that they already have several providers ready to go.

Since early talks between HCET and NorthTec, Council staff and the Kaikohe-Hokianga Community Board have been involved, helping the community to progress its vision and facilitating conversations between all stakeholders. Throughout this activity, TPoK has maintained a constructive, collaborative and inclusive stance with both the community and Council and has demonstrated its suitability to be an able and reliable 'broker' for their community.

Te Puna o Kupenuku will:

1. Meet with FNDC's Campus Management Team quarterly to update the team on site progress and campus development.
2. Direct any urgent enquiries to Council's Community Development Advisor assigned to this project who will then redirect the enquiry as appropriate.
3. Work cooperatively with Council and the wider Hokianga community to maintain harmonious relationships and do nothing that disrespects or discredits any parties.
4. Acknowledge FNDC as partners in media coverage.
5. Discuss any subleasing opportunities with FNDC to reach mutual agreement before committing.
6. Maintain open communication with FNDC and alert staff to any issues or potential future issues and risks.

Far North District Council will:

1. Meet with TPoK quarterly to discuss site progress and campus development.
2. Remove barriers that are within Council's control to support the aspirations of TPoK.
3. Acknowledge TPoK as a partner and work respectfully and cooperatively with TPoK to maintain a harmonious relationship and do nothing that disrespects or discredits TPoK.
4. Respond to all enquiries in an efficient manner.
5. Support the economic, social, cultural and environmental development of the Hokianga area by working constructively and collaboratively with TPoK and the wider Hokianga community to breathe life back into campus and see it flourish.
6. Work in partnership with TPoK and Treaty partners.
7. Arrange for a yearly condition assessment of the grounds and buildings.
8. Prepare a lease agreement in consultation with TPoK that outlines obligations of both parties.
9. Acknowledge that TPoK is to retain all income from the educational and community activity on site.

Timeframe and Review

This Memorandum of Understanding is effective from 01 November 2020 until 31 December 2023 and will be reviewed annually. This MoU may be terminated by either party giving at least three (3) calendar months' notice.

SIGNED on behalf of the parties

Andy Finch



Date – 13 November 2020

General Manager
Infrastructure and Asset Management

Pani Hauraki



Date – 13 November 2020

Chairperson / *Facilitator*
Te Puna o Kupenuku