

This document outlines:

- the background to the proposed Howick Ethnic Consultative Committee
- the expected role and responsibilities of committee members
- the skills and community relationships expected of committee members
- the nomination and selection process

## **1. Background**

The Howick Ward includes Botany, East Tamaki, Flat Bush, Howick and Pakuranga. Our area is home to one of the highest proportion of migrants in the Auckland Region with 48% of our residents born overseas and just under half this group, 22%, relatively recent migrants having settled in New Zealand in the last 10 years. (Census 2006 data).

Our migrant community is very diverse. In addition to settlers from European countries Howick is home to large numbers of people from China, India and Korea and smaller numbers from the Pacific Islands, other east, south east and south Asian countries, the Middle East, Africa and Latin America.

The Howick Local Board wants to create strong, connected, flourishing communities where everyone feels welcome and able to participate. The Board recognises the challenges faced by new settlers, in particular those:

- for whom English is a second language, and
- who come from cultures very different from New Zealand, and
- who lack strong support systems here

In response the Board has established the Ethnic Affairs Portfolio to be responsible for developing relationships with the many ethnic communities in Howick.

The Board has set two key objectives for its Ethnic Affairs Portfolio:

- 1. In Howick we want to ensure that different peoples and cultures are respected, celebrated and woven together to create a strong and unique identity. The Howick Local Board will welcome new settlers to our community and assist their integration into local communities;*
- 2. Creating opportunities for people with English as a second language to engage with the democratic process;*

The Portfolio acknowledges the importance and value the leaders of our diverse ethnic communities play in assisting migrants to settle and integrate into the community and helping the Board deliver on its objectives and priorities. It believes regular engagement with these leaders will help both parties understand the others needs and issues, channel information both to and from the communities and the Board, and ensure all are working to assist our migrants settle quickly and successfully.

The Board is establishing the Howick Ethnic Affairs Consultative Committee to act as a point of contact for the different ethnic communities and as an advisory service to the Board.

## **2. Purpose of the Howick Ethnic Affairs Consultative Committee**

The committee will be expected to:

- act as a bridge between our ethnic communities and the Howick Local Board
- alert the Board on ethnic communities issues and concerns
- advise the Board on the best ways to engage with ethnic communities
- encourage ethnic peoples' participation in the community

## **3. Scope of the Committee**

The focus of the committee will be on new settlers whose culture, traditions and language distinguish them from the majority in New Zealand and who lack existing strong support systems.

As such, it is likely to be focused on people from East, South East and South Asia, the Middle East, Northern and Southern Africa and Latin America.

The committee will comprise up to 9 members. The Board encourages applications for positions on the committee from all the above migrant groups.

## **4. Term of the Committee**

As the purpose for the committee is to liaise with the current Local Board members will be appointed until March 2014 (two years) at which stage the newly elected Howick Local Board will decide on the committee's future.

## **5. Role and Tasks of Committee Members**

The committee members' role will primarily be advisory and will focus on forming the link between the ethnic communities and the Howick Local Board.

The position is a voluntary one. It will possibly involve five to ten hours per month.

The tasks required of committee members include:

1. to attend regular quarterly meetings of the committee
2. to help the board understand the different perspectives of our ethnic communities
3. to work with the Ethnic Affairs Portfolio to help achieve Portfolio objectives (see section 1)
4. to provide information, assistance and advice to other Portfolios as and when needed
5. to act as the voice for their particular ethnic community and channel information to and from the Howick Local Board
6. to alert the Howick Local Board of issues and concerns within their particular ethnic community
7. to encourage their particular ethnic community to participate in the wider community
8. to advise the Howick Local Board on the best ways to engage with their particular ethnic community
9. to take a pan-ethnic perspective
10. to liaise, through the Ethnic Affairs Portfolio Leader, with the Auckland Council Ethnic Peoples' Advisory Panel
11. to assist the Ethnic Affairs Portfolio in other initiatives that will benefit and be of value to local ethnic communities and assist towards successful settlement



**COMMITTEE MEMBER APPLICATION FORM**

NAME OF APPLICANT:

CONTACT ADDRESS:

CONTACT PHONE NUMBER:

EMAIL ADDRESS:

ETHNIC BACKGROUND:

CURRENT OCCUPATION:

**OUTLINE THE APPLICANT'S INVOLVEMENT WITH HOWICK'S ETHNIC COMMUNITIES**

**OUTLINE THE APPLICANT'S LINKS WITH THE WIDER HOWICK COMMUNITY**

**OUTLINE THE RELEVANT SKILLS THE APPLICANT WOULD BRING TO THE ROLE**

**OUTLINE ANY OTHER MATTERS THAT MAY BE RELEVANT TO THE ROLE**

**PLEASE PROVIDE THE NAME AND CONTACT DETAILS OF AT LEAST TWO REFEREES.**

NAME:

PHONE NUMBER:

NAME:

PHONE NUMBER:

**APPLICANT'S SIGNATURE:**