



COVERSHEET

Minister	Hon Iain Lees-Galloway	Portfolio	Immigration
Title of Cabinet paper	Post-pilot expansion and ongoing implementation of the Welcoming Communities Programme	Date to be published	TBC

List of documents that have been proactively released

Date	Title	Author
21 August 2019	Post-pilot expansion and ongoing implementation of the Welcoming Communities Programme	Office of the Minister Of Immigration
21 August 2019	SWC-19-MIN-0099	Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee

Information redacted

NO

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Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee

Minute of Decision

This document contains information for the New Zealand Cabinet. It must be treated in confidence and handled in accordance with any security classification, or other endorsement. The information can only be released, including under the Official Information Act 1982, by persons with the appropriate authority.

Welcoming Communities Programme: Post-Pilot Expansion and Ongoing Implementation

Portfolio Immigration

On 21 August 2019, the Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee:

- 1 **noted** that the Welcoming Communities Programme is an initiative led by the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, which was piloted across five sites during 2017/18-2018/19 and focuses on supporting local government councils and their communities to create intentionally welcoming and inclusive environments for newcomers;
- 2 **noted** that the interim evaluation report for the pilot of the Welcoming Communities Programme indicates that it is on the right trajectory to deliver its anticipated short-term and medium term outcomes, which include increased community engagement, social connections and social inclusion, and the longer term generation of social, economic, civic and cultural benefits;
- 3 **noted** that an allocation of accrued Migrant Levy revenue supported the pilot of the Welcoming Communities Programme from 2017/18-2018/19 with ten local government councils across five sites;
- 4 **noted** that the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Immigration have agreed to a further allocation of accrued Migrant Levy revenue in 2019/20 as a transitional post-pilot funding arrangement for the Welcoming Communities Programme while decisions are made about its expansion and longer term funding, which will support the pilot sites through provision of a third and final year of grant funding, but is not sufficient to support post-pilot expansion or ongoing support for the implementation of Welcoming Communities;
- 5 **agreed** to the post-pilot expansion and ongoing implementation of the Welcoming Communities Programme from 2019/20, which will maintain and build on the momentum created during the pilot and increase its contribution to the wider government work programme focused on increasing social inclusion;
- 6 **noted** that the Immigration Levy is charged to some residence and temporary visa applicants and provides funding for a number of Immigration New Zealand functions, including longer term migrant settlement programmes which have an established evidence base;
- 7 **noted** that Immigration Levy revenue accrues in a hypothecation account and that this account is currently in deficit and is forecast to return to surplus in 2021/22;

- 8 **agreed** to an additional allocation of Immigration Levy revenue, totalling \$6.665 million over four years (2019/20-2022/23), to support post-pilot expansion of the Welcoming Communities Programme to up to an additional 30 sites, plus \$0.5 million in outyears to support ongoing implementation;
- 9 **noted** that the impact on the Immigration Levy hypothecation account of the decision in paragraph seven above will be a forecast surplus in 2022/23 rather than 2021/22;

Year ended June 30	20120	2021	2022	2023	2024
Current estimated balance (\$M)	(4.928)	(2.064)	1.938	7.111	13.492
Estimated balance after Welcoming Communities allocation (\$M)	(5.828)	(4.909)	(3.067)	0.446	6.327

- 10 **approved** the following changes to Vote Labour Market to give effect to the decision in paragraphs five and eight above, to be funded by the Crown entirely from the Immigration Levy revenue, with no impact on the operating balance or net core crown debt:

Vote Labour Market Minister of Immigration	\$m -- increase/(decrease)				
	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	Outyears
Departmental Output Expense: Immigration Services MCA – Settlement and Integration of Refugees and Other Migrants (funded by revenue Crown)	0.9	1.945	2.135	1.645	0.5
Total Operating	0.9	1.945	2.160	1.660	0.5
Total Capital	-	-	-	-	-

- 11 **agreed** that the change to appropriations for 2019/20 above be included in the 2019/20 October Baseline Update and that, in the interim, the increase be met from Imprest Supply.

Gerrard Carter
Committee Secretary

Hard-copy distribution: (see over)

Present:

Hon Kelvin Davis
Hon Grant Robertson
Hon Dr Megan Woods
Hon Chris Hipkins
Hon Andrew Little
Hon Dr David Clark
Hon Stuart Nash
Hon Iain Lees-Galloway
Hon Jenny Salesa
Hon Damien O'Connor
Hon Tracey Martin (Chair)
Hon Willie Jackson
Hon Aupito William Sio
Hon Poto Williams
Jan Logie, MP

Hard-copy distribution:

Minister of Immigration

Officials present from:

Office of the Prime Minister
Office of the Minister for Social Development
Office of the Chair
Officials Committee for SWC

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