

September 27, 2018

Christchurch City Council
Attn: Paul Cottam
housingpolicy@ccc.govt.nz

RE: Proposal to grow social housing through a \$30 million loan

1. Community Housing Aotearoa (CHA) is the peak body for the community housing sector that provides social and affordable housing throughout New Zealand. We represent the interests of our 100+ members on issues that impact their ability to fulfil their organisational missions. Our 80 provider members house approximately 25,000 people nationally across 13,000 houses. Our 24 partner members include developers, consultants and local councils.
2. The Christchurch City Council's proposal to grow social housing through a \$30million loan to Ōtautahi Community Housing Trust (The Trust) is of great interest to our members both nationally and in Christchurch. It not only meets some of the affordable housing needs of the community, but also enables OCHT to realise its potential to develop and retain social and affordable housing in Christchurch.
3. The proposal is consistent with the Council's Housing Policy adopted on 2nd November 2016. In addition to the vision "that all people in Christchurch have access to housing that is secure, safe, affordable and dry" the proposal supports goal 7: Retaining affordable housing – develop a range of creative, collaborative and innovative ways to ensure the co-ordinated long-term promotion, provision and retention of both social and affordable housing.
4. CHA provides support to the Te Waipounamu Community Housing Providers Network. The proposal was discussed at the 20th September 2018 meeting and there was a consensus of support, and encouragement that the Council should consider making future loans available to other Christchurch Community Housing Providers.
5. In summary, we strongly support the proposal. On behalf of our members, we also ask that Council consider making loans available for more social and affordable housing delivered by Christchurch Community Housing Providers. The Council's leadership in this approach demonstrates the way forward for other Council's around New Zealand.

CHA applauds the work of Christchurch City Council in delivering to the goals set out in its housing policy.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit.

Kind regards,



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