

# **Request for funding - Thames bus trial extension**

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**TO** Thames Community Board  
**FROM** Brian Robson - Thames Community Manager  
**DATE** 27 April 2018  
**SUBJECT** Request for funding - Thames bus trial extension

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## **1 Purpose of Report**

This report seeks approval for discretionary funding to extend the public transport trial from the end of the initial trial on 11 May until the end of the financial year on 30 June 2018.

## **2 Background**

In February 2017 Thames Community Board agreed to provide \$39,000 to cover the cost of a six month public transport trial in the Thames urban area. Following a 'Request for Proposal' process conducted by Waikato Regional Council, a preferred contractor was selected and the trial commenced on the 27 November which concluded on 11 May 2018. There is strong community support for the bus service, as evidenced by the passenger numbers and universally positive comments made in survey responses. The patronage continues to grow as more and more people try the bus service.

In the course of the trial the key performance metric of 15% fare-box recovery of the contract cost has been achieved and four passengers per service hour has been exceeded by 45%. On the basis of these statistics, NZTA have agreed to support the trial extension with 51% co-funding. Now that the initial trial has been judged a success, the trial will be extended for a further three full financial years (1+1+1) starting 14 May 2018.

## **3 Issue**

Although the cost of the Thames public transport service has been included in the LTP, commencing 1 July 2018, no money has been allocated to cover the period between the end of the six month trial and the start of the new financial year.

## **4 Discussion**

Waikato Regional Council estimates the cost of extending the service from 11 May - 30 June 2018, a total of 34 service days, to be \$5,552 after the 51% NZTA subsidy has been applied and before any fares are deducted. If no money is made available, the service will cease until the start of the 2018/19 financial year.

The Community Board have spent \$2,000 of the \$15,000 discretionary fund for 2017/18 on a business case for stage 2 of the bus trial. It is requested that a further \$5,552 be allocated for the Thames Bus Trial extension so that there is no interruption to the service.

## **5 Suggested Resolution(s)**

That the Thames Community Board:

1. Receives the 'Request for funding - Thames bus trail extension' report, dated 27 April 2018.
2. Resolves to allocate \$5,552 of discretionary funds to extend the Thames Bus Service trail until 30 June 2018.