Submission – Home of Champions Charitable Trust

Hutt City Council has called for Expressions of Interest from community-led organisations interested in taking on the divestment of the Petone Grandstand.

The **Home of Champions Charitable Trust (HOC)** is in the final stages of establishment and is committed to developing a community-led proposal that secures the future of the Grandstand and retains it for community use for generations to come.

HOC recognises that developing a credible and sustainable proposal requires more than simply submitting an EOI. We need time to establish the Trust, engage with the wider community and sporting organisations, bring together the appropriate expertise, demonstrate community support, identify sustainable funding options, and fully understand the operational and financial requirements of the Grandstand.

HOC received notification of the EOI on 25 September 2026 and has already provided Council officers with requests for information and clarification. Some responses are still outstanding, and further information will inevitably be required as the proposal develops.

A successful community-led outcome will require sufficient time, timely access to Council information and a constructive working relationship with Council officers. Access to Council's information about the Grandstand, its condition, history, costs, future requirements and divestment process will enable HOC to develop a proposal that is properly informed and addresses Council's requirements.

HOC is fully committed to working constructively alongside Council to achieve the best possible outcome for the Grandstand and the community. We therefore ask that the EOI process allows a reasonable timeframe and appropriate access to information so that HOC can submit a credible, sustainable and well-supported proposal rather than a rushed response.

Our goal is not simply to secure the Grandstand, but to establish a viable community asset that can serve the people of Petone and the wider community for generations to come.

kind regards Karl Mark Belsham, on behalf of the Home of Champions Charitable Trust