

13 September 2018

IRO-7290

M. Rump

Via: [fyi-request-8512-d8dc5f5f@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-8512-d8dc5f5f@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear M Rump

**Re: Request for information relating to the NEC Living Lab and Smart City partnership.**

Thank you for your email to the Council received on 17 August 2018 in which you requested information in respect of the NEC 'Living Lab' and Smart City partnership. Your request was forwarded to the Council's Complaints and Information Assurance Team to provide a response.

By way of some background I can advise that in 2014 NEC and Wellington City Council entered into a collaborative agreement to explore the use of data and technology aimed at improving the city for its residents.

The overarching 'Smart City' programme saw the Council working with NEC on a number of pilot projects which included; Spectacle (also referred to as the Living Lab), the use of data to plan for issues such as future housing and transport needs resulting from a growing population, the effects of sea-level rise on low-lying areas and water systems, and improved safety in the City.

Given NEC have since refocussed their business activities in New Zealand the existing partnership ceased in August 2018.

However, the Council remains committed to continuing as a leader in the smart cities space and will continue to progress the Spectacle (Living Lab) and Digital City Model projects internally whilst seeking to work with new partners in respect of continuing to develop smart city technology solutions.

As you have asked a number of questions I will address these in the order of your email.

***1) 'I would like to know under LGOIMA how much in total has been spent by WCC on the NEC Living Lab and Smart City partnership?'***

In total, the Council has invested \$478,783.40 excluding GST.

This investment has been covered by internal operating budgets as well as \$90,000 which was allocated towards Smart City projects in the Council's 2016 Annual Plan.

**2) “What internal budgets were used for set up costs for the project and the ongoing project costs?”**

If I have understood your question correctly then I can advise that the ‘Smart City’ project included Spectacle (Living Lab), KITE Sensing Network (also referred to as Pedestrian Mobility), CCTV Behavioural Analytics, and the Digital City Model.

The **Spectacle Project** is a geospatial platform which integrates data from the Council and its partner agencies and provides information for evidence based future planning in the areas of city safety, community wellbeing, urban design, and event management.

The **KITE Sensing Network platform** utilised two types of sensors (stereoscopic cameras) to understand counts and flows of pedestrians.

Whilst the project will not be continuing, the cameras installed at the ASB Sports Centre and Wellington Central Station will be retained in order to provide the counts of individuals passing through choke points.

The **CCTV Behavioural Analytics platform** was an exploration in the use of analytics looking to see if it was possible to detect behaviour such as begging, violence, and crown counting. This project has now being ceased and the Council is no longer pursuing exploration of behavioural sensing.

However, the Council is continuing to operate out City Safety CCTV Cameras in partnership with the Police and have transferred the Behavioural Analytics cameras to our City Safety Camera Network.

The **Digital City Model** is a virtual reality platform providing access to approximately 80 data sets and has been used in respect of city planning, climate change modelling, and city resilience.

This project has now been brought in-house and will continue to be developed.

The set up and ongoing costs are provided below.

The costs associated with these projects primarily relate to an enduring program of work which will continue to provide value to Wellington through the utilisation of cutting edge technology. The investment over the past four years has seen Wellington's capability and profile as a Smart City grow enormously and has positioned us as a leader in the Smart Cities space both domestically and internationally.



<b>Item</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Department</b>
Development costs	Development of Spectacle Platform	\$80,000	Community Services
Ongoing costs	Programme Licence fees	\$450 USD monthly	Digital Teams budget

<b>Item</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Department</b>
Development costs	Development of KITE platform, installation of sensors, and purchase of stereoscopic cameras	\$80,309.81	Community Services
Ongoing costs	Operation of stereoscopic cameras	\$195.00 monthly	Community Services

<b>Item</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Department</b>
Development costs	Installation & purchase of hardware and video streams of Behavioural Analytics	\$93,554.09	Community Services
Ongoing costs	Programme Licence fees	\$390.00 monthly	Community Services

<b>Item</b>	<b>Notes</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Department</b>
Development Costs	Development of Virtual Reality Platform and purchase of hardware (Digital City Model)	\$203,620	Innovation Team
Ongoing Costs	No further ongoing costs outside of staff resources	\$0.00	

### **3) “Is the partnership project still active?”**

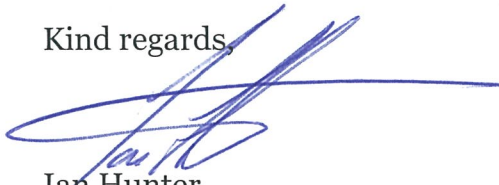
The partnership between Wellington City Council and NEC formally ceased in August 2018.

**4) “If the project is not active what is the plan for the cameras and equipment that has already been installed?”**

Please refer to the answer given to question 2 above.

If you have any further questions or require clarification please feel free to contact me.

Kind regards,



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