



Consultation on the draft Local Board Plans 2026

Written Feedback Waitematā Volume #1

23 June 2026 to 23 July 2026



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Have Your Say on the Draft Waitematā Local Board Plan 2026

#205

Note: This simplified version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation: Age Concern Auckland Japanese Community

Local Board: Regional Organisation

Your feedback:

- 1. How well do you think our draft Waitematā Local Board Plan reflects the needs and aspirations of our community over the next three years?**

Quite well

Tell us why

We believe the draft Waitematā Local Board Plan reflects many important aspirations of our community, particularly the focus on connection, inclusion, wellbeing, cultural diversity, and creating vibrant neighbourhoods.

However, we hope the final Plan can further reflect the voices of people who may be less visible in community consultations, including older residents, migrants, and people experiencing barriers to participation.

Through our regular engagement with older Japanese residents in Waitematā, we have seen that many people want to remain connected, active, and contribute to the community. However, barriers such as digital exclusion, language challenges, mobility issues, and access to suitable community spaces can prevent participation.

We encourage the Local Board to continue working with trusted community organisations that already have relationships with diverse communities. Providing accessible information, language support, and opportunities for ongoing connection can help ensure that every resident feels welcome, valued, and supported.

The Plan provides a strong foundation, and we hope the final version will include more practical examples of how community voices will be reflected in local actions over the next three years.

Community**2. How well do you think these objectives reflect the needs and priorities of the Waitematā community?**

Quite well

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

We appreciate the Board's commitment to building an inclusive community. We hope the final Plan will continue to recognise the important role that culturally connected community groups play in reducing isolation and helping older residents remain active, independent, and connected.

We encourage continued support for small, regular community gatherings that help older residents build trusted relationships over time. These ongoing connections are just as important as larger public events in reducing social isolation.

Natural Environment**3. How well do you think these objectives reflect the needs and priorities of the Waitematā community?**

Quite well

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

A healthy natural environment also supports healthy communities. We hope the final Plan continues to connect environmental initiatives with community wellbeing, particularly for older residents and culturally diverse communities who benefit from accessible and welcoming outdoor spaces.

We encourage environmental programmes to be promoted through trusted multicultural community organisations so that people from diverse backgrounds can participate more easily.

Built Environment**4. How well do you think these objectives reflect the needs and priorities of the Waitematā community?**

Quite well

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

Community facilities play an important role in supporting social connection and wellbeing.

To enhance participation in community-led activities, we would welcome improved access to basic shared resources such as portable presentation equipment (e.g. screens or projectors) and adaptable recreational equipment (e.g. table tennis tables) within community venues.

This would significantly increase the usability of existing spaces for diverse community groups.

Economic Development

5. How well do you think these objectives reflect the needs and priorities of the Waitematā community?

Quite well

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

Small, regular community activities can also contribute to local economic vitality by encouraging people to visit neighbourhoods, use local businesses, and participate in cultural activities.

Transport

6. How well do you think these objectives reflect the needs and priorities of the Waitematā community?

Quite well

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

We support the focus on creating a safe, accessible and inclusive transport network for people of all ages and abilities.

For older residents, especially those with mobility challenges, access to community activities often depends on being able to drive to local venues. While we support active transport and public transport improvements, we also recognise that some older people still rely on private vehicles to remain socially connected and independent.

We encourage consideration of more flexible parking arrangements around community facilities for small, regular community gatherings that support social connection and wellbeing. Current two-hour parking limits can unintentionally create barriers, as many community activities run longer than two hours and participants may risk receiving parking fines.

Providing reasonable flexibility for recognised community activities would help older residents continue participating safely and confidently in community life.

Other outcomes and considerations

7. How well do you think we have captured these considerations in the draft plan for the Waitematā community?

Māori outcomes	Quite well
Climate outcomes	Quite well
Equitable outcomes	Quite well

Tell us why (please note which outcome area you are referring to)

We believe strong communities are built when people understand not only each other's cultures, but also the history and identity of the place where they live.

8. Do you have any other feedback on the draft Waitematā Local Board Plan 2026?

We would like to acknowledge the important role of community facilities such as Freemans Bay Community Centre and Ellen Melville Centre. They provide welcoming and accessible spaces where people from different backgrounds can gather, connect, and participate in community life.

Through our regular engagement with older Japanese residents, we have seen how valuable these community spaces are in reducing isolation and supporting wellbeing. We would welcome opportunities to work together on future collaborative programmes that encourage connection between different generations and cultures within Waitematā.



Have Your Say on the Draft Waitematā Local Board Plan 2026

#226

Note: This simplified version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation: Āiotanga Trust

Local Board: Waitematā

Your feedback:

- 1. How well do you think our draft Waitematā Local Board Plan reflects the needs and aspirations of our community over the next three years?**

Quite well

Tell us why

Overall we are strongly supportive of the Waitematā Draft Local Board Plan 2026 (the Plan).

In particular we support the Community focus area and note the alignment with the Trust's strategic goals. The Trust's work responds to a number of the challenges identified in the Plan including affordable community spaces and amenities for high density living.

We are particularly supportive of these key initiatives:

Investigate entering into long-term funding agreements so that our partners can have the security to deliver their programmes while retaining our ability to provide grants to smaller groups to deliver short-term positive outcomes

Partner with and fund community groups, artists, and grassroots organisers to deliver free, accessible events – markets, performances, and activations, that bring residents and the wider community together and encourage people to spend time in and engage with their neighbourhood.

Explore better ways to engage with our diverse community, particularly those in high-density housing areas, including migrants, seniors and our young adult and student population, such as by using citizen assemblies, to ensure a diverse range of community voices are heard and reflected in decision-making.

Continue to improve community resilience to extreme weather events, ongoing climate change hazards, and other emergencies.

Support and strengthen our network of community gardens and food resilience initiatives that enable communities to grow, share, and access healthy, culturally appropriate kai, while building local capability and connected, sustainable neighbourhoods.

Continue to improve community resilience to extreme weather events, ongoing climate change hazards, and other emergencies.

To further strengthen the plan we recommend including specific community projects. For example a number of the goals will be achieved with local board support for the Resilient Apartments project. www.resilientapartments.nz

What is not mentioned is the necessary communications infrastructure required for residents to connect with one another and share information organically.

The ability to self-organise is a critical part of resilience, thriving social cohesion, development of neighbourhood identity and engagement with the decision making processes of our local government body and beyond.

We need a constellation of communication 'centres' ideally linked to community hubs within each walkable neighbourhood area, where the needs of that area can be made known

Community

2. How well do you think these objectives reflect the needs and priorities of the Waitematā community?

Very well

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

We would like to see a strong place-based approach to the development of city centre (and beyond) neighbourhoods. The plan does speak to rich vibrant neighbourhoods but there is a practical requirement for these neighbourhoods to flourish.

At the heart of each neighbourhood there needs to be a centre or hub, which can act as the heart for activity, connection and identity development.

We would like to see the plan specifically pledge support for those running community hubs as a essential part of realising the local board community objectives.

Additionally:

Community centre's which host community classes alone do not build identity. However, a shared story of place which draws on Māori and settler history, business and residential development and very importantly the life, energy and story of the land itself; these realities anchor identity and provide a stronger sense of belonging and pride.

The founding of Auckland Story, the gifting of the first 3,000 acres by Apihai Te Kawau and Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei, should be at the heart of our identity in the city centre. The purpose of the strategic partnership formed and agreed upon at Te Rerenga ora iti Emily Place, with Governor Hobson was an invitation to anchor together in the midst of adversity and to prosper together.

This story has the potential to strengthen our sense of belonging to one another and bring a powerful sense of inclusion to our great diversity of people's living here. Prosperity in Partnership is the original maxim of Auckland city centre.

Upholding our founding narrative and it's essential maxim, can highlight the value of bringing all our strength and gifts to the common purpose of our city's prosperity and well being. A place where we all belong and are needed for the success of our city.

We would like to see the local board specifically pledge to support an approach to community development in partnership with Mana Whenua, engaging business communities as well as residents, to research and articulate the founding story of Auckland as a foundation, with each unique story of each neighbourhood, to create public art, eco-regeneration, social activities and communication pathways and thus reflect the truly unique identity of each of these places

Natural Environment

3. How well do you think these objectives reflect the needs and priorities of the Waitematā community?

Very well

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

Regenerating our natural environment is essential to the well being and future life of people on the planet. We are very relieved to see this as a priority and believe it should be an essential consideration for every project.

Built Environment

4. How well do you think these objectives reflect the needs and priorities of the Waitematā community?

Very well

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

Green, thriving cities are an essential focus.

Economic Development

5. How well do you think these objectives reflect the needs and priorities of the Waitematā community?

Very well

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

We would like to see a entrepreneurial pathways prioritised for young people.

In an economic environment where it is difficult to find work, creating pathways, such as the small/medium enterprise course offered by Te Wananga o Aotearoa could dramatically shift young people's mindsets about what their future might look like.

Many do not realise just how easily how they could get into business for themselves.

Additionally, niche businesses like the Kite Shop in Symonds St, the last of its kind in the country, has no successors. A call to niche business owners, crafts people and enabling them to take on apprentices would be a way to nurture our creative sector and broaden the possibilities young people might consider for themselves.

Transport

6. How well do you think these objectives reflect the needs and priorities of the Waitematā community?

Very well

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

We would like to see specific consideration of how packages are delivered.

With increasing reliance on online shopping, our streets are full of couriers. How can delivery be made more efficient?

With increasing residents and household moving required in the city, how can we reduce the demand on large parking availability for service trucks?

Is it possible to develop an automated transport system for delivery in the city and the greater Waitematā Local board area?

Could small packages be loaded into small containers that zip along tracks at verandah level and wait outside their destination or letterbox until collected and sent back?

Instead of service trucks, could we have small trams loaded at depots outside the city and unloaded outside the receiving property? These could become character additions to our emerging 21st century city.

For the plan itself, such specifics cannot be included but attention to how we can have service delivery that is complimentary to people oriented streets, and eliminate what feels like a competing need between efficient trade and courier access is a practical goal.

Other outcomes and considerations**7. How well do you think we have captured these considerations in the draft plan for the Waitematā community?**

Māori outcomes	Very well
Climate outcomes	Very well
Equitable outcomes	Very well

Tell us why (please note which outcome area you are referring to)

These three areas are truly essential to the well being of our city. Thank you for prioritising them so clearly!

8. Do you have any other feedback on the draft Waitematā Local Board Plan 2026?

23 July 2026

Feedback on the draft Waitematā Local Board plan 2026

Introduction

Āiotanga Trust (the Trust) is an innovative charitable organisation dedicated to building vibrant city centre neighbourhoods. We do this by creating community connections, each designed to inspire love, pride and care for our vertical communities, build resilience and nurture our urban landscape.

In partnership with local volunteers we run a community hub in Emily Place, facilitate a city centre gardening network, a resilience project for apartment communities and produce Vertical Voice, a newsletter uplifting the voice of residents in our inner city.

The Trust values our strong relationship with the Waitematā Local Board and Auckland Council. We have received funding for Vertical Voice and a number of our events over the last couple of years including the Heritage Hīkoi in partnership with Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei.

Our strategic goals are:

- Establish and sustain resilient community networks in Auckland's city centre neighbourhoods.
- Strengthen cultural identity through storytelling and partnerships with Mana Whenua.
- Empower residents to contribute to urban greening and sustainability.
- Build capacity for emergency preparedness in vertical neighbourhoods.
- Foster social cohesion and inclusivity through events and communications.

We have three interwoven project areas:

- Resilient Apartments - focused on the unique and collective emergency readiness and response needs of apartment communities.
- Gardening the City - focused on enlivening the connection between residents and the community gardens of the city centre as part of a broader strategy to see a thriving urban ecology (attending to climate change and wellbeing factors))
- Community Hubs - focused on establishing hubs or supporting others who establish hubs, to service the gathering and communication needs of their local neighbourhoods. Networking between these hubs so they can share resources and knowledge effectively.

Partnership and support for Mana Whenua is a priority for us.

Feedback

Overall we are strongly supportive of the Waitematā Draft Local Board Plan 2026 (the Plan).

In particular we support the Community focus area and note the alignment with the Trust's strategic goals. The Trust's work responds to a number of the challenges identified in the Plan including affordable community spaces and amenities for high density living.

We are particularly supportive of these key initiatives:

Investigate entering into long-term funding agreements so that our partners can have the security to deliver their programmes while retaining our ability to provide grants to smaller groups to deliver short-term positive outcomes

Partner with and fund community groups, artists, and grassroots organisers to deliver free, accessible events – markets, performances, and activations, that bring residents and the wider community together and encourage people to spend time in and engage with their neighbourhood.

Explore better ways to engage with our diverse community, particularly those in high-density housing areas, including migrants, seniors and our young adult and student population, such as by using citizen assemblies, to ensure a diverse range of community voices are heard and reflected in decision-making

Continue to improve community resilience to extreme weather events, ongoing climate change hazards, and other emergencies.

Support and strengthen our network of community gardens and food resilience initiatives that enable communities to grow, share, and access healthy, culturally appropriate kai, while building local capability and connected, sustainable neighbourhoods.

Continue to improve community resilience to extreme weather events, ongoing climate change hazards, and other emergencies.

To further strengthen the local board plan we recommend partnering with grassroots community organisations as essential to the realisation of the local boards objectives.

With regards to other areas of the Plan we support the local board championing the City Centre Masterplan. We are excited that work is about to start on Emily Place improvements funded from

the City Centre Targeted Rate. The Trust played a key role supporting this project through the engagement process.

We support a refresh of the *City Centre Master Plan that prioritises resident wellbeing, good urban design, safety, accessibility and a thriving environment for businesses, visitors and local communities.*

We also support the board's work and advocacy to make streets safer and more adaptable, advance active transport connections, and support for greener, more resilient connections to the city centre. We note that up to 70 % of city centre residents do not own a car so it is essential to prioritise active transport and PT for residents and visitors. As mentioned in our general feedback, creatively attending to service delivery needs of trade and couriers is also an essential part of making our streets safer and centred on people.

We would value the opportunity to discuss the Trust's feedback with local board members.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



Have Your Say on the Draft Waitematā Local Board Plan 2026

#159

Note: This simplified version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation: Aktive

Local Board: Regional Organisation

Your feedback:

1. **How well do you think our draft Waitematā Local Board Plan reflects the needs and aspirations of our community over the next three years?**

Quite well

Tell us why

See attached file

Community

2. **How well do you think these objectives reflect the needs and priorities of the Waitematā community?**

Very well

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

See attached file

Natural Environment

3. **How well do you think these objectives reflect the needs and priorities of the Waitematā community?**

Quite well

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

See attached file

Built Environment

4. How well do you think these objectives reflect the needs and priorities of the Waitematā community?

Quite well

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

See attached file

Economic Development

5. How well do you think these objectives reflect the needs and priorities of the Waitematā community?

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

Transport

6. How well do you think these objectives reflect the needs and priorities of the Waitematā community?

Quite well

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

See attached

Other outcomes and considerations

7. How well do you think we have captured these considerations in the draft plan for the Waitematā community?

Māori outcomes	
Climate outcomes	
Equitable outcomes	

Tell us why (please note which outcome area you are referring to)

8. Do you have any other feedback on the draft Waitematā Local Board Plan 2026?

See attached file



AK Have your Say

Draft 2026 Waitematā Local Board Plan

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission on the draft 2026 Waitematā Local Board Plan.

Introduction

Active is a charitable trust with a vision of making Auckland the world's most active city. Our purpose is to unite and inspire leaders and organisations in Tāmaki Makaurau to enhance the wellbeing of Aucklanders and create more connected communities through sport and physical activity.

Active has chosen to focus its efforts on tamariki and rangatahi who are underactive or where historic inequities exist. This sees us working with and for tamariki and rangatahi who are:

- Māori
- living in low socio-economic areas
- disabled
- young women and girls
- from Pacific, Indian and Asian communities
- from the Rainbow community.

We are a key strategic partner of Sport New Zealand Ihi Aotearoa, Auckland Council and major grant-makers and funders. Active partners with, and invests in, a range of organisations and projects that get more people active in Auckland.

Response to the draft 2026 Waitematā Local Board Plan

We have read the consultation documents and draft 2026 Waitematā Local Board Plan to help inform this submission. We firstly want to acknowledge the significant investment into our sector by Local Boards. We were pleased to be able to support this investment by recently providing funding towards the proposed Waitematā Local Board Sport and Active Recreation Facility Plan.

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active.org.nz



ActiveAuckland



aktive_akl



Active-Auckland



Community

We support the Objective *'Build a thriving cultural, social and recreational community through strong partnerships'* and the initiatives:

- *Investigate entering into long-term funding agreements so that our partners can have the security to deliver their programmes while retaining our ability to provide grants to smaller groups to deliver short-term positive outcomes.*
- *Investigate a sports partnership with the Ministry of Education to enable more public access to their sports facilities within the board area, with a particular focus on opportunities for women and girls to participate.*
- *Strengthen our relationship with Mana Whenua and iwi, and mataawaka to celebrate those partnerships and promote Māori culture and identity through events, placemaking, or narrative wayfinding.*

We support the Objective *'Every part of our community feels welcome, connected and supported'* and the initiatives:

- *Explore ways to deliver local programmes that benefit our older and physically less able communities.*
- *Continue to support youth wellbeing, ensuring that they have access to the services, spaces and community connections they need.*
- *Continue to encourage playful and playable elements in our public spaces through implementation of the Waitematā Play Plan.*

We support the Objective *'Arts, culture and events are celebrated and create vibrant places and spaces'* and with particular reference to the initiative:

- *make the most of our libraries, community centres and arts studios to deliver free and affordable programmes including play activities, to support wellbeing, resilience and community connections.*

We support the Objective *'We have a rich network of much-loved community spaces'* and the initiatives:

- *Ensure our community places and spaces are well maintained and looked after in a cost-effective way and are sustainable and resilient to the impacts of climate change.*
- *Assess our community leases to be more intentional in how groups are placed, creating a strong community lease network that meets the diverse needs of our community and utilises underused facilities.*



- *Increase access to parks and reserves through greenways connectivity, renewal works and park upgrades and look for opportunities within our park and facilities network to implement play activations.*
- *Reduce barriers for community groups wanting to use public spaces and facilities, e.g. simplifying searches, permits, fees, and booking processes, so more people can organise events and activations.*

We recognise that Local Boards are under financial pressure. However, we are cautious about the proposed initiative to review the building portfolio with a view to reducing the overall asset footprint. Asset disposals should only be considered where there is clear, robust evidence to support the decision, and only after all other options have been fully explored and exhausted.

Natural Environment

We support the Objective ‘*Maintain, restore and enhance our urban natural environment*’ with particular reference to the initiative:

- *Continue to support local stream restoration and water quality improvement projects that boost biodiversity in Waitematā, enable swimmable beaches and reduce flood risk by increasing stream capacity and improving floodplain function.*

We support the Objective ‘*Champion more sustainable waste management options and community climate action*’ with particular reference to the initiative:

- *Support community-led transport initiatives, such as bike hubs, cycle skills training and local bike groups to leverage investment in the CRL and other transport infrastructure such as cycleways.*

Built Environment

Aktive supports the Objective ‘*Continue to build a worldclass international city centre by enhancing the public realm, particularly around our train stations*’ and the initiatives:

- *Enhance pedestrian connections, amenities, accessible play, seating and green spaces for residents living in high-density environments, including Te Tōangaroa and Victoria Quarter.*
- *Provide access to free or low-cost, non-corporate and safe third spaces that cater to young people and residents in high density areas.*

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aktive.org.nz



AktiveAuckland



aktive_akl



Aktive-Auckland



Active supports the Objective *'Art and other design elements enliven our spaces and bring our community together'* with particular reference to the initiatives:

- *Design and activate spaces for a wide range of users at different times of the day.*
- *Create more opportunities for play that can be used by everyone.*

We ask that the Local Board also consider the role that active recreation and sport can play in activating spaces and bringing the community together.

Transport

Active strongly supports the Objective *'Active modes are encouraged and enabled'* and the priorities:

- *Progress the Waitematā Greenways Plan and Local Active Modes Plan (LAMP) projects for west Waitematā and investigate beginning a LAMP for east Waitematā.*
- *Review the laneways approaches outlined in the Newmarket Plan, working with business and community stakeholders to identify ways to improve the urban realm and enable more active transport.*
- *Safer and more accessible transport and public spaces, including improved connections around Parnell Station, safer routes from CRL stations to universities, enhanced wayfinding and lighting.*
- *Review streets where slower speeds are appropriate and explore opportunities for low-traffic neighbourhoods and greater safety around schools*

In principle Active supports the priority to *'optimise the safe walking and cycling network by filling in the gaps, including Meola Road to Surrey Crescent'* but this should be undertaken in conjunction with the local community to ensure an optimal outcome.

We support the Objective *'Our streets are safe, functional, accessible and enjoyable to use'* and the priorities:

- *Support enjoyable, accessible movement becoming a core measure of transport success, with investment in design for footpaths, crossings, waiting areas and active travel routes that reflect the needs of an ageing population, people with disabilities, and city and town centres where walking and cycling are primary modes.*
- *Build climate resilience into transport corridors, with tree canopy and shade along walking and cycling routes to reduce urban heat, stormwater management integrated*



into street design, and infrastructure upgraded to withstand flooding and coastal inundation

Advocacy

Active supports the following Local Board's advocacy priorities:

- *Continued and targeted transport investment that prioritises public transport, walking, and cycling to reduce emissions, improve air quality, and deliver healthier, greener, and more people-focused streets and urban environments across Waitematā.*
- *Enhance amenity in the city centre to attract residents, including the provision of a primary school, more third spaces, play opportunities, and the use of empty shops and spaces.*

Overall Comments

Overall Active sees many positive outcomes from the draft Plan and welcomes the focus on play and active transport. However, we do not see any significant focus on active recreation and sport which we believe is a significant omission. While we acknowledge the Waitematā Local Board Sport and Recreation Facilities Plan is not yet drafted it will be adopted within this current trimester and we believe that it should be referenced within this Plan to ensure it remains a priority for the Local Board.

We further submit that consideration should be given to the impact that active recreation and sport can play in achieving the outcomes sought by the Local Board. Play, active recreation and sport can be instrumental in activating spaces, connecting people, enhancing youth wellbeing and facilitating a community that feels welcome, connected and supported. For that reason we respectfully request that the Local Board reflects this in the final version of the Plan.

We also note the initiative to investigate a sports partnership with the Ministry of Education to enable more public access to their sports facilities within the board area, with a particular focus on opportunities for women and girls to participate. Access to school facilities has been a particular focus for Active in recent years and is also the subject of work by Council staff. We would welcome an opportunity to work with the Local Board on this initiative, along with our partner Sport Auckland, to ensure an integrated approach.

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active.org.nz



ActiveAuckland



active_akl



Active-Auckland



Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the 2026 Local Board Plan consultation; this opportunity is greatly valued. Active is happy to expand on any of the points above in greater detail as required.

We look forward to the positive play, active recreation and sport outcomes Local Board investment in our communities will deliver.





Have Your Say on the Draft Waitematā Local Board Plan 2026

#232

Note: This simplified version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation: Bike Grey Lynn

Local Board: Waitematā

Your feedback:

1. **How well do you think our draft Waitematā Local Board Plan reflects the needs and aspirations of our community over the next three years?**

Tell us why

Community

2. **How well do you think these objectives reflect the needs and priorities of the Waitematā community?**

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

Natural Environment

3. **How well do you think these objectives reflect the needs and priorities of the Waitematā community?**

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

Built Environment

4. **How well do you think these objectives reflect the needs and priorities of the Waitematā community?**

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

Economic Development

5. How well do you think these objectives reflect the needs and priorities of the Waitematā community?

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

Transport

6. How well do you think these objectives reflect the needs and priorities of the Waitematā community?

Quite well

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

Kia ora

This feedback is on behalf of Bike Grey Lynn, a local volunteer- led group looking to make Grey Lynn and surrounding areas safer and more accessible for riders of all ages.

In June Auckland Transport cycle counters captured record numbers of people riding bikes. We are seeing the results of investment in safe, connected infrastructure championed by the community and local board.

Grey Lynn is one of the best places in Auckland to ride, wheel and scoot thanks to the growing network and the completion of long-awaited routes like Great North Road. Our area has one of the region's highest rates of people cycling to work and to school, per census data.

Our feedback is focused on the Transport focus area but we note that because everyday walking and riding are healthy, affordable and low-carbon forms of transport, your work to make them more accessible and attractive in Waitemata will also help you deliver on Māori Outcomes, Climate Outcomes and Equitable Outcomes.

Moreover, these benefits will extend well beyond "Transport", strengthening your ability to deliver across all your other areas of focus: Community, Natural Environment, Built Environment, and Economic Development.

Feedback

We support the local board plan.

In particular we support the local board's vision for the focus area of Transport:

Waitematā leads Auckland's low-carbon transport future. Investment in the City Rail Link, active travel infrastructure and people-centred streets delivers a climate-resilient multimodal transport network that enables safe, efficient and enjoyable movement for people of all ages and abilities

The challenge we have found most frustrating is the endless project delay by Auckland Transport in response to opposition from a small vocal group who do not represent the community and the failure to leverage renewals to improve conditions for active transport, for example, the recent renewal of Great North Road between the Bullock Track and Grey Lynn shops despite it being a route on the Auckland cycle network. The inner west projects were first consulted on in 2016 but are still not complete.

The plan notes as a Challenge The removal of private car parks and increasing parking costs and logistical challenges for residents and those visiting the city centre is politically sensitive.

However, the actual challenge isn't about the politics of parking (or local board member sensitivities) but that loading and access need to be managed through the transition of road space relocation to support active travel and PT. The challenge is how to effectively manage parking in a changing city.

We strongly support your goal: Active modes are encouraged and enabled

The initiatives in support of this goal are excellent and will greatly encourage active transport if the local board can progress, with urgency, the Greenways Plan, the Local Active Modes Plan (LAMP) and optimise the safe walking and cycling network by filling in the gaps.

Note: the gaps are not just in Waitematā but how the growing network connects across Auckland. Grey Lynn is now connected to the City Centre but there are major gaps connecting to Kingsland, Newmarket and Mt Eden which are easy commuter distances with safe infrastructure.

We also want to see action taken to implement safer speeds and progress low traffic neighbourhoods.

Note: This initiative is a start but the focus should be on "safer" speeds that support active transport. Review streets where slower speeds are appropriate and explore opportunities for low-traffic neighbourhoods and greater safety around schools.

West Lynn village has a 30km speed zone which is "safe" for a high pedestrian shopping area however, physical changes are needed to Richmond Road so that drivers are aware of the speed change for example gateway treatments on either end of West Lynn village.

In addition to our feedback on the plan we wish to support the local board in its allocation of the Local Board Transport Capital Fund

We particularly support the Rose Road Plaza and speed calming on Selbourne Street.

Other outcomes and considerations

- 7. How well do you think we have captured these considerations in the draft plan for the Waitematā community?**

Māori outcomes	
Climate outcomes	
Equitable outcomes	

Tell us why (please note which outcome area you are referring to)

- 8. Do you have any other feedback on the draft Waitematā Local Board Plan 2026?**

It is very high level.



Have Your Say on the Draft Waitematā Local Board Plan 2026

#2

Note: This simplified version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation: City Builders Association

Local Board: Regional Organisation

Your feedback:

1. **How well do you think our draft Waitematā Local Board Plan reflects the needs and aspirations of our community over the next three years?**

Quite well

Tell us why

Community

2. **How well do you think these objectives reflect the needs and priorities of the Waitematā community?**

Not very well

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

Natural Environment

3. **How well do you think these objectives reflect the needs and priorities of the Waitematā community?**

Quite well

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

Built Environment

4. How well do you think these objectives reflect the needs and priorities of the Waitematā community?

Quite well

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

Economic Development

5. How well do you think these objectives reflect the needs and priorities of the Waitematā community?

Not well at all

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

Transport

6. How well do you think these objectives reflect the needs and priorities of the Waitematā community?

Not well at all

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

Other outcomes and considerations

7. How well do you think we have captured these considerations in the draft plan for the Waitematā community?

Māori outcomes	Very well
Climate outcomes	Very well
Equitable outcomes	Very well

Tell us why (please note which outcome area you are referring to)

8. Do you have any other feedback on the draft Waitematā Local Board Plan 2026?

I support elements of the Waitematā Local Board Plan 2026 that address heritage and character protection, public realm improvements, low-carbon transport, and aspirations for vibrant town centres and a night-time economy in Auckland's central city.

However, the plan falls short on confronting the ongoing decline of the central city visible in reduced vibrancy, business struggles, safety concerns, persistent construction disruption, and slow post-COVID and post-storm recovery. Despite Waitematā being the economic and

tourist heart of Auckland, there is insufficient ambition and concrete investment focus on genuine economic development and revitalisation. Ratepayers are already facing a 7.9% rates increase in 2026/27 on top of previous rises, driven in part by major projects like CRL. In this environment the board must apply strong fiscal restraint and demonstrate prudent financial management as required by Local Government Act 2002 s.101.

Focus resources more effectively: fully cost and sequence initiatives, make clear choices about what to defer or scale back, and avoid spreading limited funds thinly across too many areas. Demand far stronger action on economic development including practical support for businesses, reduction of unnecessary regulatory and construction burdens, activation of centres and night-time economy, and leveraging CRL benefits — rather than generic statements. Protect high-value core assets such as parks, reserves, and community facilities that deliver real social and economic returns, while ensuring growth and intensification deliver quality outcomes without disproportionate ongoing costs to existing ratepayers.

In the final adopted plan and Local Board Agreement, clearly set out how the board will address central city decline, the efficiency measures being implemented, and specific steps to drive genuine economic revitalisation. Ratepayers in Waitemata deserve better value for money and leadership on reversing decline, not more aspirational language while rates keep climbing. The board must step up with focused, results-driven advocacy to the Governing Body and stronger local delivery.



Have Your Say on the Draft Waitematā Local Board Plan 2026

#422

Note: This simplified version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation: Civic Trust Auckland

Local Board: Regional Organisation

Your feedback:

1. **How well do you think our draft Waitematā Local Board Plan reflects the needs and aspirations of our community over the next three years?**

Tell us why

See attached

Community

2. **How well do you think these objectives reflect the needs and priorities of the Waitematā community?**

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

See Attached

Natural Environment

3. **How well do you think these objectives reflect the needs and priorities of the Waitematā community?**

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

See Attached

Built Environment

4. How well do you think these objectives reflect the needs and priorities of the Waitematā community?

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

See Attached

Economic Development

5. How well do you think these objectives reflect the needs and priorities of the Waitematā community?

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

See Attached

Transport

6. How well do you think these objectives reflect the needs and priorities of the Waitematā community?

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

See Attached

Other outcomes and considerations

7. How well do you think we have captured these considerations in the draft plan for the Waitematā community?

Māori outcomes	
Climate outcomes	
Equitable outcomes	

Tell us why (please note which outcome area you are referring to)

See attached file

8. Do you have any other feedback on the draft Waitematā Local Board Plan 2026?

See attached file

Submission of Civic Trust Auckland
Draft Local Board Plans – all



Introduction

1. Civic Trust Auckland (CTA) is a non-profit public interest group, incorporated in 1968, with activities and interests throughout the greater Auckland region

2. The aims of the Trust include:

- Protection of natural landforms
- Preservation of heritage, in all its aspects
- Encouragement of good planning, for the city and region.

3. CTA is on Auckland Council's list of regional stakeholders and we have previously provided submissions on Local Board plans, as well as on many other Auckland Council plans. We submitted on Council's Annual Plan 2026/2027, and that submission is on our website. We understand that our submissions on the Annual Plan were made available for local board consideration. We refer in this submission to the draft local board plans to some of the points we made in our Annual Plan submission (in **bold**).

4. We would here like to thank the Local Board members for their work and advocacy. We have a couple of suggestions for your newsletters: that there could be more items about what has been happening in the local board area in addition to the standard Auckland Council notices, and that perhaps in each issue the chair could introduce one of the other board members, so that communities have more opportunity to get to know all of their Local Board members.

5. CTA generally supports the initiatives in the draft local board plans. Our focus is primarily on the Environment sections of the plans.

6. We would also like to commend the aspiration of various local boards to develop parks and spaces that are inclusive, can be easily used and accessed by everyone and meet the needs of the community, including (as per the Howick Local Board Plan) neurodiverse children. We emphasise the point we have made in previous submissions about universal design, and also playgrounds that are accessible for children with disabilities. We draw your attention in particular to Magical Bridge NZ Playground in Hamilton as an example of a playground that is intended to cater for children with disabilities.

7. In our February 2014 submission on the Proposed Auckland Unitary Plan, and in several of our other submissions, we supported the principle of universal design. Our 2014 submission said:

- Universal Design principles need to be incorporated into new builds and modifications of existing residential buildings in order to cater not only for people with disabilities but others who can benefit from improved access, including the ageing population, those using pushchairs, moving house or office, injured people and people carrying loads. This will ensure access to housing, jobs, public transport, businesses, community and recreational facilities throughout Auckland for all Aucklanders and increase the choice of where people can live, work and play.
- Incorporation of Universal Design principles will improve the quality of life for people who currently face significant barriers in terms of physical access. The economic benefit is that such people will be able to live in independent accommodation and those of working age will have more opportunity to work and thus support themselves and contribute more to the economy. These barriers include stairs and showers with lips.
- Solutions to these barriers include open plan houses with open plan bathrooms with wet shower areas, limited stairs, handrails. A percentage of new housing stock should cater for these needs. This would open up options in the private rental market, taking away the current reliance on Housing New Zealand houses and enable people with access barriers to buy or rent houses without the need for extensive and costly modifications. The Auckland Plan states on page 70, *“One in five Aucklanders has a disability, and this figure will increase with an ageing population. There is unrealised potential for Aucklanders with disabilities to contribute socially and economically. Barriers that prevent this, such as attitudes and physical access, must be addressed”*.
- On page 74, The Auckland Plan states, *“Other communities and groups, such as ethnic communities and those with disabilities, also face barriers. Removing structural or institutional barriers so that all Aucklanders are viewed and treated equally is fundamental to improving the well-being of all, and realising the full potential of our diverse populations.”*

8. We would like Local Boards to include in their advocacy to Council some requirement in policy and rules for the provision of accessible housing, universal design principles.

9. We would also like to see more advocacy with regard to public transport, for example, with stories in Local Board newsletters about successful and enjoyable rides on public transport, or perhaps competitions between local boards to see which one has the greatest number of public transport rides logged by their community in a particular month, similar to the Bike Month (March) and Biketober (October) initiatives.

10. We appreciate the friendliness and good service given by bus drivers across the city, which supports these very necessary services.

11. Although we can appreciate that advertising on buses is a useful way for Auckland Transport to gain revenue, we suggest that AT exercises caution when it comes to obscuring the passengers' view through the bus windows, and the perpetual circulation of mobile ratepayer-funded advertising certainly has its detractors.

12. It is good to see Local Boards encouraging the use of low-carbon transport options. However, CTA does not give unlimited support to scooters, as per our Annual Plan submission (pg 6), where we stated that: **"where a cycle lane has been provided, e-scooters *must* be ridden in the cycle lane.... e-scooters pose a danger to people on foot, especially those with hearing, sight, or mobility issues. Being passed closely by a scooter is a distressing experience for a pedestrian, and already many people have been injured by e-scooters. Nationally, between 2021 and 2023, there were over 7,000 ACC claims for e-scooter related injuries, with a 37% increase in 2023. There have been several deaths from e-scooters in Auckland and many serious head injuries. We therefore submit that e-scooters be banned from footpaths, at least in places where there is a high density of pedestrians. We also submit that the current speed limit for commercial e-scooters (we understand it is 25 kph) is too high for when scooters are sharing the same space as pedestrians."**

13. We'd also like to draw to other Local Boards' attention the Henderson-Massey key initiative of investigating "smart" traffic lights that use sensors or cameras to give longer green lights where traffic is heavy, respond to rush hours, incidents and weather and prioritise buses. CTA supports some sort of light sequencing and enablement of left-turning when not crossing the path of oncoming traffic, thereby saving time and emissions.

14. We'd like Local Boards to promote car pooling as a transport option, and facilitate this within their Local Board area, namely, commuting (by neighbours, co-workers, or classmates), school runs (by parents taking turns driving a group of neighbourhood children to school and back), and business (efficient coordination of tasks and workers to enable shared transportation as needed).

15. CTA supports Local Boards investing in expanding the pedestrian network, and, although the cycling network cannot go everywhere, CTA supports its extension particularly where it enables commuting. We also support Local Boards advocating for such public transport measures as bus shelters and seating at bus stops. We also support the proposal by several Local Boards of an extra discount for students and children on public transport fares on top of the weekly \$50 fare cap.

16. We are pleased to see Local Boards including in their key initiatives to support their community to be better prepared for emergencies like floods and storms, including reviewing the provision of community-led emergency centres.

17. CTA is of the view that Local Boards can learn much from each other, and we would encourage members to read each others' Draft Local Board Plans and collaborate on matters of

mutual interest. Many aspects of plans relate to more than one board (especially to directly neighbouring boards) and some of them relate to Auckland as a whole, for example, as regards transport, climate change and community engagement, and shared management of the harbour edge of the Waitematā Harbour.

18. CTA notes that many Local Boards are intending to review the use of their Council buildings. Notwithstanding the temptation to sell assets deemed no longer to be of use, CTA supports rigorous investigation as to what alternative use those assets may be put to. We would particularly like to highlight this advocacy point from the Waiheke Local Board (pg 22 of their plan): *“Any available council property being considered for health facilities or affordable housing,”* as a much better alternative to selling underused Council buildings.

Area Plans

1. We include here a summary of Graeme Easte’s presentation to the Policy and Planning Committee on 10 March 2026:

(<https://aucklandcouncil.resolve.red/portal/Meeting/10214/80361?type=1&docId=24576>), which CTA supports, advocating for the application of Area Plans. (Graeme began by playing the song “Little Boxes” by Pete Seeger.)

2. It was originally intended that the Unitary Plan (operative in 2016) would be supplemented with 21 Area Plans - one for each Local Board area - to reflect its local issues, challenges and opportunities over a 30-year time frame. All Local Boards did extensive workshoping with planning staff and community representatives, in order to fine-tune the application of the Unitary Plan process as it applied to their particular area but also to begin work on their own Area Plan.

3. Initially only four Area Plans were to be fully developed as pilots. Development of the remaining Area Plans was cancelled in about 2015. Ten of the 17 Local Boards subsequently developed “mini” Area Plans, Precinct Plans or Centre Plans for parts of their area.

4. Graeme recommended that work on expanding the coverage of Area Plans should start with those Local Boards which have expressed strong interest in such a workstream, and that the older existing plans should have priority for a refresh, but not at the expense of those Boards without Area Plans or only partial coverage.

5. Four Local Boards have Area Plans that cover their entire area:

- Devonport-Takapuna (plus 3 Centre Plans)
- Hibiscus and Bays (plus 3 Centre Plans)
- Māngere-Ōtāhuhu
- Ōtara-Papatoetoe

Ten Local Boards have only partial Area Plans or Centre Plans:

- Albert-Eden (1 Precinct Plan, 2 shared plans)
- Franklin (1 Centre Plan)
- Henderson-Massey (2 Centre Plans)

- Howick (2 Centre Plans)
- Manurewa } shared partial
- Papakura } Area Plan
- Puketāpapa (1 shared plan)
- Rodney (1 Centre Plan)
- Waitākere Ranges (1 Centre Plan)
- Waitematā (3 Centre Plans + 1 shared plan)

Seven Local Boards have no Area or Centre Plans at all:

- Great Barrier
- Kaipātiki
- Ōrākei
- Maungakiekie-Tāmaki
- Upper Harbour
- Waiheke
- Whau

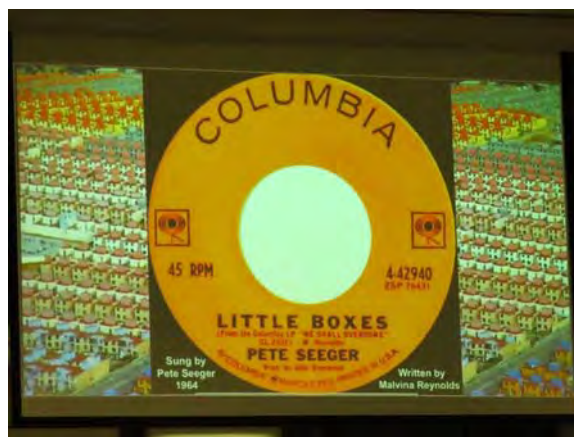
6. Local Board Chairs have told Graeme that having local plans has made a real difference to accommodating development in their ward, particularly as the urban environment intensifies.

7. Graeme's request to the Policy and Planning Committee:

(1) That in revising the existing Auckland Plan (the Auckland Spatial Plan) in line with the new legislation, and any consequent changes to the Unitary Plan, consideration be given to potential measures to protect and enhance **local** features and character.

(2) That when the work on the Regional Spatial Plan and the Unitary Plan begins to tail off, then freed-up staff time and resources be reallocated to work on new and revised Local Area Plans.

(3) That priority should be given to those areas without an Area Plan at all.



NB When quoting from Local Board plans in our submission, we use *italics*. When quoting from our Annual Plan 2026/2027 submission, we use **bold**. Following Council's apparent oversight of

some of our submissions in the Annual Plan 2026-2027 process, our advice from Council staff has been to resubmit those points relevant to the 3-Year Local Board Plans so that they may be considered at the earliest convenience.

Albert-Eden

1. We were pleased to see a photo of the Waiōrea Community Recycling Centre on the Local Board Plan cover. We have expressed our support for the centre in previous submissions, and some CTA members are regular visitors to the centre. We still think recycling centres and/or libraries could be a drop-off place for used batteries, and would again encourage Council to consider the merits of this idea.

2. CTA supports Albert-Eden communities that consistently say that *“climate action and environment projects are a priority”* (pg 10), and we support the Local Board in setting out a low carbon pathway in its Climate Action Plan. We endorse environmental restoration in areas like Te Auauanga, Waititiko, Pt Chevalier Beach and Mōtū Manawa Marine Reserve, rare lava rock forests and around the tūpuna maunga.

3. We are pleased that the plan reflects *“reducing emissions, protecting biodiversity, building community resilience”* (pg 11) and that the Local Board refers to the relevant Shoreline Adaption Plan to guide actions.

4. CTA also supports the following:

- *Help households be ready for an emergency, refresh the Albert-Eden Local Board Emergency Readiness and Response Plan and support marae and groups to join our Community Emergency Hub network* (pg 14).
- *Improve Chamberlain Park by adding a new local park and walking and cycling paths, restoring Waititiko / Meola Creek and shifting golf holes to keep an 18-hole golf course* (pg 15).

5. CTA submitted in June 2015 on keeping the 18-hole course, being only public golf course on the central isthmus and used by a diverse range of Aucklanders of all ages and ethnicities, at that time seeing in excess of 50,000 rounds per year, so we are very supportive of this outcome that accommodates broader community usage without surrendering the 18-hole nature of the golf course.

- *Make the most of land purchased in the flood buy-out by turning any suitable sites into new parks* (pg16).
- *Implement low carbon practices through capital projects when upgrading or developing our assets, for example minimising construction waste or adding renewal energy generation* (pg 16).

6. In our submission on the government's Emissions Reduction Plan in November 2021, we stated "that adaptive reuse of heritage buildings, as well as buildings in general should also be considered in the first instance. An example is the Civic Administration Building in Auckland's civic square, where a recent promotion for these apartments states: 'The most environmentally friendly new build is the one you don't actually build.... The CAB has reused its original steel frame.... Reusing such a large portion of the building (after passing considerable forms of strength testing) vastly reduces its carbon footprint.... Our team has painstakingly removed 19 floors/2,130 tonnes of concrete and diverted 98% of the demolition material from landfill.'"

7. We support the advocacy for *"Increased budget for buying open space, to ensure the shortfalls in service provision in urban areas can be addressed"* (pg 16).

8. CTA supports all the objectives listed on pages 18-19. In particular, we support the community changing their travel patterns *"to include more low carbon options."* However, please note our comments in the introduction to this submission about e-scooters.

9. We strongly support the following key initiatives in the plan: *"Work with Ministry of Housing and Urban Development and the three Tāmaki Makaurau rūpū of Marutūāhu, Ngāti Whātua and Waiohū-Tāmaki who are creating Te Kukūnga Waka (Carrington residential development). Provide community services for new communities coming to large-scale developments in our area, like Te Kukūnga Waka (Carrington residential development) and University of Auckland Epsom Campus (pg 21); and the advocacy (pg 23): "Preservation and use of the heritage building at the northern end of Te Kukūnga Waka (Carrington residential development), working with Marutūāhu and their aspirations."*

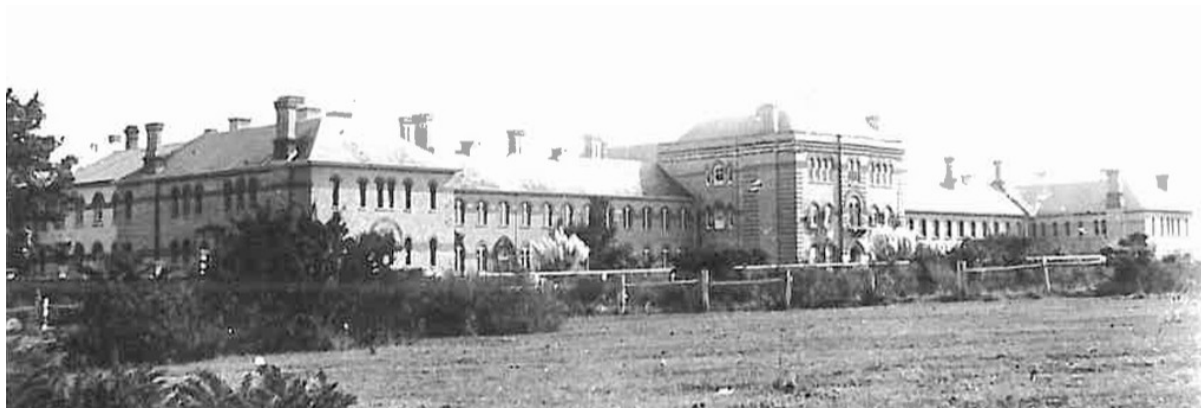
10. As per our submission on the 2023 Local Board Plan, CTA recognises the regional nature of Building One's heritage significance, as denoted by its inclusion on Council's heritage schedule as a Category A building, and its Category 1 building status on Heritage NZ's List, and strongly supports a community wellbeing hub being incorporated into this building on the Carrington residential site. Currently, we are concerned that Building One is deteriorating, and that with tiles removed from the roof, rain is getting in, to add to the damage done by vandals over the years the building has been left empty. We strongly urge the Local Board to lobby Auckland Council and the Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions and Transport to protect this Category I and Category A building so that it can be preserved. It is a matter of urgency to make the building watertight, for example, by the use of tarpaulins, or by having the tiles that were removed from the roof put back in place. CTA understands that the building was set aside for adaptive re-use and that within the Albert-Eden Local Board Area reside many of the 600 groups or individuals who have expressed interest in a tenancy in the building.

11. Our Annual Plan submission included the following: **"We also suggest the local board takes any action available, including enforcement orders, to halt and remedy what appear to be intentional actions that will harm the main building of Oakley/Carrington Hospital at the Unitec campus. The building is Category A Scheduled Heritage within the Auckland**

Unitary Plan (Item 1618), excluding the additions made after 1905, and is a Category 1 Historic Place on the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga (HNZPT) List / Rārangī Korero (Item 96). [https://www.heritage.org.nz/list-details/96/Carrington%20Hospital%20\(Former\).](https://www.heritage.org.nz/list-details/96/Carrington%20Hospital%20(Former).)

12. That submission included a photo showing the roof of Building One. We include below a historic photo of the building and also an updated photo showing a close-up of the roof, the gap where the tiles should be continuing all the way around the building, then two photos showing damage inside the building.

13. We strongly support the Local Board retaining this objective in its plan: *“Protect and celebrate our historic heritage by being good stewards of the assets we own and supporting others to care for theirs”* (page 22) and we suggest that it follows that the Local Board should focus its efforts on Building One.





14. We support the Local Board's advocacy, especially: *"Planning rules to protect historic heritage, special character, viewshafts of the tūpuna maunga (ancestral mountains) and sites and places of significance to mana whenua."*

15. Our Annual Plan submission also included: **"the local board advocates to Council for the repurposing of the old Mt Eden Prison."**

16. We support the priorities to: *"Provide safe and accessible walking, cycling and micro-mobility options for people to use, including by adding missing links and connections"* (pg 28); *"Provide the missing walking and cycling connection running east to west across our local board area"* (pg 29); *"Set safe speed limits to provide a consistent and safe speed environment, working towards survivable speeds on our local roads;"* (pg 29) and *"Ensure footpaths are wide, accessible, and safe"* (pg 29).

17. We repeat our request from our 2023 feedback that a Liberty Swing be reinstated in Rocket Park, along with some of the other original equipment for this special park, to support children with disabilities, as per the objective in the 2026 plan (pg 14): *"We celebrate diversity, making sure everyone is empowered to participate and feel like they belong,"* the key initiatives (pg 14): *"Reduce barriers so everyone can be an active part of our community, especially children, young and older people, migrant communities, LGBTQ+ communities, people with physical or intellectual disabilities and transient populations; and Work with groups to ensure that our programmes work for everyone and that our spaces feel safe and accessible,"* the objective (pg 15): *"People and communities have access to spaces and services that improve their wellbeing, help them learn and meet their changing needs;"* and the objective: *"Our community is healthy and active and can include movement and fun in everyday life,"* with the associated initiative: *"Make our parks and public places fun so everyone has space and feels comfortable to play and recreate, especially children,"* and the objective: *"Our parks and open space meet the needs of our changing population"* (pg 15).

18. We understand that the original purpose of Rocket Park was to provide accessibility for children with disabilities. We draw the Local Board's attention to this link to the Magical Bridge NZ Playground in Hamilton: <https://www.magicalbridge.co.nz/>

Aotea-Great-Barrier

1. CTA strongly supports the climate change and resilience initiatives that the Local Board has invested in (pg 10).

2. We support (in particular) the key initiatives to:

- *Partner with mana whenua to restore the mauri (life force) of whenua, moana, awa and taonga species and strengthen climate resilience on the island.*
- *Support the local Emergency Response Team to deliver emergency readiness, response and recovery initiatives to strengthen island resilience.*

- *Improve our council 'microgrid' to help us better capture, store and manage electricity locally.*
- *Ensure our village spaces, parks, reserves and beaches are safe, well-maintained and reflect our natural way of life.*
- *Partner with mana whenua, Department of Conservation and the community to investigate connecting track networks.*

3. We support all the Environment key initiatives and all the advocacy in this section. We are of the view that all the other Local Boards could support this advocacy as well, as much of it is relevant to the rest of Auckland.

4. In association with Tautaki Auckland, the Local Board developed the Aotea Great Barrier Island Destination Management Plan (focused on sustainable, regenerative tourism that balances economic growth with environmental protection) and CTA supports those identified efforts to those ends (pp 20-22).

5. We support the priorities under Transport, in particular (which we also supported in 2023): *"Support the introduction of a community passenger transport service"* (pg 25).

Devonport-Takapuna

1. In our last Local Board Plan submission, we encouraged the Local Board "to advocate for bike racks on buses that go across the Auckland Harbour Bridge," so we are very pleased to note that there are now 15 buses that carry bicycles over the harbour bridge.

2. We support the following objective: *"Our parks, facilities and recreational spaces are safe, accessible and meet the needs of our community"* and we particularly support the following key initiatives: *"Ensure accessibility is a key consideration in the development and maintenance of our parks, facilities and recreational spaces; Develop and maintain our parks, community facilities and recreational spaces with sustainable and locally sourced materials where possible;"* and *"Complete the Devonport-Takapuna Local Parks Management Plan."*

3. We support the objective to *"... explore opportunities to reflect Māori identity and support Māori wellbeing in our parks, public spaces and community facilities"* and the key initiatives associated with this objective.

4. We strongly support the Local Board's advocacy for the *"Establishment of a regional heritage facilities maintenance fund to support local boards to maintain, renew and preserve heritage buildings"* (pg 14).

5. We would have liked to have seen the retention of the objective that: *"Natural and built heritage are conserved and both colonial and Māori history and significant places are valued, promoted, and celebrated"* (page 19, 2023 Local Board Plan).

6. We support all of the Local Board's objectives under Environment (pp 16-17) and all the key initiatives, with comments as follows:

As regards *"Support appropriate planting and the principle of 'the right tree in the right place,'"* we note that trees that grow large sometimes block views of both landscapes and attractive buildings, and that trees should not be encased in concrete, nor should they be put in a place where they will impact on infrastructure such as water pipes. In 2023 we stated, in response to the 'right tree in the right place' principle that "we would caution that the wrong tree in the wrong place (in any Local Board area) does not necessarily get removed but that it is allowed to live out its natural life, or there is consideration given to transplanting the tree. We understand that there is modern machinery that enables the transplanting of large trees. Perhaps Local Boards (including this one) could advocate to the Governing Body and/or central government for investment in one of these machines."

7. Regarding *"Support initiatives ... such as education on: using bike hubs and electric scooters ... different ways to travel for short journeys,"* please see our comments in the introduction to this submission about e-scooters on pages 2-3.

8. We support all the advocacy for the Natural Environment (pg 17).

9. We support all the Built Environment key initiatives (pg 19).

10. We would support the retention of the initiative from the previous plan: "Utilisation of regional funding to retrofit assets and upgrade them with solar energy saving measures" (pg 22, 2023 Local Board Plan).

11. We support the advocacy to the governing body as per page 20:

- *More funding to protect and renew our heritage assets.*
- *Invest in infrastructure and open spaces in areas where increased housing density is planned under Unitary Plan Change 120.*
- *Consult more with the Auckland Urban Design Panel for advice around large-scale developments.*

12. Regarding large-scale developments, we bring the Local Board's attention to the principles of universal design as outlined on pages 1-2 of this submission.

13. On page 24 under Transport, *"High dependency on motor vehicles"* is mentioned as a challenge, and we submit that the Local Board could encourage and advocate for the use of public transport, as per our suggestion on page 2.

14. We look forward to Local Boards having more control over local transport decisions as a result of the proposed legislation reform.

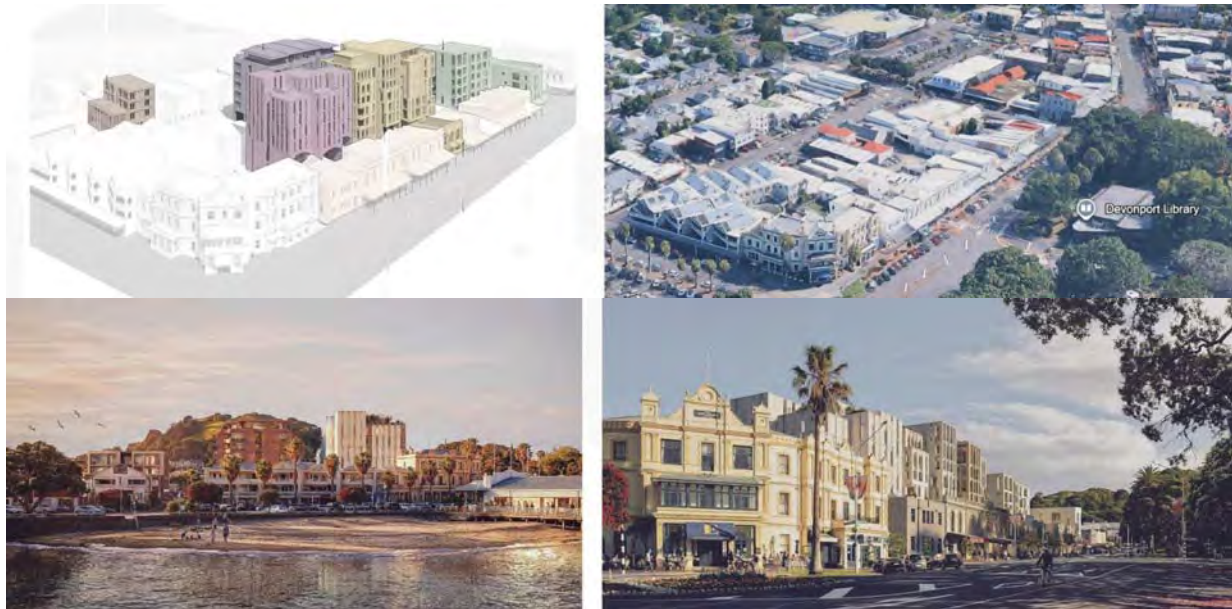
15. We support slowing traffic, in the interests of safety, as per the priority on page 24: *“Install speed advisory signs and other measures to help slow traffic across the area.”*

16. From our Annual Plan submission:

CTA supports the following activities/projects proposed by this local board:

- **Working with Council to support people impacted by flooding events**
- **Advocacy to the Governing Body or other entities for support, including the Lake Road upgrade, the development of the Francis Esmonde link and a new ferry terminal at Bayswater**
- **Completion and adoption of the Devonport -Takapuna Local Parks Management Plan to help guide decisions and investment in parks and open spaces.**

17. We note that The Flagstaff, the Devonport Local Community Newspaper, revealed (on 2 July, 2026) the five 8-storey tower development plans (<https://devonportflagstaff.co.nz/eight-storeys-development-plans-for-devonport-revealed/>) proposed for Devonport by Peninsula Capital. These multi-level buildings rising behind heritage streetscape (pictured below) clearly block the maunga behind and would surely impact the proposed UNESCO World Heritage Site status that is being sought for all the Tūpuna Maunga of Auckland.



18. If intensification of such a scale is to be considered, perhaps master planning for that end of the peninsula might include consideration of the RNZN vacating its current site (and possibly relocating to Whangarei), in part, good for housing in Auckland and also potentially positive for Northland.

Franklin

1. CTA supports the objectives and key initiatives (pages 17-18) under “Natural Environment,” and the advocacy on pages 18-19.
2. We suggest the retention of the following initiative from the 2023 plan (pg 26/33?): “Require all public space projects in urban/future urban areas to actively contribute to increases in tree canopy cover and more green infrastructure.”
3. Under Transport, we support the Local Board working towards safe travel by foot, bike and mobility scooter, and note the inclusion of mobility scooters (page 27).
4. We support the ideas listed in the Opportunities section (page 28), particularly that of leveraging the Manukau Harbour and Hauraki Gulf as a Blue Highway. We see this as benefitting other parts of Auckland too, reducing reliance on the roading network and congestion across the city.
5. Under Transport priorities, we note: *“Investigate options to improve safety and environmental protection on Franklin’s beaches, so that vehicle use does not create harm to people or place e.g. at Karioitahi Beach, Umupuia and Kawakawa Bay.”* In general, we do not support vehicles driving on beaches. We strongly support the priority to *“Work with community providers to facilitate youth uptake of walking and cycling as a mechanism to address congestion and parking capacity,”* which we see as also facilitating youth health and environmental health. We support advocacy for better public transport routes, including more ferry services.
6. From our Annual Plan submission:

CTA supports the following activities/projects proposed by this local board:

- **Continue to invest in community-led pest management and environmental restoration programmes, with an emphasis on initiatives that engage Māori and youth**
- **Local and community leadership in the delivery of initiatives and programmes where appropriate**
- **Progress delivery of the Paparata Local Purpose Reserve (Bombay) concept plan**
- **Investigate and develop options that will address community safety and environment at Karioitahi Beach so that this special place can be enjoyed by locals and visitors and the unique environment is protected**
- **Commence work to progress delivery of the Paparata Local Purpose Reserve (Bombay) concept plan, ensuring that the local community has the opportunity to partner in delivery where feasible.**
- **Continue to seek options for the development of Clarks Beach Reserves in line with future need so that the board is able to invest in improvements that align with both future need and existing community aspiration.**

CTA commends the Franklin Local Board for its intention to engage with the community in order to garner their ideas and input.

Henderson-Massey

1. We support the Local Board in continuing with the key initiative (pg 14) to *“Develop parks, community and play spaces that can be easily used and accessed by everyone and meet the needs of the community,”* and draw members’ attention to Magical Bridge NZ Playground in Hamilton, mentioned in the introduction to our submission.
2. We support all the key initiatives in the Natural Environment section (pp 17-18) and the advocacy on page 18.
3. Under Built Environment, we strongly support the objective of *“Community places and spaces are more accessible, sustainable and improve our collective wellbeing”* (pg 20), and in particular, the key initiatives of *“Make sure we consider sustainability and accessibility when we build and maintain community facilities and buildings”* and *“Identify and progress neighbourhood transport initiatives that improve safety, such as walking and cycling paths and speed calming measures.”*
4. Regarding sustainability and accessibility, please see our comments about universal design on page 2.
5. In the Transport section, we particularly support the following key initiatives: *“Look into and set up traffic flow solutions such as ‘smart’ traffic lights that use sensors or cameras to give longer green lights where traffic is heavy, respond to rush hours, incidents and weather and prioritise buses;” “Introduce a weekly public transport fare cap for children and young people in addition to the existing \$50 fare cap”* and *“Prioritise safety and ways to reduce the number of speeding vehicles in local streets and around every local school.”* While an enhanced pedestrian environment is desirable, so too is the free flow of traffic, sequenced where necessary.

Hibiscus and Bays

1. In our last Local Board Plan submission, we encouraged the Local Board to advocate to Auckland Transport for bike racks on buses that go across the Auckland Harbour Bridge, so we are delighted that there are now 15 buses that carry bicycles over the harbour bridge on the NX1 route.
2. Under Community on page 15, we support the key initiative of *“Support communities to share stories about local heritage in ways that help people understand their area, feel a sense of identity and belonging, and learn about local history. This includes using te reo Māori place names and a range of storytelling approaches.”*
3. We support all the key initiatives and advocacy under Natural Environment (pp 19-20). We note that one key initiative is: *“Support the development and increased use of parks, reserves*

and sports fields that are accessible, equitable and meet current and future community needs.”
 A visit by a CTA Board member to the Alice Eaves Scenic Reserve in January this year revealed that although there is supposedly a track alongside the Nukumea Stream that is suitable for wheelchairs, it was not possible to get the wheelchair past the kauri dieback cleaning station, it being misleading to describe the track as accessible for wheelchairs.

4. We support the key initiatives and advocacy under Built Environment (pp 22-23) and under Transport (pg 29).

5. From our Annual Plan submission:

CTA supports the following activities/projects proposed by this local board:

- **Supporting further protection of our sea, soil and fresh water from contamination and sedimentation, through increased monitoring and extending projects such as local stream restoration including the Weiti River**
- **Continuing our commitment to protecting our natural environment - such as advancing restoration efforts along the Weiti River and strengthening monitoring to reduce contamination and sedimentation in our waterways**
- **Ensuring Hibiscus and Bays is welcoming and supportive for all through collaboration with a broader range of local residents and an increased focus on inclusive design, so it is accessible and usable for people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds**

CTA strongly supports this Local Board's focus on inclusive design, and would like to see other Local Boards focus on this as well, and for it to be included in Auckland Council's vision.

The remainder has been covered on page 2 of this submission.

Howick

1. We support the Local Board's long list of key initiatives on pages 14-16 under Community and will provide comments on the following. *“Work with Animal Management to address local issues, and clearly communicate rules and regulations to the community, especially the rules around having dogs in public spaces”* (pg 14). Some dog owners do not seem to know that their dogs should be on a leash at all times in public spaces, except in designated off-leash areas. Other owners clearly do know this, and are flouting this rule. We encourage this Local Board (and all others) to implement the \$300 fine for a dog being off-leash in an on-leash area, as well as the other infringements relating to dogs. There are owners who regularly walk their dogs off-leash, and their disregard for Auckland Council's Dog Management Bylaw is unfair on other dog owners and to those members of the public who have a real fear of dogs, whatever they look like and whatever size they are.

2. *“Develop inclusive play spaces designed for neurodiverse children, supporting safe, engaging, and enjoyable experiences for all”* (pg 14). We strongly support this initiative. Like universal design, such play spaces are suitable for everyone. Please see our note on page 1 about the Magical Bridge NZ Playground in Hamilton, established in December 2023, New Zealand's first fully inclusive and accessible playground designed for people of all ages, sizes, and physical or neurological abilities.

3. We support the objectives and key initiatives under Natural Environment on pages 18-21, and the advocacy on pages 21-222, noting, however, as in our 2023 feedback, as regards the following key initiative: *“Support the Tūpuna Maunga Authority to protect and enhance Ōhūiarangi / Pigeon Mountain”* that we do support protecting the maunga but we do not support the removal of trees from any of the maunga across Auckland. We maintain the position that particular trees that are not wanted on the maunga should live out their natural lives while replacement planting of other species is planned for.

4. We support the objectives and key initiatives under Built Environment on pages 24 - 26, though we caution with regard to *“Look into selling underperforming properties to help fund priority projects.”* It may be better for these properties to remain in Council ownership rather than be lost to the private sector, and rather than use their sale to fund projects, make them perform better. This is a case where the community should be consulted about the use of buildings within their area, as regrettably, some Council buildings are not fully utilised due to lack of information about them, and also regrettably, some underused Council buildings are not maintained and become unusable.

5. Under Transport, the priority *“Identify high congestion areas and investigate options for improvement to reduce travel time and keep our emissions low”* seems to in part be answered by *“Provide safe, reliable, and timely public transport, with improved bus services, accessible routes, and well -designed, sheltered bus stops for the community.”* We think there is an opportunity for all Local Boards to promote public transport more, for Local Board members to use it more themselves, and to investigate barriers to people using transport. We would like to see, for example, employers offer more incentives for their employees to use public transport and for the reintroduction of glide time, where practicable, to remove the barrier of being late for work.

6. From our Annual Plan submission:

CTA supports the following activities/projects proposed by this local board:

- **Run regular seminars for community groups/organisations on the local grant's application process**
- **Continue advocacy of the Tāmaki Estuary on water quality and coastal erosion**
- **Support our volunteer groups with resources needed for ecological volunteering, such as stream clean-ups and pest plant weeding**

- **Tackling the challenges of environmental protection and restoration remains a high priority**
- **Continue to support environmental groups and explore new initiatives**

Kaipātiki

1. We note the following on page 4 (From the Chair): *“To ensure a sustainable network of community assets, the board will take a fiscally responsible, long-term approach to renewing them. This includes reviewing the condition and performance of existing assets and recognising that, under ongoing limited funding, some assets may need to be considered for decommissioning (for example removing or deconstructing them).”* We repeat what we have written above in this submission, that unfortunately, some Council buildings are not fully utilised due to lack of information about them, and also unfortunately, some underused Council buildings are not maintained and become unusable. In our view, the community should be consulted about the use of buildings in their area.

2. In the 2023 draft plan, CTA supported the initiative (pg 14) to: *“Investigate installing solar on facilities with significant solar potential, including: Birkenhead Pool and Leisure Centre, Kaipātiki Local Board Office, Glenfield Pool and Leisure Centre.”* We are therefore pleased to know that the Birkenhead Pool and Leisure Centre now has solar panels installed on its roof, that roof work is underway at the Glenfield Centre to add solar panels, and that the Board Office is in line to receive solar panels as well.

3. CTA supported the Kaipātiki Local Board’s advocacy to the Governing Body in the draft 2023 plan (pg 18) *“to protect and celebrate our built and cultural heritage”* and would like to see this retained in the 2026 plan.

4. Also in the 2023 plan, we supported *“the ability for local boards to have direct decision-making authority to make temporary changes to dog access rules to mitigate environmental or social problems”* (page 23) and we are pleased to note that the changes proposed by the Kaipātiki and Devonport-Takapuna Local Boards to rules for local beaches and reserves came into effect in January 2026.

5. Again, we support advocacy to *“reinstate legislation that provides general tree protection Central Government”* (page 20), and would also continue to support the following, if it were included in the plan: *“for urban planning legislation to adequately protect special ecological areas”* (2023 plan, pg 23).

6. We strongly support this new advocacy: *“Advocate to introduce waste recovery schemes that make those who create waste responsible for dealing with it”* (pg 20).

7. We are pleased that the following key initiative has been retained: *“Consider the effects of climate change when developing places and spaces by avoiding areas or activities that are vulnerable to climate risks like drought, extreme rainfall, coastal flooding and heat.”*

8. We continue to support *“continued improvement of the bus and ferry network serving Kaipātiki with: cheaper ferry and bus fares, maintaining our existing three ferry services – with increased frequency, more buses going to more destinations more often,”* and also *“a continued move to electric buses and ferries serving Kaipātiki”* (pg 31). In our view, the Waitematā Harbour could be used much more for transport - being a waterway that does not need maintenance the way roads and rail do.

9. Under Community, one of the key initiatives is: *“Invest in natural solutions that improve our parks and public spaces, including planting notable trees for shade, wildflower meadows for increased biodiversity and natural play items such as māra hūpara.”* We support this initiative (alongside all the others), and appreciate that the wildflower meadows will attract more insects and other biodiversity than grass. We would like to see fruit trees included in the plantings in parks and public spaces, for the additional benefit of providing food for the community. We also like the use of māra hūpara, not only for the connection with both nature and local Māori history, but also due to its attractiveness and sustainability.

10. We support all the objectives, key initiatives, and advocacy under Natural Environment (pages 19 - 21). A number of our board members have enjoyed walking along the treetop boardwalk at Kauri Glen Reserve.

11. Under Transport, we strongly support the following priority: *“Consider introducing reduced speed limits (safer speeds) on a case-by-case basis on roads where vulnerable road users are often present, and where the impact on traffic flow will be minor”* (pg 31). It is our understanding that driving in a city, constantly stopping and starting at traffic lights, a lower speed limit tends to affect travel time only by seconds.

12. Under Economic Development, we support the following two key initiatives: *“Support local businesses to use more sustainable practices, such as reducing waste, cutting greenhouse gas emissions and using resources more efficiently,”* and *“Promote retail opportunities provided by the Wairau zero-waste hub and other second -hand providers like op-shops.”*

13. From our Annual Plan submission:

CTA supports the following activities/projects proposed by this local board:

- **Support environmental groups, community volunteers, and our diverse communities to carry out environmental restoration projects, including stream clean-ups, habitat improvement, native riparian planting, and pest control**
- **Improvements to Little Shoal Bay / Wai Manawa Reserve**
- **Healthy Waters Ngā Wairau project, working alongside that project to ensure the parks, sport, and recreational outcomes are being suitably included and considered**

- Invest in maintenance and renewal of our parks, playgrounds, community buildings, recreation facilities, and other public spaces so they continue to meet our communities needs
- Support a community-led approach for the delivery of relevant and diverse services that develop and connect the community
- Make substantial progress on the planning and delivery of major local projects, including the Beach Haven Coastal Connection (Stage 3), Birkenhead War Memorial masterplan implementation, and improvements to Little Shoal Bay / Wai Manawa Reserve

CTA endorses the Kaipātiki Local Board's community-led approach, and congratulates this local board on the huge response (about 5,000 people) to its consultation on the future use of recreation at A.F. Thomas Park. However this consultation was done, it clearly worked, and perhaps lessons can be learned by other local boards.

Māngere-Ōtāhuhu

1. In our 2023 submission on the Local Board Plans, CTA supported the Māngere-Ōtāhuhu Local Board to "Revive the Māngere Gateway Heritage plan to enhance Stonefields and promote and regain heritage values" (pg 17). We understand that the Local Board has been actively working to revive this plan, including funding programmes designed to enhance the Otuataua Stonefields, and we are pleased about this.

2. We support all the key initiatives under Natural Environment in the current draft plan (pp 17-18), in particular: *"Support the creation of a new Māngere Ōtāhuhu Community Recycling Centre, making it easier for people to recycle and reduce waste,"* and we endorse the opportunity under Economic Development that *"The proposed community recycling centre could help create new sustainable community enterprises and provide more jobs."* We also particularly support: *"Fund education and community programmes that work with people to reduce and manage household waste, prevent illegal dumping, and build shared care and pride in our local environment,"* and *"Work with the community to develop and deliver local climate action plans and support community-led projects that help people cut emissions, use energy wisely and choose low -carbon ways to get around."*

3. We would like to note that CTA is very supportive of Respect Mt Richmond / Ōtāhuhu in its efforts to save the exotic trees on that maunga. On page 10 in your plan it is noted that *"Māngere -Ōtāhuhu has low tree canopy cover"* and that a key initiative (pg 17) is *"Work with landowners and developers to plant more trees (ngāhere) across private land, new developments and green open spaces;"* and an advocacy point (pg 18) is *"Funding to help local boards achieve regional and local targets for urban ngāhere (tree) cover in the areas where there is less than 15 per cent of tree canopy cover. This provides habitats for birds and insects, and shade from extreme heat."* It is our view that exotic trees contribute to the canopy just as much as natives, and they also provide habitat for fauna and shade for people. We have proposed in various submissions that unwanted trees be left to live out their natural lives, and that it should be only then that they are replaced with other trees.

4. We note the challenge stated in the Built Environment section (pg 19): *“Plan Change 120 proposes to avoid building homes in flood-prone parts of Māngere-Ōtāhuhu to improve safety, but pushes to build new housing into fewer areas. This could increase pressure on already stretched local infrastructure and services.”* In our submission on Plan Change 120 (<https://civictrustauckland.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/Plan-Change-120.pdf>),

we supported those communities which stated that infrastructure and services would be put under pressure by intensification, including in our points as follows: 7(c) “CTA submits that to reduce capacity in certain locations, such intensification could be reallocated elsewhere in order to meet the arbitrary 2 million total required by PC120. This might be done by, for example, allowing THAB in some locations or allowing a variation in the number of floors in an apartment block; 8(c) PC120 needs to include planning for infrastructure, in order to support safe, resilient, and sustainable intensification. This includes schools, hospitals, green space, and transport. Growth should be directed to places where the necessary infrastructure is planned, funded, and deliverable; 8(d) In our view, it is poor planning to rely on potential legislation and/or private investment for future infrastructure. We know that some parts of the city have been waiting years for appropriate infrastructure and we know that the availability of funding for such work is not increasing. CTA considers that development should not be enabled where infrastructure is not practicably able to be provided.” The ability to accommodate such changes is now more attainable given the reduction of the government’s target from 2 million homes down to 1.4 million homes.

5. CTA supports all the key initiatives on page 20, particularly: *“Make sure new community buildings are designed to work well in a changing climate, are healthy and contribute to a quality built environment,”* as well as all the advocacy on page 21.

6. We also support all the priorities under Transport (pg 26).

7. From our Annual Plan submission:

CTA supports the following activities/projects proposed by this local board:

- **Deliver coastal and storm -water resilience work in the Manukau Harbour -adjacent suburbs (such as improvements to seawalls or planting buffer zones) to support long -term climate adaptation**
- **Continue the native tree planting and understory restoration programme across key reserves and corridors (for example around waterways in Māngere East and Favona**
- **Roll out community -led waste -minimisation and resource -recovery initiatives — supporting local groups to divert material from landfill**
- **Work with Auckland Transport and Economic Development Office to support our transport and economic aspirations**

CTA supports the efforts of Respect Mount Richmond Ōtāhuhu to save the trees on their local maunga from felling by the Tūpuna Maunga Authority. This group is having to raise

community money to defend itself in court against the TMA, which is funded by Council (ratepayer) money. We do not think that removing trees from the maunga aligns with Auckland's Urban Ngahere (Forest) Strategy. This strategy states that it will have been successful when (amongst other aims) it has:

- increased canopy cover to 30 per cent across Auckland's urban area, and at least 15 per cent in every local board area
- increased the network of green infrastructure on public land
- improved links between green spaces by establishing ecological corridors
- instilled a sense of pride in Aucklanders for their urban ngahere.

The strategy also states that “Protecting existing ngahere is crucial to safeguarding the added values and benefits mature trees provide (pg 42). The benefits provided by trees become exponentially greater as they mature. It's also more cost effective to care for mature trees.... People often have strong emotional connections to landmark, mature trees in their neighbourhoods, and are more likely to mourn the loss of a large tree. Additionally, some native species, such as kākā, and bats, prefer taller trees and their presence can significantly improve the biodiversity value of an area (pg 45).”

CTA submits that there needs to be better alignment between the Urban Ngahere Strategy and the Tūpuna Maunga Authority's Operational Plan, and that the views of all Aucklanders need to be taken into account.

Manurewa

1. In the 2023 plan, CTA was pleased to note: “increase awareness of the notable tree schedule to protect more of our trees” (page 26) and we supported the key initiative to “Replace every tree removed from the streetscape due to damage, storms and accidents within one year” (page 27). We understand that due to financial constraints, further storm damage, and high operational costs have meant that this goal was not met, but we encourage the Local Board to continue with tree replacement. We submit that awareness of the notable tree schedule could be included in the Local Board's advocacy to the Governing Body.

2. Regarding the key initiative *“Look at options to improve access and usability across our parks and facilities. This may include identifying and removing physical barriers, upgrading paths, amenities, and signage, and working closely with disability groups to meet their needs”* (pg 17) we draw the Local Board's attention to the Magical Bridge NZ Playground in Hamilton as being a playground that caters for children with disabilities.

3. CTA supports all the climate change and sustainability initiatives on page 17, as well as the key initiatives under Natural Environment on pages 20-21 and the advocacy on page 22.

4. We support the Economic Development key initiatives of: *“Support industrial zones to move to a low-impact, low-carbon economy and adapt to the impacts of climate change;”* and *“Support initiatives that strengthen community economic resilience in response to climate change. This*

may include community-led renewable energy projects, such as solar generation and storage, that reduce energy costs, create local jobs, and increase energy security.”

5. We support the Transport priorities on page 29 and 30, particularly: *“Continue to support evidence-based ways to slow down traffic. This could be speed humps and raised pedestrian crossings around schools;”* and *“Look at options to improve safety and traffic management like slowing down traffic and improved parking around the Homai quadrant which includes Sturdee Road.”* We understand that when driving in a city and constantly stopping and starting at traffic lights, a lower speed limit tends to affect travel time only by seconds. We note that some suburbs have introduced 30 km or 40 km limits in some areas, which seem to work well.

6. From our Annual Plan submission:

CTA supports the following activities/projects proposed by this local board:

- **Continue to support ways to plant and retain more trees on public and private land and suburban streets**
- **Deliver a new neighbourhood park at Glenveagh Reserve.**
- **Continue to invest in our two illegal dumping pilot programmes: a proactive illegal dumping collection initiative and an illegal dumping enforcement programme.**

Maungakiekie-Tāmaki

1. With regard to the advocacy to *“Work with relevant agencies to advocate for policies and initiatives that reduce dog attacks, support responsible ownership, and keep our community safe”* (pg15), CTA suggests that this advocacy could include asking Auckland Council to direct its Animal Management Officers to remind/warn dog owners that they need to keep their dogs on a leash at all times, except in off-leash areas, and if they do not, they are liable for a \$300 fine.

2. We support the Natural Environment key initiatives (pp 17-18), particularly *“Support rangatahi as leaders in climate action and investigate opportunities for rangatahi led environmental initiatives.”* We also support the advocacy in this section (pp18-19).

3. We support the Built Environment key initiatives (pp 21-22) and the advocacy on page 22. We recommend the example of the Magical Bridge NZ Playground in Hamilton as a playground that caters for children with disabilities, as regards the initiative: *“Develop playground designs which are inclusive of all ages and abilities.”*

4. We support the following Economic Development key initiatives page 24: *“Support initiatives which encourage businesses to do something about their impact on the environment”* (pg 24) and *“Support initiatives which encourage local procurement and the promotion of services within our community”* (pg 25).

5. CTA supports the Transport priorities (pp 27-28).

6. From our Annual Plan submission:

CTA supports the following activities/projects proposed by this local board:

- **Partnering with mana whenua and community groups on restoration, food resilience planting, and environmental education**
- **Exploring increased compliance resourcing and enhancing community emergency preparedness**
- **Continuing work to improve our parks and open spaces, including progressing plans for Waikaraka Park, focused on making sure local facilities, parks and green spaces keep pace**
- **Advancing important environmental restoration projects like Ōmaru Creek, continuing to care for our natural environment guided by shared values.**

CTA congratulates the Maungakiekie-Tāmaki Local Board on the completion of the Te Kōpua o Hiku bridge at the Panmure Basin, which will mean safer, easier walking and cycling.

Ōrākei

1. In the 2023 draft plans, CTA supported the seismic restoration of the Remuera Library and we are pleased to see this project completed.

2. We strongly support the first key initiative on page 21: *“Ensure that the heritage of our people, places and buildings is recognised, protected and valued by working with council organisations, supporting community groups and investing in eligible projects.”*

3. We also support the Natural Environment key initiatives (pp 17-18) and the advocacy on page 19.

4. Alongside *“Encourage developers to prioritise sustainable design in their developments”* (pg 21), CTA would like to see *“Encourage developers to prioritise universal design in their developments,”* and we refer the Local Board to page 2 of this submission, where we have written about universal design.

5. Regarding the initiative: *“Look for opportunities to provide new venues for community use such as land reclamation (creating new land by filling in areas of water), buying property or working with community providers,”* firstly, we would urge the Local Board to undertake extensive consultation before considering land reclamation, due to the expense, the requirement for constant maintenance, and the vulnerability to flooding. Further, when we read

on the next page the initiative: *“Decommission under-used assets like Leicester Hall, to invest in better value assets and services,”* we question why the Local Board would consider new venues for community use when there already are such venues, such as Leicester Hall, which has a kitchen, off-street parking, and is wheelchair accessible. We suggest that the Local Board considers that the community might like to be involved in the maintenance of such buildings, and potentially making it more fit for purpose, rather than looking to provide new buildings. Furthermore, are such venues as Leicester Hall well-known to the community? Could they be advertised in the Local Board newsletters?

6. Potentially, *“Review[ing] the local board’s lease portfolio to ensure that leased sites are providing the best value to community and identify what might be missing”* would bring to light what is needed, what is already available, and what could be done to make the best use of such assets.

7. We support the priorities under Transport and the associated advocacy. We support speed limits for e-bikes, e-scooters and low-powered vehicles, and we would like to see a ban on e-scooters using footpaths, in line with the Local Board aiming at more safety for pedestrians.

8. From our Annual Plan submission:

CTA supports the following activities/projects proposed by this local board:

- **Increasing investment in restoration and pest-management programmes to grow and protect your natural environment. Our reserves and open spaces are one of the most vital resources in Ōrākei**
- **Continued investment in growing and protecting our parks and playgrounds.**

CTA endorses efforts by this board to work with the neighbouring Waitemātā Local Board on matters regarding the health of the Waitemātā Harbour that connecting those board areas.

Otara-Papatoetoe

1. CTA supports the initiatives on page 14 under Community: *“Support climate resilience and local sustainability education and engagement initiatives for young people;”* and *“Continue to develop a ‘multi -park management plan’ that manages the use, development and protection of all parks, reserves and open spaces in the area.”*

2. We support the Natural Environment key initiatives on pages 17-18 and the advocacy on page 18.

3. We suggest that the criticism on page 26 of *“Unreliable, infrequent and limited public transport options encourage more residents to travel by car”* is less valid than it was 3 years ago, as public transport in Auckland is improving all the time. We are of the view that what is

needed is more promotion of public transport to people who do not think outside of taking their car with them everywhere they go.

4. We support the priorities on pages 27 and 28 under Transport. As per our submission 3 years ago, we support free public transport, not only to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and congestion, but to improve the health of the population, as overall, we do not move enough. We have suggested in previous submissions a trial of free transport.

5. We agree that Puhinui Station is a crucial transport hub, and, as we stated in our 2023 submission, we are of the view that the AirportLink service needs more publicity.

6. From our Annual Plan submission:

CTA does not support this local board changing garden edging to chemical application, as this is an environmental risk, with chemicals running into waterways, killings beneficial insects and disrupting the natural soil balance. We note that weeds can build up resistance to the chemicals.

We do support this local board's seismic strengthening of Papatoetoe Town Hall, a 1917 heritage hall which is still in frequent use for community events.

Papakura

1. Under Community, we support the key initiative: *"Support the protection of sites of Māori and European significance including the enhancement of Pukekooiwiriki Paa."*

2. CTA also supports the Natural Environment key initiatives on pages 18-20 and the advocacy on page 20.

3. Thank you for including *"Support 'universal access' design so people of all ages and abilities can access our facilities, and 'Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design' (CPTED) in upgrades where budgets allow"* in your key initiatives under Built Environment. CTA is a strong supporter of universal design, and your draft plan is the only one we have seen that mentions this design principle, which we see as catering not only for people with disabilities but others who can benefit from improved access, including the ageing population, thus increasing housing options for more people and improving the quality of life for people who currently face significant barriers in terms of physical access.

4. Under this same objective, *"Resilience, safety and universal access,"* we point out that in addition to native trees to *"provide shade, shelter and heat-resilient landscaping,"* that non-native trees provide the same benefits, and some provide fruit as well.

5. Also on page 24, under *"Objective 6: Regeneration and service property optimisation: Identify and sell assets that are underused and reinvest the money from the sales into upgrades for*

community spaces and facilities to benefit the community,” we suggest (as we have to several other Local Boards) that some Council buildings are not fully utilised due to the community lacking awareness of them, that some underused Council buildings are not maintained properly and so become unusable, and that the community should be consulted about the use of buildings in their area.

6. We support all the priorities and advocacy under Transport (pp 33-36).

7. From our Annual Plan submission:

CTA does not support discontinuing funding for the following: ecological and environmental volunteers; Pest Free Urban South; Papakura Stream restoration; Wai care water quality education programming; Manukau Harbour Forum; and Finding Papakura Bats initiatives.

We do support the reduction of the number of public rubbish bins in public spaces as long as this leads to less rubbish, not more.

We also support the following:

- **Progress a refresh of the greenways plan and other pathway opportunities (in particular , the McLennan Memorial Park pathway , plus connecting Kauri Flats School to Pulman Park, as well as connections around Hingaia to Drury).**

Puketāpapa

1. Regarding the key initiatives under Community, we make the following comments.

“Assess the possibility of additional space for off-leash dog exercising.” We hope that this initiative will lead to more compliance in on-leash areas, which is a problem across the city, with people out walking feeling intimidated by dogs and also by some of their owners, who do not like being challenged about their off-leash dog(s).

“Review current community services and facilities and assess how well they meet the needs of a growing population to identify any unmet needs and plan for future investment.” We recommend that such a review involve strong engagement with the community, as part of this review may reveal that there are some services and facilities about which the community is not aware.

“Fund a masterplan for Monte Cecilia Park to consider the future use of the park, including the Liston Village land and any other future community facilities.” We are grateful for the Local Board opposition to the proposed demolition of dwellings at Liston Village, due to the ongoing and growing need for housing for elderly people.

2. We support the key initiatives under Natural Environment on pages 18-19, especially the updating of the Puketāpapa Local Climate Action Plan and the Puketāpapa Urban Ngahere Action Plan 2021, as we are aware that plans can be written and celebrated but then forgotten, partly as a result of new people coming into various roles. We also support the advocacy on pages 19-20.

3. Under the Built Environment key initiatives (page 22) CTA is pleased to see *“Find ways to respond to the future growth expected in our area as a result of Proposed Plan Change 120, for example review the area plan for parts of Puketāpapa and Albert-Eden local boards.”* We would encourage the Local Board to review the area plan, as per our notes about area and centre plans (on page 4-5).

4. We support the advocacy (pg 23): *“Advocate to build power lines underground, particularly where footpath space is limited”* and *“Advocate for ‘beautification’ at the White Swan Road Transpower substation in Mt Roskill.”* Aside from the issue of limited space, we support beautifying streetscapes by removing visual contamination.

5. Under Economic Development, we support the key initiatives (pg 25): *“Sustainable business programmes that help reduce carbon emissions”* and *“Fund programmes that help reduce pollution”*

6. We support under Transport, the priority *“Seek transport solutions that better-manage traffic flow during peak times, like ‘dynamic’ lanes that can change direction or use, and responsive traffic lights to help reduce waiting times”* (pg 27). We have read that the Henderson-Massey Local Board is looking at “smart” traffic lights, so perhaps these two Local Boards could share their learnings such traffic lights, initially with each other, then with other Local Boards.

7. From our Annual Plan submission:

CTA supports the following project proposed by this local board:

- **Investigating how to respond to the future growth expected in our area as a result of Proposed Plan Change 120: Housing Intensification and Resilience**

We also support the following projects, particularly the community informed vision:

- **Deliver new neighbourhood park at 3-7 Howell Crescent, Roskill**
- **Wairaki Stream Ecological Enhancement and daylighting projects**
- **Developing a Monte Cecilia Master Plan, providing us with a community informed vision, and enable us to strategically invest in the park in the years ahead.**
- **Focusing our environmental restoration work along the awa and coastline. In particular control of pest plants and animals, protection of native species and the restoration of walking tracks so they feel safe and accessible to the community again.**

Rodney

1. A key initiative under Community on page 12 that we support is *“Include climate-resilient design features in all minor works and renewals so climate-resilience becomes a routine part of everyday delivery.”*

2. Under Community on page 13, *“Transition facilities to multi-use, adaptable places and review our underused buildings and spaces to repurpose or sell and reinvest where growth and usage are highest,”* we suggest that such facilities are of high importance to the community and that if they are considered underused currently, then selling them is not the right response. Perhaps those community groups that currently take advantage of the community discount offered (up to 50% off) could be encouraged to pay the full amount, as they would presumably consider this preferable to losing the building. We like the key initiative of *“Make community facilities more multi-purpose by coordinating bookings, using movable equipment and offering a wider mix of activities across halls, libraries and recreation spaces.”*

3. Under Advocacy on page 14, CTA strongly supports *“Advocate for more investment in regional parks in our local board area to meet the pressures of population growth and tourism.”*

4. CTA supports all the key initiatives under Natural Environment (pp 16-17) and the advocacy (pp 17-18).

5. We support the advocacy under Built Environment, especially *“Advocate to make sure new development does not go ahead before essential infrastructure is in place.”* Our comments about infrastructure and PC120 on page 14 are relevant to this.

6. Under Transport, we support the key initiative *“Improve public transport frequency, reliability and services hours on key routes”* (pg 28).

7. From our Annual Plan submission:

CTA supports the following activities/projects proposed by this local board:

- **Progress reserve and playgrounds projects, enhance greenways, increase rural roadside weed control, and maintain heritage sites**

We particularly support this local board’s aim to maintain heritage sites.

- **Support volunteers to restore biodiversity through planting, pest plant and animal control, species protection, and local education**
- **Provide waste education, school freshwater programmes, and community-led stream restoration and catchment management plans to improve waterway health**
- **Supporting volunteers and environmental groups with planting, pest control, and clean -ups to protect biodiversity and create safe habitats for wildlife.**

Upper Harbour

1. CTA supports the Natural Environment key initiatives on pages 15-16.

2. In the 2023 draft plan, the Local Board stated that “Reducing carbon emissions as individuals can be difficult” and that “Communities need support and opportunities to make changes and live more sustainably” (page 16). We are pleased to see that in the current draft plan, included is: *“Support community-led initiatives and projects that encourage sustainable lifestyles, waste minimisation climate resilience and adaptation,”* along with further support for people to take positive environmental action.

3. We support all the advocacy on page 16 and 17, particularly *“Advocate for more funding for compliance and education to ensure that minimising construction and demolition waste is a priority,”* as this has been a submission point for CTA, for example, in our submission on the government’s Emissions Reduction Plan, as referred to on page 6 of this submission.

4. Under Built Environment, key initiative, page 19: *“Improve or dispose of assets that provide lower community benefits to provide more funds for priority spaces and facilities,”* as with our comments for other Local Boards, we caution about disposing of Council buildings because they are such a useful asset for the community, and suggest that instead, community groups may prefer to pay more for hire than lose the use of a building forever, and that buildings could be better advertised, for example, via Local Board newsletters. We therefore support the initiative on page 20: *“Support different uses of community spaces, including sharing spaces with community lease holders and creating hubs and community partnership opportunities.”*

5. We support the transport priorities on page 26, particularly: *“Advocate to make public transport cheaper and easier for young people to use”* and *“Advocate for Hobsonville ferry to be included in the \$50 a week Auckland public transport fare cap initiative.”* Perhaps the Upper Harbour Local Board would like to join the other Local Board that are advocating for young people to be entitled to a further discount on the \$50 fare cap.

6. From our Annual Plan submission:

CTA does not support reducing discretionary funding across all programmes and projects including environmental outcomes, events and activations, cycling initiatives and community outcomes.

We do support reducing maintenance like bollard and post and rail repairs and some garden maintenance, cost savings that most local boards are considering.

We do not agree with the proposed Option 2: Increase spectator fee and supervising adult fee at Albany Stadium Pool by \$1 (Fees will become \$2), and certainly not Option 3: Increase spectator fee and supervising adult fee by \$ 4 (Fees will become \$5).

We suggest that an alternative to increasing those fees would be to better monitor and enforce other existing regulations, e.g., implement the already existing fines (\$300) for walking a dog off-leash in an on-leash area. Such infringements could perhaps be attended to by compliance officers who are already looking at issues of non-compliance by members of the public.

We do support the following:

- Prioritise support for initiatives that deliver outcomes for our environment including community -led ecological initiatives, construction waste education, and the restoration projects.

Waiheke

1. CTA supports all the Natural Environment key initiatives pages 16-17 and highlight *“Promote responsible pet ownership,”* as this is an initiative that we think all Local Boards could adopt. We also particularly like *“Continue to support and endorse organisations that enable Waiheke to move toward a fossil-fuel free future”* and *“Investigate the feasibility of using solar microgrids to power our community facilities.”*

2. We are also very supportive of all the advocacy on page 18 and would like all Local Boards that have shores to adopt those same points, and all the Local Boards in Auckland to join you in advocating to *“Ban the sale and use of fireworks in Aotearoa.”*

3. We support all of the key initiatives under Built Environment (pp 20-22) and recommend investigating the Magical Bridge NZ Playground in Hamilton for the initiative: *“Make sure we prioritise accessibility and inclusivity when we renew our playgrounds and facilities in line with the ‘Waiheke Be Accessible’ plan.”*

4. We support all the advocacy on page 22, in particular *“Any available council property being considered for health facilities or affordable housing,”* as a much better alternative to selling underused Council buildings.

5. As regard the priorities under Transport, CTA particularly supports *“Advocate for legislative change that would enable Waiheke ferries to be included in the Public Transport Operating Model;”* *“Advocate for the integration of AT HOP cards so monthly passes can be used on all ferry services;”* and *“Support work toward ensuring routes to all Waiheke schools are safe for walking and cycling.”*

6. We also suggest encouraging seniors who travel for free on HOP Gold cards to Waiheke to make a donation at the ferry terminal at Matiatia or online, perhaps towards a Waiheke community or an ecological need.

7. From our Annual Plan submission:

CTA supports the following activities/projects proposed by this local board:

- **Deliver investment in key areas, specifically:**
- **programmes which protect, restore, and enhance the island's natural environment**
- **Deliver actions within the Waiheke Local Carbon Action Plan**
- **Create connection to places and heritage through the installation of historical and cultural markers and dual naming of parks**
- **Improve walking/cycling network connections as outlined within the Waiheke Pathways Plan**
- **Ecological restoration and pest management programmes remain a high priority and the increase in birdlife and improved eco -systems is a testament to the on-going investment in this space**
- **Delivering actions from our Climate Action Plan remains a priority . To support resiliency on the motu, solar panels will be installed at Onetangi Sports Pavilion and Ostend Hall, and we will investigate development of community microgrids.**

CTA notes that many local boards had planned the dual naming of parks and we hope that these plans have either already been carried out or will soon be underway.

We suggest that learnings from investigating the development of community microgrids could inform other local boards.

Waitākere Ranges

1. In the 2023 Local Board Draft Plan, CTA supported this key initiative, which in various forms has been adopted by other Local Boards: *“Ensure universal design for accessibility is embedded into all park development projects to enable everyone to access their local parks”* (page 25). We would encourage its reinstatement in this year's draft plan.

2. Under Community, we support *“Prepare a Waitākere Ranges Local Parks Management Plan for our 200 local parks”* (pg 14). We like the emphasis on supporting *“well sited tree planting in parks,”* and the intention to *“Investigate a solar panel pilot on a community facility.”* The Aotea / Great Barrier Island Service Centre could perhaps assist with this pilot, being fully powered by solar energy.

3. We note on page 15 *“Support for continued recreational use of the Avondale Racecourse,”* and CTA supports this aspiration too, this multi-purpose large green space serving not just West Auckland but other residents across the city, such as with the longstanding Avondale Market. The land also has a vital role in absorbing excess rainfall and slowing floodwaters. We support this board and the Whau Local Board in their request to Auckland Council to purchase the property as a public asset.

4. We support the Local Board in continuing to work to *“formally recognise the area as a Dark Sky place”* (pg 16).

5. It is pleasing to see the 27 active environmental volunteer groups being recognised and appreciated by the Local Board (pg 16).

6. CTA supports all the Natural Environment key initiatives (pg 18) and the advocacy (pg 19).

7. In the Transport section, we endorse the statement that *“Freeing up road space for those without alternatives (e.g., tradespeople) is essential”* (pg 26). We support the Transport priorities (pg 28), particularly, *“A bus or shuttle services to places like Piha, and appropriately sized buses on narrow / vulnerable bush clad routes.”*

8. From our Annual Plan submission:

CTA supports the following activities/projects proposed by this local board:

- **Mobility scooter, walking and cycling connections, particularly through parks**
- **Continue to invest in environmental restoration programmes with a focus on the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area and our waterways**
- **Deliver park development, including play and amenity improvements in Swanson, Te Henga and Titirangi**
- **Provide tree planting and shelter to provide shade and amenity in parks, as well as berm planting in streets with low tree cover**
- **Continue to invest in local climate action to increase resilience and decrease emissions**
- **Working on fit-for-purpose transport improvements like investigating a trial bus service to Piha, advocating for smaller buses, and creating safer local connections**
- **Improve Glen Eden town centre, and protect and enhance the nationally significant Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area**
- **Support the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area Forum work programme, particularly community engagement**
- **Review maintenance of local parks and facilities to ensure they are well maintained while looking for savings**

Waitematā

1. In CTA's submission on the 2023 draft plan, we strongly supported this advocacy: *“Auckland Council to advocate for changes to legislation and regulations to enable councils to introduce planning controls on how urban trees are assessed and protected. Auckland Council to simplify and better resource processes for identifying and protecting mature trees”* (page 25). We would like to see this point retained in the 2026 plan.

2. In CTA's submission on the 2023 draft plan, under "Our Places" there were a detailed points about the city's historic heritage which we would like to see included in the 2026 plan to provide more detailed form than the somewhat general objective (pg 23 in the 2026 plan) *"Our unique special character and our historic heritage is valued, protected and enhanced."* In last year's draft plan, we read: "We want to increase understanding, protection and conservation of city centre heritage places, landscapes and stories" (page 33) and "Valued elements of heritage and special character in the local board area should be recognised formally and informally to assist with its protection and incorporation in the development of our urban landscapes" (page 34).

3. There was also this key initiative (pg 36): "Provide feedback on resource consents and planning processes to ensure heritage sites and Special Character Areas are protected" and the following advocacy (pg 37): "Advocate to the Governing Body to allocate adequate funds to restore and preserve its heritage buildings, including incorporating seismic strengthening where necessary, to ensure their ongoing usage; Advocate to the Governing Body to allocate adequate funds to continue identification and formal protection of heritage and character elements of the Waitematā environment; and Advocate to the Governing Body to retain the council's Heritage Acquisition Fund to assist with the protection and adaptive re-use of significant heritage buildings in the local board area."

4. We submit that some of this advocacy in points 2 and 3 above be included again.

5. We also supported the following initiatives (pg 44): "Support the preservation of significant heritage buildings such as Carlile House, the former Fitzroy Hotel and St James Theatre." We are pleased to see that the St James Theatre is currently being restored and we wish the Local Board to support initiatives that make the facility viable. Carlile House and the Fitzroy Hotel are languishing and we submit that the Local Board include some advocacy position that would enable efforts to retain these buildings.

6. As last year, CTA submits that an important addition to the draft plan is the recognition that significant parts of the landscape need protecting, particularly the Waitematā Harbour and volcanic cones, and notwithstanding governmental aversion to amenity, the views of that harbour from certain identified vantage points and the view of and between the volcanic cones that it would we are all assured qualify as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

7. Under Community, as regards the key initiative on page 15: *"Review our portfolio of buildings and consider reducing our asset footprint to have fewer but better assets that are fit for purpose and well used,"* as part of any proposed community facility rationalisation, CTA opposes the sale of Grey Lynn Public Library, and consider that building (pictured below left) which faces the busy arterial route of Great North Road, usefully provides the basis of expansion on the site (pictured below right), which runs down to Arch Hill Reserve.



8. We support all the key initiatives under Natural Environment on pages 18-19 and the advocacy on page 20.

9. Under Built Environment, we particularly appreciate the opportunity expressed as *“We value our special character and historic heritage areas and want to enable appropriate development that does not compromise the values that make them special to our community”* (pg 22).

10. We support the long list of key initiatives on pages 22-24. Having strongly supported the key initiative in the 2023 plan to: *“Deliver seismic strengthening, restoration and modernisation of Leys Institute Library and Gymnasium to preserve as a heritage taonga for future generations”* and having submitted for this through a number of Council processes, CTA is pleased to see the key initiative in the 2026 draft plan: *“Complete the refurbishment of the Leys Institute and Gymnasium into a valuable library and community facility and celebrate its reopening alongside the Friends of Leys Institute and the wider community”* (pg 23).

11. We support the advocacy on page 24-25: *“Enabling appropriate development, such as infill housing behind a character property and raising the height of houses, in special character and historic heritage areas without compromising the features that make them valued by the community.”* We note the risk of over-intensification and so our support is very much subject to avoidance of negative effects that may compromise the underlying heritage values.

12. We support the idea to *“Reduce barriers to outdoor dining, street trading and activations making it easier for bars, cafes and community groups to use footpaths and street space to create vibrant people friendly streets.”*

13. We particularly support the priority of *“Review streets where slower speeds are appropriate and explore opportunities for low-traffic neighbourhoods and greater safety around schools.”*

14. CTA has the view that this initiative is essential for pedestrian safety: *“Provide clear direction on the management of micromobility that balances safety, accessibility for different groups, particularly in high-density and pedestrian areas.”* Having people on skateboards, bicycles and e-scooters ride down the footpaths on Queen Street is plainly dangerous for pedestrians. It

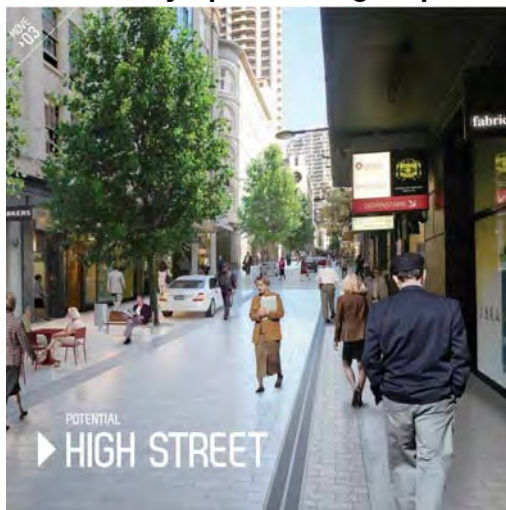
seems that no one is taking any responsibility for this, despite the increasing number of accidents and near accidents with e-scooters, the latter making walking in the city centre in particular an experience fraught with anxiety. Furthermore, adults don't seem to know or care that riding a bicycle on the footpath is illegal, and while bylaws state that skateboarders must not ride in a way that could be dangerous, intimidating, or a nuisance, simply riding a skateboard on the footpath on Queen St is dangerous and intimidating.

15. We also note, as mentioned in the Challenges section for Transport, “aging and uneven footpaths,” with many trip hazards, but it is also to be seen with new paving (e.g., on Victoria Street East), where slippery materials were used and currently signs are up to warn pedestrians about slipping, as some people have already slipped and fallen. Pedestrians were also put in danger with the slippery-when-wet tiles that were installed some years ago on Karangahape Road. Such design mistakes should not be repeated.

16. From our Annual Plan submission:

3(d) CTA does not support the currently proposed further expenditure on High Street in the city centre. As we said during our 23 March presentation, this expenditure is unnecessary, and, notwithstanding the supportive consultation results produced, the changes are, in fact, unwanted by many of the High Street businesses, which have had to bear several disruptions over the last couple of decades.

3(e) Council does not have endless money and there is no demonstrable return for the level of investment envisaged for High Street. If a redesign does go ahead, however, it should be simplified. The existing road already provides good natural drainage, and so, rather than digging up the whole street, something like the CCMP vision (below left), perhaps just substitute different new kerbstones, like the ones Council has used successfully up in Karangahape Road (below right).



3(f) Emily Place has \$10.5 million in line to be spent; however, there are other projects around the city that we consider are more worthwhile, for example, fixing the Ernest Davis steps, and other projects that would enhance the neighbourhood.



(In conjunction with fixing the Ernest David steps, it would be a worthwhile project at the same time to consider creating a pocket park at the bottom of the steps adjacent to the scheduled Station Hotel. This would involve Auckland Transport.)

3(g) CTA strongly supports Jan Gehl's 2010 proposal

(<https://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/content/dam/ac/docs/plans/place/city-centre-masterplan-2012-print-version.pdf>) to make Hobson and Nelson Streets two-way: (see pp 104-107). This would transform these streets from high-speed, one-way "motorway-focused" roads, which would slow traffic and improve local connectivity. Consideration might also usefully be given to retention of the level and southern-most span of the soon to be demolished Hobson Street on-ramp. It's an existing and potentially useful piece of urban infrastructure.

Whau

1. Under Community (pg 14), we support *"Develop a Whau Local Parks Management Plan to guide the use, enjoyment, maintenance, protection and preservation of the 146 parks and reserves in the local board area."*

2. Under *"Community and environment are prepared for climate change and lower emissions"* (pg 14) we support the following key initiatives: *"Support community groups to help people of all*

backgrounds and abilities to get emergency ready for local hazards including severe weather events;” “Increase programmes and education around climate change risks and ways to take action, including in schools and for our diverse communities;” “Plant more trees to increase our tree canopy cover in our town centres, parks, and road reserves;” and “Support implementation of the Shoreline Adaptation Plans (Manukau Harbour North SAP and Waitemata Harbour West SAP) to manage coastal erosion and coastal flooding risks affecting council land and assets.”

3. CTA supports all the key initiatives under Natural Environment (pg 17) and the advocacy on page 18.

4. We support the key initiative (pg 20) *“Plant trees in town centres and along road reserves to create green corridors that connect small and large open spaces,”* using the principle of the right tree in the right place.

5. We support *“Install physical markers to celebrate the historical Māori portage route between Waitematā and Manukau Harbours via the Whau River”* (pg 20), noting that for the Auckland Heritage Festival in October 2017, CTA held two events, in collaboration with Walk Auckland, where participants walked the portage routes in Otahuhu and New Lynn.

6. We strongly support *“Investment in greenspace, including funding to secure Avondale Racecourse to provide open space and recreation areas for the community.”*

7. We note the document titled ‘Avondale - Town Centre Regeneration High Level Project Plan, produced by Eke Panuku in November 2017:

https://www.audo.co.nz/media/mncfo0xd/neighbourhoods_avondale02a2_2a_avondale-high-level-project-plan.pdf It notes *The Avondale Racecourse is adjacent to the town centre. It provides an attractive outlook and contributes to the character of the area through its racing activities and the popular Sunday markets. The racecourse also represents a potential future opportunity to significantly contribute to housing supply in Auckland.*



8. More recently, a submission by NZTR to Auckland Council's proposed Plan Change 120 to encourage intensive housing development rezoning for buildings up to 34.5m high. CTA considers the scale of development proposed is evident in the height limits anticipated under PC120 seems excessive. CTA supports the Whau Local Board's proposed 'Investment in greenspace, including funding to secure Avondale Racecourse to provide open space and

recreation areas for the community.’ Some of the community’s wishes for retention of open space are outlined on this link:

https://www.audo.co.nz/media/mncfo0xd/neighbourhoods_avondale02a2_2a_avondale-high-level-project-plan.pdf

9. Under Economic Development, we endorse *“Support local businesses to reduce emissions and waste and lessen their impact on local waterways.”*

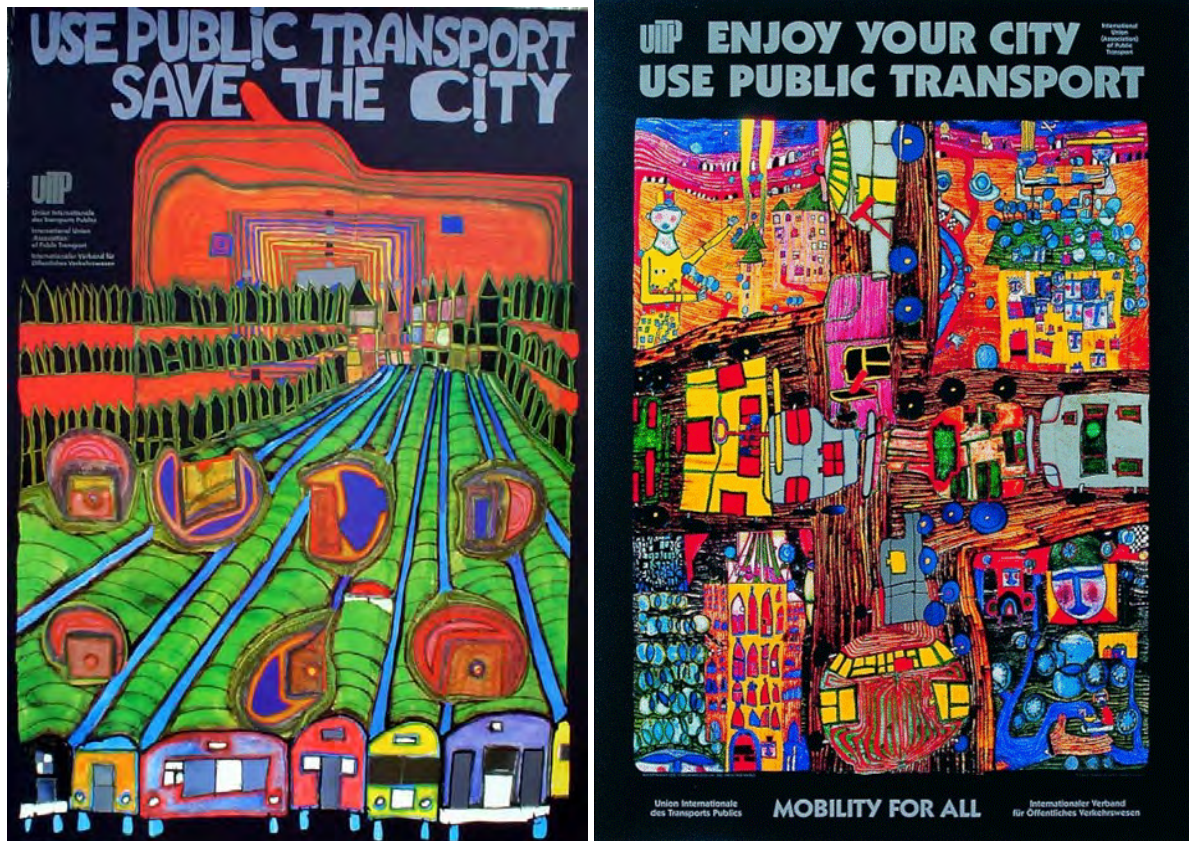
10. We support all of the Transport priorities on pages 24-25, particularly noting *“Encourage more public transport use and multi -modal travel through ... provide bike infrastructure on trains and buses.”* We note that 15 buses on the NX1 route now have space for bicycles, and that buses that travel to and from Whau could be similarly outfitted.

11. From our Annual Plan submission:

CTA supports the following activities/projects proposed by this local board:

- **Improve water quality and flood resilience of Whau streams and rivers through collaboration with volunteers, local schools, community hubs, organisations, and neighbouring local boards**
- **Develop a Local Parks Management Plan to guide decisions on managing use, development, and protection of all 146 parks, reserves and open space within the Whau**
- **Plan and design a local park in conjunction with the stormwater pond construction at the old Crown Lynn Pottery site**
- **Improve coordination for community resilience and emergency preparedness across Whau hubs, houses, and other community spaces**
- **Progress Whau heritage initiatives including to renew and provide interpretation for existing Pou and to install physical markers along the historic portage route that links the Waitematā and Manukau harbours.**
- **Aim to improve the water quality and flood resilience of our waterways and fund a coordinator to support emergency preparedness.**
- **Advocate for the acquisition of a significant proportion of Avondale Racecourse to remain open space.**
- **Construction of Te Hono library and community centre, design of a pool and recreation centre in the Whau area and a park at Crown Lynn Place.**
- **Aim to deliver initiatives that recognise the rich heritage in our area.**

We conclude by sharing these two inspiring posters by Hundertwasser that promote public transport:



Date of submission: 23 July, 2026



Have Your Say on the Draft Waitematā Local Board Plan 2026

#430

Note: This simplified version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation: Community Groups Feeding the Homeless Inc.

Local Board: Regional Organisation

Your feedback:

1. **How well do you think our draft Waitematā Local Board Plan reflects the needs and aspirations of our community over the next three years?**

Tell us why

See attached

Community

2. **How well do you think these objectives reflect the needs and priorities of the Waitematā community?**

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

See Attached

Natural Environment

3. **How well do you think these objectives reflect the needs and priorities of the Waitematā community?**

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

See Attached

Built Environment

4. How well do you think these objectives reflect the needs and priorities of the Waitematā community?

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

See Attached

Economic Development

5. How well do you think these objectives reflect the needs and priorities of the Waitematā community?

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

See Attached

Transport

6. How well do you think these objectives reflect the needs and priorities of the Waitematā community?

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

See Attached

Other outcomes and considerations

7. How well do you think we have captured these considerations in the draft plan for the Waitematā community?

Māori outcomes	
Climate outcomes	
Equitable outcomes	

Tell us why (please note which outcome area you are referring to)

See attached file

8. Do you have any other feedback on the draft Waitematā Local Board Plan 2026?

See attached file

Submission of Community Groups Feeding the Homeless

Draft Local Board Plans - all



Organisation: Community Groups Feeding the Homeless Inc.

Date of submission: 23 July 2026

The focus of Community Groups Feeding the Homeless (CGFH), in existence for 8 years, is on feeding homeless people and supporting them in other ways. We act as an umbrella group that supports a number of groups, including Sunday Blessings (Waitematā) and Waka of Caring (Manurewa). We maintain a [list](#) of free community meals in the city centre.

We greatly appreciate the support that local boards in general give to people experiencing homelessness and at risk of experiencing homelessness, including the funding provided by the Manurewa Local Board to support the Waka of Caring drop-in centre, and by the Waitematā Local Board for Sunday Blessings, WeCare and CGFH itself.

We repeat our advocacy as per the 2023 Local Board Plans for pātaka kai (<https://www.patakai.co.nz/>) and community fridges to be established and supported in all Local Board areas.

In our 2023 feedback, we suggested that once the food scraps bins were in place, that the community be encouraged to place any edible food that they don't need in a pātaka kai or community fridge rather than in their food scraps bin.

We would also like to remind Local Boards that all the Sikh gurdwaras throughout Auckland are open 24/7, with food available for anyone in need.

We see the Local Board newsletters as a useful way to inform local communities about such things as pātaka kai and encourage the public and food outlets to donate their excess food to them, and to donate unneeded clothing or household goods to op shops or centres like the Waka of Caring drop-in centre.

CGFH would like to express our appreciation to the libraries and community centres that provide a safe and welcoming place for homeless people and support them in a number of ways.

We include extracts from our 2 July written submission and our 17 July oral submission to government on the Summary Offences (Move-on Orders) Amendment Bill that we consider are relevant to Local Boards:

“Housing First needs more funding and visibility. It has a dedicated website and is mentioned on the websites of members of its collective, but in our experience, the programme is not well known in New Zealand. More landlords need to know that they can place their houses into the Housing First pool and the tenancy and property will be managed, with the rental payments guaranteed ... We think the government and councils could help to publicise the programme more, such as in local board newsletters, on billboards and on buses.

“Members of CGFH have advocated since 2016 for the re-establishment in Auckland of a night shelter (ideally, a number of small to medium-sized night shelters), which most other cities in New Zealand have, and which existed in our city until 2012. For

people experiencing homelessness, a night shelter would provide a place to sleep and potentially somewhere to store their belongings.

“In addition to night shelters, we have advocated for (more) funding from both central and local government to provide activities for homeless people during the day, such as the programmes carried out at the Auckland City Mission, so that these people can be occupied, feel valued, gain confidence, contribute, and learn a skill. We acknowledge Heart of the City’s successful Street Guardians¹ initiative, which we understand is still operating, as “a positive approach to addressing begging in the city centre. It gives people who would otherwise be begging the opportunity to spend a day undertaking activities with community organisations, such as restoring wetlands to planting trees and cleaning beaches.

“We have also advocated to Auckland Council that lockers for homeless people (and others, such as travellers) be provided, in Auckland, perhaps at the central railway stations. This should mean that fewer items are left on the street and thus would facilitate people to become more actively involved in the community, to travel on public transport, and to seek work. It should also mean that people are more able to retain their important documents, essentials medications and personal belongings ... The new railway stations could be good places for lockers.

“We also think lockers for homeless people to store their gear would go some way to solving the problem of people leaving bedding and other items on the street. The new railway stations could be good places for lockers.”

Having read the Local Board draft plans, we would like to share the Waiheke Local Board’s advocacy (pg 22) with regard to underused Council buildings, that “Any available council property being considered for health facilities or affordable housing.” We would extend this to suggest that unused or underused Council buildings could be considered as night shelters for people experiencing homelessness.

We endorse the support and/or recognition of these local boards for those experiencing homelessness or at risk of becoming homeless, and/or advocating for kai sovereignty, as expressed in their draft plans, as follows.

Albert- Eden

Work with organisations, such as Auckland City Mission, Lifewise or Salvation Army, to provide support to people experiencing homelessness, including accommodation facilities, wrap-around services and kai (food) (pg 15).

More resources to address the growing need for mental health and emergency housing services in local areas (pg 16).

Aotea- Great Barrier

Support investigations and initiatives into local housing solutions for kaumātua, pensioners, papakāinga (settlement) and worker accommodation.

Devonport-Takapuna

Increased funding and resourcing for the council’s regional homelessness initiatives.

Howick

Develop a holistic approach to community resilience by integrating social wellbeing, economic resilience, disaster readiness, and sustainable food-growing initiatives.

Kaipātiki

Work with community organisations to support improved outcomes for our homeless.

Support community-led low carbon food initiatives that also promote kai (food) sovereignty (people and communities having control over their own food systems).

Māngere-Ōtāhuhu

Support community gardens, māra kai and other initiatives to improve food security at a local level.

A regional approach to solutions that address homelessness , rough sleeping and poor housing standards for the most vulnerable in our communities.

More resources to help build the resilience of our most vulnerable communities and better prepare them for emergencies and disasters.

Manurewa

Support initiatives that improve the health and wellbeing of our people in partnership with community organisations, including initiatives addressing homelessness.

Work with community partners who are working to reduce harm related to smoking, vaping, gambling, alcohol, drug use, solvent and inhalant abuse, and unhealthy diets.

Continue to fund a community broker role to deliver the Ngā Hapori Momoho Thriving Communities Strategy, connect the community with council departments and elected members and use external funding services.

Continue to support Auckland Teaching Gardens and fund other community food initiatives such as local food markets and community gardens.

Continue to fund locally led food sovereignty and initiate ways to strengthen community-led food systems in Manurewa.

Maungakiekie-Tāmaki

Investigate opportunities for community -led initiatives such as projects that help residents to grow their own food.

Otara-Papatoetoe

We need to work with government agencies, community groups, and social services to address the underlying causes of homelessness. Together we can make sure our policies and programmes focus on long-term community resilience and compassion for our communities of greatest need, including people experiencing homelessness.

Work with experts and community leaders on how to best help people experiencing homelessness.

Advocate for a meaningful, collaborative approach between Auckland Council and central government to address the underlying causes of homelessness, noting that policies like 'move-on orders' do not solve the problem.

Support māra kai and community garden initiatives – including through the Ōtara Kai Village, to continue to provide our communities with education and healthy options.

Papakura

Support placemaking, community-led activations, māra kai and food security initiatives that build resilience and local identity.

Upper Harbour

Advocate for shared agency solutions for issues such as community safety, homelessness and protecting our natural corridors that keep our public spaces safe and easy to access for the whole community.

Waiheke

Partner with health organisations to ensure mental health and disability support for tangata whaiora (a person seeking wellness) is accessible for all members of our community.

Any available council property being considered for health facilities or affordable housing.

Advocate for and use national policy changes (like National Environmental Standards for Detached Minor Residential Units) to lower the permitted standards for minor dwellings, making sure these are prioritised for long-term residential housing.

Support the vision of the Waiheke Food Charter, to work toward a sustainable local food system.

Waitākere Ranges

Investigate opportunities to promote kai sovereignty.

Waitematā

Waitematā ... works with communities and partners to support people experiencing homelessness.

As a local board, we recognise and respond to complex challenges such as homelessness, public safety perceptions, ageing infrastructure and pressure on limited open space.

Homelessness continues to be a complex and visible issue in parts of Waitematā and requires coordinated responses beyond the local board's direct control.

Support local and regional initiatives and organisations that address homelessness, particularly youth homelessness.

Support and strengthen our network of community gardens and food resilience initiatives that enable communities to grow, share, and access healthy, culturally appropriate kai, while building local capability and connected, sustainable neighbourhoods.

The delivery of affordable, public, and community housing in the city centre and inner suburbs that helps addresses homelessness, supports quality urban living, enables people to live close to jobs and services, and sustains long-term community wellbeing.

Improved access for people experiencing mental health, addiction, and social challenges through coordinated, place-based service delivery that enhances safety, inclusion, and wellbeing in the city centre.

Whau

Develop a low carbon, resilient, local food system that provides Whau residents access to fresh and healthy food.

Support our vulnerable people and rough sleepers through cross -agency partnerships and community programmes.

Increased Housing First placements in Auckland, with priority for high-need areas such as the Whau.



Have Your Say on the Draft Waitematā Local Board Plan 2026

#429

Note: This simplified version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation: Creative New Zealand

Local Board: Regional Organisation

Your feedback:

1. **How well do you think our draft Waitematā Local Board Plan reflects the needs and aspirations of our community over the next three years?**

Tell us why

See attached

Community

2. **How well do you think these objectives reflect the needs and priorities of the Waitematā community?**

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

See Attached

Natural Environment

3. **How well do you think these objectives reflect the needs and priorities of the Waitematā community?**

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

See Attached

Built Environment

4. How well do you think these objectives reflect the needs and priorities of the Waitematā community?

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

See Attached

Economic Development

5. How well do you think these objectives reflect the needs and priorities of the Waitematā community?

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

See Attached

Transport

6. How well do you think these objectives reflect the needs and priorities of the Waitematā community?

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

See Attached

Other outcomes and considerations

7. How well do you think we have captured these considerations in the draft plan for the Waitematā community?

Māori outcomes	
Climate outcomes	
Equitable outcomes	

Tell us why (please note which outcome area you are referring to)

See attached file

8. Do you have any other feedback on the draft Waitematā Local Board Plan 2026?

See attached file

22 July 2026

Auckland Local Board Plans

By email to: akhaveyoursay@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

E te Kaunihera, tēnā koutou katoa

Submission to: Auckland Council Te Kaunihera o Tāmaki Makaurau
Subject: **Draft Auckland Local Board Plans 2026**
From: Arts Council of New Zealand Toi Aotearoa (Creative New Zealand)

1. Creative New Zealand welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback on Auckland Local Boards' three-year plans for 2026.
2. Arts, culture, creativity and ngā toi Māori build stronger, more connected communities across Auckland, and create vibrant and prosperous communities where people want to live, work and visit.
3. Auckland Council has 21 local boards, each playing an essential role in supporting arts and culture across the Auckland region. The **Auckland Local Board Plans are an important opportunity for Local Boards to build on their investment in the arts**, and unlock the arts' economic, cultural and social benefits.
4. We thank Auckland Council and each of the 21 Local Boards for their ongoing support of arts, ngā toi, culture and creativity in Tāmaki Makaurau, and look forward to continuing to work with you to realise the enormous potential creativity can bring to all your communities.

Arts, culture, creativity and ngā toi Māori are foundational community services that shape how people live, connect and feel about where they belong

5. From festivals, concerts, public art and murals to galleries, libraries, arts hubs and marae, creativity shapes how the city looks, sounds and feels. It creates vibrant communities that people are proud to call home.
6. We know that Aucklanders value the arts and are engaging with the arts more than ever before. Two in three Aucklanders agree that arts and culture have a vital role to play in the future of where they live. Support for public funding of the arts in Auckland has increased since 2020, with over half of Aucklanders believing Auckland Council should help fund the arts.

7. Our *New Zealanders and the Arts—Ko Aotearoa me ōna Toi* research¹ shows that Aucklanders recognise the economic and social benefits of the arts, with:
 - 75 percent of Aucklanders agreeing that the arts create jobs, both in and around the creative industries, and the majority agreeing that the arts contribute positively to our economy
 - over half of Aucklanders valuing the arts for creating opportunities to socialise and connect
 - 69 percent of Aucklanders agreeing that the arts play a role in raising awareness of societal and environmental issues.
8. Young people, Māori, Pacific peoples and Asian New Zealanders are also more likely than other Auckland residents to agree that the arts are an important way of connecting with their culture, and that taking part in the arts supports their identity. Rainbow communities and people with lived experience of disability participate highly in the arts and need more accessible and inclusive environments to support their engagement.

Together we can create healthy, sustainable and thriving arts ecosystems in local communities

9. Through the Local Board Plans, we encourage each of the Local Boards to prioritise investment in the following.
 - **Cultural programmes and events** which encourage people to visit their local town centres, attracting visitors and shoppers. These programmes and events also bring diverse local communities together, build social connections and bring public spaces to life.
 - **Events and festivals that boost economic development and tourism** are also essential pathways for artists, producers, technicians and arts administrators to build the skills, knowledge and expertise that support bigger events, such as Pasifika and larger musicals and concerts. Smaller festivals and events are crucial to build the skills, knowledge and expertise that support bigger events such as Pasifika and larger musicals, concerts and exhibitions.
 - **Public art, murals and activated public spaces** provide a sense of place, telling the history and stories of mana whenua and your communities' unique identities, and making public spaces safer. We encourage working with your local arts and culture

¹ Auckland residents survey findings in *New Zealanders and the arts—Ko Aotearoa me ōna toi* (2023): <https://creativenz.govt.nz/-/media/project/creative-nz/creativenz/publicationsfiles/2024-nzers-and-the-arts/20240730nzartsaucklandfinal.pdf>

organisations, artists and creatives to explore ways of working together to further community opportunities.

- **Community halls, venues and gathering spaces** are important facilities for people to gather, rehearse and participate in community choirs, dance, kapa haka, theatre groups, reading clubs, craft-making and more, to experience arts and culture.
- **Making council owned venues available to arts communities to use free of charge or at reduced rates.** Dedicated spaces for Māori and Pacific peoples in your local areas are also crucial cultural centres for whānau, hapū, iwi and the wider community.
- **Ensuring investment reaches across the wider arts ecosystem,** including creative infrastructure in the city that works closely with communities across all of Auckland, ensuring a network of cultural infrastructure and cultural facilities. This network needs resources to deliver in a complementary way, to support staff who have the skills, knowledge and experience to successfully deliver services and activities in ways that are fit-for-purpose, high-quality and responsive to the needs of residents and visitors.
- **Lean into *Toi Whītiki*,** Auckland Council's Arts and Culture Strategic Action Plan, which sets out a fantastic, community-led and region-wide roadmap.

Prioritise investment in arts, culture, creativity and ngā toi Māori as important community services

10. Our research demonstrates that Aucklanders place considerable value on the arts at a community level.² Arts and culture programmes and services support local board priorities, including:

- employment for rangatahi
- safer communities
- celebrating diverse communities
- town centre vitality
- stronger local economies.

² Auckland residents survey findings in *New Zealanders and the arts—Ko Aotearoa me ōna toi* (2023): <https://creativenz.govt.nz/-/media/project/creative-nz/creativenz/publicationsfiles/2024-nzers-and-the-arts/20240730nzartsaucklandfinal.pdf>

11. To ensure these programmes continue to serve crucial community functions, local boards' prioritisation of arts and culture in three-year plans is essential.

Supporting arts and culture in Local Board Plans delivers social, cultural, environmental and economic benefits

12. We know councils around the country are facing significant pressures, with tight budgets and growing community expectations meaning plans are being carefully designed to deliver value and a pathway for the future. Arts, culture, creativity and ngā toi are part of the solution.
13. Auckland Council's recently commissioned [The Arts Matter](#) research found that Council's investment in arts and ngā toi is advancing outcomes across Council's vision and priorities.³ This includes significant social, cultural, environmental and economic contributions that:
- support community connection at local festivals and events
 - grow local economies by creating jobs, supporting local businesses and driving tourism
 - boost environmental awareness through storytelling, education and building understanding of complex issues like climate change
 - build social resilience by revitalising city centres and transforming public spaces into safe, vibrant and socially cohesive hubs
 - spark innovation and learning with creative practice-building skills, including imagination, problem solving and learning.
14. The arts contribute \$18.5 billion to New Zealand's economy, 4.2 percent of our total GDP⁴ and more than our wine, seafood and international education sectors.
15. In 2024, Auckland's arts and creative sector contributed over \$8.5 billion to New Zealand's GDP, creating jobs and supporting local businesses. It is the largest arts and creative employer in the country, employing more than 50,000 people. The *Auckland Economic Monitor* shows 'Arts and recreation services' are experiencing strong growth in Auckland, with 11.7 percent of growth in contributions to Auckland's GDP and 7.1 percent of employment growth in the year to March 2024.

³ Auckland Council, *The Arts Matter*, 2026.

⁴ Infometrics Sector Profiles 2025, Manatū Taonga Ministry for Culture & Heritage, Arts and Creative Industry Profile Report.

16. However, this growth relies on a strong arts ecosystem and pathways for young people to experience creativity, in order to nurture and develop creativity.
17. Economic conditions are putting sustained pressure on the arts community – creators, presenters and supporters alike. Arts organisations operate on thin margins and are highly vulnerable to any changes in relationships with funders. Making a living from the arts is hard for artists and practitioners,⁵ and the wider arts ecosystem is fragile. While public engagement with the arts is strong compared with other countries, arts are often on the margins of public investment and support.

Ngā toi Māori and mātauranga Māori are distinctive to Aotearoa New Zealand and central to our unique national identity

18. Te reo, mātauranga Māori and ngā toi Māori are central to Auckland’s unique identity, as the largest Māori city in the world. Success in protecting, revitalising and promoting Māori artforms supports many artists, practitioners and tourism operators in the region, and positively enhances Auckland’s national and international reputation.

Together we can create healthy, sustainable and thriving arts ecosystems in local communities

19. We highly value Auckland Council and the Auckland Local Boards as partners in the arts, alongside mana whenua, iwi and hapū, community trusts and private givers. Demand for Creative New Zealand’s services is high, and we are supporting a much lower proportion of proposals than we have historically. Private investments, including corporate sponsorship and private donations, are also down in the current economic climate.
20. Over the coming year we will be implementing our *tuku rauemi* approach. This means empowering communities as decision-makers, entrusting them to support arts and ngā toi Māori development that best meets their communities’ needs. To do this, we will partner with organisations across the regions to lead local arts development and capability building, set their own priorities and make funding decisions.
21. We believe a regional partnership approach will strengthen co-operation on longer-term planning and investment between regional stakeholders, including local government and trusts, and Creative New Zealand. This approach will also create opportunities to grow

⁵ Creative New Zealand, *A Profile of Creative Professionals 2023*. New Zealanders employed in creative professions continue to experience low pay compared to New Zealanders earning a salary or wage. The median income for creative professionals is just \$37,000, substantially less than the median income of \$61,000 for New Zealanders earning a wage or salary.

investment regionally by leveraging Creative New Zealand funds, incentivising new investment, and helping arts organisations partner to secure philanthropic funding.

22. Auckland's communities are vital for the arts and ngā toi Māori to develop and grow. We want to see an arts ecosystem in the region where artists, creatives and ringatoi are supported to thrive, with viable creative careers and strong arts infrastructure. Together we can create a healthy and strong environment for the arts community, to help achieve its potential and share the benefits of the arts and ngā toi with all Aucklanders.

Creative New Zealand's interest in the arts in Auckland

23. Creative New Zealand receives funding through Vote: Arts, Culture and Heritage and the New Zealand Lottery Grants Board Te Puna Tahua. In 2024/25, Creative New Zealand **invested nearly \$61 million in the arts in New Zealand**, through investing in the arts, developing the arts, and providing leadership in the arts.
24. In 2024/25, we **invested \$17.7 million of direct financial support in Auckland**, almost 30 percent of our total investment by region. In addition, our investment in activity that takes place nationwide (17.2 percent) and online (4.5 percent) sees benefits flow to Auckland by supporting arts and cultural experiences presented in the region; and our international programme (7.1 percent) adds additional investment to Auckland via artists based in the region.
25. Under the Creative Communities Scheme, we provide funding to territorial authorities to support local arts activities. The annual allocation to Auckland Council under the Scheme is **\$1.33 million**. In 2024/25, this funding supported **246 projects** which engaged 26,539 participants and had 395,572 attendances. Allocations to territorial authorities under the Scheme are based on a population-based formula.

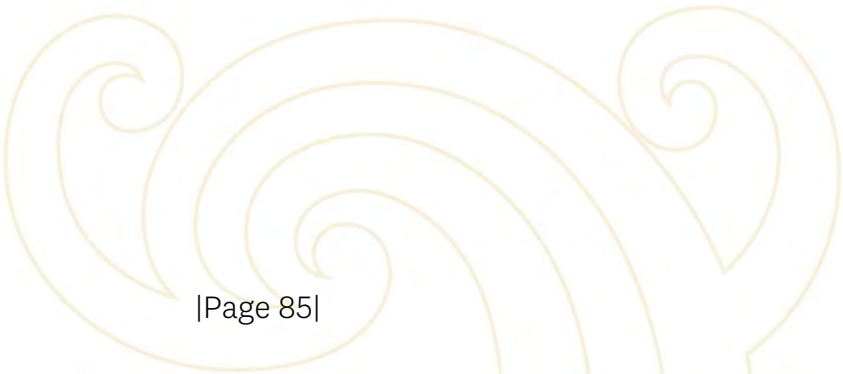
Final thoughts

26. Thank you again for the opportunity to provide feedback on the Local Board Plans.
27. To quote Deputy Mayor Desley Simpson at the launch of *The Arts Matter*, 'Arts matter because people matter. A culturally vibrant Tāmaki Makaurau is essential to our region's future and the stories we tell as a nation. So, let's champion creativity... as a foundation for belonging, for identity, for innovation and community resilience.' We wholeheartedly agree.

28. Please contact us if you have any questions or if you wish to discuss this submission further.
The key contact person is:

[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]

[Redacted]
[Redacted]





Have Your Say on the Draft Waitematā Local Board Plan 2026

#423

Note: This simplified version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation: For Communities Against Alcohol Harm

Local Board: Regional Organisation

Your feedback:

1. **How well do you think our draft Waitematā Local Board Plan reflects the needs and aspirations of our community over the next three years?**

Tell us why

See attached

Community

2. **How well do you think these objectives reflect the needs and priorities of the Waitematā community?**

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

See Attached

Natural Environment

3. **How well do you think these objectives reflect the needs and priorities of the Waitematā community?**

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

See Attached

Built Environment

4. How well do you think these objectives reflect the needs and priorities of the Waitematā community?

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

See Attached

Economic Development

5. How well do you think these objectives reflect the needs and priorities of the Waitematā community?

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

See Attached

Transport

6. How well do you think these objectives reflect the needs and priorities of the Waitematā community?

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

See Attached

Other outcomes and considerations

7. How well do you think we have captured these considerations in the draft plan for the Waitematā community?

Māori outcomes	
Climate outcomes	
Equitable outcomes	

Tell us why (please note which outcome area you are referring to)

See attached file

8. Do you have any other feedback on the draft Waitematā Local Board Plan 2026?

See attached file

23 July 2026

Local Board Plan
Auckland Council
Private Bag 92300
Victoria Street West
Auckland 1142



Waitematā Local Board Plan 2026

Introduction

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the draft Waitematā Local Board Plan 2026 (the draft plan).

This feedback is provided on behalf of Communities Against Alcohol Harm (CAAH). We are a charity that supports communities in navigating alcohol licensing processes to reduce alcohol-related harm across Aotearoa.

Since 2014 CAAH has provided advice and support to local community organisations, members of the public, local government members and stakeholders relating to applications for alcohol licences within local community areas initially in South Auckland but now throughout Aotearoa.

The Waitematā area has the highest concentration of alcohol licences of anywhere in the country. NZIER's 2024 analysis estimates the cost of alcohol-related harm in New Zealand at approximately \$9.1 billion per annum. As a result Waitematā experiences significant costs associated with health and social services, lost productivity, and justice system impacts.

In this context CAAH is active in the Waitematā area supporting work to reduce alcohol related harm particularly in the city centre. We offer pro bono support to objectors including organisations such as the Auckland City Mission and City Centre Residents Group (CCRG). We support local board members in your alcohol licensing role.

Feedback

Overall we support the vision and priorities set out in the draft plan.

Our feedback is focused on the Community focus area. We note that the plan doesn't acknowledge the challenges faced in the city centre as a result of alcohol-related harm. We know from our work with the CCRG that local residents experience disorderly, and at times violent anti-social behaviours, and property destruction particularly Friday to Sunday, from visitors to the City Centre who engage in excessive drinking. Police statistics bear out that alcohol continues to be the main driver of anti-social behaviour in the City Centre and shapes the perceptions of safety. Reducing alcohol-related harm related to excessive alcohol consumption (as an issue separate to mental health, addiction and homelessness) is crucial for improving safety in the City Centre.

We therefore recommend including "safety" in the 3 year goal: *Every part of our community feels welcome, connected, **safe** and supported.*

This is aligned with the key initiative: *Support local and regional initiatives intended to improve public safety and perceptions of safety in the city centre and outer neighbourhood town centres.*

To support the work to reduce alcohol and related harm we also recommend the local board include an advocacy position: *Advocate for legislative and policy change to help reduce social harm from alcohol, tobacco and vaping.*

CAAH welcomes opportunities to continue partnering with the local board to help people navigate complex alcohol licensing processes, work to reduce alcohol-related harm and improve safety in Waitemātā.

We would like to present our feedback to the local board if this option is available.

Ngā mihi,

[Redacted signature block]



Have Your Say on the Draft Waitematā Local Board Plan 2026

#195

Note: This simplified version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation: Gardens4Health

Local Board: Regional Organisation

Your feedback:

1. **How well do you think our draft Waitematā Local Board Plan reflects the needs and aspirations of our community over the next three years?**

Quite well

Tell us why

Community

2. **How well do you think these objectives reflect the needs and priorities of the Waitematā community?**

Quite well

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

Natural Environment

3. **How well do you think these objectives reflect the needs and priorities of the Waitematā community?**

Not very well

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

Built Environment

4. How well do you think these objectives reflect the needs and priorities of the Waitematā community?

Quite well

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

Economic Development

5. How well do you think these objectives reflect the needs and priorities of the Waitematā community?

Not very well

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

Transport

6. How well do you think these objectives reflect the needs and priorities of the Waitematā community?

Quite well

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

Other outcomes and considerations

7. How well do you think we have captured these considerations in the draft plan for the Waitematā community?

Māori outcomes	Not very well
Climate outcomes	Quite well
Equitable outcomes	Not very well

Tell us why (please note which outcome area you are referring to)

8. Do you have any other feedback on the draft Waitematā Local Board Plan 2026?

There is no mention of food inequity or the local food system of Waitematā.



Submission on 3 year local board plan for Waitematā.

Tēna koe,

I am writing on behalf of Gardens4Health: a network that is connected to over 130 community food gardens across the Auckland isthmus. Our team works every day with communities dedicated to improving access to fresh, healthy kai in their neighborhoods, most of whom do so without receiving any payment. We have seen first hand the impact of negligent kai infrastructure in our communities and how this impacts everyone. We want our leaders to have a robust plan for food resilience that is grounded in the existing work of communities, and our Council to be active in addressing the rapid increase of food inequity that is impacting everyone. This work cannot be done by volunteers alone.

A strong local food system is about much more than food. It supports healthier people, strengthens community connections, builds resilience to economic and climate challenges, encourages local enterprise, and contributes to thriving neighbourhoods. Investing in local food initiatives can help deliver many of the outcomes the Local Board is already seeking to achieve, including improved health and wellbeing, stronger communities, environmental sustainability and greater local resilience.

Across Waitematā, community organisations, schools, mana whenua, growers, volunteers and local businesses are already making an important contribution to improving access to healthy food. However, increasing pressures on household budgets, climate uncertainty, population growth and rising demand for food support demonstrate the need for stronger local coordination and continued investment.

I believe the Waitematā Local Board has an important opportunity to strengthen its existing commitments by recognising food as a strategic priority and working alongside communities to build a healthier, more resilient and more equitable local food system.

The actions below are practical, evidence-informed steps that can be implemented over the next one to three years to improve access to healthy food, strengthen community resilience, and support the long-term wellbeing of everyone who lives, works and learns in Waitematā.

How these actions support your existing commitments

These recommendations align closely with the outcomes and aspirations of both the Local Board Plan and the Auckland Plan 2050. Together, they would contribute to healthier communities, stronger neighbourhoods, environmental sustainability, climate resilience, local economic participation and greater social connectedness.

By strengthening the local food system, the Local Board can help create lasting benefits that extend well beyond food itself, improving quality of life while supporting communities to become more resilient, self-reliant and better prepared for future challenges.

Recommended Actions

1. Understand the local food system

- Commit to a local food system wānanga involving Local Board members, mana whenua, community organisations and other key stakeholders.
- Map existing food-related services, programmes, community assets, growing spaces, food providers and local champions across the Local Board area. Identify existing strengths, gaps and opportunities, and explore how current resources and investment could be better aligned to maximise impact, collaboration and equity.
- Develop a shared understanding of the local food system will help inform future investment and strengthen collaboration across the community.

2. Strengthen community partnerships

- Actively engage with the organisations, volunteers and community leaders already working to improve local food access and wellbeing.
- Visit community gardens, food hubs, māra kai, food rescue organisations, cooking and nutrition programmes, schools and local initiatives. Listen to the experiences of those working on the ground and build ongoing relationships that support genuine collaboration and shared decision-making.
- Promote existing initiatives through Local Board communication channels to increase community awareness, participation and support.

3. Invest in local food initiatives

- Increase support for proven community-led food initiatives through funding, programming and longer-term partnerships. This could include supporting community gardens and māra kai, strengthening local food hubs, providing dedicated funding for key coordination roles, improving access to small grants, streamlining Council processes, and providing greater certainty through longer-term lease arrangements where appropriate.
- Build the capability and sustainability of successful community initiatives, which represents a practical investment in the long-term resilience of the Local Board area.

4. Create healthier food environments

- Support initiatives that enable access to nourishing food and drink for everyone. This may include expanding access to drinking water, supporting culturally appropriate food initiatives, encouraging healthier food options at community events and Council facilities, celebrating businesses that provide healthy choices, and supporting community organisations to offer nutritious food through their programmes.
- Although Local Boards have limited influence over commercial food marketing, they can play an important leadership role by creating environments that encourage healthier choices and promote community wellbeing.

5. Celebrate and grow local food leadership

- Champion the stories, people and initiatives that are already strengthening the local food system.
- Share local successes through community events, digital communications and neighbourhood networks. Increase public awareness of local food initiatives and encourage greater participation across the community.
- Work alongside community organisations, mana whenua, schools, growers, businesses and residents to develop a shared vision for a resilient local food system that is better prepared for future economic, environmental and social challenges.

I believe the Waitematā Local Board has an opportunity to become a leader in creating a healthier, more resilient and more connected community through practical investment in its local food system.

Supporting better access to good, nutritious and affordable food is not simply a response to current challenges. It is an investment in healthier people, stronger communities, greater resilience, local economic development and a more sustainable future.

By working alongside local communities and building on the strengths that already exist, the Local Board can help create lasting benefits for current and future generations while delivering on its vision for a thriving Waitematā.

Thank you for your consideration and for your ongoing commitment to the wellbeing of the Waitematā community.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



Have Your Say on the Draft Waitematā Local Board Plan 2026

#230

Note: This simplified version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation: Grey Lynn Business Association

Local Board: Waitematā

Your feedback:

- 1. How well do you think our draft Waitematā Local Board Plan reflects the needs and aspirations of our community over the next three years?**

Quite well

Tell us why

The Grey Lynn Business Association believes the draft Waitematā Local Board Plan reflects many of the priorities we hear from local businesses, including vibrant town centres, strong communities and thriving local economies.

As the Business Improvement District (BID) for Grey Lynn, we support the overall direction of the plan and encourage continued partnership with local business associations to help deliver positive outcomes for businesses, residents and visitors.

Community

- 2. How well do you think these objectives reflect the needs and priorities of the Waitematā community?**

Quite well

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

The Grey Lynn Business Association strongly supports these objectives. A connected, inclusive and vibrant community is also the foundation of a thriving local economy.

We encourage the Local Board to recognise local businesses as key partners in delivering these outcomes. Businesses are more than places of trade, they provide spaces where people

meet, connect and build community. They support local events, employ local people and contribute to the unique identity of our neighbourhoods.

We would like to see a stronger focus on initiatives that connect businesses with schools, community organisations and residents through local events, youth engagement, placemaking and volunteering opportunities. These partnerships strengthen community pride, encourage people to shop locally and create safer, more vibrant neighbourhoods.

By investing in both community and business, the Local Board can create places where people choose to live, work, visit and belong.

Natural Environment

3. How well do you think these objectives reflect the needs and priorities of the Waitematā community?

Quite well

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

The Grey Lynn Business Association would like to see a stronger focus on supporting local businesses to participate in sustainability initiatives. This could include promoting waste reduction, sustainable business practices and community-led environmental projects that are practical, achievable and encourage collaboration between businesses, residents and community organisations.

Built Environment

4. How well do you think these objectives reflect the needs and priorities of the Waitematā community?

Quite well

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

The Grey Lynn Business Association supports these objectives and encourages the Local Board to view the built environment as a key driver of economic vitality, community wellbeing and local identity. We encourage the Local Board to be ambitious in creating town centres that people are proud of places that inspire people to visit, stay longer, return often and support local businesses.

Continued investment in beautification, placemaking, public art, landscaping, wayfinding and high-quality streetscapes will help create vibrant destinations that celebrate the unique character of each neighbourhood. Attractive, welcoming and accessible public spaces encourage people to explore, connect with their community, support local businesses and develop a stronger sense of pride and ownership.

By investing in places that are both functional and memorable, the Local Board can strengthen Grey Lynn's identity, enhance the visitor experience and support long-term economic vitality across the Waitematā area.

Economic Development

5. How well do you think these objectives reflect the needs and priorities of the Waitematā community?

Quite well

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

The Grey Lynn Business Association strongly supports these objectives and encourages the Local Board to recognise Business Improvement Districts as key delivery partners in achieving them.

We would like to see a stronger focus on supporting local business growth through coordinated place marketing, precinct activation and business capability programmes that celebrate the unique character of Grey Lynn's neighbourhoods and encourage people to shop, dine and spend locally.

We also encourage greater collaboration between local businesses, schools, tertiary institutions, creative industries and community organisations to build local talent, strengthen workforce opportunities and foster innovation.

Transport

6. How well do you think these objectives reflect the needs and priorities of the Waitematā community?

Quite well

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

The Grey Lynn Business Association supports the vision for a safe, accessible and sustainable transport network. We encourage transport planning that minimises disruption to businesses and brings businesses along the journey through early, meaningful and ongoing engagement.

Strong partnerships with Business Improvement Districts and local businesses should be embedded throughout the planning, design, implementation and post-project review phases. We also encourage continued investment in wayfinding, road safety education, accessible public spaces, and appropriate short-stay parking and loading zones.

There is also an opportunity for the Local Board, Auckland Transport, Business Improvement Districts and local businesses to work together on education, communication and advocacy initiatives that help people access local town centres across Waitematā safely and confidently, regardless of how they choose to travel. This could include promoting all transport options, improving wayfinding, helping visitors locate available parking, supporting safe walking and cycling, and providing clear, accessible information that makes travelling to our town centres simple and welcoming.

A successful transport network is one that provides genuine transport choice through clear communication, effective wayfinding and informed decision-making. People should be empowered to choose the travel option that best suits their needs, creating a network that is accessible, inclusive and supports thriving local businesses and town centres.

We encourage the Local Board to monitor the impact of transport projects on business confidence, accessibility, foot traffic and customer experience to ensure investments deliver positive outcomes for both the community and the local economy.

Other outcomes and considerations

7. How well do you think we have captured these considerations in the draft plan for the Waitematā community?

Māori outcomes	Not very well
Climate outcomes	Quite well
Equitable outcomes	Not very well

Tell us why (please note which outcome area you are referring to)

The Grey Lynn Business Association encourages the Local Board to continue exploring opportunities to partner with mana whenua, Māori businesses and Māori entrepreneurs as part of delivering the Plan.

Supporting Māori enterprise, encouraging participation in local economic development initiatives and celebrating the unique cultural identity of Waitematā can contribute to stronger communities and a more resilient local economy.

We also encourage the Local Board to strengthen its focus on equity. Grey Lynn is a diverse community, and investment should ensure people of all ages, cultures, abilities and backgrounds and businesses of all sizes have equitable access to opportunities, support and vibrant town centres.

8. Do you have any other feedback on the draft Waitematā Local Board Plan 2026?

The Grey Lynn Business Association welcomes the direction of the draft Waitematā Local Board Plan and looks forward to working in partnership with the Local Board to help deliver positive outcomes for businesses, residents and visitors.

We encourage the Local Board to recognise Business Improvement Districts as strategic partners and to continue engaging with local businesses early and throughout the planning, delivery and review of projects. Strong partnerships and meaningful engagement lead to better-informed decisions and stronger outcomes for our communities.

We also encourage the Local Board to measure success through indicators such as business confidence, town centre vitality, foot traffic, commercial occupancy and community participation, ensuring investment continues to deliver lasting value for the Waitematā community.



Have Your Say on the Draft Waitematā Local Board Plan 2026

#426

Note: This simplified version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation: Healthy Auckland Together

Local Board: Regional Organisation

Your feedback:

1. **How well do you think our draft Waitematā Local Board Plan reflects the needs and aspirations of our community over the next three years?**

Tell us why

See attached

Community

2. **How well do you think these objectives reflect the needs and priorities of the Waitematā community?**

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

See Attached

Natural Environment

3. **How well do you think these objectives reflect the needs and priorities of the Waitematā community?**

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

See Attached

Built Environment

4. **How well do you think these objectives reflect the needs and priorities of the Waitematā community?**

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

See Attached

Economic Development

5. **How well do you think these objectives reflect the needs and priorities of the Waitematā community?**

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

See Attached

Transport

6. **How well do you think these objectives reflect the needs and priorities of the Waitematā community?**

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

See Attached

Other outcomes and considerations

7. **How well do you think we have captured these considerations in the draft plan for the Waitematā community?**

Māori outcomes	
Climate outcomes	
Equitable outcomes	

Tell us why (please note which outcome area you are referring to)

See attached file

8. **Do you have any other feedback on the draft Waitematā Local Board Plan 2026?**

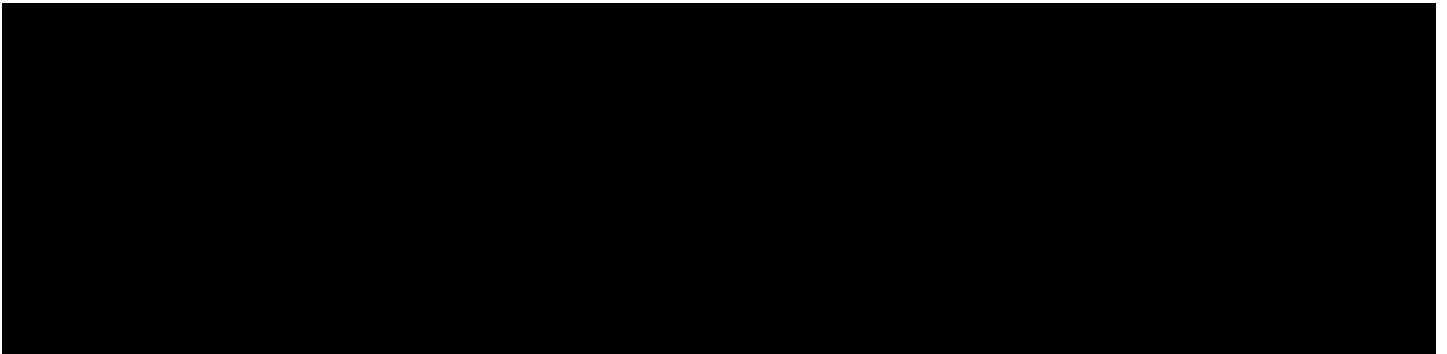
See attached file



Healthy Auckland Together submission on the Waitematā Draft Local Board Plan 2026

Thank you for the opportunity for Healthy Auckland Together (HAT) to provide a submission on the Waitematā draft Local Board Plan 2026.

Ngā mihi,



About Healthy Auckland Together



Healthy Auckland Together is committed to improving Tāmaki Makaurau so that it is an environment where all people can live full and healthy lives. By working collaboratively, we want to make it easier for everyone to be active, eat better and live longer lives. Healthy Auckland Together is a coalition of more than 30 partners representing local government, mana whenua, health agencies, non-government organisations, academia and consumer interest groups.



Creating a healthy city

Aucklanders deserve to live in communities that support all ages and all abilities to have freedom and build connections within their neighbourhoods. How our cities and neighbourhoods are designed, built and managed has a significant impact on the health and wellbeing of the people who live, work and learn in these areas.

However, increasing cost pressures on households, petrol and diesel vehicles dominating our streets, inequitable access to quality green space, and urban intensification without community-friendly design have led to a city with high demand for food support, decreased rates of active travel amongst children and diminishing outdoor play. These changes demonstrate the need for stronger local coordination and continued investment to improve the wellbeing of our communities.

Waitematā Local Board has a key role in the community and street spaces that enable good lives for all people. Enabling access to nourishing food, providing more opportunities to play and creating safe and healthy street environments will contribute to outcomes identified in the Auckland Plan 2050.

Mana Whenua

Engagement with Mana whenua is critical for improving outcomes for Māori. When iwi and Māori are involved in decision making around the built and natural environments, tamariki and whānau are supported to connect with local whenua, waterways, histories, mātauranga and cultural practices. Involvement in transport design and decisions, required under the Local Government (Auckland Council) Act 2009, supports Māori identity being reflected in the transport network.

Local Food Systems

A strong local food system is about more than food. It strengthens community connections, builds resilience to economic and climate challenges, encourages local enterprise, and contributes to thriving neighbourhoods. Working alongside communities and investing in healthy local food initiatives can help deliver many of the outcomes the Local Board is already seeking, including improved health and wellbeing, stronger communities, environmental sustainability and greater local resilience.

Outdoor Play

Engaging in outdoor play is a fundamental right of children in Aotearoa New Zealand and is an important contributor to physical, mental, social, emotional, and cultural wellbeing across the life course. When children engage in outdoor play, they experience better physical health through increased strength, bone health, cardiovascular and metabolic health; better mental health through stress reduction, emotional resilience and improved confidence, creativity, curiosity, and problem-solving; and greater social wellbeing through connections with others, belonging and intergenerational relationships.



Healthy Transport

The transport system has a significant impact on the health and wellbeing of everyone, wherever they live. How we get about has positive impacts, adults and children who travel actively, whether they scoot, cycle or walk are protected against cardiovascular diseases, breast cancer, colorectal cancer and diabetes; improve learning and social connectedness in children and supports overall mental wellbeing. In contrast, reliance on petrol and diesel vehicles has led to increasing air pollution from vehicle emissions, causing damage to our cardiovascular and immune systems, leading to asthma, hospitalisations and deaths in communities; and ever-increasing vehicle sizes pose greater safety risks to our most vulnerable road users.

Recommendations

Through cleaner air, safer streets, more opportunities for play and access to nourishing local food, Waitematā can be a place where communities live longer, healthier lives. To support these outcomes for your communities, Healthy Auckland Together suggests the following recommendations.

Community

The Waitematā Local Board plan is to be commended for including actions on strengthening the opportunities for communities to celebrate inclusion, cultural heritage, events, sports and recreation in parks and town centres.

We **support** your objective for “Every part of our community feels welcome, connected and supported”, particularly the priorities involving play, community gardens and food resilience.

The draft Local Board plan could be strengthened to enable opportunities for play, improve accessibility and increase access to nourishing food.

To improve outcomes for your communities, we **recommend** that

- Objective 2 adds a priority to “Adopt a healthy local food strategy plan with implementation embedded in workplans.” More information about developing a local food strategy can be found in Appendix 2.

Natural Environment

The Waitematā Local Board plan does well for including extensive actions to care for, protect and restore the natural environment in Waitematā. The natural environment is interconnected with the health and wellbeing of communities. A strong natural environment supports mental wellbeing and mitigates the impact of air pollution and high temperatures on our most vulnerable.

We **support** your objective to “maintain, restore and enhance our urban natural environment,” particularly your approach to improving air quality and encouraging urban ngāhere. We also support your objectives to “Champion more sustainable waste management options and community climate action” and its approach to support community transport initiatives and supporting local food growing.



Built Environment

Waitematā's built environment are key places for people to learn, work and play, and good access to supportive and welcoming public spaces contributes to the health and wellbeing of communities. Safe and well-designed town centres facilitate play and improve access for pedestrians.

We **support** all your objectives, particularly those that prioritise improving pedestrianisation, access to green spaces and expanding ngāhere, opportunities to play and enhancement of Māori whakapapa

Transport

The overall implementation of the Waitematā Local Board's new responsibilities in transport is a positive approach to enabling good health through increased safety and active travel.

Improving equity in transport is crucial for a healthier community and requires addressing wider systematic issues, including unsafe driving behaviour, congestion, personal safety issues and prioritising environments that support children's independent mobility. Understanding the social stigma experienced by youth while cycling and using public transport is also relevant to improving uptake of healthy behaviours. The involvement of Māori, Pacific and disabled communities when developing actions is integral to good equity outcomes.

We **support** all your objectives that improve safety, accessibility and promote active and public transport connections.

To improve outcomes for your communities, we **recommend** that:

- A priority is included advocate for a time of use charging scheme that is equitable and raises funds that are used to improve public and active transport,
- Add an objective to engage with Mana Whenua and Māori to embed Māori identity, partnership and kaitiakitanga.

Conclusion

Thank you for providing the opportunity to comment on the Waitematā Draft Local Board Plan 2026.



Appendix 1 Tabled Recommendations

Community			
Objective	Priority	Stance	Recommendation
2	-	Addition	Add a priority to “Adopt a healthy local food strategy plan with implementation embedded in workplans.” More information about developing a local food strategy can be found in Appendix 2.
Transport			
Objective	Priority	Stance	Recommendation
3	-	Addition	Include a priority to “advocate for a fair and equitable time of use charging scheme that uses funds to improve public and active transport”
-	-	Addition	Add an objective to “engage with Mana Whenua and Māori to embed Māori identity, partnership and kaitiakitanga in Waitemata’s transport network”



Appendix 2 Developing a healthy local food strategy

1. Understand the local food system

Commit to a local food system wānanga involving Local Board members, mana whenua, community organisations and other key stakeholders.

Map existing food-related services, programmes, community assets, growing spaces, food providers and local champions across the Local Board area. Identify existing strengths, gaps and opportunities, and explore how current resources and investment could be better aligned to maximise impact, collaboration and equity.

Developing a shared understanding of the local food system will help inform future investment and strengthen collaboration across the community.

2. Strengthen community partnerships

Actively engage with the organisations, volunteers and community leaders already working to improve local food access and wellbeing.

Visit community gardens, food hubs, māra kai, food rescue organisations, cooking and nutrition programmes, schools and local initiatives. Listen to the experiences of those working on the ground and build ongoing relationships that support genuine collaboration and shared decision-making.

Promote existing initiatives through Local Board communication channels to increase community awareness, participation and support.

3. Invest in local food initiatives

Increase support for proven community-led food initiatives through funding, programming and longer-term partnerships.

This could include supporting community gardens and māra kai, strengthening local food hubs, providing dedicated funding for key coordination roles, improving access to small grants, streamlining Council processes, and providing greater certainty through longer-term lease arrangements where appropriate.

Building the capability and sustainability of successful community initiatives represents a practical investment in the long-term resilience of the Local Board area.

4. Create healthier food environments

Support initiatives that enable access to nourishing food and drink for everyone.

This may include expanding access to drinking water, supporting culturally appropriate food initiatives, encouraging healthier food options at community events and Council facilities, celebrating businesses that provide healthy choices, and supporting community organisations to offer nutritious food through their programmes.



Although Local Boards have limited influence over commercial food marketing, they can play an important leadership role by creating environments that encourage healthier choices and promote community wellbeing.

5. Celebrate and grow local food leadership

Champion the stories, people and initiatives that are already strengthening the local food system.

Share local successes through community events, digital communications and neighbourhood networks. Increase public awareness of local food initiatives and encourage greater participation across the community.

Work alongside community organisations, mana whenua, schools, growers, businesses and residents to develop a shared vision for a resilient local food system that is better prepared for future economic, environmental and social challenges.



Have Your Say on the Draft Waitematā Local Board Plan 2026

#223

Note: This simplified version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation: Kelmarna Community Farm Trust

Local Board: Waitematā

Your feedback:

1. **How well do you think our draft Waitematā Local Board Plan reflects the needs and aspirations of our community over the next three years?**

Quite well

Tell us why

Community

2. **How well do you think these objectives reflect the needs and priorities of the Waitematā community?**

Quite well

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

Natural Environment

3. **How well do you think these objectives reflect the needs and priorities of the Waitematā community?**

Quite well

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

Built Environment

4. How well do you think these objectives reflect the needs and priorities of the Waitematā community?

Quite well

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

Economic Development

5. How well do you think these objectives reflect the needs and priorities of the Waitematā community?

Quite well

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

Transport

6. How well do you think these objectives reflect the needs and priorities of the Waitematā community?

Very well

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

Other outcomes and considerations

7. How well do you think we have captured these considerations in the draft plan for the Waitematā community?

Māori outcomes	Quite well
Climate outcomes	Quite well
Equitable outcomes	Quite well

Tell us why (please note which outcome area you are referring to)

8. Do you have any other feedback on the draft Waitematā Local Board Plan 2026?

See the attachment with summaries our feedback across all areas of the Local Board Plan.

Tēnā koutou,

Kelmarna Community Farm Trust welcomes the opportunity to submit on the draft Waitematā Local Board Plan 2026.

Kelmarna is a 4.5-acre certified organic urban farm and registered charity based in Ponsonby, farming since 1981. We run a market garden, a CSA veg box scheme, a farm shop, our farmhands training programme, therapeutic gardening, school education, community events, and the Soil Factory composting operation. We are proud to be a long-standing part of the Waitematā community, and we see a strong alignment between what we do and what this draft plan is trying to achieve.

We support the Local Board's ambitions for a connected, resilient and equitable Waitematā. One of the most practical ways to deliver on that vision is by strengthening local food systems - something the plan already recognises but which we believe deserves greater visibility and investment as a strategic priority in its own right.

Across Waitematā, community gardens, food rescue groups, mana whenua, growers and volunteers are already doing this work. Rising cost-of-living pressures, climate uncertainty and population growth mean the case for stronger local coordination and investment in food resilience is only getting stronger.

How this connects to the Local Board's own plan

We were glad to see food resilience named directly in the draft plan, and our recommendations below build on commitments the Board has already made:

Under Community, the plan commits to "support and strengthen our network of community gardens and food resilience initiatives that enable communities to grow, share, and access healthy, culturally appropriate kai." Kelmarna is one of the largest and longest-running examples of exactly this kind of initiative in the local board area.

Under Natural environment, the plan commits to "support local food growing and composting through community gardens, food forests, and gardens on balconies," and separately supports zero-waste initiatives such as the Waiōrea Community Recycling Centre. Our Soil Factory composting operation does comparable work at a small farm scale, closing the loop between local food waste and local soil health.

The plan's equity lens - through Ngā Hapori Momoho / Thriving Communities Strategy - recognises that different communities need different things to fully participate and thrive. Our provision of kai and our events give people across Waitematā practical, affordable ways to access good kai, while our therapeutic gardening and school education programmes respond directly to the plan's concerns about wellbeing, isolation and the needs of young people and those in high-density housing.

The plan's Māori outcomes commitments - deepening partnership with Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei, embedding Māori identity and values into local spaces, and the Tāmaki Ora framework -

align with Kelmarna's own commitment to Te Tiriti o Waitangi and Te Ao Māori, which shapes how we run the farm and design our programmes.

The plan also signals an intention to "investigate entering into long-term funding agreements so that our partners can have the security to deliver their programmes." We would welcome this kind of longer-term certainty - it's consistently the biggest constraint on our ability to plan and invest beyond a single year.

Our recommended actions for the Board

Understand the local food system

Commit to a local food system wānanga bringing together Local Board members, mana whenua, community organisations and growers like Kelmarna. Map existing food-related assets, services and growing spaces across Waitemātā, and identify where current investment could be better aligned to increase impact, collaboration and equity.

Part of this understanding needs to include how charities actually operate within the food system. This is genuinely complex - juggling revenue-generating activities like farm shops and CSA schemes alongside social outcomes like therapeutic gardening and food access, all while meeting funder, governance and charitable purpose requirements - and it's not something that can be properly explained in a ten-minute slot at a Local Board meeting. We'd welcome a more in-depth conversation or workshop format that gives the Board the space to really understand the model behind organisations like Kelmarna, rather than relying on brief forum presentations.

Strengthen community partnerships

Build on the relationships already signalled in the plan by visiting and engaging directly with organisations doing this work on the ground - including Kelmarna, community gardens, food rescue groups and mana whenua-led initiatives - and by promoting these initiatives through Local Board communication channels.

Invest in local food initiatives, with genuine long-term certainty

Follow through on the plan's own commitment to investigate long-term funding agreements, and extend this thinking to lease arrangements as standard practice. With the recently secured 20-year lease on our site, and this being a significant milestone for us - it's what now allows us to invest properly in soil, infrastructure and staff rather than planning year to year. But the process to get there was harder and slower than it needed to be. We'd like to see the Board work towards making long-term leases like this the norm for community food growing organisations, rather than something each group has to fight for individually.

Create healthier, more accessible food environments

Support initiatives - including Kelmarna's farm shop, veg box scheme and community events - that make nourishing, culturally appropriate kai more accessible to Waitemātā's diverse communities, particularly those facing cost-of-living pressures or living in high-density housing with little growing space of their own.

Celebrate and grow local food leadership

Share local food stories and successes through Council and community channels to lift the visibility of the people and organisations already doing this work, and to bring more of the community - especially those who feel disconnected from local decision-making - into a shared vision for a resilient Waitematā food system.

Other points in the draft plan we want to acknowledge

It is heartening to hear about the possibility of longer-term funding agreements for community organisations. This is an essential development, especially as there are many established and well-run community organisations who are worthy of such support. It would offer much-needed stability and increase the impact of these organisations.

We believe the Waitematā Local Board has a genuine opportunity to become a leader in building a healthier, more resilient and more connected community through practical investment in its local food system - and that Kelmarna, with 10 years' experience on the ground in Ponsonby, is well placed to help deliver on that vision alongside the Board.

Ngā mihi nui, and thank you for your consideration.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



Have Your Say on the Draft Waitematā Local Board Plan 2026

#164

Note: This simplified version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation: Kick Back Make Change

Local Board: Waitematā

Your feedback:

- 1. How well do you think our draft Waitematā Local Board Plan reflects the needs and aspirations of our community over the next three years?**

Quite well

Tell us why

Community

- 2. How well do you think these objectives reflect the needs and priorities of the Waitematā community?**

Very well

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

Kick Back strongly supports the focus in the plan on communities and partners working together to support people experiencing homelessness. We also strongly support the commitment under “Every part of our community feels welcome, connected and supported” to “support local and regional initiatives and organisations that address homelessness, particularly youth homelessness.” We believe this focus is critical, particularly if the move-on orders are implemented.

Every day, we are seeing increasing numbers of young people coming through our doors who are either sleeping rough in the city, couch surfing, or living in unstable and unsafe accommodation. Many have fallen through gaps between housing, health, education, disability, and social support systems, requiring coordinated responses from multiple organisations to achieve sustainable outcomes.

Our experience demonstrates that youth homelessness cannot be addressed by any one organisation alone. Effective responses require strong partnerships between community organisations, local government, housing providers, health services, iwi, schools, and other support agencies. Through The Front Door, we see firsthand the value of bringing these services together to provide young people with timely, coordinated, and wrap-around support.

Natural Environment

- 3. How well do you think these objectives reflect the needs and priorities of the Waitematā community?**

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

Built Environment

- 4. How well do you think these objectives reflect the needs and priorities of the Waitematā community?**

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

Economic Development

- 5. How well do you think these objectives reflect the needs and priorities of the Waitematā community?**

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

Transport

- 6. How well do you think these objectives reflect the needs and priorities of the Waitematā community?**

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

Other outcomes and considerations

- 7. How well do you think we have captured these considerations in the draft plan for the Waitematā community?**

Māori outcomes	
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Climate outcomes	
Equitable outcomes	

Tell us why (please note which outcome area you are referring to)

8. Do you have any other feedback on the draft Waitematā Local Board Plan 2026?



Have Your Say on the Draft Waitematā Local Board Plan 2026

#293

Note: This simplified version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation: Lifewise

Local Board: Waitematā

Your feedback:

1. **How well do you think our draft Waitematā Local Board Plan reflects the needs and aspirations of our community over the next three years?**

Tell us why

Community

2. **How well do you think these objectives reflect the needs and priorities of the Waitematā community?**

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

Natural Environment

3. **How well do you think these objectives reflect the needs and priorities of the Waitematā community?**

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

Built Environment

4. **How well do you think these objectives reflect the needs and priorities of the Waitematā community?**

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

Economic Development

- 5. How well do you think these objectives reflect the needs and priorities of the Waitematā community?**

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

Transport

- 6. How well do you think these objectives reflect the needs and priorities of the Waitematā community?**

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

Other outcomes and considerations

- 7. How well do you think we have captured these considerations in the draft plan for the Waitematā community?**

Māori outcomes	
Climate outcomes	
Equitable outcomes	

Tell us why (please note which outcome area you are referring to)

- 8. Do you have any other feedback on the draft Waitematā Local Board Plan 2026?**

Refer to attached submission for details

Lifewise Submission

Waitematā Local Board Plan 2026

Introduction

Lifewise welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback on the Waitematā Draft Local Board Plan 2026. We support the plan's focus on inclusive, connected and resilient communities, and its recognition that Waitematā is a high-density, diverse and rapidly changing part of Tāmaki Makaurau.

Lifewise has a long history of providing community-based services across Auckland, including housing and homelessness responses, community support, early childhood education, whānau and family support, mental health and addiction-related support, and social enterprise through Merge Café. Our feedback is grounded in our daily work alongside people and whānau experiencing homelessness, housing insecurity, social isolation, poverty, mental distress, addiction, family stress and other forms of exclusion.

We support the overall direction of the plan. However, we believe it could be strengthened by being more explicit about the role of the Local Board in enabling practical, place-based responses to complex social issues. Many of the challenges identified in the plan sit across local government, central government, iwi, NGOs, community organisations, residents and businesses. While the Local Board cannot solve these issues alone, it has an important role in using local funding, facilities, convening power and advocacy to strengthen coordinated responses.

Overall Feedback

The draft plan correctly identifies a number of important pressures facing Waitematā, including homelessness, public safety concerns, high-density living, social isolation, pressure on community facilities and the need for inclusive public spaces. Lifewise supports these priorities and welcomes the plan's focus on belonging, participation and wellbeing.

To strengthen the impact of the plan, we recommend a stronger focus on three areas.

First, the plan should more clearly enable integrated, place-based responses. Waitematā includes communities with very different experiences of safety, connection, housing, income and access to support. A general approach to community wellbeing will not be enough for people experiencing the greatest levels of exclusion. Local Board investment should intentionally support responses that bring housing, health, social support,

whānau support, community activation and lived experience leadership together in the places where need is highest.

Second, the plan should prioritise inclusion and early intervention through the use of local assets and funding. Libraries, community centres, parks, public spaces and community leases are not only physical assets. They are social infrastructure. They can support connection, reduce isolation, create pathways into help, and provide low-barrier points of engagement for people who may not access formal services. This is particularly important in the city centre and other high-density neighbourhoods where people may live close together but still experience significant loneliness and disconnection.

Third, the plan should strengthen its advocacy where system levers sit outside local control. Housing supply, supported housing, mental health and addiction services, income adequacy, public safety and health services all require central and regional action. The Local Board can play an important role by advocating clearly and consistently for investment that reflects the scale and complexity of need in Waitematā.

Homelessness and Housing

Lifewise strongly supports the plan's recognition of homelessness as a complex and visible issue in Waitematā. We also support advocacy for affordable, public and community housing, particularly in the city centre and inner suburbs where people need to be able to live close to jobs, services, transport, schools, health care and community support.

However, the plan should go further than "supporting initiatives" and clearly state the importance of long-term, supported housing solutions. Homelessness is not simply a lack of shelter. For many people, it is connected to trauma, mental distress, addiction, poverty, family breakdown, disability, racism, system failure and long periods of exclusion. Temporary responses are sometimes necessary, but they do not replace permanent housing with the right level of support.

We recommend that the Local Board strengthen the plan by explicitly supporting Housing First and other evidence-informed housing and support models. These approaches recognise that people need stable housing as a foundation for recovery, reconnection and wellbeing. In practice, this means supporting outreach, tenancy sustainment, peer support, health and social service connections, and practical help with the everyday issues that can make or break a tenancy.

The Local Board can also support homelessness responses through its local facilities and community spaces. Drop-in hubs, outreach bases, community meals, hygiene support, information points and warm referral pathways can all help people connect earlier with support. These need to be safe, well-managed, and developed in partnership with experienced providers and people with lived experience.

The draft plan would also be stronger if it included a clearer local homelessness strategy or framework for Waitematā. At present, it does not set out specific local outcomes, measures, or an operational approach to partnership and coordination. This makes it harder to understand how progress will be tracked, how local partners will work together, and how the Local Board will know whether its actions are making a practical difference for people experiencing homelessness.

- Develop or endorse a clear local homelessness strategy or framework for Waitematā, aligned with Auckland-wide and central government housing and homelessness work, but specific enough to guide local action.
- Explicitly reference Housing First and support Peer Outreach, tenancy sustainment and wraparound support in the city centre and inner suburbs.
- Define local homelessness outcomes and measures, such as improved housing pathways, reduced rough sleeping, stronger tenancy sustainment, improved access to health and addiction support, and stronger connection to whānau and community.
- Set out how partnerships and coordination will be operationalised, including regular provider forums, shared referral pathways, agreed escalation processes, and clear roles for Council, government agencies, NGOs, iwi, residents and businesses.
- Advocate for increased permanent, supported housing options for people with complex needs.
- Enable low-barrier access points through community facilities, where appropriate, in partnership with experienced providers.
- Support peer-led and lived-experience roles that help build trust with people who are disconnected from formal services.
- Advocate for coordinated investment across housing, health, social services and income support, rather than fragmented short-term projects.
- Ensure public space responses are balanced, humane and connected to practical support, not only enforcement or displacement.

Mental Health and Addictions

Lifewise supports the plan's advocacy for improved access to mental health and addiction services through coordinated, place-based service delivery. This is a critical issue for Waitematā. The city centre is a place where many people experiencing mental distress, addiction, homelessness, trauma and social exclusion are highly visible. It is also a place where people may struggle to access timely, non-judgemental and appropriate support.

We recommend that the plan strengthen its focus on community-based and non-clinical responses, including peer-led models. Peer support can reduce stigma, build trust, and help people engage with services in a way that feels safe and respectful. It is particularly important for people who have had poor experiences with formal systems or who are not ready to engage with clinical support.

The Local Board can contribute by supporting community facilities and local funding approaches that enable low-barrier support, outreach, wellbeing activities, and connection to specialist services. It can also convene local providers, residents, businesses, health services, Police, Auckland Council teams and central government agencies to develop shared responses to areas of high need.

- Support peer-led, non-clinical and community-based mental health and addiction responses.
- Advocate for improved after-hours and early-intervention support in the city centre.
- Support integrated models that bring together housing, health, addiction support, peer support and social services.
- Recognise the links between homelessness, addiction, mental distress and public safety, and avoid responses that treat these as separate issues.
- Convene local provider networks to improve coordination, referral pathways and shared problem-solving.
- Support harm-reduction approaches that improve safety, dignity and wellbeing for individuals and the wider community.

Community Activation and Inclusion

Lifewise supports the plan's focus on community activation, arts, events, libraries, community centres and public spaces. These are important ways to build belonging and connection. However, community activation should not only be about vibrancy or general participation. It should also be used intentionally to reduce isolation and exclusion.

In high-density communities, proximity does not automatically create connection. People can live close together while still feeling lonely, unsafe or disconnected from their neighbours. This is particularly important in high-density areas such as the western CBD apartment precinct around upper Hobson Street and Vincent Street, which has some of the highest residential density in Auckland and presents distinct challenges around isolation, transience and access to services. These challenges can be especially pronounced for people living in transitional or social housing, boarding houses, small apartments, temporary accommodation or insecure private rentals, and can also affect older people, new migrants, students, disabled people, people experiencing mental distress, and whānau under financial pressure.

We recommend that community activation funding prioritise initiatives that reach people who are least likely to participate in mainstream events. This may include smaller, local, peer-led activities; community meals; creative programmes; play-based activities; intergenerational events; neighbourhood connection projects; and activities delivered in partnership with trusted local organisations.

It is also important that community programmes are accessible to people with complex needs. This means thinking about cost, transport, physical accessibility, cultural safety, timing, sensory needs, safety, language, childcare, and whether people feel welcomed rather than judged.

- Prioritise inclusive, low-cost and free community activities that reduce isolation.
- Target activation funding toward communities experiencing exclusion, including people in emergency housing, social housing and high-density living.
- Support peer-led and lived-experience initiatives that build connection and trust.
- Require funded programmes to demonstrate how they will reach people who are less likely to engage in mainstream community activities.
- Use libraries, community centres, parks and public spaces as social infrastructure that supports wellbeing, not only recreation.
- Reduce barriers for community groups wanting to use public spaces and facilities.

Family Support and Community Social Work

The plan has a strong focus on community wellbeing but could be clearer about the role of family support, whānau-centred practice and community social work in prevention and early intervention. Many of the pressures experienced by individuals in Waitemātā are also experienced by whānau and households. Housing stress, poverty, mental

distress, family violence, parenting stress, isolation and food insecurity are often connected.

Community social work and whānau support can help address issues before they escalate. This work is often relational, practical and long-term. It may include helping whānau navigate systems, access housing or income support, connect with schools or early learning, respond to family violence risk, access health care, build parenting confidence, and strengthen informal support networks.

The Local Board can support this work by enabling co-located services in community hubs and by funding early intervention initiatives that are trusted, accessible and culturally responsive. Co-location does not mean simply placing services in the same building. It means creating warm, connected pathways so that people do not have to repeat their story multiple times or navigate complex systems alone.

- Recognise family support and community social work as essential to prevention and early intervention.
- Support co-located whānau support, social work, housing advice, health promotion and community connection in local hubs.
- Prioritise services that are culturally responsive and able to work effectively with Māori, Pacific, migrant and diverse whānau.
- Support outreach into high-density communities where families may be isolated or disconnected from services.
- Invest in initiatives that strengthen protective factors for children, young people and whānau, including connection, safety, income stability and access to support.
- Work with NGOs and iwi to identify local gaps and practical ways to respond.

Early Childhood Education

Early childhood education is not strongly visible in the draft plan, despite its importance to community wellbeing, child development, whānau support and long-term equity. Lifewise recommends that the plan recognise ECE as essential social infrastructure, particularly in high-density and lower-income communities.

Quality early learning supports children's development, but it also supports parents and caregivers, enables social connection, helps identify needs early, and creates trusted relationships with whānau. ECE services can be important gateways into wider support, especially when they are connected with family support, health services, food support and community activities.

As Waitematā continues to grow and intensify, access to affordable, quality ECE needs to be considered alongside housing, transport, parks, community facilities and public space planning. High-density urban living can place pressure on families with young children, particularly where indoor space is limited and outdoor play space is not easily accessible.

- Recognise ECE as critical social infrastructure in high-density communities.
- Advocate for affordable, quality ECE provision to be considered in urban development and community planning.
- Support playgroups, parent-child activities and community-led early learning opportunities through local facilities.
- Strengthen links between ECE, whānau support, libraries, parks and community hubs.
- Support initiatives that reduce barriers to participation for families experiencing poverty, isolation or housing insecurity.
- Advocate for child-friendly urban design, including safe routes, accessible play spaces and welcoming community facilities.

System Integration and Partnerships

The plan rightly recognises that partnership is essential. Lifewise strongly supports this. However, partnership needs to be more than consultation or occasional engagement. It needs clear mechanisms, shared priorities, practical coordination and sustained investment.

The issues facing Waitematā are interconnected. Homelessness cannot be addressed without housing, health, income support and community connection. Public safety cannot be addressed without responding to trauma, addiction, mental distress, poverty, alcohol harm and the design and management of public spaces. Social isolation cannot be addressed only through events if people are excluded from the conditions that allow participation.

The Local Board is well placed to convene local responses because it understands local communities, assets and pressure points. It can bring together Auckland Council teams, central government agencies, NGOs, iwi, residents, businesses, schools, ECE providers, health services and lived-experience leaders. This convening role should be made more explicit in the plan.

- Establish regular local sector forums focused on homelessness, housing, mental health, addiction, public safety and community wellbeing.

- Support place-based planning in areas of high need, including the city centre and high-density neighbourhoods.
- Work with NGOs, iwi and community partners to identify service gaps and avoid duplication.
- Support longer-term funding approaches where possible, rather than relying only on short-term project grants.
- Encourage shared learning, feedback loops and impact measurement across funded initiatives.
- Use advocacy to seek aligned investment from central government and Auckland Council where local funding is not sufficient.

Conclusion

Lifewise supports the overall direction of the Waitematā Draft Local Board Plan 2026. We welcome its focus on inclusive, connected and resilient communities, and its recognition of the challenges facing the city centre and inner suburbs.

To strengthen the plan, we encourage the Local Board to be more explicit about enabling coordinated, place-based responses to homelessness, housing insecurity, mental health and addiction, whānau wellbeing, social isolation and access to early support. The Local Board has an important role through local funding, community facilities, public spaces, community leases, convening power and advocacy.

We encourage the Local Board to prioritise investment and advocacy that reaches people who experience the greatest barriers to inclusion. This includes people experiencing homelessness, whānau under pressure, people living in emergency or social housing, people experiencing mental distress or addiction, families with young children, and communities isolated by poverty, disability, racism, language, age or housing insecurity.

Lifewise welcomes the opportunity to work with the Waitematā Local Board, mana whenua, NGOs, community organisations, residents, businesses and government agencies to support a more inclusive, connected and responsive Waitematā. A stronger focus on integrated local action will help ensure that the plan delivers not only vibrant places, but also practical improvements in wellbeing, dignity, safety and belonging for the people and whānau who need it most.



Have Your Say on the Draft Waitematā Local Board Plan 2026

#220

Note: This simplified version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation: National Public Health Service – Northern Region

Local Board: Regional Organisation

Your feedback:

1. **How well do you think our draft Waitematā Local Board Plan reflects the needs and aspirations of our community over the next three years?**

Quite well

Tell us why

See attached file

Community

2. **How well do you think these objectives reflect the needs and priorities of the Waitematā community?**

Quite well

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

See attached file

Natural Environment

3. **How well do you think these objectives reflect the needs and priorities of the Waitematā community?**

Quite well

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

See attached file

Built Environment

4. How well do you think these objectives reflect the needs and priorities of the Waitematā community?

Quite well

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

See attached file

Economic Development

5. How well do you think these objectives reflect the needs and priorities of the Waitematā community?

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

Transport

6. How well do you think these objectives reflect the needs and priorities of the Waitematā community?

Very well

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

See attached file

Other outcomes and considerations

7. How well do you think we have captured these considerations in the draft plan for the Waitematā community?

Māori outcomes	
Climate outcomes	
Equitable outcomes	

Tell us why (please note which outcome area you are referring to)

8. Do you have any other feedback on the draft Waitematā Local Board Plan 2026?

See attached file

23 July 2026

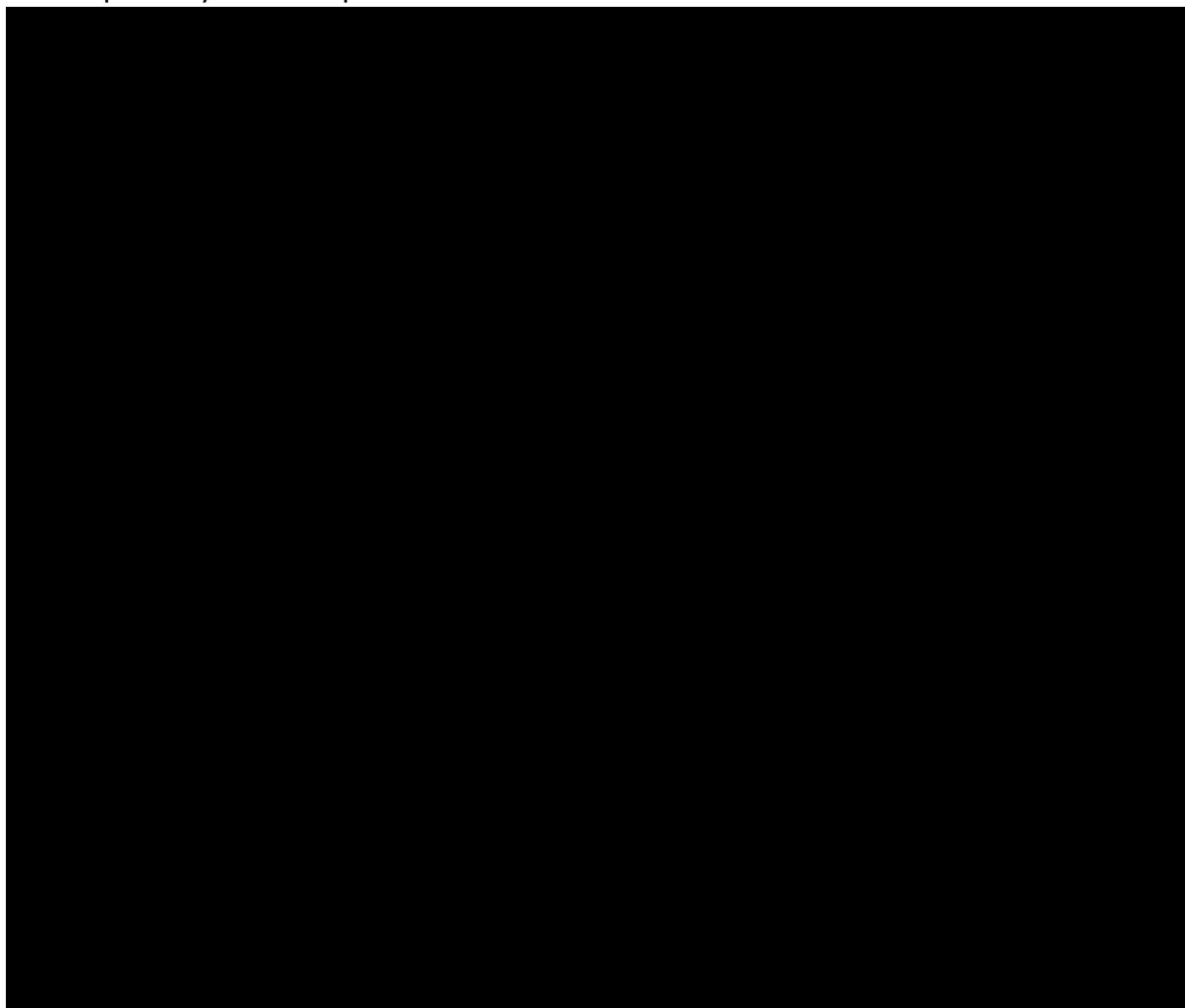
Auckland Council

akhaveyoursay@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

Local Board Plans 2026

Thank you for the opportunity for the National Public Health Service – Northern Region, Health New Zealand | Te Whatu Ora, to provide technical advice on Auckland Council's Local Board Plans 2026.

The primary contact point for this submission is:



1. Introduction and overview

This technical advice is provided on behalf of the National Public Health Service – Northern Region (**NPHS-NR**), Health New Zealand | Te Whatu Ora. NPHS-NR has statutory responsibilities to improve, promote and protect the health and wellbeing of people and communities under the Healthy Futures (Pae Ora) Act 2022,¹ and local authorities have duties to improve, promote and protect public health under the Health Act 1956. The Local Board Plans 2026 (**the Plans**) will influence the conditions in which people live, learn, work, travel and connect across Tāmaki Makaurau. For that reason, NPHS-NR welcomes the opportunity to provide advice that supports healthy, safe, resilient and equitable local communities.

Our overarching and plan-specific feedback relates to four of the five focus areas in the Plans and reflects NPHS-NR's priorities for community health:

- Safe, accessible and active transport.
- Reducing alcohol, tobacco and vaping harm.
- Food security and nutrition.
- Improving air quality and heat resilience.
- Equitable and inclusive communities.

Across all Focus Areas in the Plans, NPHS-NR recommends that Local Boards uphold initiatives and objectives that contribute to equitable health outcomes and focus on those with the greatest need. This includes prioritising actions that benefit Māori, Pacific peoples, disabled people, children and young people, older people, migrant communities and communities experiencing higher deprivation.

¹ s3a Health NZ is mandated to 'protect, promote and improve the health of all New Zealanders'
s13(c) Health NZ is to 'promote health and prevent... ill health, including by collaborating with other agencies and organisations'
s14(1)(k) Health NZ is to 'collaborate with other agencies and organisations... to address the wider determinants of health'

It also includes working in ways that uphold Te Tiriti o Waitangi, support meaningful engagement with mana whenua and mataawaka, and enable communities to shape local solutions. Areas where this is particularly relevant in a health context have been highlighted in the body of our advice.

Where NPHS-NR has not made a specific comment on a focus area, objective or priority within a Local Board Plan, this should be read as general support for the direction of that content. **Appendix I** summarises the specific amendments NPHS-NR recommends for individual Local Board Plans. Recommendations about harmful commodities in Part Two: General Comments should also be taken as suggested amendments to all Plans.

2. General comments

NPHS–NR values the role Local Boards play in supporting community wellbeing and local action on the wider determinants of health.

In the Northern Region (Auckland and Northland), around 15% of adults reported hazardous drinking in 2024/25, a slight increase from 13% in the previous year.² An estimated 7% of adults in the region smoke tobacco daily, trending upwards slightly over the last three years.³ Daily vaping is more common, with 10% of adults in the region reporting daily vape use – almost double the rate observed in 2020/2021 (6%).⁴

Physical activity and food security indicators also highlight areas where local action can support better health outcomes. Only 40% of adult Aucklanders are sufficiently physically active, and only 38% of children use active transport to and from school, an important proxy for physical activity.⁵ For fruit and vegetable intake, only 4% and 6% of Auckland adults meet the guidelines, respectively, while 15% of children are missing breakfast more than 3 times during the week.⁶

NPHS–NR encourages the inclusion of clear objectives and initiatives in Local Board Plans to reduce harm from alcohol, tobacco and vaping products; improve active and public transport options; and increase access to nourishing food environments.

² 2024/25 NZ Health Survey. https://minhealthnz.shinyapps.io/nz-health-survey-2024-25-annual-data-explorer/_w_9a4a831f8ccc4040a80cc15c9d98d87f/#!/explore-topics

³ 2024/25 NZ Health Survey. https://minhealthnz.shinyapps.io/nz-health-survey-2024-25-annual-data-explorer/_w_9a4a831f8ccc4040a80cc15c9d98d87f/#!/explore-topics

⁴ 2024/25 NZ Health Survey. https://minhealthnz.shinyapps.io/nz-health-survey-2024-25-annual-data-explorer/_w_9a4a831f8ccc4040a80cc15c9d98d87f/#!/explore-topics

⁵ NZ Healthy Survey Data. <https://www.health.govt.nz/publications/regional-data-release-new-zealand-health-survey>

⁶ See 6

The following suggested objectives and initiatives are intended to be practical options that sit within Local Board influence, partnership and advocacy roles.

Suggested objectives and initiatives include:

Support community-led aspirations to reduce harm from alcohol, tobacco and vaping products. For example:

- Providing clear mechanisms for communities to raise concerns about alcohol harm, and ensuring those concerns can inform alcohol licensing processes and any future review of Auckland Council's Local Alcohol Policy.
- Supporting community members to navigate the process of applying for an alcohol ban area.
- Seeking feedback on community concerns about public areas that should be smokefree or vape-free.
- Collaborating with local community organisations and partners with shared goals to reduce harm.
- Engaging with public health organisations, including NPHS-NR, to share information, strengthen local evidence and support community-led harm reduction initiatives.

Support community participation in decisions about how alcohol is sold and supplied locally. For example:

- Objecting to alcohol licence applications of concern and supporting community members or groups if they wish to object through this process. This process can also involve recommending stronger conditions on licences that can mitigate alcohol harm.
- Reflecting community preferences in any future review of Auckland Council's Local Alcohol Policy (LAP).

Promote safe, inclusive and healthy public spaces. For example:

- Prioritising provision of public events that are free from alcohol, tobacco and vapes.
- Ensuring signage is clear and visible in public smoke-free and vape-free designated areas.
- Reporting non-compliance of tobacco, vape or alcohol retailers through relevant channels.
- Raising community awareness of available mechanisms to make complaints about non-compliance. In the case of tobacco and vape retailers, this includes our [smoking and vaping complaints toolkit](#).
- Support community provision of healthy food and drink, including urban agriculture, community gardens and well-located public drinking fountains.
- Support and invest in a comprehensive approach to play opportunities, including formal play infrastructure and initiatives that integrate play into public spaces and community settings, enabling participation by people of all ages, abilities, and cultural backgrounds.
- Improving road safety through evidence-informed measures such as lower speeds in high-pedestrian areas and on local roads, raised crossings, safer school travel environments, and other measures that support active transport and accessible local streets.
 - o NPHS-NR strongly endorses the holistic framing used in Papakura's Plan under Focus Areas Three (Built Environment) and Five (Transport). This framing takes a determinants-of-health-based approach, and as a result NPHS-NR supports the use of this language across all other Plans.

3. Local Board Plans: Individual Technical

Advice

Alongside this overarching advice, NPHS-NR provides targeted feedback for seven Local Boards: Henderson-Massey, Waitematā, Māngere-Ōtāhuhu, Ōtara-Papatoetoe, Manurewa, Papakura and Whau. These Local Boards were prioritised based on the higher numbers of alcohol, tobacco, and vape retailers in their areas, as well as the proportion of priority populations within Local Board Areas, including Māori and Pacific communities.

3.1 Henderson-Massey

NPHS-NR supports the plan from the Henderson-Massey Local Board. In particular, NPHS-NR supports:

- Focus Area One: Community

NPHS-NR supports objectives associated with community aspirations to reduce harm from alcohol, tobacco and vapes. Smoking data in the Henderson-Massey Local Board area reflects the efforts being made to decrease smoking-related harm, with 8% of adults smoking regularly in 2023, down from 15% in the Census five years prior.⁷ We particularly endorse the initiative to support community safety approaches, specifically including alcohol harm reduction, and encourage the strengthening of this by collaborating with local community organisations and partners with shared goals to reduce harm.

- Focus Area Three: Built Environment

⁷ Tobacco Control Data Repository. <https://www.tcddata.org.nz/new-zealand-census/cigarette-smoking-behaviour-prevalence-maps-2013-2018-2023/?name=Territorial+Authority+and+Auckland+local+board&x=-369170&y=1749118&zoom=10>.

Objectives one, two and three support accessibility to active and public transport, which can contribute to improved physical activity, mental wellbeing, social connection and access to local services.⁸

NPHS-NR supports, in part, objective three of Focus Area Five: Transport. We recommend that road-calming measures, raised crossings and lower speed environments be explicitly referenced, as these measures can reduce injury risk and improve safety for people walking, cycling, using mobility aids or accessing schools and community facilities.

3.2 Māngere-Ōtāhuhu

NPHS-NR supports the Plan from the Māngere-Ōtāhuhu Local Board. In particular, NPHS-NR supports objective three of Focus Area Two: Natural Environment. NPHS-NR also supports initiative five, objective three from Focus Area One: Community as this contributes to local food security and equitable access to nutritious foods. These measures can directly support improved health outcomes for local communities.

NPHS-NR supports in part:

- Focus Area One: Community

In the Māngere-Ōtāhuhu Local Board area, 14% of adults smoked regularly in 2023, down from 20% in the Census five years prior.⁹ We acknowledge the opportunity noted around having a culturally diverse range of active and established community groups that provide a strong platform for community-led transformation. NPHS-NR encourages the Local Board to support community participation in decisions about how alcohol, tobacco and vaping products are

⁸ Sergio A. Useche, Francisco J. Llamazares, Cristina Marin (2024) Good for the planet... and for you too? Comparing five travel and health-related outcomes among active, motorized, and public transport commuters. *Journal of Transport & Health*, Volume 38, 101893.

⁹ See 7.

sold, supplied and experienced in local neighbourhoods, including through local advocacy, community engagement and collaboration with public health partners.

- Focus Area Two: Natural Environment

NPHS-NR supports in part objective three and recommends that it explicitly include urban ngahere (forests) planting along road corridors and in high-heat areas. This would support efforts to improve air quality, reduce urban heat and strengthen wider health and wellbeing co-benefits.¹⁰

- Focus Area Five: Transport

NPHS-NR supports in part objectives one, two, and three. Road calming measures, raised crossings and lower speed limits are effective ways to improve safety and lower the risk of injury in local streets. As a result, NPHS-NR recommends that these measures be included as part of these objectives.

3.3 Manurewa

NPHS-NR supports the plan from the Manurewa Local Board. In particular, NPHS-NR supports:

- Focus Area One: Community

NPHS-NR supports the initiative focused on upstream measures to reduce harm related to smoking, vaping, alcohol and other community harms. In the Manurewa Local Board area, 12% of adults smoked regularly in 2023, down from 19% in the Census five years prior.¹¹ NPHS-NR strongly endorses the objectives and key initiatives to work with community partners to reduce harm and identify

¹⁰ lungman T, Caballe SV, Segura-Barrero R, Cirach M, et al.,. Co-benefits of nature-based solutions: A health impact assessment of the Barcelon Green Corridor (*Eixos Verds*) plan. (2025). Environment International. 196: 109313

¹¹ See 7.

opportunities to increase community safety. NPHS-NR values the Manurewa Local Board's role in supporting community participation in decisions about how alcohol is sold and supplied locally. NPHS-NR also supports the objective to ensure community facilities are welcoming, accessible and designed so that everyone can use them.

- Focus Area Two: Natural Environment

NPHS-NR supports objective three, initiative one, as this measure mitigates the negative health impact of poor air quality and helps to improve heat resilience in the local area. NPHS-NR also supports objective four, as this objective contributes to positive health impacts associated with food security and access to nutritious foods.

- Focus Area Five: Transport

NPHS-NR supports objectives one to three as they contribute to increased opportunities for active travel, improved access to public transport, reduced transport barriers and broader health benefits associated with physical activity, social connection and access to essential services.

NPHS-NR supports in part initiative two, objective one of Focus Area Three: Built Environment. We recommend that people walking, cycling, using mobility aids and accessing public transport are explicitly reflected as part of encouraging people to stop, spend time and participate in community spaces.

3.4 Ōtara–Papatoetoe

NPHS–NR supports the Plan from the Ōtara–Papatoetoe Local Board. In particular, NPHS–NR supports:

- Focus Area Two: Natural Environment

NPHS–NR supports objectives two and four (initiative one) in particular, as these priorities contribute to food security, education, and equitable access to nutritious foods locally. NPHS–NR also supports initiative two in objective four as it supports the ongoing efforts to mitigate negative health outcomes associated with poor air quality, as well as improving local heat resilience.

- Focus Area Five: Transport

NPHS–NR supports objectives one, two, three and five.

NPHS–NR supports in part initiative one, objective two of Focus Area Five. We recommend that road-calming measures, raised crossings and lower speed environments are explicitly included to improve safety for people walking, cycling, using mobility aids and accessing schools, services and public spaces.

NPHS–NR opposes in part the current framing of objective four of Focus Area Five because it may privilege general private vehicle access rather than the specific accessibility needs of people who have limited or no practical transport alternatives, particularly disabled people and their whānau. NPHS–NR recommends reframing the objective to focus on transport accessibility for disabled people, older people, whānau with mobility or access needs, and others who may need to use private motor vehicles. Suggested wording: “Provide safe and accessible transport options for people who need to use private motor vehicles, while continuing to support active, public and low-emissions transport choices.”

We commend the initiative in Focus Area One: Community, and support the Ōtara-Papatoetoe Local Board to continue engaging with alcohol licensing and local alcohol policy (LAP) processes and encourage supporting community participation in how alcohol is sold and supplied in the local area. NPHS-NR opposes, in part, the initiative, as there is not currently a process through which the Local Board can oppose new vape shops. However, we encourage the use and promotion of the [smoking and vaping complaints toolkit](#) to report retailers that are non-compliant with legislation.

3.5 Papakura

NPHS-NR supports the Plan from the Papakura Local Board. In particular, NPHS-NR supports:

- Focus Area One: Community

NPHS-NR strongly endorses the initiative to support community safety approaches, including alcohol harm reduction, and encourages the Local Board to strengthen this by collaborating with local community organisations and partners with shared harm reduction goals. In the Papakura Local Board area, 9% of adults smoked regularly in 2023, down from 18% in the Census five years prior.¹² NPHS-NR also encourages initiatives that support community aspirations to reduce harm from alcohol, tobacco and vaping products.

NPHS-NR also supports initiative two, objective two within Focus Area One, as it contributes to food security and local access to nutritious food.

- Focus Area Two: Natural Environment

NPHS-NR supports objective three within Focus Area Two. This objective will help improve local environmental conditions by mitigating the impacts of poor air

¹² See 7.

quality, supporting urban cooling and strengthening community resilience to increasing temperatures associated with climate change.

- Focus Area Three: Built Environment and Focus Area Five: Transport

NPHS-NR supports the Built Environment objectives in the Papakura Local Board Plan. We particularly note the Plan's positive approach to transport, including pedestrian safety and shaded areas. These measures can support active transport, improve local amenity and contribute to better air quality and heat resilience. NPHS-NR recommends that similar wording be considered for the transport and built environment sections of other Local Board Plans where appropriate.

3.6 Waitematā

NPHS-NR supports the Plan from the Waitematā Local Board. In particular, NPHS-NR supports:

- Focus Area One: Community

NPHS-NR supports initiative eight, objective two as it contributes to priorities related to food security and access to nutritious food. NPHS-NR also supports priorities related to minimising alcohol and tobacco related harm, including vaping. In the Waitematā Local Board area, 4% of adults smoked regularly in 2023, down from 9% in the Census five years prior.¹³ We encourage the Waitematā Local Board to continue supporting initiatives that are focused on further decreasing local smoking prevalence.

- Focus Area Two: Natural Environment

NPHS-NR supports initiatives two and three within objective one, as these initiatives mitigate the negative health outcomes associated with poor air quality

¹³ See 7.

and improves local heat resilience. NPHS-NR also supports initiative five, objective three, as it contributes to food security and local access to nutritious foods. NPHS-NR particularly supports initiative three of objective three, as it helps build community connection around active transport and can strengthen the population health benefits associated with walking, cycling and other active modes.

- Focus Area Three: Built Environment

NPHS-NR supports objectives one (all initiatives) and two (initiatives three, four and six) as they support the improvement of active transport and mitigate the negative health impact of poor air quality, respectively.

- Focus Area Five: Transport

NPHS-NR supports objectives one to five. These objectives support safer and more accessible transport options, encourage physical activity through active transport, improve access to employment, education and services, and contribute to reduced exposure to transport-related air pollution, which mitigates the negative health impacts associated with poor air quality.

There are no specific suggested amendments for Waitematā Local Board, other than the general comments in Part Two of this submission.

3.7 Whau

NPHS-NR supports the Plan from the Whau Local Board. In particular, NPHS-NR supports:

- Focus Area One: Community

NPHS-NR strongly supports the objective to collaborate with local community organisations, businesses and partners such as New Zealand Police to build safe local spaces. This objective could be strengthened by adding an initiative to

engage with public health organisations, including NPHS-NR, to share information, strengthen local evidence and support harm reduction initiatives. NPHS-NR also supports initiative three, objective one, as it contributes to healthy food environments and equitable access to nutritious food. NPHS-NR further supports initiative three, objective six, as it contributes to efforts to reduce the health impacts of poor air quality and urban heat.

- Focus Area Three: Built Environment

NPHS-NR also supports initiative two, objective one of Focus Area Three: Built Environment, as it contributes to reducing exposure to poor air quality and urban heat.

- Focus Area Five: Transport

NPHS-NR supports objectives one and three within the Whau Plan.

NPHS-NR supports in part objective two of Focus Area Five. We recommend including effective strategies such as lower speed environments, raised crossings and other road safety measures, particularly around schools and community facilities. These measures would support safer, more liveable streets and contribute to health and wellbeing objectives in Focus Area One: Community.

4. Conclusion

Thank you for the opportunity to provide technical advice on Auckland Council's Local Board Plans 2026. NPHS-NR values its ongoing relationship with Auckland Council and Local Boards, and welcomes continued engagement on actions that support healthy, safe, resilient and equitable communities across Tāmaki Makaurau

Appendix 1: Overview of Suggested Amendments to Local Board Plans

Table 1: Henderson–Massey

Focus Area	Stance	Detail
One	Support in part	Include support in the plan for community-led aspirations to reduce harm from alcohol, tobacco and vaping products. Include support in the plan for community participation in decisions about how alcohol is sold and supplied locally.
Five	Support in part	Objective three should explicitly include road-calming measures, raised crossings and lower speed environments to improve local street safety, particularly for children, pedestrians, cyclists and people using mobility aids

Table 2: Māngere–Ōtāhuhu

Focus Area	Stance	Detail
One	Support in part	Objective two should include ways that the Local Board can support community participation in decisions about how alcohol is sold and supplied locally. Include support in the plan for community-led aspirations to reduce harm from alcohol, tobacco and vaping products.
Two	Support in part	Objective three should include urban ngahere (forests) planting along road corridors and high-heat areas to support improved air quality, heat resilience and wider health co-benefits.
Five	Support in part	Objectives one to three should include road-calming measures, raised crossings and lower speed environments to improve road safety locally.

Table 3: Manurewa

Focus Area	Stance	Detail
One	Support in part	Include support in the plan for community-led aspirations to reduce harm from alcohol, tobacco and vaping products. Include support in the plan for community participation in decisions about how alcohol is sold and supplied locally.
Three	Support in part	Objective one should explicitly include people walking, cycling, using mobility aids and accessing public transport as part of encouraging people to stop, spend time and participate in community spaces.

Table 4: Ōtara-Papatoetoe

Focus Area	Stance	Detail
One	Oppose in part	NPHS-NR opposes in part the initiative that seeks to oppose new vape shops, despite our support for harmful commodity reduction in communities. There is not currently a process through which the Local Board can oppose new vape shops. Instead, we encourage the use and promotion of the smoking and vaping complaints toolkit to report retailers that are non-compliant with legislation, and to include in the plan initiatives associated with community participation and engaging in future regulatory opportunities.
Five	Support in part	Objective two should include road calming measures, raised crossings and lower speed limits to effectively improve road safety locally.
	Oppose in part	Objective four should be reframed to focus on transport accessibility for disabled people, older people, whānau with mobility or access needs, and others who may need to use private motor vehicles, while continuing to support active, public and low-emissions transport choices.

		Suggested wording: "Provide safe and accessible transport options for people who need to use private motor vehicles, while continuing to support active, public and low-emissions transport choices."
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Table 5: Papakura

Focus Area	Stance	Detail
One	Support in part	Include support in the plan for community-led aspirations to reduce harm from alcohol, tobacco and vaping products. Include support in the plan for community participation in decisions about how alcohol is sold and supplied locally.
Three	Support in part	Objectives one and three should include lower speed environments, raised crossings and other road safety measures to improve local street safety, particularly around schools and community facilities.

Table 6: Whau

Focus Area	Stance	Detail
One	Support in part	Include support in the plan for community-led aspirations to reduce harm from alcohol, tobacco and vaping products. Include support in the plan for community participation in decisions about how alcohol is sold and supplied locally.
Five	Support in part	Objective two should include lower speed environments, raised crossings and other road safety measures to improve local street safety, particularly around schools and community facilities.



Have Your Say on the Draft Waitematā Local Board Plan 2026

#424

Note: This simplified version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation: Newmarket Business Association

Local Board: Waitematā

Your feedback:

1. **How well do you think our draft Waitematā Local Board Plan reflects the needs and aspirations of our community over the next three years?**

Tell us why

See attached

Community

2. **How well do you think these objectives reflect the needs and priorities of the Waitematā community?**

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

See Attached

Natural Environment

3. **How well do you think these objectives reflect the needs and priorities of the Waitematā community?**

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

See Attached

Built Environment

4. How well do you think these objectives reflect the needs and priorities of the Waitematā community?

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

See Attached

Economic Development

5. How well do you think these objectives reflect the needs and priorities of the Waitematā community?

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

See Attached

Transport

6. How well do you think these objectives reflect the needs and priorities of the Waitematā community?

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

See Attached

Other outcomes and considerations

7. How well do you think we have captured these considerations in the draft plan for the Waitematā community?

Māori outcomes	
Climate outcomes	
Equitable outcomes	

Tell us why (please note which outcome area you are referring to)

See attached file

8. Do you have any other feedback on the draft Waitematā Local Board Plan 2026?

See attached file

22 July 2026

Local Board Plan Feedback
 Auckland Council

Via Email: akhaveyoursay@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

LOCAL BOARD PLAN – OUR SUBMISSION

Introduction

The Newmarket Business Association (NBA) represents over 3,000 property owners and businesses, who between them employ around 21,000 employees within the Newmarket precinct. Through the Business Improvement District (BID) programme, we work on behalf of the private sector, and in partnership with Auckland Council, its CCOs, and the Waitematā Local Board. Our ratable commercial property portfolio is valued at over \$6.5B. Our role, with a single-minded focus on the Newmarket precinct, is to improve the business environment of the area, promote innovation, safety, prosperity and employment as well as attract new businesses, consumers and visitors.

We welcome the opportunity to provide feedback on the Waitematā Local Board Plan 2026-2029. Our feedback is relevant to the wider Board area, with a few specific references to Newmarket.

Overall Position

We welcome the Board's commitment to creating vibrant, connected, resilient and inclusive communities. Waitematā Local Board's BIDs share many of the same economic, transport and social challenges. Thousands of people move into and through our respective areas every day to work, study, shop, dine and play.

Overall, we support the strategic direction of the draft plan, particularly its focus on transport, thriving centres, public spaces, community wellbeing and resilience. However, we believe public safety should be given greater prominence as a fundamental enabler of every other outcome the Board seeks to achieve.

Public safety underpins successful communities

Successful urban environments rely on more than good design, transport investment and attractive public spaces. People must also feel safe. Across Auckland, businesses and communities continue to experience retail crime, antisocial behaviour, aggressive conduct, mental-health-related incidents, organised shoplifting and increasing complexity in responding to vulnerable people in public places.

Recorded crime statistics do not always capture how residents, workers and visitors actually experience a place. Perceptions of safety directly influence whether people choose to visit, shop, dine, invest or participate in community activities. For our businesses, *this is critical*: if customers do not feel comfortable visiting a precinct, economic activity declines regardless of the quality of the surrounding infrastructure.

Your final plan should therefore recognise community safety as an enabling outcome supporting economic development, social cohesion and successful activation of public space.

Strengthening strategic partnerships

BIDs, community organisations, Auckland Council, Auckland Transport, New Zealand Police and professional security providers all contribute to safer communities. The Newmarket Security programme, running since early 2023, has shown how coordinated partnerships can improve public safety, support businesses and reduce pressure on frontline agencies. Our team works daily with Police, retailers, other security providers, residents, schools, transport agencies, social-service providers and council officers. Effective outcomes rarely come from enforcement alone; they are built through relationships, timely information sharing, early intervention and consistent place management. I encourage the Local Board to recognise BIDs as strategic delivery partners, rather than simply stakeholders consulted after decisions have largely been formed. The Newmarket Security model could be used across the Waitemētā Board area.

Planning for a changing risk environment

The risks facing urban communities have changed considerably. Recent international incidents, including the attacks at Bondi Junction & Beach, demonstrate how quickly an ordinary day can become a major emergency. New Zealand is not immune to lone-actor violence, online radicalisation, mental-health crises or politically motivated threats. As deputy chair of New Zealand's Crowded Places Business Advisory Group, I have seen the value of preparing businesses and communities before an incident occurs. The Board should support practical preparedness initiatives, including 'Escape. Hide. Tell.' messaging, business training, local resilience networks and coordinated planning for crowded places, major events and infrastructure disruption.

Supporting thriving and well-managed centres

Your draft plan appropriately seeks vibrant local centres. Activation, however, must be supported by investment in safety, cleanliness and effective place management. Events and

attractive public spaces are most successful when visitors also feel the environment is well maintained and confidently managed.

Lighting, responsive cleansing, rapid graffiti removal, public amenities, visible safety personnel and coordinated outreach all contribute to positive perceptions of place. These should be treated as economic-development investments, not merely operational costs.

Supporting the needs of the local demographic

We strongly support converting the former Event Cinemas space above the Olympic Pools in Newmarket into indoor courts and a multi-purpose sports and recreation facility. This is a very rare opportunity to repurpose an existing, centrally located space to address a longstanding gap in community infrastructure. Newmarket is a major education and transport hub. It serves two of Auckland's largest secondary schools, with around 30 schools in the wider catchment area, lies within the Double Grammar Zone, and is used every day by students travelling to and from schools across Auckland. Yet as has been tabled many times, young people and other stakeholders in our community are too often overlooked when investment priorities are set, and there is a shortage of accessible indoor facilities where they can take part in sport, recreation, youth programmes and positive social activities.

A flexible indoor facility could accommodate a multitude of sports activities along with: school competitions, casual recreation, holiday programmes, cultural activities and community events. It would support healthier lifestyles, provide constructive opportunities outside school hours, strengthen social connection and help reduce antisocial behaviour through positive engagement.

This should not be viewed only as a sporting project. It is an investment in youth development, community wellbeing, inclusion, crime prevention and resilience. Its location above the Olympic Pools, close to rail and major bus routes, would allow it to serve Newmarket, all of Waitematā and the wider Auckland region.

We encourage the Waitematā Local Board to formally support and advocate for the project and to assist development of a viable delivery model.

Preparing for growth and transport change

The City Rail Link and continuing intensification will reshape movement across central Auckland. These changes will bring increased visitation and economic opportunity, but also new operational and security challenges involving passenger flows, late-night activity, interchanges and crowded public spaces. Future planning should incorporate operational safety and place management alongside transport and urban-design decisions.

Recommendations

- Recognise public safety as a key enabler of economic development, community wellbeing and activation.
- Recognise BIDs as long-term strategic delivery partners.
- Support stronger collaboration among Council, Police, Auckland Transport, business associations, social-service agencies and professional security providers.
- Include measures of perceived safety, visitor confidence and business confidence alongside recorded crime data.

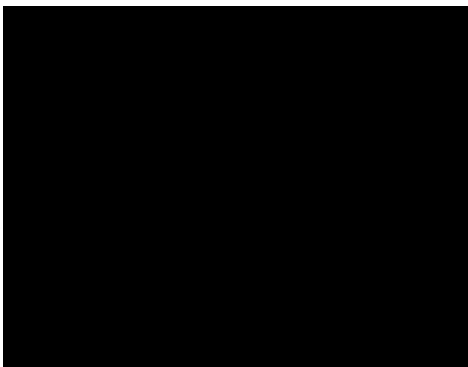
- Support resilience planning for crowded places, major events and emergencies, including 'Escape. Hide. Tell.' education.
- Continue investment in well-maintained public spaces, visible safety initiatives and responsive place management.
- Advocate for coordinated responses to retail crime, antisocial behaviour and repeat offending.
- Increase investment in youth engagement, recreation and prevention-focused programmes.
- Formally support conversion of the former Event Cinemas space above the Olympic Pools into indoor courts and a multi-purpose sports facility and help convene the partners needed to progress it.
- Ensure transport and growth planning includes comprehensive operational safety and management considerations.

Conclusion

The Draft Waitematā Local Board Plan presents a positive vision for a Board area which is one of New Zealand's most important economic activity generators. That vision will be stronger if safety, resilience and practical place management are embedded across the plan, and if the Board champions tangible investments that respond to the needs of young people and the wider community.

The proposed indoor sports facility above the Olympic Pools is precisely the kind of practical, inclusive project that can deliver lasting social value. Together with stronger public-safety partnerships, it would help create central Auckland communities where people feel safe, welcome, connected and able to participate.

Thank you for considering this feedback. As always, I would welcome the opportunity to discuss these recommendations and to contribute to future work on community safety, urban resilience and the proposed multi-purpose sports facility.





Have Your Say on the Draft Waitematā Local Board Plan 2026

#420

Note: This simplified version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation: Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei

Local Board: Regional Organisation

Your feedback:

1. **How well do you think our draft Waitematā Local Board Plan reflects the needs and aspirations of our community over the next three years?**

Tell us why

See attached

Community

2. **How well do you think these objectives reflect the needs and priorities of the Waitematā community?**

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

Natural Environment

3. **How well do you think these objectives reflect the needs and priorities of the Waitematā community?**

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

Built Environment

4. **How well do you think these objectives reflect the needs and priorities of the Waitematā community?**

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

Economic Development

- 5. How well do you think these objectives reflect the needs and priorities of the Waitematā community?**

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

Transport

- 6. How well do you think these objectives reflect the needs and priorities of the Waitematā community?**

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

Other outcomes and considerations

- 7. How well do you think we have captured these considerations in the draft plan for the Waitematā community?**

Māori outcomes	
Climate outcomes	
Equitable outcomes	

Tell us why (please note which outcome area you are referring to)

- 8. Do you have any other feedback on the draft Waitematā Local Board Plan 2026?**

See attached file

Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei Submission

Draft Waitematā Local Board Plan 2026

Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback on the Draft Waitematā Local Board Plan 2026.

The Waitematā Local Board area sits within **Te Kahu Tōpuni o Tuperiri** encompassing places of profound cultural, historical and contemporary significance to Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei as tangata whenua. It includes Auckland's civic centre, nationally significant public spaces, iconic coastal environments, and communities that continue to grow and evolve within our ancestral landscape.

Te Tōangaroa, is the largest commercial asset of Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei. Situated on the eastern edge of the city centre, the precinct reflects our enduring presence within Tāmaki Makaurau and its commitment to contributing to the city's future. As a significant source of intergenerational income, Te Tōangaroa enables reinvestment in social, cultural, environmental and economic wellbeing and remaining an active partner in the ongoing development of Auckland's civic centre.

We appreciate the Draft Plan's commitment to Māori outcomes, environmental stewardship, vibrant public spaces and strong partnerships. We also acknowledge the Board's recognition of mana whenua as partners in shaping the future of Waitematā and encourage this commitment to continue through meaningful collaboration and shared leadership.

We have structured our feedback using the Tāmaki Ora Māori Outcomes Framework, recognising that it was adopted by Auckland Council to guide Māori outcomes and provides a useful structure for considering opportunities to strengthen the final Local Board Plan. Our comments focus on those outcome areas where we believe we can make the greatest strategic contribution.

Iwi Ora – Iwi Wellbeing

Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei welcomes the Local Board's commitment to working alongside us as tangata whenua of this rohe and encourages continued investment in strong, enduring relationships founded on mutual trust, early engagement and shared decision-making.

As tangata whenua, Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei has an enduring responsibility for the wellbeing of this place and the people who live, work and visit here. We strongly encourage the Waitematā Local Board to continue exploring opportunities for strategic partnership and co-investment that recognise

Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei not only as a statutory partner, but as a long-term guardian and contributor to Auckland's civic heart.

Strengthening this relationship will support more integrated planning, greater alignment of priorities and outcomes that reflect both community aspirations and the cultural values of Te Kahu Tōpuni o Tūperiri.

Te Taiao Ora – Environmental Wellbeing

Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei strongly supports the Local Board's commitment to protecting and restoring the natural environment and encourages continued investment in projects that reconnect communities with the whenua and waterways of Waitematā.

We support initiatives that strengthen ecological resilience through integrated approaches to flood management, biodiversity restoration and habitat protection. This includes opportunities such as Tuna Mau/Western Park flood resilience, stream restoration and daylighting, predator control initiatives around Western Springs and coordinated pest plant management that protects indigenous ecosystems and strengthens biodiversity.

Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei encourages the continued integration of mātauranga Māori into environmental planning, restoration and long-term stewardship to ensure that projects reflect both ecological best practice and the cultural values of tangata whenua.

Tuakiri Ora – Cultural Identity Wellbeing

The Waitematā Local Board area contains many of the most significant cultural landscapes and public places in Tāmaki Makaurau, providing unique opportunities to celebrate the identity and history of Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei.

Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei encourages the Local Board to continue working alongside us to restore ancestral place names and strengthen the visibility of te reo Māori and Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei narratives through the naming, interpretation and design of parks, streets, public spaces and major civic projects.

We strongly support greater investment in cultural wayfinding, public art and storytelling that helps residents and visitors understand the significance of place. Projects such as the incorporation of Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei narratives through major public infrastructure and civic spaces demonstrate how cultural identity can be meaningfully embedded within public spaces and contribute to a stronger sense of belonging for all who experience the city.

Huatau Ora – Future Wellbeing

The Waitematā Local Board area is both Auckland's civic heart and a growing residential community. As the city continues to evolve, Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei encourages growth that strengthens liveability, resilience and the wellbeing of those who call the city centre home.

We confirm support for integrated planning that delivers high-quality public spaces, resilient infrastructure, climate adaptation and connected neighbourhoods while recognising the cultural significance of the surrounding landscape.

Creating safe, welcoming and inclusive public places is also an important expression of kaitiakitanga. Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei encourages continued investment in initiatives that promote community safety, support positive activation of public spaces and create opportunities for people to connect through kaupapa-led events, arts, culture and community activities. Supporting accessible and inclusive events that celebrate the diversity of Waitematā strengthens social cohesion while recognising the unique identity of this place.

Whai Rawa Ora – Economic Wellbeing

Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei encourages the Local Board to advocate for procurement, partnership and co-investment approaches that recognise the contribution of Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei as tangata whenua and create opportunities for the Trust to contribute to the planning, design and delivery of local initiatives.

As an established landowner and investor within Waitematā through Te Tōangaroa, Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei has a long-term interest in the success, vibrancy and resilience of Auckland's city centre. The precinct, which includes Spark Arena and Mahuhu ki te Rangi Reserve, demonstrates the enduring contribution of Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei to the economic, cultural and civic life of Waitematā. Supporting opportunities for the precinct to thrive not only strengthens Auckland's city centre, but also enhances the Trust's ability to reinvest in cultural, environmental and community initiatives that create lasting benefits for residents, businesses and visitors alike.

We strongly encourage continued collaboration with the Local Board to identify opportunities where economic development, placemaking, cultural identity and community wellbeing can be advanced together through strategic partnerships and co-investment.

Hei whakakapinga – Summary

Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei supports the overall Draft Waitematā Local Board Plan and welcomes its commitment to partnership, environmental stewardship, vibrant public spaces and Māori outcomes.

As tangata whenua, Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei has an enduring relationship with Waitematā that extends beyond cultural heritage to active stewardship, investment and leadership in the future of Auckland's civic heart. Through significant assets such as **Te Tōangaroa**, ongoing environmental restoration, cultural leadership and community partnerships, the Trust is committed to creating places that are vibrant, resilient and welcoming for all who live, work and visit the city.

This submission encourages the Local Board to continue building an enduring partnership with Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei through early engagement, strategic collaboration and opportunities for co-investment. Working together across

environmental restoration, cultural identity, community wellbeing and city-shaping initiatives will deliver lasting benefits for current and future generations.

The relationship between Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei and Auckland is founded on the vision of our rangatira **Apihai Te Kawau**, whose **tuku whenua** on **18 September 1840** laid the foundations for the city that exists today. That act of partnership continues to guide our relationship with Auckland and our shared responsibility to care for its people, places and future. Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei looks forward to continuing to work alongside the Waitemātā Local Board to honour that legacy and realise a shared vision for a thriving, culturally rich and resilient Tāmaki Makaurau.



Have Your Say on the Draft Waitematā Local Board Plan 2026

#302

Note: This simplified version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation: Parnell Business Association

Local Board: Waitematā

Your feedback:

1. **How well do you think our draft Waitematā Local Board Plan reflects the needs and aspirations of our community over the next three years?**

Tell us why

Community

2. **How well do you think these objectives reflect the needs and priorities of the Waitematā community?**

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

Natural Environment

3. **How well do you think these objectives reflect the needs and priorities of the Waitematā community?**

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

Built Environment

4. **How well do you think these objectives reflect the needs and priorities of the Waitematā community?**

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

Economic Development

- 5. How well do you think these objectives reflect the needs and priorities of the Waitematā community?**

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

Transport

- 6. How well do you think these objectives reflect the needs and priorities of the Waitematā community?**

Tell us why, and if there is anything you would like us to consider including in the final plan

Other outcomes and considerations

- 7. How well do you think we have captured these considerations in the draft plan for the Waitematā community?**

Māori outcomes	
Climate outcomes	
Equitable outcomes	

Tell us why (please note which outcome area you are referring to)

- 8. Do you have any other feedback on the draft Waitematā Local Board Plan 2026?**

See attached file



23 July 2026

Waitematā Local Board
Auckland Council
Private Bag 92300
Auckland 1142

Via email: WaitemataLocalBoard@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

FEEDBACK: DRAFT WAITEMATĀ LOCAL BOARD PLAN 2026

The Parnell Business Association ('Association') welcomes the opportunity to give feedback on the Waitematā Local Board's draft Plan 2026 (the Plan). The Association represents over 1,000 businesses in Parnell, with a CV in excess of \$2.2 billion dollars.

The Association's goal is for Parnell to be the most sought after Auckland City Fringe precinct in which to do business. We value our heritage as Auckland's first suburb, our transport connections, and our offerings as a tourist destination.

As a BID, the Association has enjoyed a strong partnership with the Waitematā Local Board. We are pleased to see the Heard Park redevelopment completed (a key initiative from the 2023 Plan supported by the Association), and the commencement of the St Georges Bay Road/Faraday streetscape upgrade. We look forward to the opening of the City Rail Link with improved public transport services for access to Parnell.

Our local challenges include a lack of connectivity and accessibility to Parnell Train Station, the threat to economic viability from the impacts of loading and parking restrictions (particularly in The Strand area), and poor perceptions of safety due to graffiti and reported crime. The Association has invested in a Crime Prevention Programme for over 10 years and has built a strong capacity in this regard, including a significant investment in CCTV.



Overall, we are supportive of the Plan; however, we would like to see the Local Board's advocacy for Parnell strengthened, and funding targeted to initiatives that will drive economic vibrancy. Specifically, we request support and funding for local activations and events, streetscape upgrades, community safety, and support for initiatives that recognise local businesses such as the Parnell Innovation Award.

In summary, the key initiatives and advocacy we would like to see included in the Plan by focus area are:

Community

- Safety initiatives to reduce crime and graffiti including funding for Community Patrols
- Advocacy for Tātaki Auckland Unlimited to take on and support the Parnell Innovation Awards by making it a regional event

Natural Environment

- Support for the Waipapa Greenway shared path on the route of the old Parnell rail tunnel (see attached the Parnell Cycleway Concept Plan)
- Upgrading stormwater culverts and infrastructure to resolve the identified flooding risks on The Strand and lower St George's Bay Road area

Built Environment

- Development framework for the Parnell Train Station precinct to enhance the urban realm and improve connectivity (see attached CPTED report detailing the need for a development framework)

Economic Development

- Refresh of the Parnell Masterplan 2019
- Refresh of the City Fringe Economic Development Action Plan

Transport

- Improved connectivity and accessibility to the Parnell Train Station and across the precinct, including wayfinding, footpath maintenance and widening
- As above, support for the Waipapa Greenway shared path on the route of the old Parnell rail tunnel (see attached the Parnell Cycleway Concept Plan)
- Service improvements: new bus route servicing Lower St Georges Bay Road area and a toilet at Parnell Train Station



Specific feedback and recommendations on the key areas of the Plan

Community

Waitematā is home to a connected, inclusive and resilient community, where residents, students and visitors feel welcome, can participate in community life, and have a strong sense of home and belonging. It is a place that supports and retains young people and talent, builds vibrant neighbourhoods, and works with communities and partners to support people experiencing homelessness.

3 year goal	Key Initiatives	Feedback
Build a thriving cultural, social, and recreational community through strong partnerships	Support and enable emerging artists and community-led arts activity across the local board area, including continued support for TAPAC and partnering with Kahui St David to deliver inclusive music rehearsal, learning, and performance opportunities that support youth development, build creative pathways, and serve as a centre of music for the community.	Note: Te Tuhi Parnell Project Space as an example of community-led arts activity
Every part of our community feels welcome, connected and supported	Support local and regional initiatives intended to improve public safety and perceptions of safety in the city centre and outer neighbourhood town centres	Recommend: Including “safety” in the 3 year goal so it reads <i>Every part of our community feels welcome, safe, connected and supported.</i> Including examples of local initiatives including



		<p>support funding for Community Patrols.</p> <p>Using consistent terminology in the Plan to describe “City Fringe” town centres like Parnell.</p>
	Continue to improve community resilience to extreme weather events, ongoing climate change hazards, and other emergencies.	<p>Recommend:</p> <p>Including business support for emergency management preparedness</p>
Arts, culture and events are celebrated and create vibrant places and space	Support a consistent and reliable offering of free community events across neighbourhoods, such as markets, music performances, and activations, so there is always something on and everyone has a reason to get outside and connect.	<p>Note:</p> <p>We will be seeking the Local Board’s support for a new Christmas street event and activation of Fraser Park through community events, such as an outdoor movie night or a "Reading Rave" in partnership with the Auckland Writers Festival.</p> <p>We support the continuation of funding for Parnell Festival of Roses, but note it does nothing to support the business community.</p>
We have a rich network of much-loved community spaces	Increase access to parks and reserves through greenways connectivity, renewal works and park upgrades, and look for opportunities within our	<p>Note:</p> <p>We support the prioritisation of the Parnell east-west Greenway</p>



	park and facilities network to implement play activations.	
	Assess our community leases to be more intentional in how groups are placed, creating a strong community lease network that meets the diverse needs of our community and utilises underused facilities	Note: We are concerned the community facility in Heard Park is yet to be activated

In terms of advocacy, we recommend this advocacy position be extended beyond the city centre to the city fringe, as these challenges are also experienced in Parnell:

Improved access for people experiencing mental health, addiction, and social challenges through coordinated, place-based service delivery that enhances safety, inclusion, and wellbeing in the city centre.

We recommend advocacy for Tātaki Auckland Unlimited to take on and support the Parnell Innovation Awards being made a regional event.

Natural environment

The natural environment of Waitematā is woven throughout the urban form and supports the wellbeing of people, plants and fauna. Streams are restored; harbour waters and coastal environs are clean with regenerating ecologies.

Communities are increasingly exposed to climate risks such as flooding, heatwaves, drought and sea-level rise, but have limited capacity to adapt without clear guidance, funding tools, and political leadership.

3 year goal	Key Initiatives	Feedback
Maintain, restore and enhance our urban natural environment	Continue to support local stream restoration and water quality improvement projects	Note:



	that boost biodiversity in Waitematā, enable swimmable beaches and reduce flood risk by increasing stream capacity and improving floodplain function.	We request the Local Board fund the Waipapa stream restoration, including funding for volunteers.
	Continue to deliver on the Waitematā Urban Ngāhere Action Plan by planting in areas of low canopy cover, maintaining existing urban forests, and encouraging more trees and planting in our public spaces and in transport corridors and berms across the Local Board area	<p>Note:</p> <p>We would like to work with the local board to identify suitable locations for planting in transport corridors and public spaces.</p> <p>We would like to see improved maintenance of existing trees especially on Parnell Road.</p>
Champion more sustainable waste management options and community climate action	Empower our communities, schools, and businesses to reduce their carbon emissions and be energy efficient.	<p>Note:</p> <p>We acknowledge the inclusion of businesses in this initiative.</p> <p>We also support community gardens and food forest in appropriate locations.</p>

In terms of advocacy, we strongly support the Local Board's call for an increased regional investment in stormwater infrastructure, and note that sewerage continues to flow into Hobson Bay despite the completion of the Central Interceptor project.

We request the inclusion for advocacy from the Local Board: *Develop the Waipapa Greenway shared path, which includes utilising and opening up the historic Parnell rail tunnel.*



Built environment

From Auckland's city centre to its historic suburbs, the built environment of Waitematā is well-designed, vibrant, inclusive and people-focused, and supports low-carbon living, wellbeing and a strong sense of place.

3 year goal	Key Initiatives	Feedback
Continue to build a world class international city centre by enhancing the public realm, particularly around our train stations		Recommend: Including a new initiative to work with Parnell Business Association on a development framework for the Parnell Train Station precinct to enhance the urban realm and improve connectivity.
Art and other design elements enliven our spaces and bring our community together	Support the Heart of the City Vacant Spaces initiative to bring to life empty shops and spaces.	Recommend: Extending support to other BIDs including Parnell and Newmarket
Our unique special character and our historic heritage is valued, protected and enhanced	Tell the stories of our local history through wayfinding, signage and digital methods—for example, the history of Waipapa Valley.	Note: We support this initiative but request priority is given to Waipapa stream restoration and the Waipapa greenway project.

In terms of advocacy, we support this position but recommend including “Business Associations” so it reads:

...reduce barriers to outdoor dining, street trading and activations making it easier for bars, cafes, community groups and Business Associations to use footpaths and street space to create vibrant people friendly streets.

As noted under the Community focus area, the Association seeks the Local Board's support for a new Christmas activation and street event.



Economic development

Waitematā has a thriving, resilient and inclusive local economy, supported by a strong city centre and vibrant town centres, where businesses, tertiary institutions, creative sectors and communities work together to attract people to live, study, work and visit.

We would like to see the close working relationship with BIDs acknowledged in this focus area. Our vision is for town centres to be “strong” AND “vibrant” (as written it implies only the city centre is “strong” and only town centres are “vibrant”).

We ask the local board to clarify what is meant by an “inclusive local economy.”

3 year goal	Key Initiatives	Feedback
Waitematā is recognised as a great destination catering to all interests		<p>Recommend:</p> <p>Include a new initiative: Refresh the Parnell Masterplan 2019, including a development framework for the Parnell Train Station precinct to enhance the urban realm and improve connectivity.</p>



Successful and resilient businesses	Support our Business Associations in their partnerships with Council to deliver events, adapt to new challenges and opportunities, reduce waste and emissions, and help them foster safe and welcoming public spaces.	<p>Recommend:</p> <p>Reword the 3 year goal to align with the vision so it reads <i>Prosperous, vibrant and resilient businesses</i>.</p> <p>Include a new initiative to refresh the City Fringe Economic Development Action Plan.</p> <p>Retain key initiatives from the 2023 Plan to work with CCOs and Business Improvement Districts to support safety initiatives in the city fringe town centres.</p>
	Work with businesses to become more sustainable and resilient to disruption and other challenges, and continue to use and improve a business support framework during major construction works that affect businesses.	<p>Note:</p> <p>We strongly support this initiative.</p>

In terms of advocacy, we recommend extending the Long-Term Plan investment to the city fringe:

*Ongoing Long-term Plan investment and effective use of the City Centre Targeted Rate to support economic activity, foot-traffic growth, safety and amenity across the city centre **and city fringe**.*

We support advocacy for:

A coordinated regional approach to growing visitation, major events and the night-time economy that delivers economic benefits across Waitemata and reflects local character and community aspirations.



Parnell could benefit from major events if accessibility and connectivity is improved, for example events in the Domain and the city centre.

We also strongly support advocacy to:

Develop a fair business support policy for major infrastructure works.

We request the inclusion of the advocacy position:

...advocacy to central government and the New Zealand Police for greater police presence and visibility, especially in our BID areas.

Transport

Waitematā leads Auckland's low-carbon transport future. Investment in the City Rail Link, active travel infrastructure and people-centred streets delivers a climate-resilient multimodal transport network that enables safe, efficient and enjoyable movement for people of all ages and abilities.

3 year goals	Priorities	Feedback
Active modes are encouraged and enabled	Progress the Waitematā Greenways Plan and Local Active Modes Plan (LAMP) projects for West Waitematā, and investigate beginning a LAMP for East Waitematā.	<p>Recommend:</p> <p>Including as a key initiative: Develop the Waipapa Greenway shared path utilising and opening up the old Parnell rail tunnel.</p> <p>Note: The Association supports St Stephens Ave as the main cycleway north-south route, not Parnell Road.</p> <p>We support prioritising the east-west Greenway as part of the LAMP for East Waitematā.</p>



	Safer and more accessible transport and public spaces, including improved connections around Parnell Station, safer routes from CRL stations to universities, enhanced wayfinding and lighting	Note: Improved connectivity and accessibility to the Parnell Train Station and across the precinct, including wayfinding, footpath maintenance and widening, is a key priority for the Association.
Data and technological innovations are harnessed to improve the transport network and lower emissions	Encourage clear, consistent and data-informed approaches to managing streets, parking across high-activity areas and town centres, and improving safety and accessibility that balance the needs of residents, businesses, visitors and freight.	Note: We are concerned about the impacts of loading and parking restrictions, particularly for businesses on The Strand.
There are coherent transport and land-use strategies that leverage investment and deliver good urban outcomes	Continue to support the goals of the City Centre Masterplan to deliver a well-functioning, pedestrian-focused, urban realm with access for all	Note: The City Centre Masterplan extends to Parnell. We support progress of the east and west stitch as outlined in the CCMP to enable better movement between Parnell, city centre, the Domain, and the Learning Quarter.
Our streets are safe, functional, accessible and enjoyable to use	Provide clear direction on the management of micromobility that balances safety, accessibility for different	Note: We have requested AT provide bike and scooter



	groups, particularly in high-density and pedestrian areas.	parking which is currently lacking in Parnell
Encourage public transport usage		<p>Recommend</p> <p>Include new priorities:</p> <p>Improved bus services to the lower St George's Bay Road area.</p> <p>Provide a toilet at Parnell Rail station.</p>

Conclusion

The Association welcomes the opportunity to help shape the Waitematā Local Board Plan 2026. While we are generally supportive of the draft Plan, we have noted a number of initiatives we consider to be missing or need to be refocused to respond to the challenges faced by the Parnell precinct.

We appreciate that funding is limited, and would like to work closely with the Local Board on a refresh of the Parnell Plan 2019 to guide the sequencing and priority of initiatives and major projects. We want to see the most effective approach to maintenance and renewals to achieve cost efficiencies.

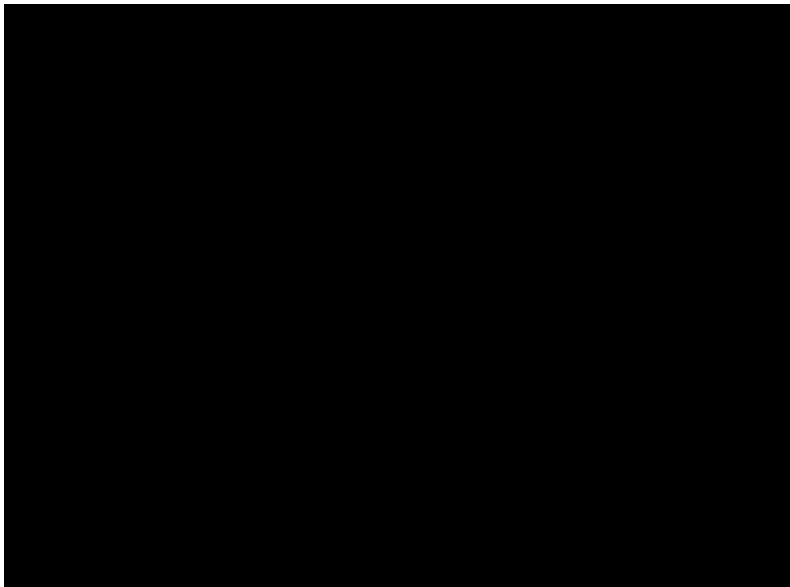
A priority for the Association is a higher level of service for our streetscapes, covering the removal of moss and lichen, tree maintenance (root trimming and mapping tree pits), and ensuring surfaces are not slippery or unpleasant. We will continue to advocate for a higher level of service / more reliable maintenance.

We would like the Local Board to advocate to Kiwirail for cleaning of both Parnell railway bridges to reduce graffiti and enhance gateway visual amenity.

We want the Local Board to continue partnering with the Association on the investment required to achieve the best for Parnell.

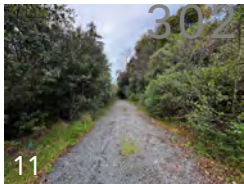


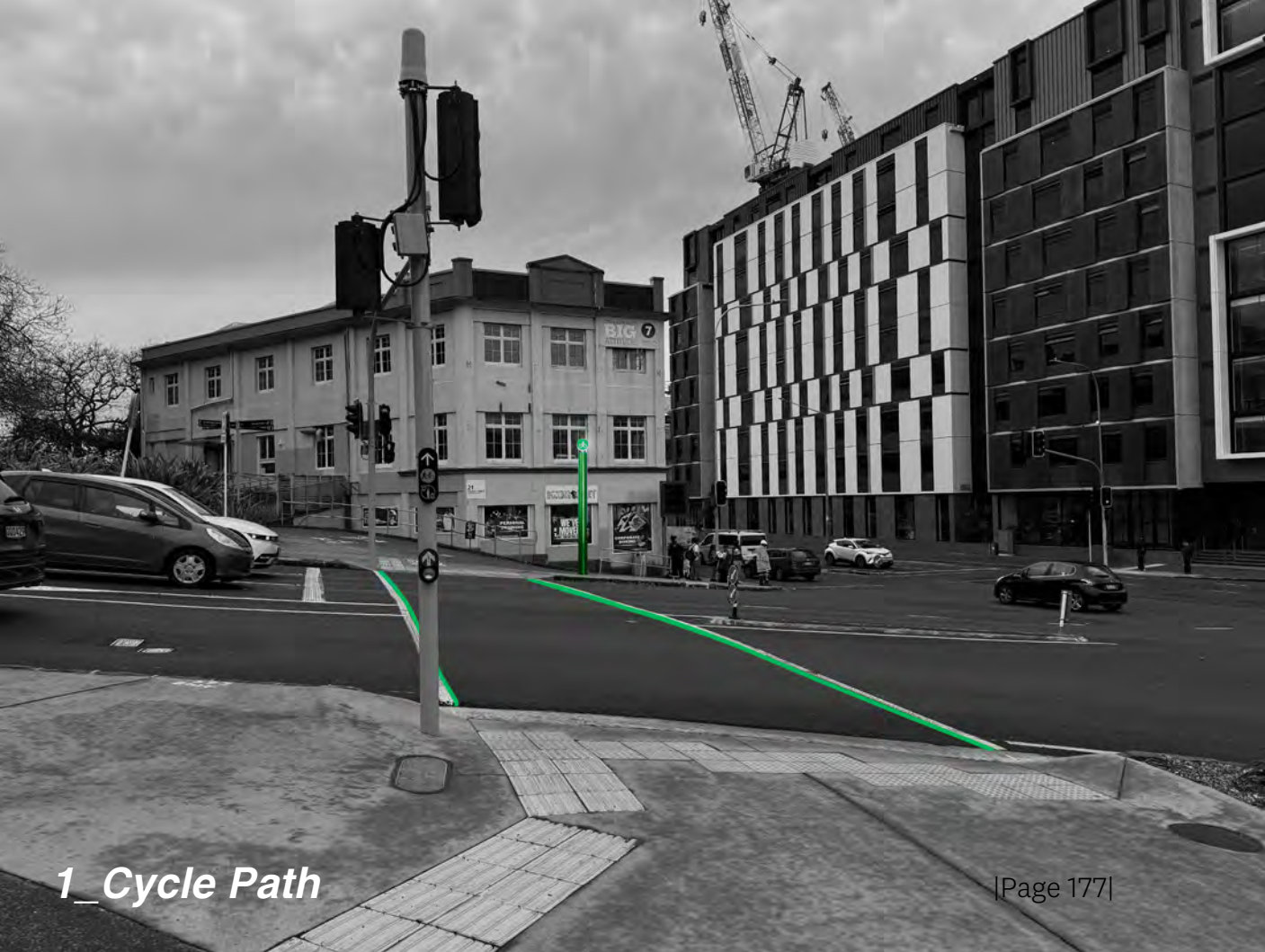
We would appreciate the opportunity to discuss this feedback with local board members.





Parnell Cycle Path Concept





1_Cycle Path

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● Pose
● View Site



2_Island

|Page 178|



● Pose
● View Site



3_ Carlaw Park Village



- Pose
- View Site



4_Intersection

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● Pose
● View Site



5_Path Looking Back



- Pose
- View Site



6_Green Pose Light





7_Train Station





8_Path Looking Back 2



● Pose
● View Site



9_Gravel Path

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10_Path Looking Back 3





11_Bush Road

[Page 187]



- Pose
- View Site



12_Path Looking Back 4





13_End of Path





14 Tunnel

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● Pose
● View Site