



To: Auckland Council

Submission on: Waitematā Local Board Plan 2020

Name of submitter: Civic Trust Auckland

Date 13 August, 2020

Introduction

- 1.0 Civic Trust Auckland (**Civic Trust**) is a non-profit public interest group, incorporated in 1968, with membership, activities and interests throughout the greater Auckland region. Its aims include the protection of natural landforms, the preservation of heritage in all its aspects, the encouragement of good planning for the city and region, and the promotion of public interest in the environment.
- 2.0 Civic Trust has made submissions on a range of broad issues and specific initiatives proposed by the Waitematā Local Board (WLB) on successive Plans dating back to 2011.
- 3.0 The WLB has included the empowerment of Māori and visibility of Māori identity and culture as **Outcome One** of its plan. We support this in so far Local Boards have a vital role in representing not only the interests of all Aucklanders, but also, and in particular, the interests of Māori pursuant to Te Tiriti o Waitangi.
- 4.0 **Outcome Two** as proposed in the Plan aspires to foster connected communities that are inclusive, accessible and equitable. It acknowledges the existence of diverse perspectives and supports all voices being reflected in the Board's decision-making, projects and planning. One demographic conspicuous by its absence is Single People who, unlike for example, families, may live alone and may be particularly prone to isolation. We encourage the WLB to organise an annual event for these people to foster a sense of community for them.
- 4.2 **Outcome Two** also focuses on the existence of homelessness. While promoting initiatives providing basic amenities such as drinking fountains, showers, toilets and lockers is commendable, the provision of these should constitute the minimum provided. The Plan states that homelessness should be rare, brief and non-recurring. While that might be so for individuals, society will continue to have people in that situation, and it is an indictment on Auckland as a so-called 'world-class' city that it has no night shelter, While we are aware of Council's initiatives with Liston House, we do not accept this is an adequate response, and we submit that the Local Board should advocate for the establishment of a permanent night shelter.

- 5.0 The WLB has set as **Outcome Three**, a high quality urban development that has accessible, versatile, and sustainable public and private spaces. Civic Trust has a particular interest in heritage and we have long advocated for its recognition and protection. The collective character of many of the old tramstop villages is an aspect of our built environment that is under threat from future development, particularly in the context of the new National Policy Statement on Urban Development. Most of the individual buildings in those villages have not been properly assessed and the Character Statements in the Unitary Plan do not provide protection, and nor is it clear how the initiatives proposed in the Local Plan would provide that protection either.
- 5.1 The Local Board Plan proposes the WLB will treasure and protect our heritage buildings and structure by advocating for funding to remediate our heritage buildings in the 10-year budget, particularly the restoration of the Leys Institute as a public library. We strongly support the restoration of the Leys Institute Library and Gymnasium and submit that this should be advanced as part of a comprehensive site development in which the provision of public amenity is the primary criteria over and above any peripheral property development potential.
- 5.3 Beyond the Leys Institute, it is ambiguous as to what WLB mean by "our" heritage buildings .. the Council's buildings, or those that across the city constitute the heritage of all Aucklanders, including those in private ownership. The Chair of the WLB stated at its 16 June board meeting that "we have not enhanced the priorities for heritage against previous Board Plans." This is incorrect because as has been pointed out at more than one WLB board meeting, the WLB had a \$500,000 budget for identification that was never used and was subsequently dropped. We assert that it is not possible to protect heritage without having first identified it, and we therefore support the reinstatement of budgetary provision for that.
- 6.0 **Outcome Four** of the Plan proposes a future focused green and climate change resilient Waitematā. The Urban Ngahere (Forest) Strategy 2019 envisages our tree canopy cover be increased to 30% from the current 17%, and to this end we support the WLB advocating for the return of general tree protection controls.
- 6.1 In spite of recent publicity about the construction of a large concrete memorial in the Parnell Rose Gardens, we note its absence from the Local Board Plan. We assume this is a reflection of the fact that a majority of the local community are opposed to it and we concur that this should no longer be part of the Board's plan.
- 7.0 **Outcome Five** envisages a sustainable transport network that is safe and accessible. We support this and commend many of the improvements that have been made to date, particularly around the provision of cycleways. We do note with some concern the apparent deafness to some critics of aspects of this work. Parents dropping off children to sport can't put them all on the back of a bike, especially on a wet day, Public transport is not reliable as far as timeliness is concerned and so at this stage, the WLB's planning should continue to make provision for private vehicle transport.

8.0 **Outcome Six** envisages a prosperous Waitematā economy that is sustainable and innovative. To this end we submit that a review should be undertaken of the decision not to proceed with the Newton station along the City Rail Link route as we believe such a stop, for which the designations remain in place, would act as a catalyst for growth.

8.1 Karangahape Road is an Historic Heritage Area, a status not initially recognised by Council itself in its notified version of the Unitary Plan. We submit that the WLB avoid the danger of sanitisation through gentrification and that all plans in the area be the subject of public notification over the period of the Local Board Plan.

Signature of person authorised to sign on behalf of submitter



Organisation name:	Civic Trust Auckland
Contact phone number:	09 368 1516
Email address:	cta@civictrustauckland.org.nz
Postal address:	PO Box 74049 Greenlane Auckland 1546
Contact name:	Audrey van Ryn