



Submission of Civic Trust Auckland

Draft Local Board Plans - all

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Introduction

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

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.

We are on 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. Some matters that we have advocated for are now in place, such as smoke-free parks and public open spaces, more resource recovery centres and public education about waste reduction, especially as regards plastic bag use, and Local Boards holding their monthly meetings at varying times.

Other matters are partly in place but we feel the need to submit on them again, including improved public transport: bus, rail and ferry services, better provision for walking and cycling, involving the community more in decision making as well as supporting them as volunteers and improved Local Board engagement with the community, perhaps through a regular clinic at varying times of the day.

CTA has a particular focus on the Environment and Climate Action parts of the Local Board plans.

CTA greatly appreciates the work of Local Boards, and recognises that they know their local communities and are focused on the needs of those particular communities, as well as responding to Auckland Council plans. We are aware of the reduced amount of funding Local Boards have been allocated. We support in general the initiatives in the draft plans. We have highlighted some areas of particular support and particular concern, first making some general points about all Local Board plans as well as particular points for a number of Local Boards, in alphabetical order according to the names of those Local Boards. When quoting from Local Board plans, we use *italics*.

All Local Boards

Climate Action

All the plans address climate action and emissions reduction. We support all Local Boards in the importance they have placed on climate action and commend those that have their own Climate Action Plan, especially those that put them in place even before Auckland Council formulated its Climate Action Plan, such as Puketāpapa. As stated in the Upper Harbour Draft Local Board Plan: “*We recognize that climate change is a complex issue that will require collaborative effort from all of us*” (page 10). The Kaipātiki Local Board articulates that “Climate impact is a key consideration for all decisions made.”

The plans address similar concerns:

- lack of knowledge about how to live low carbon lives
- community preparedness for impacts of climate change
- additional barriers for migrant and ethnic communities
- lack of access to reliable public transport
- road safety concerns, particularly in rural areas
- coastline erosion, sea level rise and flooding
- low tree canopy cover and lack of greenspace to match the rate of urban development and intensification • vegetation, soil and biodiversity loss (urban development, transport, pollution)

We support climate actions across the Local Boards such as

- establishing / supporting EcoNeighbourhoods
- implementing local Urban Ngahere (Forest) Action Plans
- implementing Shoreline Adaptation Plans, especially in collaboration with a neighbouring Local Board
- local waste minimisation, resource recovery initiatives and public education about waste reduction.
- the planting of more trees by Local Boards and support for the community to plant trees
- ensuring Local Board assets will be resilient to the impacts of climate change or severe weather, and reinstating any assets lost or damaged as a result of storm events
- implementing low carbon practices when upgrading or developing Local Board assets
- developing community-led emergency preparedness plans and
- working alongside the community in response to flood events

Furthermore, we support those Local Boards such as Aotea-Great-Barrier that have their own local Emergency Response Team to lead emergency preparedness, response and recovery, and those advocating, as the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board articulates: “*Advocate to and work with Auckland Emergency Management and wider council departments to support community networks and connections that help people to fare better and respond to emergencies and the impacts of climate change*” (page 16).

We are hopeful that communities know about their local Climate Action Plan or are able to find it online or elsewhere.

Māori Outcomes

As stated in all the Local Board plans, *“Māori identity and culture are Auckland’s unique point of difference in the world.”* CTA endorses all the plans listing strong Māori initiatives that build whānau wellbeing and strengthen resilience, such as practicing te ao Māori guardianship (kaitiakitanga) principles led by mana whenua and incorporating mana whenua identity and culture into the design of developments. We support dual naming of parks and other sites to reflect Māori heritage.

We note that the Manurewa Local Board has the highest proportion and highest number of Māori residents across all the Local Boards and that, appropriately, they include in their plan a particularly strong and high number of listed Māori outcomes, including for Māori youth.

Places

All Local Board Plans have included the following in their draft plans under Local Planning and Development:

“We support local town centres and communities to thrive by developing town centre plans and development, supporting Business Improvement Districts (BIDs), heritage plans and initiatives.”

Local boards, sometimes with input from local heritage organisations, arguably have the best understanding of their local heritage and therefore have an important role in its identification, protection and enhancement. We strongly support local boards identifying and assessing the heritage items and places in their area, making use of local knowledge and skills to do so, and consulting with stakeholders in working to preserve and enhance their built and natural heritage.

We observe that the Waitemātā Local Board lists particular heritage buildings in its draft plan, and it seems that only two other Local Board do so (Orakei Local Board – Remuera Library, Waitākere Ranges – Waikumete Cemetery, the rail station house and Playhouse Theatre). We know that communities value their heritage buildings and we know that many of them remain unidentified and unprotected, so we encourage Local Boards to include the identification, protection, enhancement and restoration of built heritage as key initiatives in their plans.

CTA supports local boards to advocate and provide for local board input for improved outcomes for heritage in Council planning documents for the region’s collective heritage.

CTA supports the creation and maintaining of a regional cultural heritage database to provide information to landowners, resource consent applicants and other interest groups. We encourage Council and community groups sharing collective information for the purposes of heritage identification.

CTA encourages all Local Boards to investigate incentives for enhancing low quality designs and to encourage any design solutions that might assist in this. We support Local Boards advocating to the Governing Body for the creation of the position of City Architect.

We support Local Boards reviewing their community-leased buildings, approach and fees to make best strategic use of those spaces.

We support the intention of the Local Boards which are looking at partnership opportunities with local schools, churches, and other organisations to make their spaces available for community use and to ensure programmes and initiatives are coordinated to fill any gaps and to avoid duplication. Schools in particular are a valuable resource for all communities, both their facilities and their populations.

We support the Local Boards working with Kāinga Ora to help provide park and community facility assets, as well as integrate their housing developments with the character of the area, ensure that developments are well planned and that the transport and other infrastructure works well.

Environment

Many of the Local Boards in their plans recognise and celebrate their environmental volunteers who have restored, protected and cleaned up areas over many years and continue to do so. This includes community-led pest control and biodiversity projects. The support of Local Boards for such work is important.

Also important are the actions of those community groups which work to identify and protect built heritage, which is recognised by the Ōrākei Local Board in its intention to work with the Remuera Heritage Society (amongst others) to preserve heritage character in the area (page 25).

Local Board support, including funding initiatives such as planting, pest control, stream and water quality enhancements, and waste minimisation projects is important for healthy ecosystems and sustainability.

Some Local Boards contain Special Ecological Areas within them and we support their work in this regard.

CTA supports the daylighting of streams to divert them from pipes back to the surface, as the Manurewa Local Board and others are planning to do, including Waitematā Local Board with the Waipapa Stream.

We support the use of electric vehicles and the installation of charging stations.

All Local Boards recognise the importance of parks and open spaces in their area and we support those that plan to acquire open space where possible, such as through large-scale developments, and to improve existing parks space through land exchanges, reconfiguration and improving linkages and connections.

We support management plan for local parks, reserves and other open spaces. However, care may need to be taken so that an omnibus management plan does not mean that unique aspects of certain spaces are not protected. Some spaces may need their own separate management plan.

We support more tree planting throughout the city, and, in general, oppose the removal of already planted trees. This includes the removal of exotic trees from the maunga that are demonstrably valued by the people of Auckland. We submit that trees already planted be allowed to live out their natural lives and that any succession planting, where appropriate, should focus on natives.

We suggest that small local projects involving the community, particularly new migrants and/or those for whom language is a barrier, could be to beautify/make use of small areas, including on land which is awaiting development, for planting or for art installations.

Transport

As mentioned in the Devonport-Takapuna Draft Local Board Plan (page 25), *“Local Boards have an advocacy role when it comes to many transport projects.”* All the plans address transport issues, particularly public transport, and they advocate for efficient, affordable and convenient public transport, which CTA has previously advocated for and supported.

CTA supports the Māngere-Ōtāhuhu and Otara-Papatoetoe Local Boards in advocating for free public transport. CTA has suggested in previous submissions that a trial of free transport be held. As pointed out by several Local Boards, transport in Auckland accounts for nearly half of the city's greenhouse gas emissions. Some Local Boards also mention car-dependency and congestion.

We also support safer speeds, especially around schools, traffic calming, road safety and pedestrian and cyclist priority, including cycleways and greenways to encourage healthy activity and less care use, as is advocated for by most, if not all, Local Boards. We caution that when considering implementation of the relevant infrastructure, including bicycle parking, there should be full consultation with affected people, primarily being the residents and/or businesses in the area under consideration. Streetscape character should not be compromised. We suggest that there is already sufficient infrastructure in place for bicycle parking, partly because some Local Board areas have already provided specific bicycle parking and partly because most cyclists like the ability to park very close to where they are going and are happy to use a pole, fence or tree to chain their bike to, and in our experience, this is workable for everyone (in contrast to e-scooter parking). We consider that the negative effect of placing any transport infrastructure in the public realm needs to be recognised and minimised.

CTA encourages Local Boards to support our advocacy to Auckland Council for a Public Transport champion. This could be a youth role and it could involve the telling of good stories about public transport. In our view, many more people would use public transport if they could see other people like themselves using it on a regular basis and get to know more about HOP cards (and the imminent introduction of the use of credit cards to pay for public transport), that public transport can accommodate the frail and disabled, and that there is, in fact, often a bus stop not too far from their house and/or place of work.

We support the Local Boards that are advocating for more bus shelters in their area. In our view, a shelter in addition to a seat at a bus stop is an essential part of the public transport infrastructure, for protection from both sun and rain. Future designs should consider the potential for the seat and the people waiting at the bus stop getting wet from driving rain, as is the case with some of the current shelters.

Community Engagement with Local Boards

The Devonport-Takapuna Draft Local Board Plan under "Challenges" states: "*Low levels of participation and understanding of what local boards do, which weakens local democracy and decision making*" (page 14) and also under "Challenges" the Franklin Local Board includes: "*Limitations to understanding the board's role and mandate, and its influence in regional and national decision-making*" (page 21). The Māngere-Ōtāhuhu Local Board will advocate for "*Auckland Council to communicate in a way that is accessible to all our community leading to a better-informed community and improved engagement with the council*" (page 15).

In our view, engagement with the community is an issue for all Local Boards, as well as the wider Council. We have observed that many members of the community still do not know much (if anything) about local boards, and a very small percentage of them actually engage with their local board. Furthermore, some people find it difficult, for various reasons, to approach their local board and/or to be listened to. We commend those Local Boards which have made their members available through regular open meetings to members of the public, especially those that are at varying times of the day to cater for the availability of different members of the community. We suggest that time could usefully be made available within Local Board workshops for members of the community dealing with certain issues to engage more thoroughly with board members and staff than is possible in public forum appearances at local board business meetings.

The Local Board plans outline what Local Boards do, who the members are and where they are based, so if people in their area read the plans, they would have a better awareness about Local Boards. If all libraries held copies of the relevant Local Board plans in their final version, this would assist in more people becoming more aware of Local Boards.

We suggest that Local Boards share with other Local Boards what has worked in terms of public engagement for them. An idea from a member of the Puketāpapa community is that Local Board members hold their clinics or engagement (where practical) “on the street,” which could mean in a park or square which is used well by the public. We note that when Local Board candidates are campaigning for election, they tend to go to where the people are, and we suggest that this could be part of the answer, rather than expecting the people to come to where they are. We know that many people do not know where their Local Board office is. If practicable, Local Board members could now and again set up tables, chairs and coffee on the footpath outside their office.

We also note that a key initiative of the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board is: *“Community conversations – enabling communities we hear from less to engage more comfortably and on their terms”* (page 15), so perhaps their ideas could be shared with other Local Boards. We also see that this Local Board will *“Advocate for accessible and easy to use engagement methods that suit our residents for both local and regional consultations”* (page 16).

We encourage local board members (and future candidates) to retreat from political affiliations. In our experience, alignment with a political group creates an impediment to good governance and working effectively for the community. Community groups tend to be apolitical and their members tend to work well together. The political affiliations of Local Board members can act as a barrier to community engagement – as well as a barrier for members to engage with and cooperate with each other.

Albert-Eden

We support the Carrington residential development and the way it has developed, including working with the iwi involved, and we also support the bid by the Pt Chev Social Enterprise Trust for there to be a community wellbeing hub incorporated into Building One on this site. We are disappointed that one wing of this building is to be demolished, due to the roading design.

We strongly support the Local Board’s key initiative to: *“Provide feedback on resource consents and planning processes to ensure good design outcomes are achieved and significant views of the maunga (volcanic cones) are protected through the volcanic viewshafts and height sensitive areas in the Auckland Unitary Plan”* (page 12).

CTA strongly supports the establishment of the Waiōrea Community Recycling Centre (opened on 11 August), which seems to be a shared facility between the Albert-Eden and Waitemata Local Board areas, and supports the promotion by these two Local Boards of the facility. We suggest that libraries in all Local Board areas could be a place for dropping off small items such as used batteries (battery collection being something that has taken place in Wellington libraries for some years).

CTA supports this Local Board including as one of the objectives of its plan: *“The history, identity and character of our neighborhoods are celebrated”* and that a key initiative is: *“Protect and celebrate our historic heritage by being good stewards of the assets we own and supporting others to care for theirs”* (page 29). Supporting others could be seen as both support for the people in their Local Board area as regards historic heritage that is privately owned, and supporting other Local Boards to care for historic heritage that are their assets, as well as other Local Boards supporting the protection of other historic heritage sites.

We support the Albert-Eden Local Board for the following (page 31):

- *“Renewal funding for seismic upgrades for heritage assets*

- *Support the Tūpuna Maunga Authority in their aspiration to have the maunga recognised as UNESCO World Heritage site*
- *The Auckland Unitary Plan reflects the importance of built and natural heritage and the contribution that heritage makes to the identity, history and story of Tāmaki Makaurau and its people”.*

We endorse this Local Board’s plan to carry out an audit of the parks in their area to identify where they can get better use, to activate them more and to see if there is the right mix of uses for the future.

A photo of Rocket Park in Mount Albert is featured in the Albert-Eden Draft Local Board Plan. This park no longer functions as it was intended. It was originally a park where children with disabilities could use special equipment such as a Liberty Swing for wheelchairs. We understand that the swing is no longer there, and we submit that it be reinstated, along with the other original equipment for this special park.

We support the Local Board’s intention to *“Encourage green business practices and share information on existing resources such as Sustainable Business Network and Climate Connect Aotearoa”* (page 35).

Aotea-Great-Barrier

This Local Board’s plan states that *“Our community is also incredibly conscious of remote living and the carbon impacts of freighting supplies to the island”* (page 11). The island is very different from the mostly urban areas of Auckland and has some different issues to deal with, which perhaps the rest of the city does not recognise.

CTA supports this Local Board’s intention to *“advocate to the Governing Body for continued staff support to investigate a visitor levy to respond to the impacts of tourism”* (page 14), like the levy that has been introduced to Rakiura / Stewart Island.

The Aotea-Great-Barrier Local Board has been progressing solar power upgrades of council and community buildings and electric chargers, as have several other Local Boards, and we encourage more area to do this, and for Local Boards to learn from each other in this regard.

Another aspect that perhaps other areas could learn from is the island’s *“bespoke approach to education through our Lifelong Learning Strategy, especially for our tamariki and rangatahi with a new early childhood education centre and established Aotea Learning Hub”* (page 13).

We congratulate the island on being designated as an International Dark Sky Sanctuary.

An aspect of the island that needs recognition by Auckland Council is that *“Climate change has led to warmer waters and the arrival of exotic marine pests such as Caulerpa, Asian Paddle Crab, Sea Squirt and Mediterranean Fan worm”* (page 16). We support the Local Board’s call for tighter protections for their coastal waters.

We congratulate this Local Board on its innovative low carbon initiatives, such as Anamata’s Resource Recovery Centre and AoteaOra Trust’s Off the Grid events (page 16) and agree that these should be showcased globally and there should be trials of new sustainable systems. The landfill on the island has closed, which presents a different situation than all other Auckland communities.

We support this Local Board in advocating to central government and the Governing Body to encourage manufacturers to commit to product sustainability (page 17) and encourage other Local Boards to do the same.

We also support this Local Board to:

- *“Advocate to central government and the Governing Body to abolish bottom trawling and dredging in the Hauraki Gulf and to encourage sustainable fishing as directed through Sea Change - Tai Timu Tai Pari*
- *Advocate to central government and the Governing Body for the prohibition of marine dumping” (page 17).*

Aotea-Great-Barrier does not have any public transport and we support the Local Board’s key initiative to *“Investigate a community-led public transport system” (page 19).*

We also support them to advocate to technology providers for stronger connectivity options (page 20).

Devonport-Takapuna

We support collaboration between Local Boards on many matters and so are pleased to see that this Local Board is collaborating with the Kaipātiki Local Board *“on the reduction of litter, sediment, and industry pollutants to improve the water quality of streams and ponds in the catchment of the Wairau Estuary” (page 11).*

This Local Board (and many others) is supportive of the work of environmental groups and environmental education. Amongst other environmental initiatives, we support their aim to *“Prioritise funding and support zero waste initiatives that promote a circular economy”* and the *“focus on native and ecologically appropriate planting and the principle of having the right tree in the right place” (page 12).* Regarding the trees, 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.

We see that this Local Board’s intention of *“Working with our neighbouring local boards on joint environmental initiatives to increase the impacts” (page 18)* is something that all Local Boards could do – and we know that many of them are.

We are pleased to see amongst the objectives in this Local Board’s draft plan: *“Natural and built heritage are conserved and both colonial and Māori history and significant places are valued, promoted, and celebrated” (page 19).*

We support this Local Board to *“Advocate to the Governing Body for additional funding to renew our heritage asset portfolio and enable greater protection for our heritage assets” (page 20).*

We also support this initiative (and other similar ones of other Local Boards): *“Utilisation of regional funding to retrofit assets and upgrade them with solar energy saving measures” (page 22).*

On page 25 it is stated that there is: *“Limited capacity for bikes on ferries, zero capacity for bikes on buses, and the absence of infrastructure for active travel modes on the harbour bridge is a constraint on reductions to transport emissions.”* We note that there is not quite zero capacity for bikes on buses, as fold-up bikes can be taken on buses: *“For safety of the passengers on board of buses only compact folding bikes and scooters are permitted on board, and must be folded down before boarding (at.govt.nz).”*

We would encourage the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board to advocate for bike racks on buses that go across the Auckland Harbour Bridge.

Franklin

We support this Local Board's initiative to *"Identify opportunities to reduce Franklin's mowing footprint by replacing lawn with trees"* (page 15) and the other Local Boards that have this same initiative.

We support their advocacy for *"Provision of fit for purpose public transport services that enable underserved communities to access Auckland's public and active transport networks and community service hubs, e.g. through 'AT Local' services or new bus routes"* (page 19).

Franklin, being a rural community, includes in its draft plan, which does need to be recognised by other areas: *"Auckland climate action is focussed on reducing carbon largely by reducing the use of private vehicles but does not constructively support rural residents and farmers in taking action, such as emission reduction"* (page 25).

We support this key initiative: *"Advocate for investment from Auckland Transport and central government in local initiatives that encourage and incentivise modal shift (from private vehicles to active or public transport) or shorten the commute for those reliant on private vehicles (by improving access to public transport)"* (page 26).

We support the following (pages 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."*
- *"Advocate for a change of policy and process so that new developments deliver 'urban lungs' i.e. areas to be planted with semimature trees to improve air quality, to lower surface temperatures and to absorb and filter rainfall."*
- *"Increased ferry capacity at Pine Harbour, Beachlands, to address local population growth, acknowledge east Auckland congestion issues and offer off-road commuter options."*

Henderson-Massey

We support this Local Board in the following:

- *"Working with Waitākere Ranges and Whau local boards to take a 'west Auckland' approach to strengthen our capacity"* (page 14)
- *"Continue to prioritise parks and play spaces that are inclusive, accessible to all, and support whānau-focused gatherings and activities"* (page 20)
- *"Progress opportunities for neighbourhood path connections, guided by the Connections Plan"*
- *Prioritise transport projects that improve safety and health and contribute to climate action and social outcomes"*
- *Support initiatives that help remove barriers to cycling e.g. access to a safe affordable bike and learn to ride programmes"* (page 22).

Hibiscus and Bays

On page 12 of this Local Board's plan, their Climate Plan actions are well detailed.

CTA supports this key initiative: *"Take a more proactive approach to ensuring that the different voices in our community are heard to inform our local board decision-making"* (page 16).

We particularly like the way this Local Board has articulated its appreciation for local volunteers: *"Our committed and skilled environmental groups we support have long established histories and have been award winners for their professionalism and work"* (page 19).

This challenge is one that other Local Boards may also face: *"There is increasing demand for council services to be available online, and 24/7 whilst recognising that at other times residents are more comfortable with a face-to-face service provision, all within budget constraints, which will require better integration of locally delivered services with regionally provided online services"* (page 22.)

We are pleased to see this opportunity expressed: *"The rapid increase in residents working from home reduces congestion and adds value to the local economy by keeping commuter spending local"* (page 25).

CTA supports the following: *"Advocate to Auckland Transport to better accommodate the integration of public transport vehicles, major bus stop and park and rides, with micro mobility and bicycles, to enable people to use these modes to connect with their public transport journey"* (page 26).

We would encourage this Local Board to also advocate to Auckland Transport for bike racks on buses.

Howick

This Local Board has a strong focus on youth, as do many of the others.

We note the following key initiative: *"Support the Tūpuna Maunga Authority to protect and enhance Ōhūiarangi / Pigeon Mountain"* (page 20). We do support protecting the maunga but we do not support the removal of trees from any of the maunga in Auckland. It is our position that particular trees that are not wanted on the maunga should live out their natural lives and that replacement planting of other species can be planned for.

We support this Local Board in its intention to advocate to local schools to *"make sustainability, environmental responsibility and waste management part of school values"* (page 20). These values, across Auckland schools should, through school students, extend into the community and become embedded in future generations.

We support this key Initiative (which is shared by other Local Boards): *"Promote healthy living and sustainable lifestyles by supporting community-led initiatives, such as vegetable gardens, and by encouraging and educating the wider community of the benefits of growing your own food"* (page 22).

We support this special initiative and are of the view that it would have region-wide use: *"Establish a sensory playspace that contains areas and equipment that provides stimulation of the senses for children with visual impairment or developmental disorder"* (page 22).

CTA supports this advocacy to Auckland Transport, which could be replicated in other Local Board areas, where appropriate, for:

- “feeder bus services or other innovative on demand services that will enable the community to access the existing bus / ferry networks
- more bus services to serve all areas of the local board
- provision of more ferry and train services” (page 26).

The following is important for all Local Boards: *“Advocate to the Governing Body to: ensure adequate infrastructure is in place before approving housing intensification”* (page 26).

We support the following key initiative: *“Continue to provide operational funding support for the Howick Historic Village”* (page 28).

We support the protection of historic landscapes and in this regard, support efforts to protect in the Unitary Plan the views from Stockade Hill.

Kaipātiki

As with other Local Boards, this one is looking at solar energy, and we support their particular initiatives 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”* (page 14).

We feel that the following key initiative could be adopted by all Local Boards: *“Seek feedback from our student and children’s panels to inform our decisions with a child-lens”* (page 17).

CTA supports the Kaipātiki Local Board’s advocacy to the Governing Body:

- *“to protect and celebrate our built and cultural heritage”* (page 18), and
- *“for 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, and request the opportunity to be included in the next round of dog access revision hearings Governing Body”* (page 23).

We also support this Local Board advocating to central government:

- *“to reinstate legislation that provides general tree protection”* (page 23), and
- *“for urban planning legislation to adequately protect special ecological areas Central Government”* (page 23).

We see that the challenge expressed by this Local Board that *“An increased number of schools are restricting public access to their grounds outside of school hours which is impacting informal community recreation opportunities”* (page 25) could provide the opportunity to talk to other Local Board about this problem and possible solutions.

We support the following key initiatives, which could be the same for all Local Boards:

- *“Consider climate impact when developing places and spaces, to reduce or avoid emissions and adapt to climate change, including avoiding areas or activities that are vulnerable to climate risks such as drought, extreme rainfall, coastal flooding, and heat*
- *Prioritise investment in assets that are well positioned, multi-purpose, and with good transport links, to reduce its carbon footprint”* (page 27).

We also consider that all Local Boards would similarly advocate for and support the following:

- *“the development of a quality compact, urban form that supports low carbon, resilient development, while ensuring adequate infrastructure to support it*
- *the uptake of sustainable design and construction that will be resilient to the impacts of climate change, including council projects, and encourage residents and businesses to use eco-design and water sensitive design practices” (page 28).*

We think that all Local Boards would want this for their area: *“Advocate for increased resource for compliance enforcement teams so they can respond to all requests and complaints received in the Kaipātiki area” (page 28).*

We support cheaper fares, more frequent ferries, and more buses going to more destinations, more directly (page 29). We view the harbour as an underutilised resource which does not need the sort of maintenance that roads and rail do. We also support electric buses and ferries for Kaipātiki (page 32).

This matter seems to need to become more widely known within Auckland Council: *“Advocate for policy and funding changes to reduce the use of the ‘chip seal’ road resealing method on suburban roads” (page 32).*

We find it useful to have this pointed out: *“Increase in working from home means more of our people are based locally during working hours which can help ease congestions at peak times, enable access to skilled work without the need to travel as frequently, and help increase spending in our town centres” (page 35).*

Māngere-Ōtāhuhu

This Local Board sees as an opportunity, which we think other Local Boards could embrace as well: *“Identify areas where community groups are better placed to deliver services and projects that are currently delivered by council” (page 14).*

CTA supports the **Māngere-Ōtāhuhu** Local Board to:

- *“Revive the Māngere Gateway Heritage plan to enhance Stonefields and promote and regain heritage values (page 17).*
- *Partner with mana whenua to protect significant historical sites and waterways that host an abundance of native plants and animals*
- *Work with Kāinga Ora to encourage tree planting in their housing developments” (page 18).*

CTA supports the entire advocacy list of this Local Board, on page 18 of their draft plan, which focuses on protecting and enhancing their natural environment, including active management of high-value biodiversity features in their area, and achieving zero waste and zero dumping.

Manurewa

The Manurewa Local Board highlights the lack of equitable funding for their area over the last 13 years, and we support them in their advocacy to the Governing Body to confirm its commitment to achieving funding equity for local boards, and to *“Look at ways to achieve funding equity for the most underfunded boards in the shortest timeframe possible with a priority focus on Manurewa, then other southern local boards” (page 23).*

As with some other Local Boards, the lack of decent public transport options is noted. We support their advocacy to increase the frequency, connectivity, and capacity of public transport

services in their area (page 15), and, as with all Local Boards, suggest that car pooling is another option that could be promoted and supported by them.

This Local Board (as with all others) intends to enhance the urban ngahere. They point out that *“there is only so much that can be done on council-owned land.”* We support their call for legislative measures that *“could include adding protection and enhancement of urban ngahere to environmental targets and making it easier for local authorities to protect trees on private land”* (page 16).

We support this Local Board (and the others which have this initiative) in the installation of more solar panels across their community facilities in partnership with power companies. The Manurewa Local Board will encourage households to do this too (page 18), and other Local Boards could encourage the households in their areas to do likewise.

CTA supports this Local Board to *“Advocate to Auckland Transport to increase the frequency and capacity of trains and buses to and from Manurewa and Clendon town centres, linking more of our communities to public transport hubs”* (page 18).

We note the establishment of the Manurewa Community Recycling Centre at the Beautification Trust and their support of the pop-up Repair Cafes operating at the Trust and at Nathan Homestead. We support them to *“continue to advocate for a southern resource recovery park as part of the Auckland Resource Recovery Network”* (page 25).

We are pleased to note under Opportunities: *“increase awareness of the notable tree schedule to protect more of our trees”* and *“using nature-based solutions for flood management”* (page 26), and we support the key initiative to *“Replace every tree removed from the streetscape due to damage, storms and accidents within one year”* (page 27). This practical and clear action could be adopted by other Local Boards.

We also support the following: *“Promote the integration of natural ecosystems into the existing built form, which may include the construction of raingardens, living roofs and swales, mass tree planting, remediation of existing or contaminated soils, rehabilitation of watercourses and wetlands, and opening up buried watercourses and restoring them to more natural conditions (stream daylighting)”* (page 27).

Maungakiekie-Tāmaki

We liked to see the use of different languages in this Local Board’s draft plan in addition to English and te reo.

CTA supports the following advocacy to the Governing Body of the Maungakiekie-Tāmaki Local Board:

- *“to ensure appropriate mechanisms are implemented to limit development where infrastructure cannot support increased pressure from planned growth”* (page 21)
- *“for appropriate staffing resources to enable quality advice for good decision-making, particularly planning, to utilise increased local board decision-making and ensure local services are cost effective and fit-for-purpose”* (page 29)
- *“to increase the regional demolition fund. To maximise the use of our open spaces and oversubscribed maintenance budgets, local boards can look to reduce underutilised and aged buildings on reserves. Regional support will help local boards to realise these strategic long-term opportunities”* (page 29).

Regarding the last one, we caution that these buildings first need to be accessed, especially for heritage and community values.

Ōrākei

This Local Board's intention to use methods such as digital signage, e-newsletters and social media as a way to improve communication with the community could be considered by other Local Boards.

We support the idea to *"Advocate to businesses and philanthropic organisations to seek funding partnerships for community services"* (page 14), which perhaps other Local Boards could also adopt.

We are pleased to see the inclusion in the draft plan of *"Delivering the Pourewa Valley Integrated Management Plan will support the restoration of this significant urban forest"* (page 16).

We strongly support the following (the second of which is also advocated for by other Local Boards):

- *"Continue funding for the Eastern Bays Songbird Project in their valuable work creating and maintaining a sanctuary for wildlife in the Eastern Bays area"* (page 17)
- *"Advocate for a sponge-city approach which promotes water-sensitive design and enables bluegreen networks to manage flooding"* (page 18).

The Ōrākei Local Board states that *"Seismic restoration of Remuera library is undertaken"* (page 23) and we strongly support the restoration of what is not only a heritage building but a community asset.

The Ōrākei Local Board states in its draft plan that theirs is *"an area rich in history. We can use our wonderful built heritage and local history to engender pride in our area and to help protect this valuable heritage"* (page 25). We appreciate the Local Board's acknowledgement of their built heritage and also of the Remuera Heritage Society (page 25).

We support the Local Board advocating to the Tūpuna Maunga Authority to *"protect the War Memorial Seat and daffodil commemorative garden, and for effective pest control on Ōhinerau / Mt Hobson"* (page 27).

CTA also supports the Local Board advocating to the Governing Body, central government and developers *"to ensure the unique character and heritage of our area is retained as development occurs"* and we support the Local Board *"monitoring and assessing proposed legislation that may increase intensification that may have an effect on our infrastructure and character"* (page 27).

Otara-Papatoetoe

This Local Board articulates (as many other Local Boards do, and with which CTA agrees) that it should be the local people who decide what the priorities in their area are: *"Your input on what we need to prioritise for the next three years will help us greatly with this challenge"* (page 3).

Regarding the Local Boards intention to *"Develop a multi-park management plan that manage the use, development and protection of all parks, reserves and open spaces in the area"* (page 21) we would say that the different types and characters of parks need to be considered when developing such a plan or plans.

On page 3 it is stated that *"Public transport hubs and facilities including Manukau Bus and Train Stations, Puhinui Station Interchange, and the Southern Line train provide opportunities for connectivity and public transport use for both residents and visitors"* and the Puhinui Station to attract visitors to the area is a key initiative. As CTA detailed in our submission on [Auckland Council's Future Development Strategy](#):

“This station is an important part of the city’s infrastructure. As Puhinui Station connects to the wider public transport network, you can travel to and from Auckland Airport from anywhere in the city. The bus operates every 10 minutes from 4.30am to 12.40am, 7 days a week and there is a train from Puhinui Station to Britomart every 15 minutes. However, this AirportLink service is not clearly signposted at the airport and we understand that it is used very little. The facility to use public transport without needing a HOP card, as planned within the next 12 months, should help in this regard, but the AirportLink service needs more publicity. For example, the staff at the airport who monitor cars that arrive at the domestic terminal to pick up incoming passengers could hand drivers brochures that describe this service, so people can use it next time.”

We would encourage this Local Board to advocate to AT to publicise this important part of the public transport network.

Papakura

We support this Local Board to: *“Continue work on a heritage trail featuring sites of significance in Māori and European local history, acknowledging Ngāti Tamaoho’s cultural indicators along the southern path overlooking the Manukau Harbour”* (page 8) and we support their aim to highlight and celebrate the area’s history and heritage.

We are pleased that the Manurewa Community Recycling centre is in place and that the Papakura Local Board describes the circular economy that will *“reduce costs and reduce carbon footprint”* (page 11).

We support this Local Board’s advocacy in the following areas of public transport (pages 29 & 30):

- *“Developing AT Local (on demand shared public transport service) in parts of Papakura Local Board area to increase public transport use.*
- *Great South Road –moving the cycle lane to an off-road shared pathway and converting the existing cycle and parking lanes into a combined T2 bus lane.*
- *Increased operating hours of southern train and public transport connections to airport and other employment nodes.*
- *Extending public transport routes to Ardmore and Bruce Pulman Park.”*

We also support the advocacy for *“an increase in the standard street width requirement in new developments”* and *“developers/body corporates to cover ongoing maintenance of green space and enhanced tree canopy in new developments”* (page 30).

Puketāpapa

We congratulate the Puketāpapa Local Board for developing their [‘Becoming a Low Carbon Community’ Action Plan](#) action prior to Te Tāruke-ā-Tāwhiri: Auckland Climate Plan. We would like to see the “local climate champions” mentioned in this plan become more visible and for other Local Boards to adopt this idea.

We support the Local Board’s aim to *“Use existing community hubs, such as the library, to increase community understanding of climate change and promote local climate action initiatives”* (page 16). Schools and libraries are an excellent resource for educating the wider public on climate change.

Rodney

This Local Board states that its residents *“often feel marginalised from Auckland Central and generally do not feel heard by decision makers”* (page 14). We are not sure how the Local Board will address this, but making other Local Boards aware of it should help.

CTA supports the following advocacy by this Local Board to the Governing Body:

- *“for Kawau Island to become pest free, with the support of the community, iwi, the Department of Conservation and stakeholders”* (page 20)
- *“for more investment in regional parks in our local board area and resourcing for service provision, such as with service centres, to meet the pressures of population growth and tourism”* (page 24).

The draft plan states that *“Our large geographical area and low population makes providing public transport difficult”* (page 30). We suggest that with the good community connections described in the draft plan, where *“people look out for each other and feel supported”* (page 3) that carpooling would be a good option that could be promoted and supported.

CTA supports the following advocacy to Auckland Transport:

- *“for the use of the existing rail network to be used for commuter transport to service the North West.”*
- *“for further improvements and the expansion of Rodney bus services particularly in new development areas including park-and-rides, dedicated bus ways, additional routes and stops, weekend services on busier routes, higher frequency on busy routes and greater safety for bus drivers”* (page 31).

Upper Harbour

We support the Upper Harbour Local Board to *“Advocate for accessible, multi-lingual, and easy-to-use engagement methods that enable our diverse residents to participate in both local and regional consultations and engagement processes”* (page 14).

We appreciate that this Local Board has articulated (under Challenges): *“Cost implications of restoration and conservation of our natural environment balanced against the cost of doing nothing”* (page 16) and the huge risks that climate change poses to the environment and people, also the negative impacts of intensification and population growth. In our recent submission on Auckland Council’s Future Development Strategy, we cautioned against too much growth too fast, and that it is preferable to stage intensification, and certainly not to do so in areas that were exposed to potential hazards.

We agree 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 of the view that Local Boards are making positive differences as regards education about climate change and they can learn from each other’s problems and initiatives, and support each other.

Waiheke

Waiheke is an island sanctuary in the Gulf, as articulated in this Local Board’s draft plan on pg 3.

We commend this Local Board for *adopting “even bolder climate goals through its Waiheke Local Climate Action Plan which includes the aim of achieving a net positive carbon footprint by 2040”* (page 11). This could be a model for other Local Boards.

We recognise this key initiative as important: *“Complete a feasibility study into the equity of year-round access to adequate potable water supply for Waiheke Island residents”* (page 13).

We support this opportunity: *“Waiheke becoming a predator free island”* (page 16) and see the importance of public messaging and the work of predator-free groups.

We support the creation of wildlife corridors (including new and restored wetlands), kauri sanctuaries and seabird and shorebird breeding colonies across the islands, as well as stream restoration projects and academic and citizen science programmes to help understand and support the health of the aquatic environment (pp 16 – 17).

CTA strongly supports advocacy for *“an end to bottom contact fishing such as dredging, bottom trawling and Danish seining”* (page 18).

We also support advocacy to Auckland Transport for a designated Harbourmaster on Waiheke to be sufficiently empowered to address the increasing numbers of abandoned or derelict boats degrading the island’s marine environment.

CTA also supports this Local Board’s key initiative to *“Implement the Waiheke Be Accessible Plan as resources become available to ensure facilities are accessible to all”* (page 21).

Waitākere Ranges

The people of this Local Board area (as with others in the outer areas) often travel long distances to access work and education opportunities. We see that park and ride is an important way of connecting to public transport services (page 12) and that there is anticipation of the benefits that the City Rail Link will bring, as it will mean a 30-minute trip to get into the city.

We support this Local Board’s advocacy in *“Trialling a rural bus service to give our residents and visitors access to public transport”* (page 29).

We support the Local Board also advocating for improved access to broadband and mobile phone services (page 12).

The Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area is a place of national significance which is appreciated by many throughout Auckland, for whom it is a favourite place to visit. There are at least 27 volunteer environmental groups active in the area, recognised in the draft plan. We support the Waitākere Ranges Local Board in its focus on protecting, restoring and enhancing this special area, including making the area a dark sky viewing location (page 15).

CTA supports this key initiative and would like to see it 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 also strongly support the following: *“Provide input into council plans, policies and project design, as well as the resource consent decisions relating to heritage”* (page 29).

Waitematā

We support the Waitematā Local Board to *“Promote Waiōrea Community Recycling Centre, local waste minimisation and resource recovery initiatives”* (page 14), and we encourage this Local Board to do this in collaboration with the Albert-Eden Local Board.

We support this key initiative *“Local composting and community gardens network”* (page 14) and would like this Local Board to revisit the application of OMG (Organic Market Garden) to establish a community garden in the Bowen Ave part of Albert Park which has not yet gone ahead, having not received the support it needed.

Under “Our People,” the statement *“We celebrate our diversity and heritage and encourage equitable access to social, economic, environmental and cultural opportunities”* is inspiring (page 16).

We appreciate the following being articulated in the plan: *“We recognise the importance of treasuring and protecting our green spaces, heritage parks and trees”* (page 27).

Under Opportunities: *“Greater value for money through a partnership model which could leverage funding from other sources outside of Auckland Council”* (page 18) is something that other Local Boards could also consider.

We are pleased to see that the problem of air pollution and pollution from shipping is noted (page 21). Pollution as such is not articulated in other Local Board plans. We are also concerned at the proliferation of visual clutter, particularly in terms of lighting, signage and some unnecessary street furniture.

We support the following and consider that other Local Boards could adopt the same: *“Encourage, exemplify and promote the installation of ‘living’ green walls, rooftops, and assets in public buildings and private developments such as the Central City Library living roof, to improve air quality, green space, and biodiversity outcomes in urban environments”* (page 24).

We support the following, and again, encourage other Local Boards to do the same: *“Continue to reduce the use of agrichemicals in our parks and open spaces and advocate for agrichemical spraying to be phased out regionally”* (page 24).

We strongly support 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 encourage the Local Board to consider, when developing concept plans (e.g., Basque Park, Heard Park, 254 Ponsonby Road and Wynyard Point) (page 27) not only the views of the local community and others who will access these spaces but also whether any “revitalisation” works planned are necessary. CTA has previously submitted that Heard Park does not need a makeover, and that the money be better spent elsewhere. Indeed, a couple of paragraphs down (on page 27) in the draft plan it is stated, *“The cost of maintaining our assets and facilities is no longer affordable.”*

CTA strongly supports the key initiative to: *“Deliver seismic strengthening, restoration and modernisation of Leys Institute Library and Gymnasium to preserve as a heritage taonga for future generations”* (page 28).

Regarding the development of a Local Parks Management Plan (page 28), we caution that not all local parks are the same, and their diversity and special circumstances should be catered for.

We support this key initiative: *“Acknowledge the importance of Te Hā (pōhutukawa) and the whenua that sustains it and investigate opportunities to increase the status and protection of Dove Myer Robinson Park including the possible inclusion in the heritage schedules of the Auckland Unitary Plan”* (page 29).

Under “Our Places,” the Local Board states: *“The government’s proposed legislative changes in resource management and urban development enable more intensive development in the city centre and around our neighbourhoods. This creates a challenge to ensure our neighbourhood character and heritage is conserved within our urban landscapes. We will support quality design in new developments that embraces existing heritage to create the heritage of the future”* (page 32). CTA strongly endorses this statement, and also the following one: *“We want to increase understanding, protection and conservation of city centre heritage places, landscapes and*

stories. Our city centre should actively recognise and celebrate Auckland’s historic heritage as a driver of positive change and placemaking” (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).

We support the following key initiatives (page 36):

“Provide feedback on resource consents and planning processes to ensure heritage sites and Special Character Areas are protected

- *Ensure our heritage assets are restored such as Ewelme Cottage and Symonds Street Cemetery monuments*
- *Seek opportunities to promote and celebrate heritage places in Waitemātā including making digital content and place-based stories more accessible*
- *Reflect Māori heritage and whakapapa in our public spaces and facilities incorporating Māori design principles and artwork.”*

We also support this Local Board’s advocacy to the Governing Body as follows (page 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 Waitemātā environment.*
- *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.*

CTA strongly supports the following initiatives (page 44):

- *Support the preservation of significant heritage buildings such as Carlile House, the former Fitzroy Hotel and St James Theatre.*

We also strongly support advocacy to central government for incentives to encourage the retention of heritage and character elements of the built environment (page 44).

CTA submits that an important addition to the draft plan is the recognition that significant parts of the landscape need protecting, particularly the Waitemātā Harbour and volcanic cones, and other heritage landscapes.

Whau

CTA supports this Local Board advocating to central government for *“Legislation to protect a greater number of significant trees”* (page 23), which other Local Boards have also included in their draft plans.

We also support their concern for sustainable building initiatives and practices (page 23).

We strongly support the key initiative to: *“Ensure events and services are developed with accessibility considerations to support participation from residents with either physical or intellectual disabilities”* (page 25) and to *“Continue to prioritise and implement actions identified in the previous term to improve accessibility within key parks in the Whau, and do accessibility audits within additional parks”* (page 26).

We support the advocacy to *“Progress on the development of the Avondale-Southdown rail line to support freight movement Kiwi Rail Feedback on relevant policies and plans Central government Auckland Light Rail Group”* (page 31).

We strongly support the following initiative: *“Infrastructure and development that meets future growth, incorporates sustainable urban design principles, and is resilient to climate change, e.g. waste reduction, installation of stormwater retention tanks and permeable surfaces in housing developments”* (page 31).

Date of submission: 14 August, 2023

Signature:



Secretary, Civic Trust Auckland

