

2.4 Great Barrier Local Board

Message from the Chair

I'm pleased to say the Aotea Great Barrier Local Board Plan became operational in October 2017. The plan has four outcome areas and outlines a range of initiatives.

For this financial year we will focus on continuing to support the Life-long Learning Strategy, governance for our Dark Sky Sanctuary, and cemetery investigations for the north and centre of the island. We will also begin new projects, such as a community spaces and reserves activation plan, a paper road linkages investigation, a terrestrial and marine research facility feasibility study, and an area plan for the island, which will assist in the future Hauraki Gulf Island District Plan transition into the Unitary Plan.

A hot topic for the community last year was Pest Free Aotea, with a coalition of groups submitting an expression of interest application to Predator Free 2050 Limited. The application was not successful but it has promoted community conversation around the concept of a pest free and poison free Aotea. We hope these community discussions continue and in the environmental arena will be continuing to support the Ecology Vision, biosecurity initiatives and water quality monitoring.

There were a number of regional plans, including the 10-year Budget, out for consultation at the beginning of the year. We have advocated on the Island's behalf for an exemption to the Regional Fuel Tax, for strategic planning around climate change mitigation, and for the establishment of a permanent Recovery Resource Centre by 2020.

We are looking forward to the alternative energy upgrade of our Claris council buildings, with electric vehicle infrastructure, as we continue our advocacy to become a community which embraces, showcases, celebrates and lives off the grid.

Izzy Fordham

Chair, Great Barrier Local Board

Introduction

Auckland Council's shared governance model means local boards are responsible for decision-making on local issues, activities and services and providing input into regional strategies, policies and plans. The local board agreement sets out the local board's budget, funding for activities, levels of service, performance measures and targets for the financial year 2018/2019 which has been agreed with Auckland Council's governing body.

The Aotea Great Barrier Local Board Plan 2017 is a three-year strategic document that guides local board activity, funding and investment decisions. A key role of the local board plan is to provide a basis for development of the annual local board agreement for each financial year, this is set out below. Each local board also develops annual work programmes alongside adoption of their local board agreement.

Local boards also provide input to the governing body on larger scale investments, regional programmes and policy issues such as rates proposals, which are outside local board decision-making responsibilities. A list of key advocacy areas is set out as appendix A.

About this area

Aotea / Great Barrier is a remote island community of fewer than 1,000 people, half an hour's plane ride and four to five hours by ferry from Auckland. More than 60 per cent of the island is under Department of Conservation management, with most of that being part of the newly-created Aotea Conservation Park.

The island has no reticulated power, water or sewage systems, and residents rely on diesel generators and solar and wind systems for power. With no secondary schools, families must make a choice between sending their teenagers to boarding school or leaving the island.

Most of the island's community facilities are run by local groups with funding support from Auckland Council via the local board.

Local Board Plan outcomes

The Aotea Great Barrier Local Board Plan 2017 sets out the aspirations of the local board. The outcomes in the Aotea Great Barrier Local Board Plan are:

Outcome: Our people thrive and life is good

This is how we see our future.

Our community groups are strong and independent. Our health services are locally-led and meet our unique needs. Our elderly can stay here comfortably and our youth can return after finishing their education. All our people live well and thrive. Our natural and cultural heritage is restored and protected. Our community groups achieve their aspirations and our public open spaces are beautiful, functional and designed by locals. There are cemeteries in the north, centre and south of the island. Our children get a good education and there are learning opportunities for all ages.

Outcome: Our environment is protected and enhanced

This is how we see our future.

We lead the way in the Auckland region as a place where the environment is at its best. Pests are so few (or even better, eradicated) that our native wildlife and forests flourish. We remain off the grid with an increasing percentage of our energy coming from affordable, renewable and secure sources. Our island is a showcase of the very best in environmental practice with reduced reliance on fossil fuel. We dump only what cannot be reused, recycled or composted, and lead the region on the path to zero waste and low carbon. Our water and food supply is safe and secure. Our coastal waters are full of life and our streams run clean and free.

Outcome: Our infrastructure is future-proofed

This is how we see our future.

Our roads are safe, usable all year round and well maintained. Walkers, cyclists, drivers and truckers share our roads with ease and enjoy breath-taking views along the way. All our villages have a park and community building that we love and look after, connected by walkways and cycle trails. We have minimal signage and it fits with our environment. Our locals and visitors can get from place to place by some form of public transport. We have waterways that are fish friendly. Our wharves and airfields meet the needs of locals, visitors and businesses. We have modern efficient communications but our ridgelines are not dotted with cell phone towers. Our houses are warm, sustainable and affordable.

Outcome: Our economy is sustainable and prosperous

This is how we see our future.

We have more people, more jobs and more opportunities. Our businesses can make a buck and new ones spring up to meet demand. Our employees earn a living wage. We have thriving social enterprises and can buy locally produced meat and locally caught fish on-island. We encourage locals and visitors to buy locally both for sustainability and to support local producers. Our people are supported to upskill, our businesses can find the skills they need, and jobs stay on island. We are great hosts to visitors and their experience makes them want to come back with their friends. We engage our many part-time residents to help make the island a great place to live and visit. Our environment and night sky are internationally acclaimed and protected.

The local board agreement outlined in this document reflects how we plan to support these outcomes through agreed activities in the 2018/2019 financial year. In addition, each local board carries out responsibilities delegated by the Governing Body in accordance with the delegated power, and with the general priorities and preferences in the local board plan.

Working with Māori

Delivering on Auckland Council's commitment to Māori at a local level is a priority for local boards. The council is committed to meeting its responsibilities under Te Tiriti o Waitangi / the Treaty of Waitangi and its broader statutory obligations to Māori.

The Great Barrier Local Board and mana whenua Ngāti Rehua - Ngātiwai ki Aotea have common aspirations in a wide range of areas and wish to work together to advance a number of initiatives as signalled in the local board plan.

We are committed to building a strong relationship with Ngāti Rehua - Ngātiwai ki Aotea and have allocated funding to support resourcing to engage in mutual issues such as waste recovery, cemeteries, the Dark Sky Sanctuary and marine protection.

Great Barrier Local Board Agreement 2018/2019

Priorities by activity area

Auckland Council's 2018/2019 funding priorities for local activities that contribute to key community outcomes in the Great Barrier local board area are set out below under each local activity.

Levels of service, performance measures and targets are also set out below under each local activity. Note that some of the descriptions of our levels of service, performance measures and targets have changed from how they are described in the 2017/2018 local board agreements. This is to better explain our local activities and to align the descriptions to those used in other strategic plans. Our actual levels of service (the activities that we as a Council perform in each local board area) have not changed.

Local Community Services

Local community services is a broad activity area including:

- Supporting local arts, culture, events and sport and recreation
- Providing grants and partnering with local organisations to deliver community services
- Maintaining facilities, including local parks, libraries and halls.

Our annual budget to deliver these activities includes operating costs of \$1.2 million and capital investment of \$954,000.

The key initiatives we have planned for 2018/2019 include:

- Continuing grants funding for community groups
- Continuing to support the Life-long Learning Strategy
- Continuing to support iwi responsiveness
- Consultation for the paper road network and community and reserves activation
- Continuing to investigate cemeteries in centre and north of the island.

The local community services and key initiatives outlined above contribute towards achieving the following outcomes in the Aotea Great Barrier Local Board Plan:

- Our people thrive and life is good
- Our economy is sustainable and prosperous
- Our infrastructure is future-proofed.

Levels of Service

We measure our performance against the following measures for each local activity.

Level of service	Performance measure	Actual	Annual Plan	LTP
		2016/17	Target 2017/18	Target 2018/19
We provide library services and programmes that support Aucklanders with reading and literacy, and opportunities to participate in community and civic life	The number of internet session at libraries (unique sessions over public computing or public WIFI networks) (million)	0.01	0.01	0.01
	The number of visits to library facilities (million)	0.01	0.01	0.01
	Percentage of customers satisfied with the quality of library service delivery	92%	86%	85%
We fund, enable and deliver community events and experiences that enhance identity and connect people	The percentage of attendees satisfied with a nominated local community event	N/A	New measure	70%
We fund, enable and deliver arts and culture experiences that enhance identity and connect people	The percentage of arts and culture programmes, grants and activities that are community led	N/A	New measure	85%
Utilising the Empowered Communities Approach we support Aucklanders to create thriving, connected and inclusive communities	The percentage of Empowered Communities activities that are community led	N/A	New measure	35%
	The percentage of Empowered Communities activities that build capacity and capability	N/A	New measure	30%
Provide safe, reliable and accessible social infrastructure for Aucklanders that contributes to placemaking and thriving communities	Percentage of Aucklanders that feel their local town centre is safe	Day: 92%	Day: 90%	Day: 92%
		Night: 90%	Night: 77%	Night: 90%
We provide safe and accessible parks, reserves and beaches	The percentage of users who are satisfied with the overall quality of local parks	70%	75%	70%
	The percentage of residents who visited a local park in the last 12 months	81%	85%	81%
We showcase Auckland's Māori identity and vibrant Māori culture	The percentage of local programmes, grants and activities that respond to Māori aspirations	N/A	New measure	11.6%

Local Planning and Development

This group of activities covers improvements to town centres, the local street environment as well as local environment and heritage protection. These activities also include working with business and community associations to improve local economic development and employment initiatives.

Our annual operating budget to deliver these activities is \$45,000

The key initiatives we have planned for 2018/2019 include:

- Implementation of the Visitor Strategy
- Supporting governance for the Dark Sky Sanctuary
- Consultation on the draft Aotea Great Barrier Island Area Plan.

The local planning and development activity, including the key initiatives outlined above contribute towards achieving the following outcomes in the Aotea Great Barrier Local Board Plan:

- Our economy is sustainable and prosperous
- Our infrastructure is future-proofed.

Levels of Service

There are no performance measures for this activity.

Local Environmental Management

Local boards work in partnership with local communities and iwi to deliver projects and programmes to improve local environments. Our focus is on indigenous biodiversity, healthy waterways and sustainable living.

These activities include stream restoration, waste minimisation programmes, supporting environmental volunteers and partnering with schools to provide a range of environmental initiatives.

Our annual operating budget to deliver these activities is \$216,000.

The key initiatives we have planned for 2018/2019 include:

- Continuing to fund the biodiversity/biosecurity officer
- Continuing to implement the water quality monitoring programme
- Implementation of the Ecology Vision project stage 3
- Continuing to support biosecurity programmes including Pest Pathways, rabbit control and Okiwi pest coordinator.

The local environmental management activity and key initiatives outlined contribute towards achieving the following outcomes in the Aotea Great Barrier Local Board Plan:

- Our environment is protected and enhanced.

Levels of Service

We measure our performance against the following measures for each local activity.

Level of service	Performance measure	Actual 2016/17	Annual Plan Target 2017/18	LTP Target 2018/19
We manage Auckland's natural environment	The proportion of local programmes that deliver intended environmental actions and/or outcomes	86%	90%	100%

Local Governance

Activities in this group support our 21 local boards to engage with and represent their communities, and make decisions on local activities. This support includes providing strategic advice, leadership of the preparation of Local Board Plans, support in developing Local Board Agreements, community engagement including relationships with mana whenua and Māori communities, and democracy and administrative support.

The measures for this group of activities are covered under the Regional Governance group of activities in the Long-term Plan 2018-2028 which determine participation with Auckland Council decision-making in general. This includes local decision-making. There are no significant changes to the measures or targets for 2018/2019.

Our annual operating budget to deliver these activities is \$1.1 million.

Local Funding

Auckland Council has a shared governance model for making decisions on local activities. Under the Local Board Funding Policy adopted in August 2014, funding is allocated to local boards to deliver local services, through the following methods:

1. **Asset-based services** - the governing body allocates funds to deliver local activities based on decisions about region-wide service levels. This includes allocation of funds for local asset based services, such as building a new swimming pool or library.
2. **Locally driven initiatives** – an allocation is based on a formula applied to each local board, with the exception of Great Barrier and Waiheke Local Boards who agree funding requirements with the governing body on an annual basis. This includes both operational and capital funds.
3. **Governance services** – an allocation is based on the number of elected members and associated administrative costs for each local board.

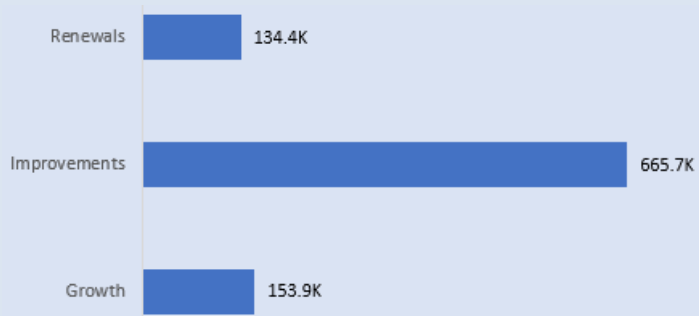
Funding priorities for local activities

Capital spend

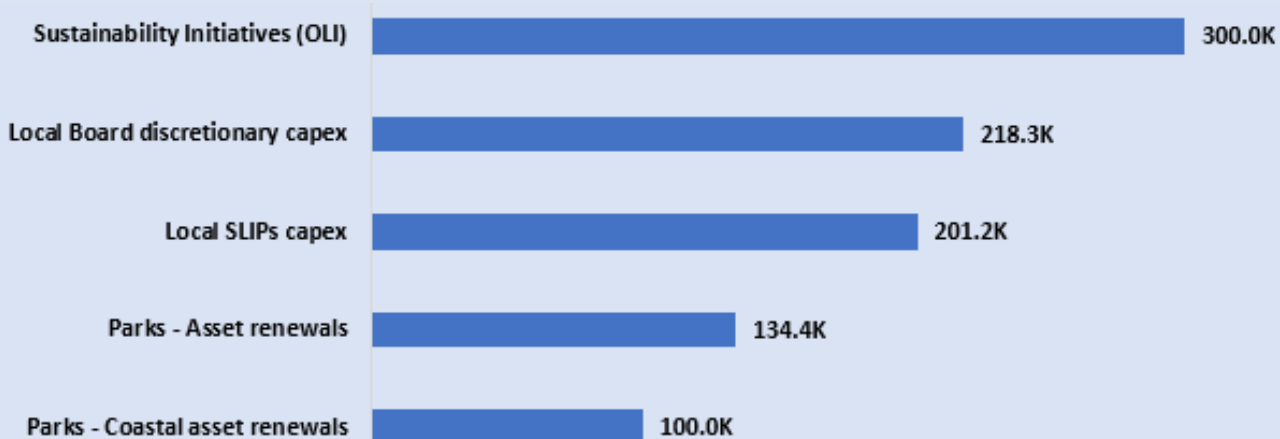
By activity area



By category

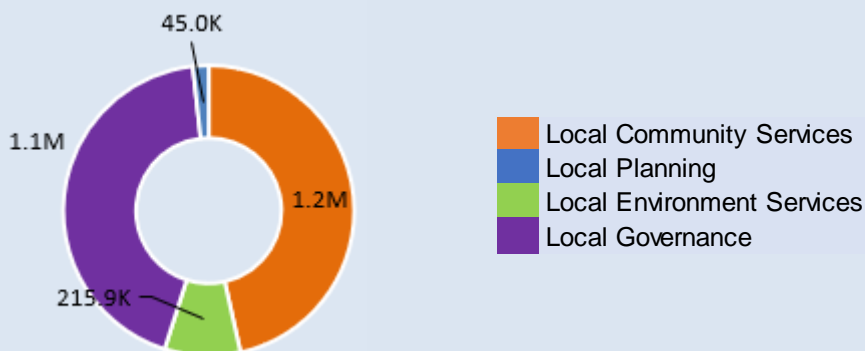


Key projects



Operating spend

By activity area



Funding Impact Statement

This prospective funding impact statement has been prepared to meet the requirements of Section 21 (5) of the Local Government (Auckland Council) Act 2009. It covers the year from 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019 and outlines the council's sources of funding for local activities in this local board area and our plan to apply them.

\$000	Annual Plan 2017/18	Annual Plan 2018/19
Financial year ending 30 June		
Sources of operating funding:		
General rates, UAGCs, rates penalties	2,723	2,782
Targeted rates	0	0
Subsidies and grants for operating purposes	0	0
Fees and charges	0	0
Local authorities fuel tax, fines, infringement fees and other receipts	2	2
Total operating funding	2,725	2,784
Applications of operating funding:		
Payment to staff and suppliers	2,244	2,477
Finance costs	75	81
Internal charges and overheads applied	406	223
Other operating funding applications	0	0
Total applications of operating funding	2,725	2,781
Surplus (deficit) of operating funding	0	3
Sources of capital funding:		
Subsidies and grants for capital expenditure	0	0
Development and financial contributions*	0	0
Increase (decrease) in debt	296	951
Gross proceeds from sale of assets	0	0
Lump sum contributions	0	0
Other dedicated capital funding	0	0
Total sources of capital funding	296	951
Application of capital funding:		
Capital expenditure:		
- to meet additional demand	196	154
- to improve the level of service	0	666
- to replace existing assets	100	134
Increase (decrease) in reserves	0	0
Increase (decrease) in investments	0	0
Total applications of capital funding	296	954
Surplus (deficit) of capital funding	0	(3)
Funding balance	0	0

Appendix A: Advocacy initiatives

A key role of the local board is to advocate for initiatives that the local board may not have decision-making responsibilities or funding for in this 10-year Budget, but recognise the value it will add to the local community.

Key advocacy areas for this local board include:

Initiative	Description	Advocating to
Key advocacy project: Alternative energy upgrade	Our key advocacy area is for Auckland Council and Auckland Transport to work on advancing off the grid, alternative energy and sustainability initiatives for the island including our key advocacy project to upgrade the service centre and local board office at Claris with an alternative energy system and electric vehicle chargers.	Governing Body and Auckland Transport
Capital Grants Fund	We have no council-owned facilities on island for community use i.e., halls, sport fields, pools. We are advocating to the Governing Body to retain the Capital Grants fund which provides assistance to community groups to maintain and enhance community facilities without the need for council facilities to be developed.	Governing Body
Local Improvements Projects funding	We are advocating to the Governing Body to retain the current Local Improvements Projects funding which is essential for delivery of Aotea Great Barrier Local Board Plan outcomes and initiatives to future-proof our infrastructure and increase economic viability through the visitor industry due to limited capex funding.	Governing Body
Climate Change Mitigation fund	Coastal erosion is a concern for some of our key coastal roads and infrastructure, such as urupa, wharves and playgrounds. We have used our locally-driven initiatives funding to look at specific infrastructure but are requesting staffing resource to support strategic planning for Climate Change Mitigation, such as managed retreat for coastal roads, infrastructure and the potential use of the paper road network.	Governing Body and Auckland Transport
Technology Support	We have spent more than \$600,000 of our locally-driven initiatives funding to install new cellphone facilities in Medlands and Okiwi and are currently mapping connectivity for the island. We are requesting departmental support, in accordance with Auckland Plan outcome 6: Opportunity and prosperity, for technology projects that support local economic development and central government advocacy.	Governing Body

Appendix B: How to contact your Local Board

Local boards have been established to enable local representation and decision-making on behalf of local communities. You are encouraged to contact your elected members to have your say on matters that are important to your community.



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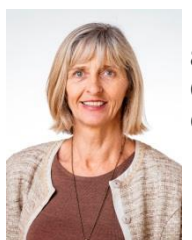


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The board can be contacted at the address below:

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For general enquiries, assistance and information, phone 09 301 0101 any time or visit www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

Local board meetings, agendas and minutes are available on the Auckland Council website: www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz > About council > Meetings and agendas

