

# Upper Harbour Local Board Plan 2017

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TE MAHERE Ā-ROHE O  
UPPER HARBOUR 2017



# Mihi

Tēnā kia tīkina atu e au he mihi,  
he whakamānawa anō hoki  
mai i ngā iwi taketake o te rohe nei.  
Te toko ake i te rau aroha  
o te tini whāioio kua whakakāinga nei  
hei puru, hei takā mō tēnei tipua,  
a Tāmaki Makaurau,  
herehere tāngata, hereherenga tikanga.  
Kia ea ai te kōrero rā,  
*“Kua hora te Waitematā  
i ngā waka kapi-tai o Taikehu.”*  
Kia tere ko te tai tapu i te kauanga o te rangi,  
he au maunutanga-toroa,  
whai mai rā i ahau.  
Ko au tēnei i toko ake ki te muriwai o te Waitematā,  
tūtakinga o te wai tai  
me te wai māori ki Te Whenuapai.  
Kei kī mai koe, *“He aha tōna pai?”*  
tērā au te whakahoki atu,  
*“He whenua taurikura hei kāinga tupunga uri.  
He kōpūtunga ngaru tāngata te whakaeke tonu mai,  
te whakaeke tonu mai.”*  
Nau mai e taku rahi, nau mai e taku iti,  
ki ngā kapu o aku ringa koe atawhaitia ai.

Let me express greetings  
and send good wishes  
from the indigenous people of this place.  
These, coupled with blessings that beckon with love  
to all and sundry,  
the ‘stops’ and ‘lashings’ that have chosen to make  
Auckland home,  
uniting people and inculcating cultures.  
This gives meaning to the adage,  
*“Waitematā is awash  
with all manner of vessel plying the tides of Taikehu.”*  
Reaching like a sacred tide to heaven itself  
and like an albatross on a thermal wave,  
follow me if you can.  
Here I am in the backwaters of the Waitematā,  
where sea meets  
freshwater at Whenuapai.  
You might ask *“What good does it offer?”*  
I would answer,  
*“It is a prosperous and peaceful place.  
Home to generations yet to come,  
like the foam on a rising tide, they will keep on coming.”*  
Welcome both great and small,  
in the cup of my hands I will nurture you.

# Contents

## Ngā upoko kōrero

■ From the Chair .....	4
■ Our plan at a glance .....	6
■ Upper Harbour Local Board area.....	8
■ About local boards and our plans .....	11
■ Developing our plan.....	12
■ Outcomes:	
■ 1. Empowered, engaged and connected Upper Harbour communities .....	15
■ 2. Efficient and effective transport links.....	18
■ 3. Healthy and active communities .....	23
■ 4. A thriving local economy .....	26
■ 5. Our environment is valued, protected and enhanced .....	30
■ Carrying out our plan.....	34
■ Funding information.....	37
■ Appendix 1: Financial overview.....	39
■ Appendix 2: Local activities and levels of service .....	40
■ Your Upper Harbour Local Board members.....	43



On the cover: Albany Stadium Pool.

# From the Chair

## He kōrero mai i te Heamana



It is a pleasure to present the aspirations of your Upper Harbour Local Board team. This plan has been shaped by the views and preferences of the residents who gave their valuable time to assist. We welcome further comment and encourage you to visit the board at our public business meetings, where you are welcome to address us with issues and opportunities as they arise.

Upper Harbour is an amazing place to live, work and play, and we will ensure that this remains the case as we grow and change at pace. We are committed to addressing the challenges facing our geographically separated and ethnically diverse communities. We will do this through good communication and by evenly distributing projects throughout Upper Harbour. We look forward to partnering with our valued community groups and business stakeholders to achieve positive community, environmental and local economic development outcomes.

We are extremely proud of our newly opened Albany Stadium Pool, and the installation of the public artwork “Upon a Pond and Drop a Loop” by Korean-New Zealand artist Seung Yul Oh. The works merge the fun, water and playfulness of a trip to the pool, with humour, bright colours and interaction. Together, they showcase different states of water and make art part of an everyday experience.

We are also pleased to see the opening of our Albany Community Hub and look forward to the repurposed Headquarters building at Hobsonville Point being available for community purposes in 2018.

We have heard from you that you would like the council to get the basic necessities right before chasing nice-to-have things. Much of the growth experienced by Auckland is felt here in Upper Harbour and by our neighbouring local boards, and this additional demand is putting a strain on our existing services. In order to maintain the lifestyle we enjoy, we will continue to advocate for essential infrastructure to be put in place as new residents arrive.

There is the need to advocate for further open space as the density of the new communities of Scott Point, Hobsonville Point and Whenuapai are going to place huge demand on existing sports fields, parks and reserves. A major project in this local board plan’s timeframe is the construction of the much-needed sports fields at Scott Point. These have been in the planning stages for several years and will address existing shortfalls. We are always looking for strategic opportunities to enhance the fantastic network of sporting infrastructure we are fortunate to have already. We have an identified critical shortfall of indoor space for sport and recreation that we need to work with the council to progress.

Upper Harbour is an amazing place to live, work and play, and we will ensure that this remains the case as we grow and change at pace.

Population growth is putting a huge strain on our transport system. We will continue to advocate for better public transport connections via the New Network and also more capacity at the Albany Park-and-Ride. The New Network will allow people to start their public transport journey closer to home, and the additional parking will help those commuters who don’t have easy access to feeder buses.

We are operating in a financially constrained environment, with all departments of council being asked to provide more for less cost, as we have heard the message from ratepayers that large rate increases are not sustainable.

I am proud to chair the Upper Harbour Local Board. We are committed to doing the best job we can, to get great outcomes on your behalf. We thank you for your ideas and for the constructive contribution you have made.

**Lisa Whyte**  
Chairperson  
Upper Harbour Local Board





# Our plan at a glance

## He aronga poto i tā mātou mahere

We will focus on five outcomes to guide our work and make Upper Harbour a better community for all. Our aspirations are outlined below.



Pāremoremo community event.

### Outcome 1: Empowered, engaged and connected Upper Harbour communities

People living in Upper Harbour are able to influence what happens in their neighbourhoods.



Clarks Lane walking and cycling bridge.

### Outcome 2: Efficient and effective transport links

A well-connected and accessible network that provides a variety of transport options.



Water play at Albany Stadium Pool.

### Outcome 3: Healthy and active communities

Our residents have access to open space and a wide variety of sports and recreation opportunities.



Apollo Drive business area.

### Outcome 4: A thriving local economy

A prosperous and innovative local economy, with job opportunities for local residents to work close to home.



Fishing on the upper Waitematā Harbour.

### Outcome 5: Our environment is valued, protected and enhanced

Communities are actively engaged in enjoying, preserving and restoring our natural areas.



# Upper Harbour Local Board area

Te Rohe ā-Poari o  
Upper Harbour



## Upper Harbour...

includes the major metropolitan area of Albany along with smaller villages.



Our population is expected to increase by

64%

from an estimated 58,500 in 2013 to more than 93,000 in 2033

43%



of residents were born overseas, many of whom have lived here for less than 10 years

66% 29%

of residents are European

of residents are Asian

The only local board area with an operational Air Force base (in Whenuapai)



Unique / natural features include the waterfall in Gills Road Reserve and the Faraway Tree in Sanders Reserve



## We are home to:

- More than 200 local parks and sports fields
- 1 recreation centre
- 1 library
- 3 community centres

Data sources: Statistics New Zealand Population Projections (2013-base) and 2013 Census.





Sanders Reserve, Pāremoremo.

# About local boards and our plans

## He kōrero mō ngā poari ā-rohe me ā mātou mahere

Auckland Council has a unique model of local government in New Zealand, made up of the Governing Body (the mayor and 20 Governing Body members) and 21 local boards. The Governing Body focuses on Auckland-wide issues while local boards are responsible for decision-making on local issues, activities and services and provide input into regional strategies, policies and plans.

These local issues, activities and services include:

- supporting local arts, culture, events and sport and recreation
- providing grants and partnering with local organisations to deliver community services
- maintaining and upgrading town centres and facilities including parks, libraries and halls
- caring for the environment and preserving heritage.

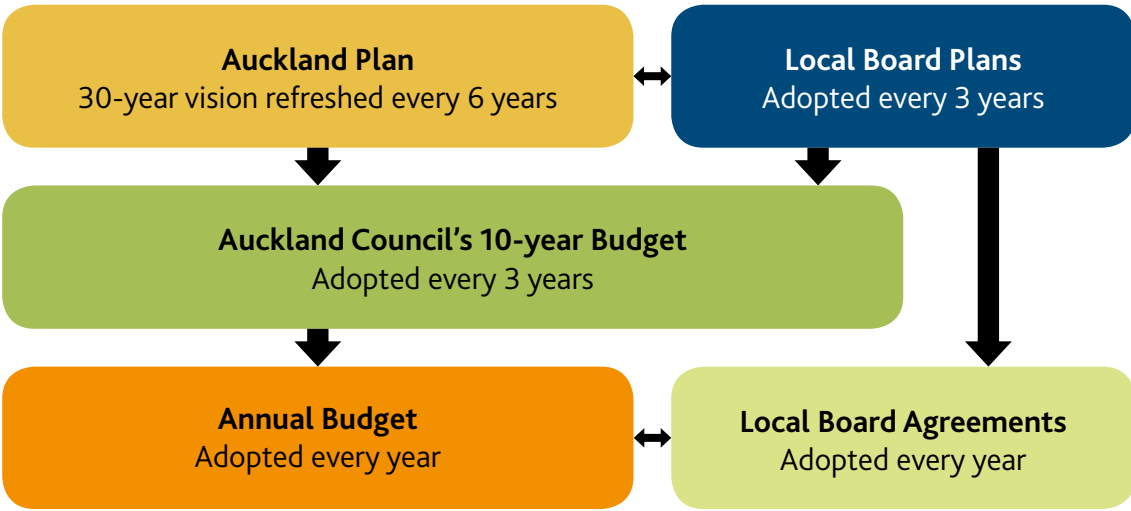
Local boards also have a role in representing the views of their communities on issues of local importance.

### About local board plans

Local board plans are strategic documents that are developed every three years to set a direction for local boards. Reflecting community priorities and preferences, the plans guide local board activity, funding and investment decisions. They also influence local board input into regional strategies and plans, including the Auckland Plan (the 30-year vision for Auckland), the council’s 10-year Budget (Long-term Plan) and annual budgets.

### Local board agreements

A key role of local board plans is to provide a basis for developing annual local board agreements. Agreed between the council’s Governing Body and local boards, these are part of Auckland Council’s budget setting process and they set out local funding priorities, budgets, levels of service, performance measures and targets by activity for each financial year. Each local board develops annual work programmes alongside adoption of their local board agreement.





## Developing our plan

### Te whakawhanake i tā mātou mahere

Our plan comprises aspirational outcomes, objectives we want to achieve and some of the key initiatives we will carry out to achieve them. To make this happen will take the efforts of many working together.

During May and June 2017 we consulted on a draft of this plan for feedback. The draft was developed by considering what we know about our community, having worked closely with you over the last six years and heard your views on a wide range of things.

Feedback received during the consultation period reassured us that we are focussed on the right things.

Our work here references current Auckland Council planning documents, including the Auckland Unitary Plan, The Auckland Plan, I Am Auckland Strategic Action Plan, Community Facilities Network Plan, Low Carbon Auckland, Parks and Open Spaces Strategic Action Plan, Sport and Recreation Strategic Action Plan and the Upper Harbour Local Economic Development Action Plan.

Albany Stadium Pool.







Improving our environment in Pāremoremo.



#### WHAT YOU TOLD US

- "We need more community education opportunities in fields like electronics, woodworking, cooking and languages."
- "Please focus on improving community facilities and spaces for families."
- "Unity in our communities is the basis of a great future together."

## Outcome 1: Empowered, engaged and connected Upper Harbour communities

### Whakaotinga 1: Ngā hāpori whaimana, mahi tahi, tūhonohono o Upper Harbour

**People living in Upper Harbour are able to influence what happens in their neighbourhoods.**

We want Upper Harbour to be welcoming to our culturally rich and diverse community. The 2013 census figures tell us that 43 per cent of our population was born overseas, with a good number of those having lived in New Zealand for fewer than 10 years.

We have a rapidly growing young and aging population. Whether you're five or 65, we want you all to have the opportunity to participate in local activities and events and it's critical that our facilities cater for people of all ages and abilities.

“ Whether you're five or 65, we want you all to have the opportunity to participate in local activities and events and it's critical that our facilities cater for people of all ages and abilities. ”

There is more than one heart to our community and it's important to acknowledge that each of our suburbs has its own identity. We have a real mix of rural, residential and business areas and we feel this diversity is one of our strengths. As more people move into Upper Harbour, we want to ensure that we build and maintain a sense of community in both our new and existing neighbourhoods. The local board will continue to support our hardworking community groups, which provide activities and events that bring local people together.

One of the ways we can achieve empowered, engaged and connected communities is by maintaining existing and providing new community facilities. Because of our rapidly growing population and tight council budgets, facilities in our area are struggling to meet community needs.



We will investigate opportunities to provide more community spaces in Upper Harbour through public private partnerships. We also need to make the best use of our existing regional network of community facilities. Upper Harbour residents have access to some wonderful facilities outside our board area, such as nearby arts and cultural centres.

Finding a long-term solution for library services in the area is a pressing issue. The future of the Albany Village Library is uncertain as it may need to find a new home in the next four years because of the current leasing arrangements. We need to investigate whether the village is still the best place for a community library.

Opportunities

- Strengthen community connections by encouraging our residents to get to know each other, e.g. via the Newcomers Network and cultural festivals (Matariki, Chinese New Year).
- There is room to develop multi-use facilities in Upper Harbour and make use of facilities in other areas, such as the North Shore Events Centre, to meet the needs of our growing population.
- We are able to access new funds based on our increasing population.
- Partnering with schools, tertiary institutions and other organisations to open up their facilities for community use.

Challenges

- Local community facilities are struggling to meet demand, and funding for new or upgraded facilities is increasingly difficult to secure.
- Low levels of community engagement weakens local democracy and decision-making.
- Our widely dispersed neighbourhoods do not naturally create a central focal point to bring communities together.
- Our population growth means we must attract investment to build and expand community facilities over and above those identified in the council’s strategic documents and plans.

Outcome 1: Empowered, engaged and connected Upper Harbour communities

Objective	Key initiatives
Maintain or build quality facilities where people can connect.	Find a long-term solution for a library.  Investigate the provision of more community spaces, such as an expanded Albany Community Hub.
Strengthen communities’ sense of belonging.	Bolster community identity and connectedness in Unsworth Heights, Pinehill, Ōteahā and Fairview Heights, by initiating community events, co-designing public spaces, and helping neighbours form support networks.  Encourage youth development, leadership and civic involvement, by working with the Upper Harbour Youth Caucus, and establishing youth spaces in Upper Harbour.  Work with neighbouring local boards and community groups on programmes that focus on the needs of senior residents.  Fund local community groups to provide activities and events.



Holiday programme, Greenhithe.



# Outcome 2: Efficient and effective transport links

## Whakaotinga 2: Honohononga kawē pāhihi rawe, tōtika

**A well-connected and accessible network that provides a variety of transport options.**

The effects of traffic, whether we're in a car, bus, walking or cycling, affect us all. Our area has a number of strategic connections running through it – SH1, SH18 and SH16. The upcoming Northern Corridor Improvements project will create a new motorway connection between SH1 and SH18, providing access to the Western Ring Route and Auckland Airport. The Northern Corridor Improvements project will reduce travel times and improve transport options on the North Shore. We will continue working with Auckland Transport (AT) and the NZ Transport Agency (NZTA) to ensure that our roading network is safe, well-maintained, well-designed, carbon-friendly and efficient. This also means finding new solutions to managing stormwater runoff.

The local board is limited in its ability to influence AT's spending and project priorities. However, we will continue to lobby AT to fund essential road works at congested intersections such as The Avenue and Dairy Flat Highway.

We need to have an affordable, frequent and reliable public transport network, in particular between Constellation Station, Greenhithe, Hobsonville and Westgate. Accessibility and frequency are two of the main barriers to people using public transport. We know many of you are keen to use the Northern Busway but aren't able to because there isn't enough parking at the Albany Park-and-Ride. We need to make it easier, not harder, for commuters to choose public transport. Some of the pressure on the Albany Bus Station parking could be partly addressed if an additional bus station in the Rosedale area, with either drop off or parking options, is approved. We will continue advocating to AT to improve the network of feeder buses, park-and-ride options and the possibility of a rail service to the North Shore.

The ferry services to Hobsonville Point and West Harbour are very popular. We'll work with Auckland Transport to find ways of increasing the number of sailings and expand services to include weekends.



Upgraded Albany Highway.

**WHAT YOU TOLD US**

- "Really like the focus on safe and improved cycleways to encourage people away from their private motor vehicles."
- "Public transport modes should be the focus - no point in developing great recreational facilities if residents spend their spare time stuck in traffic."
- "Buses are not enough, we need rail services on the shore connecting us to the rest of the region."



Parking is becoming more and more of an issue. The Unitary Plan no longer sets a minimum number of parking spaces for new developments and this is putting pressure on local street parking. We will continue to be actively involved in resource consenting for local developments by providing our local views as part of the consenting process.

“ We need to make it easier, not harder, for commuters to choose public transport. ”

You’ve also told us that well-connected, attractive and safe cycling and walking paths are a priority to help you get around and connect with others in the neighbourhood. We need to make sure our existing cycleways and walkways are fit for purpose. Well-designed, safe footpaths are needed, particularly by mobility scooter and wheelchair users, parents with prams and children walking or riding to school. The Northern Corridor Improvements project will improve cycling and walking connections in Upper Harbour, especially with the introduction of the Spencer Road Bridge. We’re also currently in the process of developing the Gills Road pedestrian bridge and footpath, which will provide a much-needed pedestrian access way for locals. These projects will go towards achieving the ambitions of our Upper Harbour Greenways Plan which aims to provide cycling and walking connections that are safe, enjoyable and ecologically friendly.

Opportunities

- The Northern Corridor Improvements project will reduce travel times as well as improve walking and cycling connections, public transport options and new links to south and west Auckland.
- Higher use of public transport by improving services, e.g. expanding the Northern Busway and ferry options.
- Developing public private partnerships for local transport projects.

Challenges

- Severe congestion during peak periods, particularly to and from the North Harbour business area and Albany education institutions.
- Limited funding for local roading projects.
- Our residents face several barriers in accessing public transport, e.g. limited services in Greenhithe. The New Network (a new integrated public transport network arriving in 2018) will address some of these issues, but not all of them.
- Upper Harbour’s rapid growth is outpacing the area’s ability to service new communities, e.g. insufficient and overburdened transport links, lack of on-street and park-and-ride parking.

Outcome 2: Efficient and effective transport links

Objective	Key initiatives
Improve roads and connections to, in and around, Upper Harbour.	Work with Auckland Transport (AT) to improve safety and traffic flow in key intersections, e.g. The Avenue/Dairy Flat Highway and Upper Harbour Drive/Albany Highway.  Continue working with AT to complete the Gills Road to Ōteihā Valley Road Link.
An affordable, frequent and reliable public transport network that encourages higher user uptake.	Work with AT to increase parking capacity at the Albany Bus Station.  Advocate to AT for better public transport linkages to, and within, Upper Harbour.
A quality walking and cycling network within our neighbourhoods.	Work with AT to complete the Gills Road pedestrian bridge and footpath.  Investigate potential waterfront walkways in Scott Point and Whenuapai.  Investigate opportunities to progress options identified in our Upper Harbour Greenways Plan, such as the proposed Saunders Reserve link.







Pin Oak Reserve,  
Schnapper Rock.

## Outcome 3: Healthy and active communities

### Whakaotinga 3: Hapori whaiora, ngangahau

**Our residents have access to open space and a wide variety of sports and recreation opportunities.**

The health and wellbeing of our community is very important. One way we can foster good physical and mental health is by making sure we provide a range of attractive, well-maintained parks, fields, sports and recreation facilities. This will be particularly essential in developing areas such as Hobsonville Point, Scott Point and Whenuapai.

Parks and sports fields are becoming increasingly important as living space for many people decreases. We know that more than 42 per cent of Upper Harbour locals take part in some form of sport or recreation. That's why it's important that our assets serve people of all ages and abilities. We fully support our communities' desire to be more active, more often. One example of how we're doing this is by developing sports fields in Scott Point to open up new space for a variety of uses.

We are fortunate to have existing facilities that benefit our communities and position Upper Harbour as a sports science hub, and major sporting and recreational precinct for the region. These provide significant employment, economic and social benefits for the community. Some of our great facilities include the QBE Stadium, the AUT Millennium Institute, Tennis Northern, Harbour Hockey and North Harbour Softball.

These facilities regularly host major national and international events, including the World Masters Games and the Lions Tour in 2017.

There is a region-wide shortage of sports fields and indoor sports facilities. Because of the scarcity and price of land, we need to look at different ways of developing multi-sport and multi-use facilities and grounds, possibly through public private partnerships. Over the next three years, we will work closely with our schools,

sports clubs, local organisations and neighbouring local boards to identify and support sporting opportunities. Public private partnerships have been successful in achieving projects valued well beyond council investment. An example was the partnership between Auckland Council and AUT Millennium Ownership Trust to construct a new pool.

“ Over the next three years, we will work closely with our schools, sports clubs, local organisations and neighbouring local boards to identify and support sporting opportunities. ”



Opportunities

- Boosting the local economy by bringing more large-scale events to Upper Harbour and maximising the use of our facilities.
- Encouraging sport and recreation opportunities that appeal to a diverse range of communities and bring people together, in particular new residents, older adults and people with disabilities.
- Providing more options for free, family-friendly sport and recreation by developing underused open spaces.
- By working with schools, we can open up their sports and recreational facilities for community use.

Challenges

- Limited land available for sport and recreation developments in the area and land prices are rising.
- Auckland Council funding for land acquisition and new facilities is extremely constrained.
- The Northern Corridor Improvements project will affect a number of our local parks and reserves. We will continue to work with NZ Transport Agency to identify the best solutions to offset any loss of open spaces.
- Lifestyles are generally becoming more inactive, leading to poorer health outcomes.



WHAT YOU TOLD US

- “The new pool in Albany is fantastic, especially for families.”
- “Activities for teenagers appear missing at Hobsonville Point – would be great to get a skate park to encourage them to get outside and be active.”
- “More parks and open space environments in new high-density developments to compensate for the lack of personal yard space.”

Outcome 3: Healthy and active communities

Objective	Key initiatives
Upper Harbour has a range of world-class, multi-use sports and recreation facilities.	Investigate options for securing indoor sports and recreation facilities in Upper Harbour, including advocating to the Governing Body through the 10-year Budget process.  Investigate improving sporting infrastructure through public and private partnerships.
Residents have easy access to well-maintained sports fields, parks and open spaces.	Fund a feasibility study on the use of the Caribbean Drive sports fields.  Develop sports fields in Scott Point.  Investigate options to develop open space for recreational use, including Rosedale landfill and Hosking Reserve.  Advocate to the Governing Body for the acquisition of land at Bomb Point to be used as open space.  Identify gaps in play provision in our parks and address as funding allows.



Playground at Harrowglen Reserve, Northcross.





Hobsonville Point Farmers Market.

## Outcome 4: A thriving local economy

### Whakaotinga 4: He ōhanga ā-rohe whai hua

**A prosperous and innovative local economy, with job opportunities for local residents to work close to home.**

Upper Harbour has significant economic advantages and industry strengths. Strong economic growth has meant that, in the 10 years to 2015, the local economy grew at a rate more than double the national average. Combined with our fast-growing population and higher than average household incomes, the area will continue to thrive and prosper.

We have a healthy mix of industries, with strengths in particular sectors that have the potential to achieve high rates of productivity and export growth. The main sector strengths are wholesale trade, professional, scientific and technical services, and manufacturing. These sustain many of the area's 49,000 jobs and over 10,000 businesses (as of 2016).

Currently, Business North Harbour is one of Auckland's biggest and most successful business improvement districts. The Albany Metropolitan Centre is the next biggest employer in the area and has the potential to create another 15,000 jobs.

There is also an emerging industrial area along the Hobsonville Corridor, and a significant business area planned for Whenuapai.

“ We have a healthy mix of industries, with strengths in particular sectors that have the potential to achieve high rates of productivity and export growth. ”

The Upper Harbour Local Economic Development Action Plan identified a number of actions which we can take to strengthen our local economy, particularly in the education and sports sectors. We have excellent education facilities at the primary, secondary and tertiary level. Massey University's campus in Albany is expanding quickly, and attracts students from around the world. There are outstanding sporting facilities in our area, including national sporting assets at the QBE Stadium and the AUT Millennium Institute. We will work closely with our partners to develop and grow these sectors.

You've told us it's important that you are able to work close to home. As Upper Harbour's population continues to grow we need to preserve existing and safeguard future business land.

We know that transport has significant effects on the local economy. On census day 2013, around 14,000 workers travelled out of the local board area for work, while 22,000 travelled in from other local board areas. We also know that a significant number of the workforce who live here also work here (38 per cent). We will advocate strongly to improve transport links to make it easier for people to come and go.



Opportunities

- Modern industrial property attracts high-growth and high-value-add companies.
- Use Upper Harbour’s strengths in sports and education to become a preferred home for these sectors.
- Upper Harbour becomes a base for entrepreneurial growth because of the high proportion of self-employed residents.
- Increased local spending due to Upper Harbour’s growing population and higher than average household incomes.

Challenges

- Getting the Albany Metropolitan Centre to reach its full potential; it is currently providing only one third of the anticipated 15,000 jobs.
- Competition for business between local village and town centres, and large retail outlets.
- Safeguarding sufficient existing business land and securing future business land in developing areas such as Hobsonville and Whenuapai.

**WHAT YOU TOLD US**

- “I would like more local job opportunities so we can live closer to home and grow our local economy.”
- “Nothing in Albany feels integrated or well connected, so let’s develop a plan to achieve this.”
- “Growth does not guarantee prosperity - priority should be given to investing in improving existing infrastructure first.”

Outcome 4: A thriving local economy

Objective	Key initiatives
Attract businesses and investment, and create skilled jobs.	Work with public and private partners to develop and attract investment into the sports training and technology sectors.
	Work with Auckland Tourism Events and Economic Development (ATEED) to cultivate growth in the following sectors: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• international education</li><li>• film</li><li>• niche industries with export potential.</li></ul>
Our business areas are vibrant and prosperous.	Foster relationships with mana whenua to progress Māori economic development initiatives in Upper Harbour.
	Assist Upper Harbour local business associations with Auckland Council processes.
	Partner with local businesses to put picnic tables and other amenities in pocket reserves.
	Fund youth employment initiatives, including the Youth Employment Traction Hub, an investigation into barriers for Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET) youth and JobFest.





# Outcome 5: Our environment is valued, protected and enhanced

## Whakaotinga 5: He mea manawapā, tiakina me te whakapai tonuhia te taiao

**Communities are actively engaged in enjoying, preserving and restoring our natural areas.**

Upper Harbour is made up of a unique mix of urban, rural and richly diverse natural landscapes. Native flora and fauna thrive here and we all have a role in making sure our natural areas flourish. We know wildlife doesn't follow local board or property boundaries. That is why it is so important to support projects like the North-West Wildlink which is a sub-regional initiative that creates green corridors, safe routes and refuges for native plants and animals. Through funding and awareness-raising activities, we will help our residents, volunteers and community groups get involved in conservation efforts and increase their ability to look after our special areas.

We acknowledge how much time and effort so many of you put into restoring and preserving our green spaces. One example is the wonderful work done to protect *Epilobium hirtigerum* or hairy willow herb, a critically endangered plant found in Scott Point.

Native flora and fauna thrive here and we all have a role in making sure our natural areas flourish.

Upper Harbour's rapid growth is having an impact on the environment. We will actively encourage developers to adopt environmental best practice by utilising sustainable methods in their planning and construction. We support the mayor's vision to create an urban forest which aims to plant a million trees throughout the region. We look forward to working with his team to identify areas to include in the project.

You've told us that improving the quality of our creeks, streams and harbour is important to you and we will work to boost the ecological health of our waterways and other natural areas through targeted restoration and conservation efforts. Nature is very good at repairing itself and we want to create resilient, ecologically sound landscapes that strengthen environmental health and community well-being. One example is the Rāwiri Stream restoration which includes building stormwater ponds, removing pest plants and planting out the banks. The restoration project will also create access to additional open space in Hobsonville.



Christmas Beach, Herald Island.



Opportunities

- The use of best practice environmental and sustainable design principles, as well as utilising new technologies, should prevent or minimise negative environmental impacts from urban development and improve resilience to climate change.
- Improved water quality as a result of the new Unitary Plan rules which raise the standards of development.
- Enriching our local natural environment by supporting projects like the North-West Wildlink.

Challenges

- Upper Harbour’s rapid growth is having a significant impact on our water, soil and air quality. The health of our waterways is particularly compromised, leading to higher water temperatures, changes to natural flow patterns and increased pollution from contaminated stormwater.
- Climate change, which causes increased frequency of severe weather events, sea level rises and coastal erosion, poses a huge risk to our environment.
- Human activity causing damage to the environment, e.g. carbon emissions, soil contamination by chemicals, sewage discharges. In turn, the quality of the environment affects public health outcomes.
- Minimising and managing the volume of waste, especially as our population continues to increase.

WHAT YOU TOLD US

- “As urban density increases, it’s vital we make more effort to maintain, protect and improve our green spaces and our area’s biodiversity.”
- “Prioritise cleaning up our waterways and enforce environmental best practice on developers.”
- “(I) strongly believe safeguards and protection for our environment needs to be legislated for as encouragement alone will not be enough.

Outcome 5: Our environment is valued, protected and enhanced

Objective	Key initiatives
Preserve and protect our native ecosystems and habitats.	Recognise the importance of the North-West Wildlink through funding and promoting associated projects, including restoration planting at the Lucas Creek catchment area and Rāwiri Stream.
	Fund a pest-free strategy for Upper Harbour to enhance the North-West Wildlink.
Communities care for their surrounding environment.	Fund local environmental and biosecurity awareness programmes.
	Fund volunteer projects.





# Carrying out our plan

## Te whakatutuki i tā mātou mahere

To deliver against the outcomes of our plan we will:

- prioritise our budget to focus on the initiatives in the plan
- make the best use of our assets such as our community centres and parks
- set direction for council staff who are responsible for delivering our annual work programme
- work with others, including community organisations and partners, to deliver projects and services
- represent your views on matters of local importance.

In some instances, our role is limited to representing your views on matters of local importance because we do not have the decision-making authority and/or funding to carry it out. When this is the case, we will use our time and energy to influence the relevant decision-maker. We do this by advocating on your behalf or making formal submissions, ensuring decision-makers are aware of your views and our support for them.

Funding information can be found on page 37.

### Empowering communities

We seek to empower and enable our communities. This means listening to what you want to achieve, directing council resources towards community aspirations, and supporting diverse communities to have an input into the things they care about and which matter uniquely to them.

We will prioritise activities led by the community, encourage and support people from all walks of life to actively participate in their community, and fully use their diverse talents, insights and contributions. We will work with others to enable our communities to achieve their goals.

### Partnering

Partnerships with central government, local businesses, community groups, iwi, schools and sports groups are critical if we are to succeed in our ambitions to continue to make Upper Harbour a wonderful place to live. We will work closely with our public and private partners to identify opportunities to meet our growing communities' needs.

We know that people live their lives across local board boundaries and we will continue to collaborate with our neighbouring local boards to get the best results for the north-west.




Rugby practice at QBE Stadium, Albany.

### 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.

We acknowledge our special relationship with mana whenua and undertake to work closely with our iwi partners, including developing relationship agreements between Auckland Council and mana whenua. In due course, we look forward to working with mana whenua on their development projects within our local board area. We also recognise mana whenua's interest in the local environment through their role as kaitiaki (guardians) and will partner with them to look after our natural assets where appropriate.





Ferry terminal area at Hobsonville Point.

## Funding information

### He kōrero pūtea tahua

The purpose of this section is to provide information on local board funding.

#### How local boards are funded

Funding is allocated to local boards through the council's budget setting process. This involves the council's Governing Body adopting a 10-year Budget (Long-term Plan) every three years and an annual budget every year. Local board agreements, briefly described in page 11, make up part of the annual budget.

A financial overview for the Upper Harbour Local Board for the 2017/2018 financial year is included in Appendix 1 on page 39.

The council's budget setting process involves allocating funding gathered through revenue sources such as rates and user charges. It also involves setting levels of service for council activities and corresponding performance targets.

Details on levels of service for local activities are included in Appendix 2 on page 40.

#### Auckland Council's 2018-2028 10-year Budget

In June 2018, the council's Governing Body will adopt the 2018-2028 10-year Budget informed by local board plans. The 10-year Budget will need to consider all funding needs for Auckland and balance these with the need to keep rates and other council charges affordable. This balancing act may impact local boards' ability to carry out all the key initiatives in their local board plans.

#### Auckland Transport's Local Board Transport Capital Fund

Local boards can also access funding from Auckland Transport's Local Board Transport Capital Fund, which is allocated to deliver small transport related projects.

The fund allocated to the Upper Harbour Local Board for the 2017/2018 financial year is \$365,112.



How local boards spend their budget

Much of the budget available to local boards is required to keep our services going and maintain our local assets including parks, community centres, libraries and halls.

Local boards also have additional, discretionary funding they can spend on local projects or programmes that are important to their communities.

More information about local board budgets can be found in Auckland Council’s Local Board Funding Policy on the council website, [aucklandcouncil.govt.nz](http://aucklandcouncil.govt.nz).

The council is currently looking at ways to provide local boards with more flexibility over their budgets.



Appendix 1: Financial overview  
Āpitihanga 1: Tirohanga take tūtea whānui

Income, expenditure and capital investment by local activities for Upper Harbour Local Board for the period 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018.

Annual Plan Financials	2017/18 (\$000s)
Operating revenue	
Local community services	55
Local parks, sport and recreation	2,411
Local planning and development	-
Local environmental management	-
Total operating revenue	2,466
Operating expenditure	
Local community services	3,353
Local governance	1,065
Local parks, sport and recreation	7,386
Local planning and development	808
Local environmental management	195
Total operating expenditure	12,807
Net operating expenditure	10,341
Capital expenditure	
Local community services	3,147
Local governance	-
Local parks, sport and recreation	2,690
Local planning and development	-
Local environmental management	-
Total capital expenditure	5,837



# Appendix 2: Local activities and levels of service

## Āpitihanga 2: Kaupapa ā-rohe me ngā paerewa ā-mahi

Local board responsibilities, provided for directly in legislation or allocated to boards, are summarised into local activities. These are described in the table below, along with levels of service statements. More information regarding levels of services, including performance measures and performance targets, can be found in the Upper Harbour Local Board Agreement 2017/2018. This is available on the council website, [aucklandcouncil.govt.nz](http://aucklandcouncil.govt.nz).

Local activities	Levels of service statements
<b>Local parks, sport and recreation</b> This group of activities covers management and provision of local parks and open space and recreation activities for both passive and active recreation. These activities include swimming pools and leisure centres servicing communities in the local area.	Provide a range of recreational opportunities catering for community needs on local parks, reserves and beaches. Provide sports fields that are fit for purpose and cater for community needs. Provide programmes and facilities that ensure more Aucklanders are more active more often.
<b>Local community services</b> This group of activities contributes to improved community outcomes by providing places and spaces for the community to learn and recreate and by integrating arts and culture into the everyday lives of Aucklanders. Key activities include locally delivered Libraries and Information (Libraries) and Arts, Community and Event services.	Provide safe, accessible, welcoming library facilities that support the delivery of quality learning programmes and services relevant to local communities. Enable Aucklanders and communities to express themselves and improve their wellbeing through customer centric advice, funding, facilitation and permitting. Deliver a variety of events, programmes and projects that improve safety, connect Aucklanders and engage them in their city and communities. Provide safe, reliable and accessible social infrastructure for Aucklanders that contributes to placemaking and thriving communities.

Local activities	Levels of service statements
<b>Local planning and development</b> This group of activities covers local business area planning, local street environment and town centres and local environment and heritage protection.	Develop local business precincts and town centres as great places to do business.
<b>Local environmental management</b> Local environmental management activities work in partnership with locally based communities and iwi to deliver enhanced environmental outcomes (with a focus on indigenous biodiversity, healthy waterways and sustainable living) that contribute to Māori, community wellbeing and economy.	Provide leadership and support to protect and conserve the region’s natural environment, historic heritage and Māori cultural heritage.
<b>Local governance</b> 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 the 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 2015-2025 where the survey measures 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 2017/2018.







Spark Basketball Court, Albany.

# Your Upper Harbour Local Board members

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ā-Rohe o Upper Harbour



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18-PRO-0652  
ISSN 2253-1157 (Print)  
ISSN 2230-6781 (PDF)