

Albert-Eden Local Board Progress and Achievements Report

January 2018 – June 2019





*Dreamcatcher at Mount Albert town centre
streetscape opening, May 2018*

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*On the cover: Point Chevalier
placemaking group activation event,
Point Chevalier town centre*

Message from the Chair

The Albert-Eden community continues to thrive, bringing a richness of diversity and culture for us to enjoy. As we approach the end of our term, it is an appropriate time to recall and reflect on the achievements we've made together over the past 18 months.

Some of our key achievements include:

- completing construction of the Mount Albert town centre streetscape upgrade
- delivering a busy programme of events to bring together our community. These include Carols at Potters Park, Albert-Eden Schools Cultural Festival, Movies and Music in Parks, Anzac Day services, Junior Sports Awards and Local Heroes Awards
- auditing and upgrading our parks to improve their accessibility for people of different abilities and their suitability for recreational and cultural use; the pathway around Coyle Park is already receiving good reviews
- holding the third and fourth Albert-Eden Business Excellence Awards that celebrate the contributions our businesses make to the local economy
- expanding the ways in which we protect and celebrate our heritage, such as providing funding through grants to the community, participating in planning processes, running programmes at our libraries and installing interpretive signage
- completing two new projects – one on sustainable practices for local businesses and one reducing the impacts of industrial businesses on local waterways – in response to your feedback asking for more projects focussed on the environment
- completing traffic calming, pathways and lighting across the board area using our Transport Capital Fund
- completing key planning documents to guide our open space, such as the Albert-Eden Open Space Network Plan and the Albert-Eden Local Paths (Greenways) Plan.

We advocated on behalf of the community and provided input on the Auckland Council 10-year Budget 2018-2028 and the other key planning documents which were consulted on at the same time. We received 1825 submissions from people in our board area during that consultation and we thank you for taking the time to give us your feedback.

The board has achieved a great deal over the past three years and we look forward to continuing to work with you in the future to make a difference for our community.



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Local boards

Auckland Council's governance is unique – it is the only local authority in New Zealand with a shared governance structure. Local boards provide governance at the local level, and the Governing Body at the regional level and on statutory matters.

Local boards are charged with decision-making on local issues, activities and services, and identifying and communicating the views of local people on regional strategies, policies, plans and bylaws to the Governing Body. We enable democratic decision making on behalf of communities within our local board area.

Our role includes:

- supporting local community, arts, culture, events, sport and recreation and economic development
- providing services through our libraries, community and recreation centres, and spaces for community use through venues for hire and community leases
- maintaining and upgrading town centres and facilities including parks and buildings
- caring for the environment and preserving heritage
- providing local leadership and developing relationships with the community, community organisations and special interest groups in the local area.

The board has an increasingly important advocacy role in responding to private and public development. These changes have implications on our transportation, parks, environment and community. We have a strong interest in these developments and respond to them on behalf of our community.

We are actively working with Housing New Zealand and its subsidiary HLC on their developments in Waterview, Mount Albert and Owairaka, and will look to respond when planning starts on changes to the Unitec and Auckland University Epsom campuses. We also provide feedback on large-scale private developments through planning and resource consenting processes.



View of the crater on Maungawhau / Mount Eden

Introduction

The Albert-Eden Local Board continues to set the direction and priorities for our board area identified during the development of our local board plan. We work closely with Auckland Council and council-controlled organisation staff who deliver the board's work programme, projects and initiatives. The board's seven priorities are all designed to contribute towards the betterment of our community and to making Albert-Eden a great place to live, work and visit.

The seven priorities outlined in the Albert-Eden Local Board Plan 2017 are:

- Albert-Eden has a strong sense of community
- Our parks are enjoyed by all
- Our community spaces are well used by everyone
- Albert-Eden has thriving town centres and a growing local economy
- Travelling around Albert-Eden is safe and easy
- Our natural and cultural heritage is valued
- We respect and protect our environment.

Over time the projects delivered by the board have changed and developed, but overall our direction has remained the same. We are pleased to see our community groups becoming stronger and more capable, and being better supported by council departments. We now have integrated projects achieving multiple local board plan outcomes. You will see these referenced throughout different sections of the report.

We also have key threads emerging across all of our work. These are:

- celebrating diversity
- increasing accessibility
- planning for the future
- making more connections, both social and physical.

This report summarises the board's key achievements from January 2018 to June 2019.

Outcome 1: Albert-Eden has a strong sense of community

Local board plan aspiration

We are all proud to live in Albert-Eden and feel that we belong. Our community is connected and everyone's involvement is welcomed. We are able to come together to support each other, and to celebrate our diversity.

We continue to work closely with and learn about our communities in Albert-Eden. We want to provide groups with practical support, funding and partnership opportunities, and the opportunity to learn new skills. A lot of what we do is working towards the goal of you designing and delivering what you want and need in your own community.

Many projects are delivered by our amazing network of volunteers or volunteer organisations. You make a valuable contribution by providing social services, delivering events, planting in parks and caring for our streams. Your activities build community, celebrate diversity and foster unity.

We have a diverse mix of people in our area, made up of increasing numbers of young people, elders, migrants and people with all levels of ability. Celebrating this diversity highlights the richness it brings to our community and increases connection, involvement and belonging.

You will see the diversity thread of work reflected here, as well as in other areas such as parks planning and development, and community building upgrades.

Our libraries, community centres, venues for hire and leases are also a way of bringing people together, and we talk more about those under 'Outcome 3: Our community spaces are well used by everyone'.

Community empowerment

The board supports groups in a number of ways: networking and connection opportunities, advice, capacity building and grants. A challenge we face is how to maintain ongoing relationships with and support for groups, and what tailored support is required to enable groups to thrive.

The board has funded local activities and services through our contestable community grants programme, and provided accommodation funding support for venue hire. These two grants programmes combined provide over \$500,000 of funding over this period for community groups, and are an important way the board supports grass-roots projects.



Big Gay Out attendees on the new path, Coyle Park, February 2019

The board has supported the Albert-Eden Youth Board, which developed a strategic plan including a mission, vision, values and purpose, and four priority areas. This focussed work has meant it has connected to over 12,000 people through events, programmes and media, is working with 19 community partners and has had over 1000 responses to a postcard campaign to hear youth voices. It is continuing work on mapping community perceptions of safety and developing life skills workshops for young people.

The board has funded community-led place-making projects in Point Chevalier and Balmoral. The aim for Point Chevalier is to spark a positive response to local community concerns about antisocial behaviour and safety in the town centre. The group is into its second year and has been organising events with key community partners in the town centre such as the community centre, library and kindergarten. The project in Balmoral is in its first year.

Currently the Balmoral Chinese Business Association and Dominion Road Business Improvement District are working with local groups to deliver the Balmoral Moon Festival in September 2019.

We are lucky to have passionate and hard working volunteers in our area, and a number of them have been recognised by other organisations. Congratulations to the three inaugural winners of the Westfield St Lukes' Local Heroes Award 2018, and also to Friends of Oakley Creek for their Cawthron Institute Award.

An ongoing community-led project is the Gribblehirst Community Hub and Auckland Central Community Shed. These two groups hold community leases for the building and ex-bowling greens in Gribblehirst Park, Sandringham. They have established themselves as hubs of creativity, learning and skill-sharing. The Gribblehirst Hub is beginning its new venture of the Gribblehirst Commons; developing the ex-bowling greens into a communal and dynamic "big backyard". Interactive zones will have food growing and gathering, and community-led activities and events. Alongside this there will be a digital fabrication lab, a bike repair workshop and an outdoor events area.

Increasing inclusion and celebrating diversity

In 2017 the board funded research on how to enable inclusion and diversity in our parks and community projects, which identified community groups' aspirations. We now have projects up and running which are meeting the following needs.

- Increased opportunities for diverse communities to connect with each other. An intercultural exchange tour was organised that visited Maungawhau/Mount Eden and the Bharatiya Mandir Hindu Temple.
- Increased awareness of volunteering and opportunities to share skills and knowledge between generations. The intercultural tour has resulted in older migrants volunteering in the community garden at the temple.
- Increased wrap-around support for emerging social enterprises and small businesses. The 'LeaderInU' has delivered this programme for 15 women from different ethnic backgrounds, from which five businesses have launched.

- Increased opportunities for differently abled communities to be included in events, projects, initiatives. Forty women have completed the International Women's Programme, which addressed isolation and marginalisation experienced due to stigma, language and cultural barriers.

We trialled the first-ever captioned movie in the Movies In Parks series, at Coyle Park in March 2019. We received feedback from the deaf and hard-of-hearing community that you wanted these events to be more accessible. The positive results of the trial means our Events Department aims to have 50 per cent of movies across the region captioned next season. Overall, the event had a 94 per cent satisfaction rate, and 96 per cent of attendees were likely to attend again.

Art and culture

The community arts broker programme is into its fourth year and we are proud of the work that is done with creative individuals and groups. The programme has evolved to include a curated series of community delivered art projects, mentoring tailored to the needs of artists, and increased use of social media to raise awareness of projects.

Examples of projects completed include temporary exhibitions of pottery, free theatre shows for children in parks, comics publications, pop-up dance performances in supermarkets and community music projects.



*Comic by FutureFutureFuture (a cartooning group from Māpura Studios),
in a collection curated by Tim Danko*

The board is proud to have given a home to a number of art pieces in the Auckland regional public art collection. The most recent addition is 'Boy Walking' by Ronnie van Hout, in Potters Park at the intersection of Balmoral and Dominion Roads, Balmoral.

Local board events

The board has focused on providing more events for our community to attend. You told us we need more activation of our spaces, and we recognise the impact events have on our sense of connection, belonging and pride in our area. The board has funded the following key events:

- Out and About programme of activities in parks and reserves over the 2018 and 2019 summer seasons
- Albert-Eden Schools Cultural Festival, November 2018
- Carols at Potters, December 2018
- Movies in Parks and Music in Parks in the 2018 and 2019 summer seasons
- Regular citizenship ceremonies to welcome our recent citizens
- Events to celebrate and recognise the hard work of local volunteers and civic leaders, including the community grants recipients event in April 2019, and both the Local Heroes Awards and Junior Sports Awards in May 2019.

We have also celebrated the completion of some parks projects with an opening event. These are noted in the 'Our parks are enjoyed by all' section below.



Performers at the Local Heroes Awards, held at Ferndale House, May 2019

Community-led events

We identified that one of our challenges is supporting the capacity of community groups to deliver events. We have put funding into a new events broker role. This is based on the successful arts broker programme, and aims to support new and emerging neighbourhood events and build event organisers skills. We are piloting this approach and have already seen lots of interest from the community to run events and develop their skills.

The board has supported groups by providing funding towards the following community-led events.

- Brazilian Day Festival, January 2018 and 2019
- Crave Café street party, March 2018 and 2019
- Sandringham Street Festival, October 2018
- Big Gay Out, February 2018 and 2019
- Neighbours Day Aotearoa, March 2018 and 2019

Outcome 2: Our parks are enjoyed by all

Local board plan aspiration

Everyone can access the parks we share in Albert-Eden, and use them in ways that enhance their lifestyles. As a community we feel a shared ownership of our parks, and we take care of them together.

Our area has approximately 105 parks, ranging from large destination parks like Potters and Coyle parks, to smaller neighbourhood reserves. The amount of open space per capita in our area is limited, and further development and intensification will increasingly require our open space to replace our traditional back gardens. Our approach has always been to make the most of the space we have, link existing spaces together better and look for opportunities to acquire more, particularly by leveraging development activity.

We have invested heavily in the planning and upgrades of our parks over a number of years. We will focus on their day-to-day maintenance and renewals to keep them to a high standard; we receive weekly reporting and scoring on the performance of our maintenance contractors to keep update-to-date oversight of our parks. For 2017/2018 we had a 79 per cent satisfaction rating with the provision (quality, location and distribution) of local parks and reserves, exceeding our target of 75 per cent.

We know how important parks are to you and want to ensure every visit is fun, safe and enjoyable. During this period, the board has undertaken planning for parks and open space, upgraded a number of our parks and amenities, started on sportfields upgrades and made headway on improving accessibility in our parks.

Parks planning

It is important to take a long-term approach to planning our open space, to guide our parks upgrades and consider the needs of our future communities. We adopted the Albert-Eden Open Space Network Plan in October 2018 which sets out actions to deliver a sustainable, quality open space network that can respond to, and accommodate, anticipated population growth. The parks and open space network will provide the community with access to a range of recreational, social, cultural and environmental experiences.

In November 2018 we adopted the Albert-Eden Local Paths (Greenways) Plan, which is discussed further under the transport outcome. This plan is an update of the 2013 Albert-Eden Greenways Plan.

Both these documents link to our priority on maintaining corridors, both ecological and transport, and will help us respond to large scale development that will increase demand on our parks.

This intensification and the pressure it will be adding to our open space in the future is the key driver for implementing the Chamberlain Park Master Plan. This project remains the

top priority for the board. Our vision is to increase access to activities in the park by re-configuring the golf course, constructing a new local park, sportsfields and shared pathway, and restoring Waititiko / Meola Creek.

Accessibility in parks

We have undertaken a whole body of work on accessibility in our parks. This work aims to upgrade and design parks so they can be enjoyed by all. We have assessed 10 parks and will implement changes as renewals and projects come up over the next few years.

We have completed 12 accessibility maps which are on the Auckland Council parks website pages. This helps people of all ages, ability and mobility find a park, travel to it, move around within the park and get home safely.

Destination parks

Over the past few years we have been upgrading our key destination parks: Potters Park, Coyle Park, Rocket Park and Waterview Reserve. We are thrilled to have now completed all the major planned upgrades.



Destination parks in Albert-Eden area, left to right: Waterview Reserve, Coyle Park, Rocket Park and Potters Park

Potters Park has a new playground, splash pad, basketball court, barbeques and paths and a rejuvenated rotunda. The new 'Learn to Ride' path was formally opened on 2 February 2019.

We have now finished construction of a perimeter path around Coyle Park, something which you told us was important when consulting on the 2014 local board plan, along with a new mini basketball court.

Waterview Reserve is completely new, following the construction of the Waterview tunnel; the playground, splash pad and skate park always get a lot of use by our local community.

Sportsfields

We recognise there is a sportfield shortfall in our area and have advocated strongly for upgrade projects and associated funding. This is reflected in our 2017/2018 satisfaction score for the quality, location and distribution of sportsfields of 67 per cent, well below our target of 80 per cent. A number of projects have been deferred or cancelled due to a change in the Local Parks and Sportsfield Development (Growth) programme. We have responded quickly and firmly to this news and want these projects to get back on track, to ensure we have more playable hours and usable sportfields all year round.

We have completed two sportfields upgrades at Fowlds Park and one at Phyllis Reserve. The new fields and lights are high quality and will allow the clubs based there to continue to play and compete in their codes.



Upgraded field at Phyllis Reserve

State Highway 16/20 projects

A number of projects have been completed following the construction of the Waterview tunnel and the State Highway 16/20 connection. In the past 18 months we have completed the following projects, from a joint fund with the Whau Local Board.

- Anderson Park improvements.
- Development of a Te Auaunga (Oakley Creek) middle catchment action plan and its implementation.
- Kūkūwai Karnival which was held on 23 February 2019. This was a one-off summer event to say thank you to the local residents for their understanding while the Waterview tunnel was built.
- Holly Street to Heron Park boardwalk, which was formally opened on 6 December 2018.

Park upgrades and ongoing maintenance

The following comprehensive park upgrades have been completed.

- Windmill Reserve netball courts and lights construction, which was formally opened on 21 March 2018.
- Centennial Park playground upgrade, formally opened on 23 June 2018.

The following park projects have been completed:

- Landscape improvements and tennis courts renewal at Anderson Park.
- Future Giants trees planting programme; 38 large trees planted in Kerr Taylor reserve, 36 in Wātea Reserve, eight in Windmill Reserve, 10 in Potters Park and 12 in Heron Park.
- Improvements at reserves in Waterview.
- Paving at Murray Halberg Park, with steps scheduled soon.
- Playground renewals at Harwood Reserve, Melville Park and Bannerman Reserve, and new swings at Alan Wood Reserve.
- Paving and path upgrades, and a new ball-stop fence at Nixon Park.
- Renewal of the bridge and culvert at Kerr-Taylor Reserve.
- Installation of drainage at Griffin Reserve.
- Gribblehirst Park Action Plan projects, including car park resurfacing, traffic calming, bollards, path upgrades and building repairs.
- Installation of directional and interpretive signage and path repairs near Te Auaunga / Oakley Creek.
- Replanting and renewals at Louis Adolphus Durrieu Reserve.
- Construction of a new hill track at Windmill Park.
- Installation of new toilets at Nicholson Park.
- Renewal of paths, bollards, furniture, fitness stations and barbeque area at Fowlds Park.
- Painting of a mural on the toilet block at Eric Armishaw Reserve by Kākano Youth Arts Collective, co-ordinated by our arts broker, and opened in April 2019 .
- refurbishment of the rooms at the rear of the Western Springs Garden Community Hall.



Enjoying the opening of the Learn to Ride track, Potters Park

Outcome 3: Our community spaces are well used by everyone

Local board plan aspiration

Our shared facilities underpin our strong community. They provide diverse and inclusive spaces that meet the changing needs of people of all ethnicities and ages.

We have spaces that are inviting, flexible and well used by multiple community groups.

We have recognised that it is important to have spaces available for you to come together. We reflected this in our 2017 Local Board Plan by adding a new outcome area specific to community spaces. The Albert-Eden board area has three libraries, four community centres, nine venues for hire and over 60 community leases, and we have a responsibility to ensure they are well maintained, are used efficiently and run programmes that meet your needs.

Libraries and community centres

We continue to support our libraries in Point Chevalier, Mount Albert and Epsom. There are council-managed community centres in Point Chevalier and Sandringham and community-managed centres in Mount Albert and Epsom, all providing crucial core services and programmes.

For 2017/2018 we achieved a 94 per cent customer satisfaction score for the quality of the library services delivery, exceeding our 85 per cent target. We scored 79 per cent satisfaction with the library environment, which did not meet our 85 per cent target. Since then, a comprehensive refurbishment has been completed at Mount Albert Library and Mount Albert Citizens Advice Bureau.

The Epsom Library celebrated its 100th birthday in August 2018. Community members, librarians and the local board celebrated with an event and a birthday cake.

After an expression of interest process we are pleased that Parnell Community Trust will be delivering the community centre service on council's behalf at the Epsom Community Centre. We are grateful for the decades of services from the Epsom Community Centre Committee, who can be proud to have served so many members of the Epsom community over such a long time.

We are working on assessing the needs of the Point Chevalier community, with the aim of identifying what community facilities might be required in the future.

We are excited to see our community opening its doors and providing spaces to meet, such as the Balmoral Community Centre at the Bharatiya Mandir Temple and the Mount Eden Village Centre opening its doors to a range of groups at its venue.

Recreational facilities

We have oversight of the programmes run by YMCA at our council facility, the Mount Albert Community and Recreation Centre, and those run by Belgravia Leisure who operate the Mount Albert Aquatic Centre. We have asked that they tailor programmes for our local communities and were pleased to see this occurring so successfully that they were recognised at national level.

Belgravia Leisure received the Aquatic Innovation Award at the 2018 New Zealand Aquatics Awards, organised by Recreation Aoteroa, for its access and inclusion initiative. This programme was specifically aimed at supporting minority groups who, for many reasons, have difficulty accessing facilities, and is an example of the board's focus on inclusion and diversity projects.

Venues for hire and community leases

We have nine venues for hire in our area and all are very popular – in the second half of 2018 we had an above average satisfaction rating of 86 per cent. We are pleased to see the diverse range of activities the community runs from these venues, including fitness, sport and recreation, meetings, early childhood groups, arts and cultural events, religious activities, government agency bookings, programmes and partnerships and special interest activities, as well as private events.



Jack Dickey Community Hall, Epsom

Providing a subsidy for community groups to help cover the cost of hiring these venues is one way we can help groups find space to run their projects.

We also have over 60 community leases. We have renewed or granted new community leases to 13 groups at locations around the board area over this period.

There is a limited amount of space available and we want to have a more effective use and higher utilisation of current community lease space. We have funded a co-ordinator to help connect groups to spaces and encourage sharing. We aim to better understand the needs of groups who are looking for space long term and connect them to groups looking to share their existing space. We have identified five groups and their sites that will pilot this approach with us. They are:

- Epsom Chinese Association at Kimberley Room, Gillies Avenue, Epsom
- Marist Rugby League Football Club Inc at Murray Halberg Park, Mount Albert
- Neighbourhood Support at 869 New North Road, Mount Albert
- Owairaka Plunket at Richardson Road, Mount Albert
- Northern Region Lacrosse Association at Nixon Park, Kingsland.



Ferndale House, Mount Albert

Outcome 4: Albert-Eden has thriving town centres and a growing local economy

Local board plan aspiration

Our town centres are attractive to locals and visitors alike. Our local businesses are well supported and thriving, driving a strong local economy that creates opportunities for everyone in Albert-Eden. Well-established business networks foster innovation, growth and sustainability.

Local economic development contributes to creating vibrant village centres that are accessible, people-friendly and attractive to everyone. Our town centres are the champions of economic growth and help create dynamic entertainment, retail and commercial centres. Each centre has its own unique identity and gives our community a sense of the local within a large metropolitan city.

We have been building our relationships with business improvement districts in Kingsland, Mount Eden, Dominion Road and Uptown, and business associations and social enterprises in Sandringham, Balmoral, Greenwoods Corner, Point Chevalier and Mount Albert. Our vision is for these groups to have a clear sense of direction and to be independent and financially sustainable.

Town centres

The Mount Albert town centre streetscape upgrade was a priority for the board over a number of years and the project was formally opened on 19 May 2018. The \$6.5 million upgrade project, funded by the local board and delivered by Auckland Council and Auckland Transport, includes more trees, gardens, wider footpaths, better lighting, new street furniture, drinking fountains and cycle lanes.

The upgrade resulted in disruption in the short term for local businesses and their customers so we worked closely with businesses, the Mount Albert Business Association, the Mount Albert Residents Association and Auckland Transport to try and mitigate the impact during this phase. Now that the project is complete we have seen some new businesses move in and are looking forward to the opportunities this upgrade brings to the town centre, such as outdoor dining, more events and a better customer experience.



Mount Albert town centre streetscape upgrade official opening, May 2018

The board has long-term plans to make improvements in Sandringham and Greenwoods Corner villages. This planning work needs to align with other large projects, such as Auckland Transport's arterial road corridor project, and will inform capital works in future years.

The board continues to monitor progress of private and government developments in Point Chevalier, with the aim of developing a Point Chevalier Centre Plan in the future.

Local economy

The third and fourth annual Albert-Eden Business Excellence Awards were held on 22 May 2018 and 4 June 2019. The winner of the supreme award in 2018 was make-up and special effects business BodyFX which is based in Morningside, and the 2019 award went to Goodwin Realty Limited, based in Mount Albert.

The board continues to support business associations with funding for local projects, and is pleased to see the outcomes being achieved from business association co-ordination, signature events and accreditation processes for our town centres.

In 2018 we investigated how businesses in the Epsom, Greenlane and Greenwoods Corner area could be supported by the board. The feedback has provided us with some practical actions to improve local parks, advocacy to Auckland Transport about bus lanes and parking, and longer-term business support and co-ordination opportunities.

We have heard your strong feedback on expanding our environmental projects, and have seen great success in our first year of a project focused on increasing sustainable practices in our local businesses. The programme provides an assessment of current practices and professional coaching and advice to develop a tailored sustainability action plan.

The 10 participating businesses have made huge improvements in their environmental footprint, including:

- 100 per cent organic waste composted, over 77 per cent waste diverted and conversion to fully electric fleet planned by 2021, for Hamish Stewart Catering Limited, Epsom
- more than 150,000 plastic bags eliminated a year, a 27 per cent reduction in waste to landfill in 2019 and aiming for 100 per cent organic waste composted by 2020 for Kings Plant Barn, St Lukes.
- 672 litres of vegetable scraps, food waste, tissues and coffee filters diverted from landfill for composting each year, 390 fewer plastic straws to landfill each year, more locally grown tomatoes and herbs served with zero food miles and aiming for 1300 fewer coffee cups to landfill each year for Rockys Restaurant and Café, Mount Albert.

We look forward to supporting new businesses on their sustainability journey in the future.



2018 Albert-Eden Business Excellence Supreme Award winners BodyFX



2019 Albert-Eden Business Excellence Supreme Award winners Goodwin Realty Limited

Outcome 5: Travelling around Albert-Eden is safe and easy

Local board plan aspiration

It is simple to travel between the many places in our area that people want to visit. We have a range of options to meet the different needs of our community. We have quality public transport and our streets are safe and enjoyable to use.

The board works closely with Auckland Transport to deliver positive transport outcomes for the area. We can also directly fund transport projects we consider to be priorities for the community through our dedicated transport capital fund.

In 2019, Auckland Transport made available a community safety fund to local boards. This additional fund has enabled us to prioritise a number of initiatives with a focus on safety across the board area for prompt delivery.

Traffic calming is a priority for the board because it is an effective way to reduce traffic speed on local roads, increasing safety and amenity for drivers, pedestrians, cyclists and residents. In Albert-Eden, traffic-calmed zones now include the streets between Carrington Road and St Lukes Road / railway line, and the Sandringham and Balmoral Residential Quiet Zone in the local streets around Balmoral Road, Dominion Road and Sandringham Road.

The board adopted its updated Albert-Eden Local Paths (Greenways) Plan in November 2018. Our planned paths and cycleways will provide safe routes for everyday journeys (i.e. to work, schools, shops, transport hubs and visits to community and recreational facilities) throughout Albert-Eden.

Related to the Local Paths (Greenways) Plan is the Open Space Network Plan, which the board adopted in October 2018. The Open Space Network Plan is discussed further under the Parks outcome. Both plans will enable us to maintain connectivity as a response to increasing growth and demand in our area.

Transport Capital Fund

Over the past 18 months, the board has delivered the following projects through its Local Board Transport Capital Fund.

- Traffic calming in the local streets between Carrington Road in the west and the railway line.
- Wayfinding improvements for Greenlane Station.
- Pedestrian bridge across Te Auaunga / Oakley Creek from Owairaka Park to Underwood Reserve, an important connection for the community. This project was in partnership with the Puketāpapa Local Board.

The board has allocated funding to the following ongoing projects from its transport capital fund.

- Mobility parking and associated traffic calming on Windmill Road by Windmill Reserve, Mount Eden.
- Signage showing the walking route from Underwood Reserve to Owairaka Park.
- A new beacon at the Greenlane Rail Station.
- Detailed design and construction for the Waterview Pathway/Alford Street tie-in project.
- Detailed investigation into options for cycle lanes on Point Chevalier Road from Meola Road to Coyle Park.

Road naming

Growth in the area has led to a number of new minor roads. As part of their leading role in local placemaking, the board is pleased to have approved the following names that reflect the history and natural features of their immediate surroundings.

- Brookburn Lane for the new private road (right of way) created by way of subdivision at 136 Taylors Road and 22A Alberton Avenue, Mount Albert.
- He Ana Way as the name for the new private road created by way of subdivision at 33 Asquith Avenue, Mount Albert.
- Annie Buxton Place for the new private road created by way of subdivision at 492 Manukau Road, Epsom.
- Akapuka Lane for the new private road created by way of subdivision at 10-30 Tutuki Street and 1555-1557 Great North Road, Waterview.
- Kōkoku Lane for the new road created by way of subdivision on Great North Road, Waterview.

Connectivity

The following completed projects have had a big impact on improving connectivity and safe and easy travel in the Albert-Eden area.

- Waterview Shared Path from Unitec to Soljak Place which was celebrated by a community event in January 2018.
- Ian McKinnon Drive cycleway.

Advocacy

The board continues to advocate to the governing body and Auckland Transport to ensure roading and public transport keep pace with the growth in our area. We support light rail in our area, including on Dominion Road and through Point Chevalier to the northwest.

We are pleased to support Auckland Transport's focus on safety, including the 'Vision Zero' emphasis on improving traffic safety.

Berm parking is a growing and noticeable problem in our area. It churns up the berms, damages trees and causes damage to essential services. The present approach of placing signs where problems occur is costly and increasingly ineffective as the practice grows. We have advocated to the Ministry of Transport for improvements to enforcement of parking on berms bylaws, including the ability for Auckland Transport to create a bylaw to prohibit parking on berms without the need for signage.

We advocate for our community regularly through providing feedback to Auckland Transport on smaller local projects such as parking changes.



Opening of the Ian McKinnon cycleway

Outcome 6: Our natural and cultural heritage is valued

Local board plan aspiration

Our community has a strong awareness of our area's heritage. We are proud of the features that give our area its unique character, and work together to protect and preserve them.

Albert-Eden has rich cultural, natural and built heritage that contributes to our distinctive identity and promotes community pride. The board is committed to funding projects which protect heritage and encourage public involvement in celebrating the history of the area. A lot of the work we do to achieve our parks and environmental outcomes also benefits our natural heritage.

As well as funding projects that protect heritage, we have also funded community-led projects through grants. Examples of these include:

- Point Chevalier Sailing Club Incorporated for research, design, writing and compiling of the Point Chevalier Sailing Club Centenary Book
- replanting of a garden at a scheduled heritage site, recognised by the New Zealand Historic Places Trust, at Clive Road, Epsom
- Auckland Electric Tramways Trust towards the costs of lifting and relocating of Auckland Tram 255 to prevent the destruction and further deterioration of the built heritage item
- Epsom and Eden District Historical Society for publishing the book "The History of Mount Eden – the district and its people"
- Point Publishing Limited for reproducing historical images for the publication "The Point: a portrait of a community".

Cultural heritage

We have:

- completed a series of hikoi / guided walks on Maungawhau / Mount Eden, led by Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei. These walks enable participants to explore the cultural significance of the maunga, and were tailored for new migrants to learn about our local history
- supported the Auckland Council-led plan change to the Auckland Unitary plan, to identify and protect sites of significance to mana whenua in our area
- celebrated Te Ao Māori through our three libraries by running events for Te Titiriti o Waitangi, Matariki and Te Wiki o Te Reo Māori. Te Reo Māori is incorporated in regular Wriggle and Rhyme time and Story Time sessions for children, and each library has an area designation for reading and korero in Te Reo Māori

- progressed the Te Kete Rukuruku project – Māori naming of parks. This project supports efforts to raise the visibility of Te Reo Māori and to capture and tell the unique Māori stories of Albert-Eden and Tāmaki Makaurau. In August 2018 the board invited mana whenua to provide Māori names and narratives for the following local board area parks: Wilding Reserve, Epsom; Coyle Park, Point Chevalier; Edenvale Park, Mount Eden; Eric Armishaw Reserve, Point Chevalier; Pascoe Quarry Reserve, Epsom; Sainsbury Reserve North and South, Mount Albert; School Reserve, Kingsland; and Taumata Reserve and Watea Reserve, Sandringham. In addition the board provided six more parks in Waterview that can be dual named in the future, after other park and path development is completed
- installed interpretative signage for Marivare Reserve, Windmill Park and Thomas Withiel Reserve, the latter of which was formally unveiled on 7 September 2018 with family and friends of the Withiel family. These signs provide information about the history of the parks and places, and celebrates the people involved in making them what they are today. The board has worked with local historians and family members to provide the wording for the signs
- approved a community lease for Mount Albert Historic Society Incorporated for rooms at the Ferndale House, 830 New North Road, Mount Albert. Ferndale House is a heritage building and there is potential here for a historical hub
- delivered Anzac Day services in Mount Albert and Coyle Park, and funded Mount Eden, Point Chevalier and Epsom services in 2018. We supported Point Chevalier RSA to run a service in 2019, following the cancellation of numerous events across Auckland on police advice. We will support the continuation of events in our area in the future, to honour this day.

Built heritage

We have completed a heritage rock wall identification and condition assessment study. This information will enable us to prioritise funding for their maintenance. Work has already been completed on Melville Park and Nicholson Park rock walls.

Natural heritage

The lava rock forests in Epsom are a unique and rare ecosystem, and a hidden gem in our area. We have:

- completed a five-year restoration project in Almorah rock forest, Epsom. This project focused on control of pest plants and mammals within the Auckland Council managed areas of Almorah rock forest with the aim of protecting and enhancing the native biodiversity. Now that this programme is complete the areas can be transferred to our high value ecological contractors for ongoing maintenance
- completed two years of the Epsom rock forest landowner assistance programme. This projects raises awareness of the values of lava rock forest, identifies management needs and helps support landowners to carry out active management of forest remnant on their private property. It complements the work completed in public areas.

Outcome 7: We respect and protect our environment

Local board plan aspiration

Our community cares for our environment and develops innovative ways to look after it. Our natural landscape is healthy and well looked after.

The board recognises the great work done by volunteer groups and others to protect our unique natural environment. To support this, we prioritise initiatives that promote and protect healthy natural environments and sustainable practices.

The board has also been actively involved in discussions on large-scale environment projects. This includes advocating for targeted rates through the 10-year Budget 2018-2028 to fund water quality and natural environment improvements, as well as numerous infrastructure upgrades to improve freshwater and coastal water quality.



Bridge across Te Auaunga / Oakley Creek

Sustainability initiatives

We look forward to the opening of a new Central Community Recycling Centre at 956 Great North Road. This project is one of the key transformational actions to help achieve Auckland Council's goal of Zero Waste to landfill by 2040. We have been working with

neighbouring local boards Waitematā and Puketāpapa since 2013 to establish the first site on the central isthmus.

The centre will be part of a resource recovery network across the city, but will have a particular focus on education. It will be a centralised point to drop off reusable and recyclable items and learn about waste reduction and sustainable practices. We are currently preparing for resource consent before beginning construction. The site poses some challenges, particularly with traffic access, existing leases on site and protecting a heritage archway.

We undertook to support low-carbon initiatives at a neighbourhood level, in our work towards becoming carbon neutral. We are excited to be seeing the outcomes of the following projects.

- Continuing support for Eco-Neighbourhoods, with 18 groups now active across the board area. We are pleased to see new groups have formed in areas where previously there were none, such as Mount Eden. The projects completed by these groups range from recycled fabrics bag making, composting and eco-cleaning product workshops, herb berm gardens and bumble bee house building. The environmental outcomes and social connections which are achieved through these groups are valuable and we look forward to continuing to expand our Eco-Neighbourhoods.
- establishment of a bike hub in the area. Thanks to the skilled people at Tumeke Cycle Space we have been able to fast track this project, approving it to operate at Gribblehirst Commons, alongside the Gribblehirst Hub. We look forward to it getting established in its new home and providing cycle repairs and advice.
- Board feedback in support of the Government's proposal to ban single-use plastic bags.

We also funded a one-off project to inform urban businesses about the impacts their activities may be having on local waterways. The programme included a site inspection and discussion with the business owners about potential issues around pollution and waste minimisation techniques, as well as a GIS mapping exercise to ensure that businesses understand the stormwater network connections in relation to local waterways. This project was based in our one industrial area, Morningside.

Ecological restoration

The board continues to support local groups in weed control, planting and naturalisation in Te Auaunga / Oakley Creek and Waititiko / Meola Creek. We wish to thank Friends of Oakley Creek and St Lukes Environmental Protection Society (STEPS) for their years of dedication to restoring our awa (streams) and the surrounding environment. A number of groups working on the maunga (mountains) and in our local parks make a valuable contribution to the health of these areas, including Friends of Mangawhau, Conservation Volunteers NZ, the Rasheed Memorial Trust, Te Mahurehure Marae, the Bluegreens Community Group and the Owairaka Ratbaggers.

In September 2018 the board adopted the Te Auaunga – Oakley Creek Vision and Restoration Strategy for the Lower Catchment. This document aligns with plans from the

Whau and Puketāpapa local boards, and forms part of the strategy for the whole length of the awa.

In October 2018 the board adopted the Te Tohu o Te Auaunga Design Guide and the implementation process, a joint project between the boards, six mana whenua and stakeholders. The tohu is a recognisable symbol which represents the awa (stream) and helps to foster local community connection with the catchment. The design guide outlines how it can be designed into assets and infrastructure across the whole catchment area. The board believes this is an important step towards achieving the goal of increased community awareness and engagement with Te Auaunga / Oakley Creek.



Signage, featuring the tohu, on Te Auaunga Oakley Creek walkway

We have also installed interpretive signage on Te Auaunga / Oakley Creek and in Roy Clements Treeway sharing the history of the area and information about the awa (stream) and its surrounding environment.

Our awa (streams) are important ecological corridors and the parks along their banks help us connect with them better. We have highlighted these in our Open Space Network Plan,

discussed in the parks section above, and look forward to future planned restoration works on Waititiko / Meola Creek in Chamberlain Park.

The board received the Fowlds Park Forest Restoration Plan in February 2019, which aims to restore the northern forested slopes of Fowlds Park to a naturally functioning indigenous ecosystem. The plan recommends weed and pest animal control and replanting over five years.

We funded the Albert-Eden Pest Quest, a project to encourage people to identify, collect and remove moth plant pods from around the area, using an app to log your progress. These pods contain up to 1000 seeds and can travel up to 30 kilometres, spreading the growth of this smothering vine.

Sign up to the Albert-Eden

PEST QUEST

and be in to win \$4500 worth of prizes!

Choose your mission:

ID PEST PLANTS

COLLECT PODS

REMOVE WEEDS

Sign up at www.ecomatters.org.nz/pestquest

ends 30 April 2019

EcoMatters

Albert-Eden Pest Quest poster

Consultation, engagement and representation

The role of the local board is to represent its communities and advocate on behalf of the community on issues of interest.

The board values its communities' thoughts and opinions and is committed to staying connected to residents, businesses and groups. As elected members we attend public meetings and meet regularly with individuals, community and sport groups. We put time and effort into keeping up to date with local social media pages and news sources, and always attempt to respond to and help resolve issues you raise. We value the relationships we hold with you and look forward to building those.

A number of external organisations provide for the formal participation of Auckland Council elected members, and our members represent the board on the following organisations.

- Dominion Road Business Association
- Greenwood's Corner Business Association
- Kingsland Business Association Incorporated
- Mount Albert Business Association
- Mount Eden Village Business Association
- Sandringham Business Association Incorporated
- Eden Park Community Liaison Group
- Kerr Taylor Trust
- Mount Eden Methodist Church Trust
- SH20 Community Liaison Group
- SH20 Working Liaison Group
- Auckland International Airport Limited: Aircraft Noise Community Consultative Group

Formal consultation processes also enable us to better understand your views, and get closer to you and listen.

The key consultation during this period was the 10-year Budget 2018-2028 and Auckland Plan 2050, which also included the Albert-Eden Local Board priorities for 2018/2019. At the same time Auckland Council consulted on the draft Waste Management and Minimisation Plan 2018 and the draft Regional Pest Management Plan 2018, and Auckland Transport consulted on the draft 2018-2028 Regional Land Transport Plan.

These documents covered important issues for Auckland such as transport, natural environment, water quality, waste and pests, and we were pleased to see 1825 of you submitted. We acknowledge that it was a large task to read, digest and respond to so many documents at once, especially when many of you are doing so in your own time or

on behalf of a voluntary group. We really appreciate your commitment to Auckland and we gave our feedback on these documents too.

We held two events in March 2018 where you could come and hear from staff members who were experts in these areas, and give your feedback there. These were also well attended.

Where the board sees the potential for significant community effects, we work to engage directly with those likely to be affected. Over the past 18 months, the board has implemented engagement initiatives around the following topics.

- 2019/2020 Annual Plan and local board priorities
- McGehan Close parking removal proposal
- Mount Albert traffic calming around Alberton Avenue
- Freedom Camping Bylaw drop-in session

Further to this, we held two meetings and an open call out in July 2018 for artists to submit project proposals as part of the community arts broker programme.

The board provided feedback on many Auckland Council projects and documents, including:

- Tūpuna Maunga Authority Draft Operational Plan
- Draft Council-Controlled Organisations Accountability Policy
- Rates Remission and Postponement Policy
- Draft Regional Fuel Tax proposal
- Draft Development Contributions Policy
- Auckland Council representation arrangements for 2019 elections
- Project Streetscapes (transfer for streetscape maintenance from Auckland Transport and Waste Solutions to Community Facilities)
- Auckland Council Stormwater Network Discharge Consent
- Draft Freedom Camping bylaw
- Draft Dog Management bylaw and Policy on Dogs
- Draft Facility Partnerships Policy
- Elected Member Code of Conduct
- Sites of Significance to Mana Whenua Plan Change
- Auckland Waters Strategy discussion document
- Auckland Council Public Safety and Nuisance Bylaw 2013 and consequential bylaw changes
- Potential new community-led conservation projects funded by the Natural Environment Targeted Rate
- Local government elections 2019 – order of names on voting documents

- Trial of online voting at the 2019 local elections
- Draft Climate Action Plan
- Draft Increasing Aucklanders' Participation in Sport: Investment Plan 2019-2039
- A new model for allocation funding to the Citizens Advice Bureaux
- Draft Waste Management and Minimisation bylaw
- Renumeration Authority's proposed policy of child allowances
- Department of Conservation's proposal to revoke some Reserves Act 1977 delegations
- Proposed Plan change 21 (private), Southern Cross Hospital, Brightside Road and Gilles Avenue, Epsom.

The board also informally gave feedback on the following proposals.

- Auckland Council mobile library and access services
- Water quality targeted rate funded projects
- Natural environment targeted rate funded projects
- Draft Trade Waste bylaw
- A number of small Auckland Transport projects such as parking changes and works to allow double-decker buses through our area

The board has also contributed to Auckland Council feedback to external documents.

- The Government's proposed mandatory phase-out of single-use plastic shopping bags
- The Government's Kāinga Ora – Homes and Communities Bill
- Auckland Transport's Proposed Regional Public Transport Plan

Working with Māori

The board has partnered with mana whenua on a number of projects in the area.

- The Te Auaunga – Oakley Creek Vision and Restoration Strategy for the Lower Catchment, adopted in September 2018, sees the board working in partnership with mana whenua to actively achieve the restoration of mauri (life force) of Te Auaunga through kaitiakitanga (guardianship).
- Te Kete Rukuruku – Māori naming of parks. The board invited mana whenua to conduct research on selected sites to gift new Māori names to some of our parks.
- Hikoi / guided walks on Maungawhau / Mount Eden.

We were pleased to celebrate the 30th anniversary of Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Ngā Maungarongo in Sandringham in June 2018. Te Kura's work to promote Te Reo Māori and Tikanga Māori in Albert-Eden is highly valued.

Children's engagement

The Albert-Eden Local Board has funded activities to allow engagement with children. These activities inform local board-funded projects and provide a meaningful experience to the children involved in democratic engagement. Activities have included:

- input from schools and children during the planning and research phase of placemaking work in Balmoral and Point Chevalier
- children's input to inform the future events in the Out and About programme.

Future projects that will be informed by children's input include the Urban Forest (Ngahere) Strategy implementation, which will see planting programmes run in parks and schools chosen, in part, on the basis of children's feedback and suggestions. Phase 2 (Growing) of the Strategy will take place in the 2019/2020 financial year.

The everyday experiences of children have been deliberately considered when making decisions on transport projects such as traffic calming, local paths and safety improvements around schools.



Weaving at the Mount Albert town centre streetscape opening, May 2018



Albert-Eden Local Board members

Back row: Rachel Langton, Benjamin Lee, Graeme Easte, Margi Watson

Front row: Peter Haynes (chair), Glenda Fryer (deputy chair), Jessica Rose, Lee Corrick

Find out more: phone 09 623 6090
or visit aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/alberteden



v. 03/07/2019