



Te mahere ā-rohe o Papakura 2026

# Papakura Draft Local Board Plan 2026

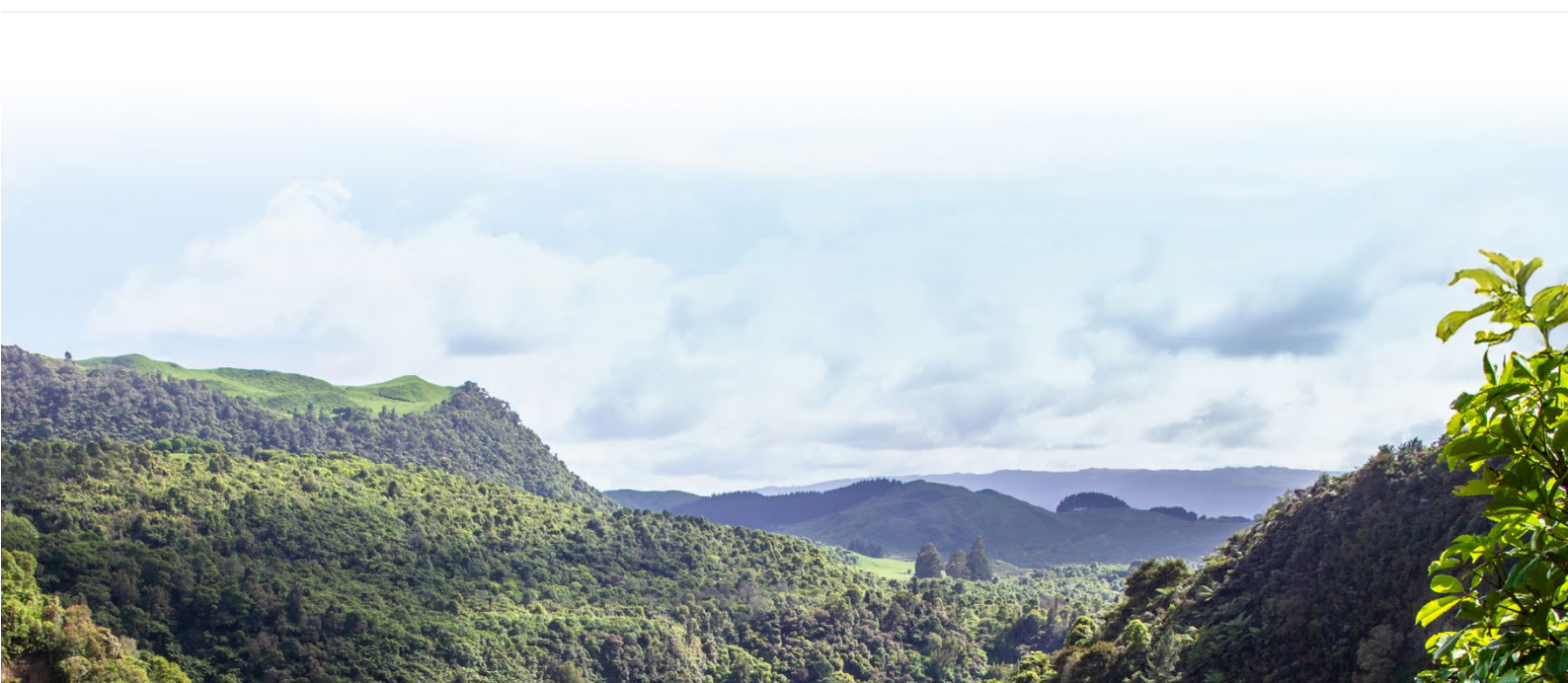
**Tāmaki Turuki.  
Altogether Auckland.**



# Mihi

**Tēnā kia hoes e au taku waka mā ngā tai mihi o  
ata e uru ake ai au mā te awa o Tāmaki  
ki te ūnga o Tainui waka i Ōtāhuhu.  
I reira, ka toia aku mihi ki te uru ki te  
Pūkaki Tapu a Poutūkeka,  
i reira, ko te Pā i Māngere.  
E hoe aku mihi mā te Mānukanuka o Hoturoa ki  
te kūrae o Te Kūiti o Āwhitu.  
I konā, ka rere taku haere mā te ākau  
ki te pūaha o Waikato, te awa tukukiri o ngā  
tūpuna, Waikato Taniwharau, he piko he taniwha.  
Ka hīkoi anō aku mihi mā te taha whakararo  
mā Maoro ki Waiuku ki Matukutūreia  
kei konā, ko ngā Pā o Tahuna me Reretewhioi. Ka  
aro whakarunga au kia tau atu ki Pukekohe.  
Ka tahuri te haere a taku reo ki te ao  
o te tonga e whāriki atu rā mā runga i ngā hiwi,  
kia taka atu au ki Te Paina,  
ki te Pou o Mangatāwhiri.  
Ka titiro whakarunga ki te tāhuhu o Hūnua kei  
reira ko Kohukohunui, me tōna toronga, a Te  
Wairoa.  
Mātika tonu aku mihi ki a koe Kaiaua  
te whākana atu rā o whatu mā Tīkapa Moana ki  
te maunga tapu o Moehau.  
Ka kauhoetia e aku kōrero te moana  
ki Maraetai kia hoki ake au ki uta ki Ōhuiarangi,  
heteri mō Pakuranga.  
I reira ka hoki whakaroto ake anō au  
i te awa o Tāmaki mā te taha whakarunga  
ki te Puke o Taramainuku, kei kona ko Ōtara.  
Kātahi au ka toro atu ki te Manurewa a  
Tamapohore, kia whakatau aku mihi mutunga ki  
runga o Pukekiwiriki  
kei raro ko Papakura ki ko nā au, ka whakatau.**

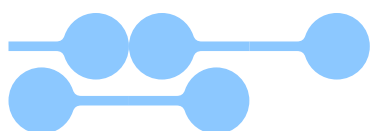
Let this vessel that carries my greetings  
travel by way of the Tāmaki River  
to the landing place of Tainui canoe at Ōtāhuhu.  
There, let my salutations be borne  
across the isthmus to the Pūkaki lagoon  
and the community of Māngere.  
Paddling the Manukau Harbour  
we follow the Āwhitu Peninsula to the headland.  
From there we fly down coast  
to the Waikato river mouth,  
sacred waters of our forebears.  
Coming ashore on the northern side at  
Maoro we head inland to Waiuku and  
Matukutūreia,  
there are the Pā – Tahuna and Reretewhioi.  
Heading southward I come to Pukekohe.  
My words turn to follow the ancient ridgelines  
along the southern boundary,  
dropping down into Mercer  
and Te Pou o Mangatāwhiri.  
I look up to the massif of the Hūnua ranges, locale  
of Kohukohunui and  
its arterial river, Te Wairoa.  
My greetings reach you at Kaiaua  
who gazes across Tīkapa Moana  
to the sacred mountain, Moehau.  
Taking to the sea, my remarks travel  
to Maraetai and then to Ōhuiarangi,  
sentinel to Pakuranga. There we follow again  
the Tāmaki River to Te Puke o Taramainuku,  
Ōtara resides there.  
From here I reach for Manurewa  
until my greetings come to rest  
on Pukekiwiriki below which lies Papakura and there I  
shall rest.



# Ngā upoko kōrero

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# He kōrero mai i te Heamana

## From the Chair

It is my privilege to present the Papakura Local Board Plan 2026–2029, which sets out our aspirations for the future of Papakura. This plan reflects what you have told us matters most and outlines the priorities that will guide our work over the next three years. Your ongoing feedback has shaped five key areas of focus:

### 1. A connected and resilient community

Papakura is a diverse and vibrant place. We want everyone to feel connected, for Māori partnerships to be honoured and for wellbeing and resilience to be strengthened across our communities.

### 2. A protected natural environment

We are committed to protecting our environment for future generations. This means increasing tree canopy cover, improving air and water quality, reducing pest threats and tackling pollution and waste.

### 3. Quality parks and community spaces

As our population grows and becomes more diverse, our parks, facilities and public spaces must keep up with demand. We will ensure people have great places to play, gather and enjoy, supported by the right well-maintained infrastructure.

### 4. A thriving local economy

You have told us you want a prosperous economy where residents can access services, work and shop locally — reducing the need to travel across Auckland. Supporting local businesses and economic development is a priority.

### 5. Safe and connected transport

You have told us that having convenient, well-connected public transport is important. We will push for continued improvement in frequency and coverage of services. We will prioritise providing well-maintained roads and footpaths, and safe crossings and intersections. We will do more work to ensure the shared walking and cycling path network is safe, popular and well used.

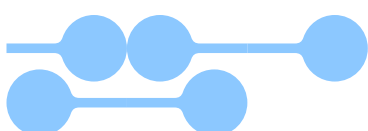
This plan is built on strong partnerships. We will continue working alongside mana whenua, community groups, local organisations, third party funders and government agencies to deliver results we cannot achieve alone.

You have been clear that investing in community services—especially parks, sports, recreation and wellbeing is a top priority. We will also focus on climate resilience, environmental restoration, cleaner neighbourhoods and celebrating Māori identity and aspirations.

Whether you are a long-term resident or new to Papakura, we all have a role in shaping its future. This is your plan. Let us know if we've got it right. Together, we can make Papakura a thriving, connected and resilient community—a place where people love to live, work and play.

Kelvin Hieatt

**Papakura Local Board Chairperson**



# He aronga poto ki tā mātou mahere

## Our plan at a glance



### Community

Papakura is a diverse and vibrant community where people feel connected, live active and healthy lives and come together through inclusive events that reflect the strengths of all cultures. Strong partnerships with Māori to support Māori aspirations, and more broadly community partnerships celebrate unique identities and build community safety, wellbeing, preparedness and resilience across the local board area.



### Natural environment

Working with Māori who are the kaitiaki (guardians), we will continue to support programmes that enhance the health of our environment by increasing tree canopy cover, improving air and water quality, reducing pest threats and tackling pollution and waste. We want people to have opportunities to enjoy the natural environment across our local parks, streams and harbour.



### Built environment

We have great parks and places to play, compete and enjoy. As our population grows and becomes more diverse, our parks, community spaces and facilities need to keep up with rising demand and changing needs. It is important to ensure that the significant growth in the local board area is supported by appropriate and well-maintained infrastructure.



### Economic development

We want a thriving local economy with successful local businesses creating quality local jobs for our community, and where our commercial centres are great places to work, shop, relax and enjoy.



### Transport

We aim to provide a well-connected area where it's easy to move around, where our roads are safe and efficient, public transport is convenient and reliable, and our walkways and cycleways are linked together and safe.

You will find these Auckland-wide commitments woven through our plan:



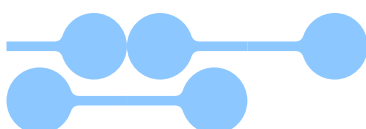
**Māori Outcomes**



**Climate outcomes**



**Equitable outcomes**



# Te tirohanga whānui o Te Mahere a te Poari ā-Rohe

## Local Board Plan Overview

He kōrero mō tēnei tuhinga

### About this document

This local board plan sets out the vision and priorities for our area over the next three years. It outlines our commitments to our community – shaped by what you've told us matters most, and by the role local boards play within Auckland Council.

Te take kei a mātou te mahere nei

### Why we have this plan

Local boards are responsible for decisions on local services and activities, and for representing local views on wider Auckland issues.

This plan guides:

what we focus on and fund locally

- how we work with mana whenua, partners, and community organisations
- how we make the best use of local assets such as parks, libraries and community facilities
- where we will advocate to others on your behalf.

Te ara e pāhekoheko ai mātou

### How we will engage

We are committed to meaningful community engagement. Over the next three years, we will continue to listen, involve and work alongside our communities, so that local knowledge, diverse perspectives and community priorities guide our decisions and help shape the future of our area.

Te ara i whakaritea ai te mahere nei

### How this plan was developed

To make sure the plan reflects local aspirations, we built on:

public feedback from the previous local board plan, annual plans and other consultations

- surveys such as People's Panel
- community engagement held between November 2025 through to February 2026.

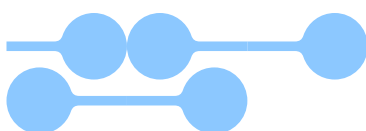
Te ara e tutuki ai ngā whāinga kei te mahere

### How the plan will be used

The plan provides direction for the next three years and influences council's wider decision making. To deliver on it we will:

- prioritise budgets and resources to focus on the initiatives in this plan
- work with our partners to deliver on the objectives in this plan.



Visit the [Auckland Council website](#) to find out more about local boards

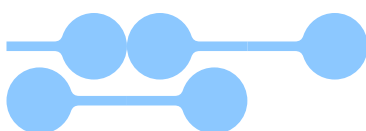


# Te Rohe ā-Poari Local board area



## MAP LEGEND

-  Local board office
-  Public open space (Unitary Plan)
-  Industrial, commercial and reserve land
-  Motorway
-  Arterial road
-  Medium road
-  Minor road





*Hingaia Park is one of the city's newest parks, opening more green space for the rapidly growing community in the area.*

## Tā mātou ki ngā huanga hei painga mō Tāmaki Makaurau

# Our contribution to positive outcomes for Auckland

Local board plans connect local priorities and projects with the wider goals for Auckland. In particular, the local board plan connects with the:

- [Auckland Plan 2050](#) – the 30-year vision for how Auckland will grow and change. This includes the Future Development Strategy.
- [long-term plan](#) – the council's investment and funding priorities over the next 10 years.
- [annual plan](#) – local funding decisions for each financial year.

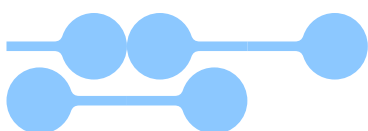
By linking to these wider plans, our local board plan can draw on Auckland-wide opportunities to deliver

locally, while ensuring the goals of local communities contribute to Auckland's shared future.

The **Auckland Plan 2050** sets out six outcomes that describe what Auckland is working towards over the long term. The council's strategic framework organises all work and spending into **seven investment areas** to show how these outcomes are achieved.

This local board plan focuses on **five** of those investment areas – the ones where local boards make decisions and can have the greatest influence at a local level.

The strategic framework also identifies three considerations for all decisions and investments:



- Māori outcomes: Honouring Te Tiriti and ensuring Māori thrive in Tāmaki Makaurau
- Climate outcomes: Leading urgent action for a low- emissions, resilient future
- Equitable outcomes: Ensuring all Aucklanders have access to what they need to thrive

These three areas are mutually reinforcing. Improving one of the three required considerations is likely to contribute to improvements in the others.

## Ngā huanga Māori

### Māori outcomes

Māori identity and culture are Auckland’s unique point of difference in the world.

Māori outcomes describe how Auckland Council supports Māori goals – from partnership and participation to visibility and wellbeing. They also reflect the council’s commitment to Te Tiriti o Waitangi, our statutory responsibilities, and our ongoing relationships with mana whenua and Māori communities across Tāmaki Makaurau.

The refreshed *Tāmaki Ora Māori Outcomes Strategy* reflects the vision that when Māori are well, Tāmaki Makaurau will also be well. *Tāmaki Ora* guides Auckland Council to focus on seven Ora outcomes (wellbeing areas) that mana whenua and Māori communities have told us are important to them:

- Iwi Ora - Iwi wellbeing
- Te Taiao Ora - Environmental wellbeing
- Tuakiri Ora - Cultural identity wellbeing
- Huatau Ora – Future wellbeing
- Te Hapori Ora – Whānau & community wellbeing:
- Whai Rawa Ora – Economic wellbeing
- Marae Ora - Marae vitality

Local boards play a key role in achieving *Tāmaki Ora*. This can be through:

- partnering with mana whenua and Māori communities

- supporting local initiatives that reflect Māori priorities
- embedding Māori identity, language and values into local spaces and activities.

This work will focus on Mana ki te Mana (authority to authority) engagements between local boards and mana whenua. The aim is to build relationships based on respect, shared priorities and mutual recognition for the mana that we each hold.

### Local insights

Papakura is a place where the mana and whakapapa of mana whenua and the wider Māori community shape the character of the land and its people. The local board continues to strengthen relationships with mana whenua. This includes Ngāti Tamaoho hosting the 2025 Papakura Local Board inaugural meeting at Whaataapaka Marae.

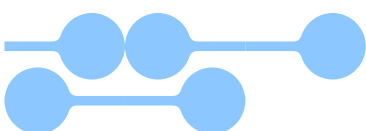
Iwi who hold the role of kaitiaki in Papakura include:

- Ngāi Tai ki Tāmaki
- Ngāti Maru
- Ngāti Whanaunga
- Ngāti Paoa
- Ngāti Tamaoho
- Ngāti Tamaterā
- Ngāti Te Ata Waiohua
- Te Ākitai Waiohua
- Te Patukirikiri
- Te Ahiwaru
- Waikato-Tainui.

Pukekooiwiriki Paa (also known as Pukekiwiriki Pā) is a site of significant cultural importance and is managed in partnership with mana whenua.

Papakura Marae, the local urban marae, is a vibrant centre of cultural leadership, whānau support and community connection, supporting the area’s connection to te ao Māori and the enduring values of manaakitanga and kaitiakitanga.

Through engagement, the local board has heard key themes that are important to Māori. These include working together, participation, identity and culture,



protecting the environment, wellbeing, prosperity, rangatahi and responding to Māori aspirations.

As Papakura grows, its communities come together in partnership, honouring Māori identity and guardianship while caring for shared parks, waterways and places that support wellbeing, belonging and opportunity for all.

## He huanga āhuarangi

### Climate outcomes

In 2019, Auckland Council declared a climate emergency and adopted *Te Tāruke-ā-Tāwhiri: Auckland's Climate Plan* in 2020. Meeting the goals of this plan requires ambitious action to reduce emissions and adapt to a changing climate.

Local boards contribute by including climate action into everything we do – from community investment and transport choices to restoring the environment and local events. We also support regional initiatives and enable community-led initiatives that build local resilience to the effects of climate change. Climate action also connects with the *Ngā Hapori Momoho / Thriving Communities Strategy 2022-2032*, which recognises that social and environmental wellbeing are closely linked—communities thrive when they have healthy environments, green spaces and can respond together to climate challenges.

Tāmaki Ora also recognises Māori goals around climate leadership and resilience.

#### Local insights

Papakura is a place where communities are connected to the natural world. This includes treasured places like Kirks Bush, Pahurehure Inlet and coastal edges, streams and wetlands that run through its parks and township. These natural features shape daily life, along with a shared community commitment to build resilience against flooding, severe weather events and rapid urban growth. We work to design our green spaces to manage and respond to increased stormwater needs including in Ōpaheke, and Papakura Stream catchments.

We recognise the importance of the Pahurehure Inlet Shoreline Adaptation Plan in response to the identified coastal risks.

The Papakura Community Resilience Network includes representatives from various stakeholder and community groups. It is vital to ensure the community is resilient and prepared to respond in an emergency through actioning the Papakura Emergency Readiness and Response Plan.

As the community looks to the future, Papakura embraces a spirit of stewardship and resilience so that people and nature can thrive together for generations to come. This includes by:

- restoring native ecosystems through increasing the tree canopy and planting native plants to improve waterways and help reduce erosion
- improving green spaces
- strengthening sustainable transport routes through connecting off-road cycleways.

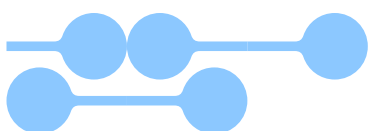
## He huanga tautika

### Equitable outcomes

Auckland is one of the most diverse cities in the world, yet not all communities experience the same access to opportunity, wellbeing or resources.

Supporting more equitable outcomes is central to the Auckland Plan 2050. It recognises that the region's success depends on making sure all Aucklanders can be part of and contribute to society, access opportunities and have a chance to develop to their full potential.

Ngā Hapori Momoho | Thriving Communities Strategy 2022-2032 is Auckland Council's regional strategy for a fairer and more sustainable Tāmaki Makaurau where every Aucklander belongs. It reflects what communities say they need to thrive, for Tāmaki Makaurau to be a region where whānau have everything they need to live a good life, where diversity is celebrated, and where all Aucklanders can participate and belong.



At its heart Ngā Hapori Momoho focuses on ensuring equitable outcomes for all Aucklanders – guiding Auckland Council to recognise that different groups and communities need different things to fully participate in the life of our region, and to feel valued, included, and that they belong.

### Local insights




Papakura is a growing and diverse community. There are neighbourhoods including Papakura East, Red Hill and parts of Takaanini<sup>1</sup> and Drury identified through local resilience planning, as facing higher social need and at risk from climate change. These areas continue to show remarkable strength, with groups like Papakura Marae, Ngāti Tamaoho, Sustainable Papakura, Kootuitui, Takanini Gurdwara Sri Kalgidhar Sahib and the Redhill Community Centre leading

whānau-centred initiatives that bring people together and increase local wellbeing.

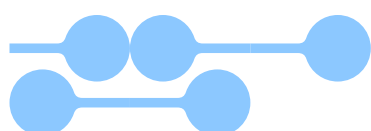
Food security is important to the people of Papakura. There are several active community gardens that create connections. Takanini Gurdwara Sri Kalgidhar Sahib, Kootuitui, and Papakura Marae have been key groups in providing food parcels in times of need.

The Community Resilience Network (CRN) ‘Street Meets’ are another excellent opportunity for the community to connect, plan and prepare together for emergencies.

As Papakura evolves, these communities reflect the resilience, cultural richness and collective spirit that shape the area’s identity. They demonstrate how local action and a shared purpose can help the whole rohe (area) thrive.

Auckland-wide outcomes	How it’s reflected across the plan
 <p data-bbox="233 913 472 987">Ngā huanga Māori <b>Māori outcomes</b></p>	Partnership with mana whenua, Māori identity in local places, support for initiatives that reflect Māori priorities.
 <p data-bbox="233 1037 512 1111">He huanga āhuarangi <b>Climate outcomes</b></p>	Reducing emissions, protecting biodiversity, building community resilience.
 <p data-bbox="233 1160 499 1234">He huanga tautika <b>Equitable outcomes</b></p>	Targeted investment, access to services, focus on inclusion and fairness.

<sup>1</sup> Takaanini used as the appropriate Māori spelling of Takanini.





*The sculpture of Waiohūa chieftainess Hingaia at Hingaia Park acknowledges the cultural significance of the local stream and surrounding area as taonga (treasure) for mana whenua and the wider community.*

## Te hāpori Community

**Papakura is a diverse and vibrant community where people feel connected, live active and healthy lives and come together through inclusive events that reflect the strengths of all cultures. Strong partnerships with Māori to support Māori aspirations, and more broadly community partnerships celebrate unique identities and build community safety, wellbeing, preparedness and resilience across the local board area.**

Papakura's strength comes from its people, our long-standing communities, a growing cultural diversity and one of the highest Māori populations in Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland.

- Over the next 10 years, we aim to build a community where cultural identity is celebrated, people feel connected to each other and to the area, and whānau (family) are supported to live well. This also includes supporting iwi aspirations and Māori-led initiatives to reflect the goals of Iwi wellbeing (Iwi Ora) and cultural identity wellbeing (Tuakiri Ora), and continuing partnerships to deliver:
- the dual naming of parks (Te Kete Rukuruku)
- joint management of Pukekooiwiriki Paa.

We want Papakura to be a community that everyone can fully take part in including young people, older adults, new families, long-time residents and newcomers.



Accessible programmes, active public spaces and well-used facilities such as the library, museum, art gallery and the Hawkins Theatre will continue to provide opportunities for learning, connection, creativity and active living. This aligns with whānau and community wellbeing (Te Hapori Ora), supporting whānau wellbeing, social participation and stronger community networks. It also aligns with Ngā Hapori Momoho (Thriving Communities Strategy 2022–2032).

Creating safe and resilient neighbourhoods is also central to our long-term vision. We will work alongside mana whenua, police, schools, marae and community organisations to support safety, youth development and emergency readiness to contribute to a more resilient Papakura.

Advocacy for equitable investment in the south will remain a priority so local services, facilities and programmes can grow with our community.

Together, we want a Papakura where people feel they belong, where heritage and culture are honoured and where everyone has the opportunity to thrive.

## Challenges

### 1. High population growth

Papakura is growing quickly and becoming more culturally diverse. This can make it harder for communities to stay connected and feel a shared sense of belonging. As the population changes, ensuring access to services and community participation is an ongoing challenge.

### 2. Cost of living and funding pressures

Rising living costs and food insecurity are increasing hardship in Papakura, putting more pressure on families and local support services. At the same time, shrinking government and charitable funding has increased demand on community groups—especially those serving Māori, Pacific and new migrant communities. Many organisations are now struggling to remain sustainable without long-term funding.

### 3. Services and participation not accessible for all

Many Papakura residents face cost, transport, cultural and accessibility barriers to services and physical activity, and are at risk of missing out on support and participation in local decision-making. These barriers are greater for young people (rangatahi), Māori, Pacific peoples, low-income families, women, those with accessibility needs and older adults who often lack culturally safe, affordable and accessible options. With smaller backyards, people rely heavily on local parks, facilities and open spaces for play and activities close to home.

## Opportunities

### 1. Growing cultural diversity and community-led initiatives

Papakura's growing diversity brings vibrancy, new perspectives and opportunities for cultural celebration and connection. There is strong potential to provide more community-led initiatives that build social connection, strengthen neighbourhood ties and reflect local knowledge and innovation.

### 2. Delivering through community providers

Papakura benefits from a wide range of non-council facilities such as churches, schools and marae that play an important role in meeting community needs, alongside programmes provided by local groups that do not rely on council assets or funding.













### 3. Māori leadership and Māori-led solutions

Papakura has one of the highest Māori populations in Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland. There is an opportunity to support Māori-led approaches to deliver social, cultural and economic benefits for whānau and the wider community.













### 4. High value community facilities

Maximising high-value community facilities: Key assets such as Hawkins Theatre, Bruce Pulman Park, Massey Park Pool and stadium, and the Papakura Recreation Centre provide great potential for year-round community programmes and events. Investment in this area can help more people take part in play activities, active recreation and sport which will improve the health and resilience of communities.

## Our Plan

Our 3-year goals (Objectives)	What we plan to deliver in the next 3 years to make this happen (Key initiatives)	
Objective 1: Papakura’s parks, open spaces and facilities enable active, healthy living.	Support programmes and partnerships that increase active play, sport and recreation, and use of parks and open spaces.	
	Deliver community-led activities suitable for all ages, including play, to promote movement, wellbeing and social connection.	
	Support libraries, community hubs and key facilities to deliver programmes that respond to changing community needs.	
Objective 2: Communities are connected, resilient and supported to thrive.	Strengthen community networks and capability including supporting older people to stay connected and participate.	
	Support placemaking, community-led activations, māra kai and food security initiatives that build resilience and local identity.	
	Support local organisations to grow youth development, age-friendly and intergenerational programmes.	
	Support community safety approaches including alcohol harm reduction programmes.	
	Support initiatives that help prepare communities for emergencies.	
Objective 3: Strong partnerships with mana whenua to guide local decision-making.	Maintain regular engagement with mana whenua to make progress on shared priorities.	
	Work together with mana whenua to improve joint management of Pukekooiwiriki Paa and the Manukau Harbour.	



	Partner with Māori-led organisations and initiatives that help achieve local aspirations.	
Objective 4: Māori identity, heritage and culture are visible, valued and celebrated.	Deliver the Te Kete Rukuruku dual-naming programme to reflect local Māori stories in the landscape.	
	Support cultural events, Matariki celebrations, Te Wiki o te Reo Māori and programmes that showcase Māori talent and heritage.	 
	Progress heritage interpretation projects including the ongoing work between the Papakura Museum and mana whenua.	
	Support the protection of sites of Māori and European significance including the enhancement of Pukekooiwiriki Paa.	
Objective 5: Papakura is a socially connected, culturally vibrant and inclusive community.	Support events, programmes and partnerships that celebrate Papakura's cultural diversity and bring the community together.	 
	Support programmes that help young people to contribute to the local area and thrive.	
	Encourage libraries, arts facilities and the museum to provide activities that reflect the diverse identities and cultures of Papakura.	 
	Support citizenship ceremonies and commemorations such as ANZAC Day which strengthen shared identity and community pride.	

## Advocacy

Some local priorities that matter to our community are not part of our direct decision-making role. 'Advocacy' is how we influence other governance decision-makers to prioritise the things our community cares about.

### What we will advocate for in the next 3 years (Advocacy)

### Who we will advocate to

#### 1. Local Board funding

Changes to how funds are allocated to local boards to ensure Papakura receives a fair and equitable share of investment based on current and expected future population growth to ensure minimum services are maintained.

Auckland Council  
Governing Body  
Long Term Plan (LTP) /  
Annual Plan

#### 2. Staffing resources

Funding for a fair and equitable services including an increased number of compliance officers (for example, animal management officers).

Auckland Council  
Governing Body  
(LTP / Annual Plan)





*Te Koiwi stormwater pond designed to reduce downstream flooding, improve water quality and mitigate erosion by capturing stormwater when it rains.*

## Te taiao māori

# Natural environment

**Working with Māori who are the kaitiaki (guardians), we will continue to support programmes that enhance the health of our environment by increasing tree canopy cover, improving air and water quality, reducing pest threats and tackling pollution and waste. We want people to have opportunities to enjoy the natural environment across our local parks, streams and harbour.**

Over the next ten years, we want Papakura to become more environmentally resilient. Alongside initiatives to restore our environment and biodiversity, we will support long-term, catchment-scale approaches to flood resilience that better manage future flood risks while providing environmental and community benefits.

We will continue to support the restoration of the Papakura Stream to help improve the long-term health of the Manukau Harbour. This will strengthen resilience to flooding and ensure waterways can support biodiversity and provide places for recreation and cultural connection over time.

We will improve our parks and reserves with native planting and pest control, protecting taonga species and creating thriving habitats. The tree coverage (urban ngāhere) will expand to cool our streets, improve air quality and link natural pathways between Kirks Bush, Red Hill and other green spaces.

We will continue to support programmes that enhance the health of our environment by increasing tree canopy cover, improving air and water quality, reducing pest threats and tackling pollution and waste. Our goal is for people to have opportunities to enjoy and connect with nature across our local parks, streams and harbour, creating spaces that are safe, easy to access and ecologically rich.



We will work alongside mana whenua to reflect kaitiakitanga (guardianship) and Māori mātauranga (knowledge) in environmental projects, ensuring cultural values guide decisions and outcomes. Community involvement will remain central, with volunteering, education and local partnerships making it easier for residents to care for their environment. At the same time, we will support climate initiatives and help communities to be better prepared for severe weather and flooding, particularly for vulnerable communities. This vision reflects Papakura's goals for cleaner waterways, greener neighbourhoods and sustainable living. It aligns with Auckland-wide strategies such as the Auckland Plan 2050, Te Tāruke-ā-Tāwhiri (Climate Plan) and the Tāmaki Ora framework. It also contributes to environmental wellbeing and future resilience. Together, we will create a Papakura where nature and communities thrive together

## Challenges

### 1. **Poor water quality and high contaminants in Papakura Stream and Manukau Harbour**

Papakura Stream, which flows to the Manukau Harbour, has been one of Auckland's more degraded waterways. It has high pollution (especially E.coli in upper reaches and industrial runoff in the lower sections), low tree cover, increased sediment and a decline in native species due to historical land use. Stormwater treatment in the Papakura Stream catchment is managed differently across different local boards.

Highly contaminated runoff water from urban areas enters the Manukau Harbour environment through the stream network. There is not enough native planting along streams and ponds, and the banks are unstable. This increases erosion and reduces water quality. Proposed development on low-lying land can increase pollution entering waterways and exposure to flood risks, particularly over time and under changing climate conditions.

Improving water quality of the Manukau harbour requires significant investment at a regional level.

### 2. **Low levels of tree canopy coverage and limited planting sites**

Papakura has one of the lowest levels of tree canopy cover in Auckland. This contributes to heat vulnerability and reduced biodiversity. Street planting opportunities are restricted by narrow berms (grass verges), underground and above-ground services (like power cables and pipes), tree supply and limited funds.

### 3. **Persistent litter, illegal rubbish dumping and pest plants and animals**

The Southern Path, Kirks Bush, Red Hill and other reserves face ongoing threats from invasive weeds and predators which affects our biodiversity. Effective pest control requires long-term funding and technical support beyond local board budgets.

Litter contamination and illegal rubbish dumping continue to be a challenge.

### 4. **Significant changes to the natural environment**

The Papakura Local Board area has mostly flat, fertile soils that have been intensively developed for urban, industrial, and food production use.

Land cover in this area has been heavily modified by human activity over the past 150 years. Approximately 32 per cent of land cover is in grass or cropland, while 60.4 per cent of the area is urban. Only about 4 per cent of the area has native vegetation cover, mostly located in the east of the local board area around streams and in reserves.



## Opportunities

### 1. Strong community networks and school programmes for restoration and pest control

Papakura has active environmental groups, schools and residents committed to restoration and sustainability projects. This local enthusiasm can be maximised through volunteer planting days and education programmes. Building on existing volunteer networks ensures projects like planting native plants along waterways and pest control are community-owned and sustainable.

### 2. Ecological and cultural assets (Kirks Bush, Margans Bush/Red Hill, Papakura Stream, Manukau Harbour) for biodiversity and recreation

Papakura's reserves and waterways are significant ecological and cultural taonga (treasures). These areas provide a strong foundation for biodiversity restoration, cultural interpretation and nature-based recreation. Using these assets for restoration and cultural partnerships strengthens ecological health and community connection to place.

A number of Significant Ecological Areas (SEA) within Papakura have been identified including Kirk's Bush, Dominion Reserve and Margans Bush. Papakura Stream also provides habitat for threatened fish species. Intertidal habitats (areas covered by water at high tide and exposed at low tide) of the adjoining Manukau Harbour also have important ecological values and connections with stream habitats.

### 3. Multi-board partnerships (Manukau Harbour Forum, Papakura Stream Restoration and Pest Free South Auckland) to share resources and reduce costs.

Partnerships with neighbouring local boards help Papakura address environmental issues that cover several local board areas by sharing resources expertise and ecosystem planning. They strengthen advocacy, reduce costs and engage communities for better outcomes.


### 4. Alignment with regional strategies and funding streams

Regional initiatives such as the Urban Ngāhere Programme, Water Quality Targeted Rate and Te Tāruke-ā-Tāwhiri (Climate Plan) create opportunities for Papakura to secure funding and technical support for tree planting, restoring catchments and climate resilience projects. By aligning local priorities with regional investment areas, Papakura can attract resources to deliver large-scale improvements to the environment. Papakura Urban Ngāhere Action Plan 2022 provides a clear plan for expanding tree canopy cover and our shoreline adaptation plans create a strategic framework for coastal resilience and access.

















### 5. Growing public awareness of climate resilience and sustainability

Community groups interested in climate action and sustainable living, including the Papakura Community Resilience Network (CRN) are increasing, providing support for initiatives like well-designed and maintained rain gardens, waste reduction and more green infrastructure. Using this awareness through education and projects will help us achieve behaviour change and better resilience sooner.

## Our Plan

<b>Our 3-year goals (Objectives)</b>	<b>What we plan to deliver in the next 3 years to make this happen (Key initiatives)</b>
Objective 1:	Deliver ecological improvement and amenity projects (native planting, weed management, habitat creation) across priority parks and reserves. 



More people enjoy the environment in and around our local parks.	Improve the ecosystem function of stormwater ponds as visible, nature-based assets supporting the habitat and community learning, for example at Te Koiwi and Bruce Pulman Park.	 
	Support the Pest Free South Auckland initiatives and help the local community to reduce plant and animal pests and to restore, increase, protect and connect native biodiversity.	
	Support conservation groups and volunteers that aim to reduce plant and animal pests.	
Objective 2: More people enjoy the environment in and around our harbour and streams.	Support native planting and wetland restoration along Papakura Stream and tributaries to improve water quality and access.	
	Continue working with the Manukau Harbour Forum and mana whenua to see the harbour recognised as a significant cultural, ecological, social and economic taonga and work towards improving water quality in the Manukau Harbour.	 
	Maintain the appropriate and sustainable removal of juvenile mangroves to maintain an environment for recreational use.	
	Support conservation and community groups to do coastal and stream clean-ups, pest management and monitoring the harbour and coast, like monitoring birds, erosion, microplastics and rubbish, and coastal water quality.	
	Support community groups that contribute to safety on, in and around the harbour.	
	Support Birdcare Aotearoa – who care for native and endemic birds from across the harbour and beyond.	
	Support water quality improvement education programmes.	
	Support Māori aspirations for environmental guardianship (kaitiakitanga) including restoration of the Papakura Stream and green spaces such as Te Koiwi Reserve.	 
Objective 3: Improved air quality and a cooler, greener urban area (urban ngāhere).	Implement the Papakura Urban Ngāhere Action Plan 2022 to increase tree canopy cover in streets, parks and around schools.	
	Support community programmes with schools and volunteers to plant trees and monitor the effects of increased tree canopy.	
Objective 4: Champion pollution prevention, climate	Support initiatives that better prepare communities for emergencies and improve their resilience to the effects of climate change, particularly for vulnerable communities.	 



initiatives and improve local resilience.

Promote pollution prevention, waste minimisation and readiness activities, including school and business education programmes and emergency planning.



Support implementation of the strategies in the Pahurehure Inlet Shoreline Adaptation Plan to ensure council assets are resilient, fit for purpose, and can be adapted for future coastal hazard risks.



Put in place long-term measures to manage coastal erosion and flooding risks to council land and assets. Some assets and services may need to be moved or changed to reduce the impact of coastal hazards and ongoing maintenance costs.



## Advocacy

Some local priorities that matter to our community are not part of our direct decision-making role. 'Advocacy' is how we influence other governance decision-makers to prioritise the things our community cares about.

### What we will advocate for in the next 3 years (Advocacy)

### Who we will advocate to

#### 1. Papakura Stream and tributaries

Prioritised funding for and delivery of a catchment-wide restoration programme for Papakura Stream and tributaries (multi-year native planting along waterways, wetland rehabilitation, sediment and contaminant reduction, community monitoring), using the Water Quality Targeted Rate where applicable.

Auckland Council  
Governing Body (LTP / Annual Plan)

#### 2. Manukau Harbour

Regional funding for Manukau Harbour water quality improvements, habitat restoration and access programmes, with the support of the Manukau Harbour Forum.

Auckland Council  
Governing Body (LTP / Annual Plan)

#### 3. Flood resilience and storm preparedness

Delivery of regional programmes for flood resilience and storm preparedness including the 'Making Space for Water' programme, incorporating solutions which prioritise investment in reducing flood risks. We will also advocate for help for vulnerable communities to better prepare for emergencies.

Auckland Council  
Governing Body (LTP / Annual Plan)





*Park Green in Karaka is a vibrant newer urban development, showcasing the importance of future-focused planning to support and embrace growth.*

## Te taiao kua hangaia

# Built environment

**We have great parks and places to play, compete and enjoy. As our population grows and becomes more diverse, our parks, community spaces and facilities need to keep up with rising demand and changing needs. It is important to ensure that the significant growth in the local board area is supported by appropriate and well-maintained infrastructure.**

Over the next ten years, Papakura's built environment will be strategically planned, upgraded and developed to meet current and future growth, including the additional demand by the expected population growth in Drury.

Public spaces, streets and open spaces will be welcoming, easy to access and climate-ready. They will reflect community and Māori identity, support wellbeing and enable regeneration that responds to housing demand. Papakura is growing rapidly, with Metropolitan Centre zoning signalling major potential for economic growth and urban transformation. However, investment in infrastructure and green space has not kept up with the rate of development, and growth in neighbouring areas will further increase demand on Papakura's facilities and public spaces. To meet the demands of this combined growth, we need future-focused, strategic 'place-shaping' — not just routine maintenance — that lifts the quality of our streets and public spaces, improves safety and accessibility, and includes te ao Māori and local identity in the design and delivery.



This outcome prioritises urban regeneration projects, upgrades to streets, open spaces and town centres, local identity initiatives, and service property optimisation (selling underutilised properties and re-investing in other facilities). It seeks to create vibrant, people-friendly spaces that encourage active movement, social connection and cultural expression.

Our approach aligns with Auckland-wide priorities for connected, inclusive, low-carbon communities with multi-use facilities along with the Tāmaki Ora framework: celebrating cultural identity wellbeing (Tuakiri Ora) and strengthening whānau and community wellbeing (Te Hapori Ora).

Coordinating growth and transport investment will help Papakura reach its potential as a metropolitan centre. We will seek advice to continue to make better use of community facilities and leases and to identify assets that could be used to fund investment in other areas. Together, this will help us create high-quality local places that meet the needs of a diverse and growing population.

## Challenges

### 1. Infrastructure and funding for growth

Papakura grew by 25 per cent between 2018 and 2023, bringing the population to 72,318. Compared with the Auckland average of 38 per cent, Papakura is expected to grow to 83,085 (15 per cent increase) over the next 30 years.

Both Papakura's rapid population growth and metropolitan centre zoning have outpaced investment in public spaces, streets and open spaces.

Limited funds and other regional priorities make it harder to deliver upgrades and new spaces fast enough to keep up with the rate of intensification. We have developed several concept and master plans for upgrades to open spaces such as the Drury Sports Complex, Keri Downs Park, Hingaia Park, Bruce Pulman Park and Prince Edward Park, but implementation of these plans depends on available funds. Limited funding to cover the cost of ongoing renewals for council assets in our area continue. This may mean we change the way we provide some services. It is important that we receive ongoing operational funding for new assets built and gifted by developers.

### 2. Limited land availability for public space expansion

Because land is being developed quickly and is owned by different people, it is hard to find places to build new parks and community spaces. If we do not plan ahead or work with landowners, we may lose opportunities to use quality public spaces in our growth areas.

### 3. Stormwater and flood resilience constraints

Flood-prone catchments and ageing stormwater networks require the integration of water-sensitive design and resilience features in local projects. Reliance on regional investment and timing of renewals can delay climate-resilient upgrades.

### 4. Timely quality advice and complexity of property optimisation

Timely advice is needed to plan for maintenance and renewals of ageing council-owned facilities to maximise use.

Selling under-used property to reinvest in other assets requires detailed advice, governance and multiple stakeholder approvals. These processes can be lengthy and can delay reinvestment into improvements to public areas.



## Opportunities

### 1. Metropolitan centre zoning and growth potential

Papakura's metropolitan centre status provides a strong foundation for attracting investment and delivering high-quality streetscape upgrades and public spaces. Further development of apartments in and around the centre will support the local economy and provide living options with good access to employment, retail outlets and a variety of services. Having this status can help open up opportunities to renew our areas and improve the local economy.

### 2. Alignment with regional investment programmes

Supporting infrastructure for planned growth areas that has been identified in the 30-year Infrastructure Strategy and infrastructure programmes.

Regional strategies for growth, transport safety and climate resilience offer funding and technical support for local upgrades and future development.

State Highway, Mill Road and rail upgrades associated with the development of the significant growth area of Drury provide benefits and development opportunities for Papakura.

### 3. Service property optimisation pathways

The council's optimisation framework enables reinvestment of proceeds from selling under-used assets to be reinvested in improvements to public spaces and community facilities. This creates flexibility and better outcomes for the community.

### 4. Local leadership, cross-border opportunities and advocacy influence

The board's ability to advocate through the Long-term Plan 2024-2034 and regional processes opens up opportunities to secure funding for green spaces, stormwater resilience, metropolitan centre upgrades across local board area borders.

Some of the planned infrastructure upgrades and open space development have benefits for adjoining local boards areas, in particular, the Franklin Local Board area. An example is the Mill Road upgrades which will benefit communities in both Papakura and Franklin.

To provide open space and community facilities, we need to plan to achieve value-for-money. We need communities from other local board areas to maximise the use of these spaces and facilities, for example Papakura and Franklin Local Board residents will use Opāheke Park.

### 5. Maintaining quality facilities and delivering differently

Maintaining high standards at sports facilities can help boost our local economy, keep our young people active and showcase our sports people's talents. Quality venues mean local organisations can keep bringing regional, national and international events and visitors to our area.





When renewing facilities, we should consider installing solar panels and other energy efficient solutions to achieve ongoing cost savings.

To help manage budget challenges, we can review facilities when leases are up for renewal or have expired. This includes looking at how often a facility is used; how much it costs to renew and if it is sustainable and suitable for a growing population.

We can also look at whether it is better for some groups to share facilities.



## Our Plan

Our 3-year goals (Objectives)	What we plan to deliver in the next 3 years to make this happen (Key initiatives)
Objective 1: Papakura's open spaces and recreation facilities are fit-for-purpose and well used.	<p>Progressively upgrade existing parks, sports and recreation facilities to improve the overall standard and meet the needs of a diverse community and all age groups. </p> <p>Work with neighbouring local boards to develop open space and recreational facilities.</p>
Objective 2: Services and facilities meet the community's needs now and into the future.	<p>Ensure we can use new and existing facilities as multi-use community spaces. </p>
Objective 3: Ensure the asset portfolio is fit for the changing community needs.	<p>When leases are up for renewal or expire, we can reassess renewal costs and how much a building is used, including considering low usage and opportunities for co-location. Given budget challenges, we will consider if leased buildings are sustainable and fit for a growing population.</p> <p>Assess how the local board's assets are used and how we provide services, particularly in low-use areas. Look at options to improve efficiency and make the most of our assets over time by changing the way we provide some services or by combining some of them.</p>
Objective 4: Resilience, safety and universal access.	<p>Support 'universal access' design so people of all ages and abilities can access our facilities, and 'Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design' (CPTED) in upgrades where budgets allow. Deliver pedestrian safety projects that connect accessible routes. </p> <p>Provide shade, shelter and heat-resilient landscaping like native tree canopy cover and permeable surfaces that absorb rainfall in streets and public areas. </p>
Objective 5: Local identity, kaupapa Māori and community-led design.	<p>Partner with mana whenua to co-design parks and places which may include cultural narratives, paving motifs, plantings, and naming. </p> <p>Find ways that tell Papakura's story and strengthen pride of place. </p>
Objective 6: Regeneration and service property optimisation.	<p>Identify and sell assets that are underused and reinvest the money from the sales into upgrades for community spaces and facilities to benefit the community.</p>



## Advocacy

Some local priorities that matter to our community are not part of our direct decision-making role. 'Advocacy' is how we influence other governance decision-makers to prioritise the things our community cares about.

What we will advocate for in the next 3 years (Advocacy)	Who we will advocate to
<p><b>1. Advisory support for urban regeneration</b></p> <p>Request advice about partnerships for projects that will help upgrade town centres more quickly.</p>	Auckland Council Governing Body (LTP)
<p><b>2. Funding for growth in development areas:</b></p> <p>Funding tools, including development contributions and funds obtained from selling underused assets and reinvest in parks and public spaces where infrastructure is not keeping up with the rate of development. Use current population figures to realign the 'fairer funding' for local boards model budget to more accurately reflect the growth that has taken place in the Papakura Local Board Area and the growth that is expected in Drury (Franklin Local Board area) which will affect Papakura Local Board facilities.</p>	Auckland Council Governing Body (LTP, Development Contributions Policy review)
<p><b>3. Bruce Pulman Park - maintenance, renewals, operational and capital budgets</b></p> <p>Bruce Pulman Park to be funded regionally. This park is used for local, regional, national and international events. Funding is required for sufficient maintenance, renewals and operational budget to sustain its role and community benefits and to progress the Bruce Pulman Park masterplan including the proposed skate park facility. Support Bruce Pulman Park Trust as a contractor to provide local services at McLennan Memorial Park.</p>	Auckland Council Governing Body (LTP, Annual Plan P27 Full Facilities Maintenance contract feedback)





*Takaanini's thriving town centre*

# Te whanaketanga ā-ōhanga

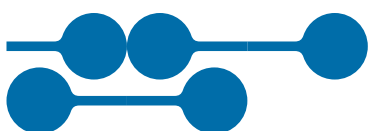
## Economic development

**We want a thriving local economy with successful local businesses creating quality local jobs for our community, and where our commercial centres are great places to work, shop, relax and enjoy.**

Over the next ten years, opportunities for residents will change. Papakura will grow and evolve into a lively, thriving local economy that helps businesses succeed, attracts new investment and creates more pathways into good jobs. This vision supports Whai Rawa Ora (economic wellbeing) and Huatau Ora (future wellbeing) by building a prosperous, future-focused community where innovation can flourish and everyone benefits.

We want our commercial centres to be welcoming places to work, shop and spend time. Strong local business networks and targeted skills development will support emerging industries and local needs. Connecting with key stakeholders to deliver economically focused events such as markets, expos programmes and activities will attract foot traffic, strengthen local identity, and increase spending. Alongside this, pushing for better public transport will make sure people can easily access jobs and town centres.

Growth in Drury brings both challenges and opportunities. New large-scale retail and employment hubs will compete for investment but also expand the southern economic catchment. With its metropolitan zoning, Papakura can position itself as a complementary destination for unique retail, hospitality and cultural experiences, supported by its strong identity and transport links. We want Papakura to be the place to 'meet, greet and eat'. By pushing for better infrastructure, partnerships with mana whenua and promoting Papakura's



unique character, the local board can benefit from Drury's development and strengthen Papakura as a vibrant southern hub.

## Challenges

### 1. Limited local employment and skills mismatch

Papakura has limited local employment opportunities, resulting in many residents commuting long distances for work. There is a mismatch between available jobs and workforce skills.

### 2. Underperforming commercial centres and amenity gaps

Papakura needs a more positive image and clearer identity to attract investment and address issues caused by empty premises, run-down shopfronts, inconsistent quality of public spaces and safety concerns. These issues reduce foot traffic and investor confidence. We need a stronger narrative and clearer identity to attract investment.

### 3. Limited investment coordination and low business capability

Progress is also harder to achieve by the lack of a central system to bring developers, businesses and community organisations together around a shared economic vision, despite existing frameworks. Many local businesses operate on tight budgets and do not have access to digital tools, innovation support or funding to grow and adapt.

### 4. Transport access and connectivity constraints

Papakura is an area of significant population growth. However, congestion and limited local transport options (especially for access to existing employment hubs like Penrose, East Auckland, Auckland Airport, Manukau and Wiri as well as future jobs in Drury) make it harder for people to access good jobs and retail opportunities.

### 5. Competition from Larger Retail Destinations

Papakura and Taakanini town centres compete with bigger shopping areas like Manukau and Sylvia Park and will soon also compete with the new development in Drury. These centres can take shoppers and investment away from our town centres. Without strong branding, marketing and regular promotional activities, Papakura could lose local spend. Making the most of regional campaigns and promoting Papakura's unique identity will be important.

## Opportunities

### 1. Strategic location and transit corridor advantages

Papakura's position on the southern rail line and near Southern Highway 1 makes it a highly accessible gateway for businesses and commuters. Being close to major employment hubs like Drury, Ardmore, Manukau, Wiri, Penrose and Auckland Airport creates significant job and investment opportunities. Papakura can become a more attractive destination within Auckland's transport network by using increased bus and rail connections, which improves access to local areas.

### 2. Māori heritage and cultural identity

Our rich Māori heritage and growing arts and cultural scene makes Papakura unique. Partnering with mana whenua on branding, events and Māori business development can improve the visitor experience and support better Māori educational, employment and business outcomes. Building on Papakura's key



strengths like arts, food, sport and education, can encourage community led activities and create a refreshed local narrative.

**3. Active business associations and local networks**

The Papakura and Takanini business associations provide a great opportunity to work together on branding, events, programmes and attracting investment. Building on this leadership through joint initiatives can help capability-building and improve the economy.

**4. Building on regional programmes and plans to create vibrancy**

Papakura’s priorities align with regional economic programmes. They create opportunities for co-investment in town centre upgrades, developing skills and marketing Papakura as an attractive visitor destination. With many agencies already active locally, the board can improve the results by adding to existing work.

Plan Change 120 supports more housing and development in the town centre, while key places like Bruce Pulman Park, Massey Park, and McLennan Memorial Park offer strong opportunities for local activities and events.

**5. Developer-led growth, narrative reset and community vibrancy**

Medium to high density housing near the train station can increase foot traffic and local spending. A fresh story that presents Papakura as ‘connected, affordable, and rising’, backed by positive local messaging, can help attract investment. Creating opportunities for arts, food, sport and education activities, will further build community-led vibrancy and momentum.

**Our Plan**

<b>Our 3-year goals (Objectives)</b>	<b>What we plan to deliver in the next 3 years to make this happen (Key initiatives)</b>
Objective 1: Create visible progress, strengthen confidence and change Papakura’s economic image.	<p>Establish the Papakura Momentum Programme to create a clear identity, purpose, and coordination function for early economic development activity.</p> <p>Deliver high visibility ‘momentum activations’ activities and events that create excitement and generate interest 1 to 2 quick, small-scale events or trials such as popups or after-hours activities to show visible change in the area and create interest.</p> <p>Develop a new, positive identity for Papakura to guide communication and messaging about the area. This will help change perceptions about Papakura and attract new businesses and investors.</p>
Objective 2: Strengthen partnerships with key stakeholders to improve collaboration and	<p>Connect with business associations to bring together landlords, employers and potential investors to discuss opportunities, build relationships and coordinate actions.</p> <p>Encourage local procurement opportunities.</p>



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investment opportunities.

Objective 3:  
Work in partnership with Franklin Local Board on an integrated approach to local economic development.

Leverage opportunities from development in Drury and Ardmore, ensure that Papakura and Franklin businesses and workforce benefit, so that local prosperity is at the forefront of development planning.

Enable combined regeneration and promotion of Papakura and Franklin town centres and villages so that these business communities are ready to respond to opportunities and challenges.

Work with arts and sports sectors in Papakura and Franklin to identify ways these can create local economic opportunities, including developing cross-board investment advice.

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## Advocacy

Some local priorities that matter to our community are not part of our direct decision-making role. ‘Advocacy’ is how we influence other governance decision-makers to prioritise the things our community cares about.

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### What we will advocate for in the next 3 years (Advocacy)

### Who we will advocate to

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There are no advocacy items included in this plan under this outcome.

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*Southern Path is part of our vision that is moving towards being a well-connected, culturally rich, and sustainable network that supports community wellbeing and future resilience.*

## Tūnuku Transport

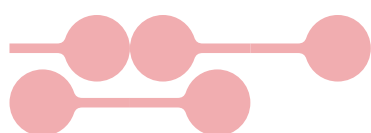
**We aim to provide a well-connected area where it's easy to move around, where our roads are safe and efficient, public transport is convenient and reliable, and our walkways and cycleways are linked together and safe.**

The future transport system for Papakura must respond to rapid growth in Takanini, Drury, and Franklin. It also needs to account for major regional projects, including rail network upgrades, separating road and rail crossings, the proposed Mill Road transport route and the planned third and fourth rail lines.

These developments bring opportunities for better connections and economic growth. The rapid growth also brings challenges like increased congestion and parking demand on local roads.

The local board's vision is a well-connected, culturally rich and sustainable transport network that supports community wellbeing and future resilience. Upgrading and linking footpaths and shared paths will provide more walking and cycling opportunities and recreational facilities in and around Takaanini, Papakura, Karaka, Drury and the new developments. The significant Mill Road upgrades will provide safer and more efficient travel for vehicles and freight which will reduce traffic on local and main roads.

At the same time, rail improvements, including recently completed electrification and more frequent services, will make train travel faster and more reliable. This will support more walking and cycling opportunities and help reduce carbon emissions.



Under cultural identity wellbeing (Tuakiri Ora), transport hubs and shared cycle and pedestrian paths will reflect Māori identity through design and signage, embedding cultural narratives in everyday journeys. We will improve whānau and community wellbeing (Te Hapori Ora) with safer speed limits, protected crossings and school travel initiatives, ensuring Tamariki (children), older people and people with disabilities can move confidently.

We will achieve future wellbeing (Huatau Ora) through micro-mobility (e-scooter and e-bike) facilities and electric vehicle (EV) infrastructure. This will future-proof Papakura's transport system.

These improvements align with Auckland-wide strategies for growth, climate resilience and inclusive mobility. They will make sure Papakura remains a vital and vibrant, connected community as the region expands. Success means fewer accidents due to road safety improvements, efficient traffic flows and a transport network that makes sustainable travel the natural choice.

At the time of developing this draft plan, the Government is progressing the *Local Government (Auckland Council) (Transport Governance) Amendment Bill*, which, if passed, will change how transport is governed and delivered in Auckland. While the details of how transport is to be governed in Auckland are still to be confirmed, our community has told us that safe, reliable, and sustainable transport remains a top priority. The local board will continue to advocate strongly for these priorities, and will adapt this section in response to both community feedback and any changes made to the Bill throughout the Parliamentary process.

## Challenges

### 1. Implications of residential growth

Papakura and surrounding areas (Drury, Takaanini, Hingaia Peninsula, Karaka, Pukekohe) are expanding rapidly, putting pressure on road and rail capacity, creating parking issues and causing unsafe motorist behaviour. This also increases demand for safer passenger transport and improved walking and cycling networks.

### 2. Increasing congestion and limited network capacity

Traffic congestion is already significant and worsening, reducing travel reliability and affecting productivity and everyday life. It is important that the Mill Road upgrades are completed quickly to help keep traffic moving. This will provide another way to travel through Papakura, making the transport network more reliable.

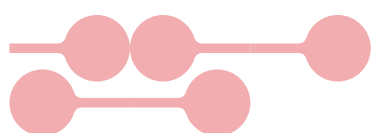
### 3. Safety risks on key roads, intersections and public transport

Several local roads and intersections in Papakura have high crash rates, high traffic flows and are impacted by heavy vehicles. This creates ongoing risks for drivers, pedestrians and cyclists. The transport authority needs to take action to improve road safety.

There is ongoing concern around the personal safety of people who work on our buses and trains and passengers on public transport.

### 4. Uneven access to transport options across neighbourhoods

Areas such as Ardmore, Red Hill, parts of Takaanini, Park Green (Karaka) and Drury lack frequent public transport, safe walking and cycling links, and reliable services. This makes it harder for some people to travel and access opportunities. Some residents will continue to depend on their cars to travel to work, services and recreational facilities.



## 5. Impacts of major regional infrastructure upgrades

Large projects like improvements to Mill Road, State Highway 1 (SH1) and State Highway 22 (SH22) and new train stations in Drury, Paerātā and Ngākōroa take many years and may cause short-medium term disruption to traffic and the local communities while they are in progress.

Work to separate rail and road crossings in Takaanini is also a major consideration. Accessibility needs must be included in designs particularly for older people and children. Safety concerns and improved lighting may be able to be addressed through Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED).

## Opportunities

### 1. Major transport investment underway

Mill Road, SH1 and SH22 upgrades, separation of rail and road crossings in Takaanini, new rail stations at Drury, Ngākōroa and Paerātā, and train improvements (following electrification and the opening of the City Rail Link (CRL)) will greatly improve connectivity, travel reliability, support Papakura's long-term growth and create better resilience on key travel routes.

The separation of rail and road crossings could also provide an opportunity for more public play areas and walkways.

Papakura is a major southern line rail interchange. The new Drury, Ngākōroa and Paerātā stations are being built next. We expect they will reduce the demand for on-street car parking at Papakura Train Station.

The Rail Network Rebuild (RNR) is preparing the network for faster, more frequent services ahead of the CRL opening in 2026.

### 2. Opportunity to shape fast-growing neighbourhoods

Growth in Ardmore, Drury, Takaanini and Hingaia enables early planning for shared walking and cycling links, cultural design and a push for infrastructure that keeps up with development.

### 3. Chance to expand safe walking and cycling networks

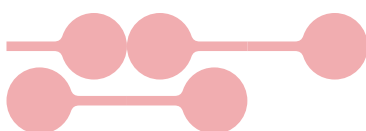
With intersection upgrades, residential developments and local road improvements underway, Papakura can provide safer crossings and improved cycling and footpath connections.

### 4. Alignment with climate and resilience priorities



Regional climate goals include investment in low-emission transport and encourage non-car short trips to close destinations and transport hubs (micro-journeys), green corridors (trees and parklands) and resilient infrastructure. These all help to protect flood-prone areas and improve long-term transport and stormwater networks.

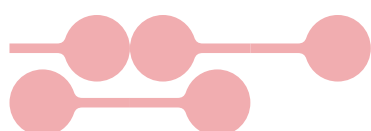
## Our priorities












Set out below, are the transport priorities for the Papakura area. At the time of developing this draft plan, the Government is progressing the *Local Government (Auckland Council) (Transport Governance) Amendment Bill*, which, if passed, will change how transport is governed and delivered in Auckland. While the details of how transport is to be governed in Auckland are still to be confirmed, our community has told us that safe, reliable, and sustainable transport remains a top priority. The local board will continue to advocate strongly for these priorities and will adapt this section in response to both community feedback and any changes made to the Bill throughout the Parliamentary process.

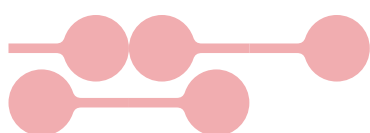


This proposed legislation change is expected to impact on what things might be a part of our direct decision-making role and what things might be considered as advocacy. Due to this uncertainty, the local board's transport priorities are set out in a single category in this draft plan.

<b>Our 3-year goals (Objectives)</b>	<b>What we want to happen in the next 3 years (Priorities)</b>
<p>Objective 1: Improve local access so people from every neighbourhood can reach key destinations safely and easily.</p>	<p>Build safe, connected footpaths and shared paths to link homes, schools, significant places of worship, marae, community facilities, parks and the town centre.</p> 
	<p>Deliver safer crossings, better lighting and well-engineered traffic-calming, especially near high-use areas and local shops.</p>
	<p>Improve signage, wayfinding and missing links that connect neighbourhoods to key transport infrastructure such as between the Papakura Station and the Southern Path, Mill Road to surrounding communities and the rail route (following the separation of road and rail crossings).</p>
	<p>Continue working on walking and cycling routes identified in the Papakura Greenways and Pathways Plan, along with new opportunities created by growth and development. This will provide safe, easy off-road connections between key places and encourage people to choose walking and cycling for short trips instead of using cars.</p> 
	<p>Invest in safety measures for local and main roads and in school catchment areas.</p>
	<p>Advocate for safe SH1 interfaces and the Southern Path connections.</p>
	<p>Advocate for safe Mill Road connections to surrounding communities.</p>
<p>Objective 2: Strengthen public transport connections so services are reliable, convenient, and easy to use.</p>	<p>Support improving access to Papakura Station with better lighting, safer walking and cycling routes, and improved interchange facilities like park-and-ride areas and train and bus transfer areas.</p>
	<p>Support easy transfers between rail and bus services to make public transport an attractive choice.</p>
	<p>Advocate for more frequent services, longer operating hours, safer, well-designed stops and route expansion improvements in Ardmore, Red Hill, Takaanini, Hingaia Peninsula, Drury and Clevedon.</p>
	<p>Advocate for significant upgrades to the Papakura Station and bus interchange and improved access and bus-rail timetable integration.</p>



	Advocate for innovative pilots including scooter parking at the station/shared/on-demand) in high-need areas.	
	Advocate for the creation of a special vehicle lane T2 transit (bus lane) along Great South Road from Youngs Road to the Takaanini interchange (both sides).	
	Request Te Huia train to resume services to Papakura as well as Pukekohe.	
Objective 3: Provide equitable, inclusive transport options for all ages and abilities.	Upgrade local streets with accessible crossings, raised, textured paving to help people with vision impairments, wider footpaths and mobility-friendly connections to encourage more people to walk to local destinations.	
	Improve safety around schools, aged care and community facilities and busy roads.	
	Work with partners to improve transport options for areas with limited services or higher social needs.	
	Make public transport easier to access with raised, textured paving, kerb ramps and wider footpaths.	
Objective 4: Embed Māori identity, partnership and kaitiakitanga into Papakura's transport network.	Co-design paths and signage with mana whenua to reflect local stories and cultural values in high value projects such as paths, crossings, bridges, town centre streets, open spaces.	
	Apply kaitiakitanga (guardianship) principles through native planting, design that respects the natural flow of water and transport projects that help improve the environment.	
Objective 5: Support a climate-ready, low-emission transport system that reduces congestion and provides real travel choices.	Continue to invest in safe off-road cycling and walking, and public transport infrastructure.	
	Implement resilient street upgrades that manage stormwater, improve shade and protects against extreme weather.	
	Implement 'in-line' (on-road) bus stops where needed to improve the efficiency of public transport.	
	Increase bus priority and safe cycling connections (preferably off road) on key travel routes where practical, like Papakura to Drury, Hingaia and Takaanini.	
	Advocate for upgrades to climate-resilient transport infrastructure (stormwater capacity, shade trees and building materials) to better protect against the effects of increasing extreme weather events.	



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Advocate for long-term planning to provide low-emission infrastructure for e-scooters, e-bikes and electric cars like electric vehicle (EV) charging stations in larger development areas.



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Objective 6:  
Ensure effective communication and integration of significant transport infrastructure projects to achieve positive outcomes for the Papakura community.

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Engage the community early and be open about proposed transport infrastructure projects to help build trust and understanding.

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Provide clear, accessible information and opportunities for feedback throughout planning and delivery to ensure people can have their say.

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Coordinate infrastructure planning so it works well with existing and future developments and creates easy, connected networks.

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Ensure Mill Road connects to local intersections and roads to make it easier for communities to access public facilities.

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Support separating roads from rail crossings to improve safety and traffic flow.

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Make improvements to the Great South Road network to provide better connections and more efficient traffic management.

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Advocate to plan and deliver the third and fourth rail lines through Papakura and a significant upgrade to the Papakura train station and public transport interchange.

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Advocate for faster progress on the planning and design for Mill Road to secure the land and give the community certainty about what is happening and when. This will help the council to plan bus lanes and off-road cycle paths along Mill Road and safe connections between main roads and local streets. It will also reduce the number of heavy trucks using residential streets.

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Coordinate with Drury Stations delivery (including bus interchanges, park-and-ride facilities, and walking/cycling paths) so that Papakura's public transport network connects effectively with new stations.

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Objective 7:  
Improve road safety and transport infrastructure to meet the needs of the growing population in the local board area.

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Apply changes to speed limits in areas with identified safety risks.

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Advocate to upgrade and redesign roads in areas identified as high-risk or experiencing increased development, for example where rural roads are becoming urban roads.

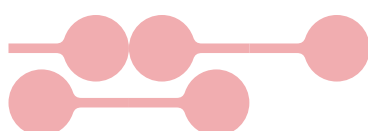
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Advocate to finish Stage 2 of the Hingaia Road project (to just past Oakland Road).

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Support Franklin Local Board's advocacy to widen Hingaia and Linwood Roads from Oakland Road to Walters Road, Karaka to four lanes, including the bridge.

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Advocate for strategic road connections to improve traffic flow and safety across main and connecting roads.

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Advocate to deliver the Great South Road/Park Estate signalised intersection.

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Advocate to widen the footpath (shared path) on the northern and southern side of Elliot Street from Rushgreen Avenue through to East Street, and on to Papakura Train Station.

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Advocate to widen the footpath (shared path) on the southern side of Hingaia Road from Hinau Road to Bridgeview Road.

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Advocate to complete culverting (closing in of drains) on Walters Road from the eastern end of the Bruce Pulman Park Walters Road Carpark to the developments near Castlepoint Avenue.

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Advocate to upgrade the surface of Elliot Street to asphalt rather than chip seal to better protect it from high vehicle use.

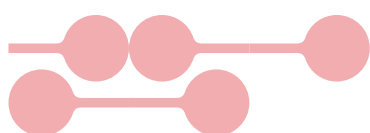
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Advocate for funding to upgrade Ōpaheke Road in response to ongoing urban development.

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Advocate (with support from Manurewa Local Board) to install the Waiata Shores pedestrian bridge across the Papakura Stream to make it easier for people to access Te Mahia and Takaanini train stations, and bus routes along Great South Road.

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# He kōrero take pūtea

## Funding information

Local board funding is approved through Auckland Council's budget-setting process. This includes the Governing Body adopting a long-term plan every three years and an annual plan each year.

The Local Board Funding Policy sets out how funding is allocated to local boards for local activities, services and facilities within their decision-making responsibilities.

Funding for local activities, services and facilities is split into:

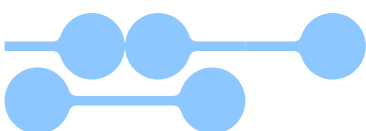
- operating expenditure (opex): to maintain and operate local assets like libraries, pools and parks, and to provide local activities and services
- capital expenditure (capex): to renew and develop local assets.

The priorities in this local board plan will inform decisions about funding that are made through the annual plan process and local board work programmes. This applies to decisions for both operating and capital spend.

Local boards have been allocated decision-making over local levels of service. This means they can prioritise services and initiatives to achieve local objectives, while ensuring costs are managed within the local board's allocated funding.

The financial and levels of service statements in this plan are based on the information included in the Long-term Plan 2024-2034 and the Annual Plan 2025/2026.

The next long-term plan is due to take effect from 1 July 2027. This could change funding for operating and capital spend in our area and will affect how we achieve the goals set out in this local board plan.



# Kaupapa ā-rohe me ngā paerewa ā-mahi

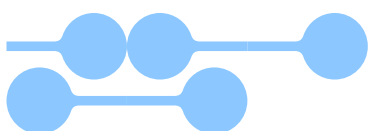
## Levels of service

The Long-term Plan 2024–2034 outlines the decision-making responsibilities of local boards, as set out in legislation or allocated to the local boards. These responsibilities are grouped into local activities and described through levels of service statements. The following table summarises the local activities and levels of service for this local board area.

Local Activities	Level of service statements
<p><b>Local community services</b></p> <p>We support strong, diverse, and vibrant communities through libraries and literacy, arts and culture, parks, sport and recreation, and events delivered by a mix of council services, community group partnerships and volunteers</p>	<p>Enable a range of choices to access community services and recreation opportunities.</p> <p><i>Provide opportunities for communities to lead and deliver their own initiatives. *</i></p> <p>Provide urban green spaces (local parks, paths and ngāhere) and access to the Coast</p>
<p><b>Local planning and development</b></p> <p>We support local town centres and communities to thrive by developing town centre plans and development, supporting Business Improvement Districts (BIDs), heritage plans and initiatives</p>	<p>Facilitate economic development opportunities and promote Auckland as a destination (<i>Support a strong economy. *</i>)</p>
<p><b>Local environmental management</b></p> <p>We support healthy ecosystems and sustainability through local board-funded initiatives such as planting, pest control, stream and water quality enhancements, healthy homes, and waste minimisation projects.</p>	<p>Protect, improve and minimise risks to the natural environments and cultural heritage.</p>
<p><b>Local governance</b></p> <p>Activities in this group support the local board 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.</p>	<p>Lead Council Group response to partnership and participation of Māori in decision making and deliver Māori outcomes (<i>Respond to the needs and aspirations of mana whenua and Māori Communities. *</i>)</p>

*\* Levels of service statement from Local Board Agreement.*

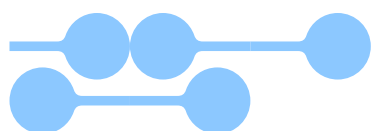
The statement of service provision, default levels of service statements, performance measures and performance targets from our last long-term plan can be found in section 2.6 in [volume 2 of the 10-Long-term Plan 2024-2034](#). The local board’s performance measures and performance targets, can be found in the Papakura Local Board Agreement 2025/2026 which is available as part of the [Annual Plan 2025/2026](#).



## Setting priorities and making ‘trade-offs’

The local board will use this plan to inform how it prioritises resources, services and activities in the local area over the next three years. In doing so, it will take into account rising costs, limited resources and changing community needs. When making financial decisions, the local board will:

- prioritise actions that most strongly contribute to achieving the intended outcomes and goals of this local board plan
- consider value for money when making decisions about local services and assets within its decision-making responsibilities
- consider advice on ways to increase funding for services, activities and facilities from sources other than rates where appropriate
- consider advice on opportunities to work with other local boards and external partners, where this supports shared goals
- consider advice on the ongoing suitability, performance and community value of local assets.



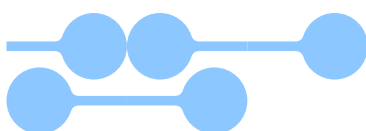
# Tirohanga take pūtea whānui

## Financial overview

The estimated costs shown in the table below for major service priorities are high-level, indicative only, and subject to change. These figures should not be relied upon as final and will be reviewed and updated through the Long-term Plan and Annual Plan processes.

\$ 000	2026/2027	Indicative 2027/2028	Indicative 2028/2029	Indicative 2029/2030
<b>Operating funding</b>				
General rates	15,824	16,182	16,544	16,764
Targeted rates	367	316	322	328
Fees and charges	507	521	535	553
Other revenue	98	117	120	122
<b>Total operating funding</b>	<b>16,796</b>	<b>17,136</b>	<b>17,521</b>	<b>17,766</b>
<b>Operating expenditure</b>				
Community services ( <b>Community</b> )				
Libraries	2,193	2,237	2,282	2,328
Pools and Leisure	948	917	886	854
Maintenance	7,198	7,298	7,488	7,593
Utilities	1,134	1,747	1,636	1,696
Other community expenses	3,431	3,073	3,298	3,358
Local Environmental Management ( <b>Natural Environment</b> )				
Local Planning				
BIDs	508	464	470	476
Local Governance	1,317	1,339	1,400	1,401
<b>Total operating expenditure</b>	<b>16,796</b>	<b>17,142</b>	<b>17,527</b>	<b>17,773</b>
<b>Net operating funding</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(6)</b>	<b>(6)</b>	<b>(6)</b>
<b>Capital funding</b>				
Increase in debt	7,721	7,335	7,440	7,062
<b>Total capital funding</b>	<b>7,721</b>	<b>7,335</b>	<b>7,440</b>	<b>7,062</b>
<b>Capital expenditure</b>				
Community services ( <b>Community</b> )	7,721	7,335	7,440	7,062
<b>Total capital expenditure</b>	<b>7,721</b>	<b>7,335</b>	<b>7,440</b>	<b>7,062</b>
<b>Net capital funding</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

The local board's latest funding impact statement can be found in the Papakura Local Board Agreement 2025/2026 which is available as part of the [Annual Plan 2025/2026](#).



# Ngā Mema o tō Poari ā-Rohe o Papakura

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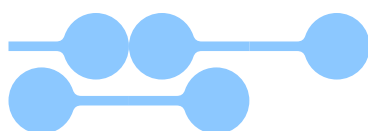
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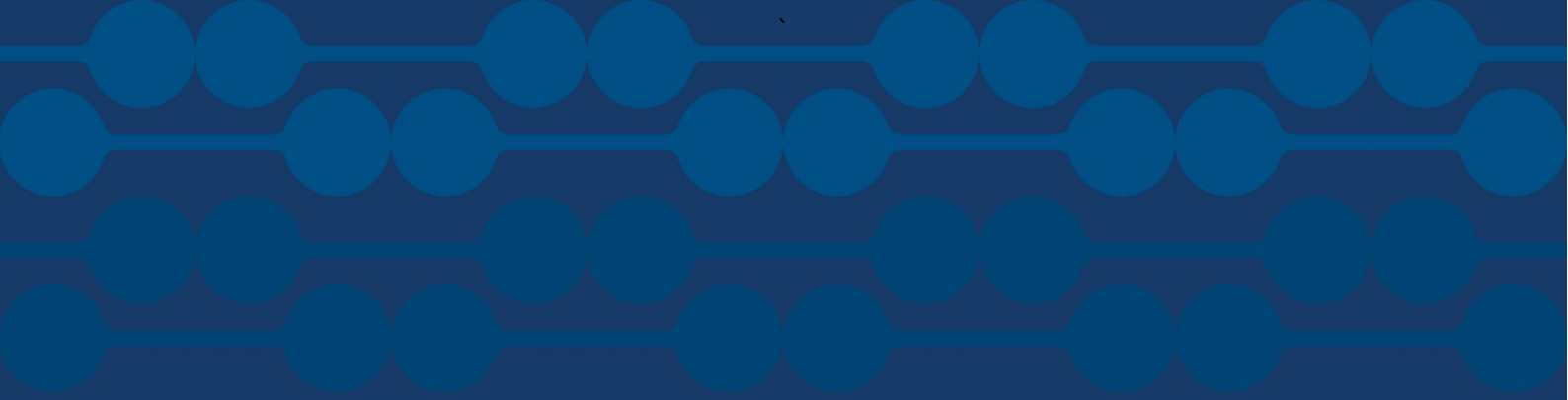


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