



Te mahere ā-rohe o Whau 2026

# Whau Draft Local Board Plan 2026

**Tāmaki Turuki.  
Altogether Auckland.**



# Mihi

**E nga pītau whakarei o te waka,  
e nga rau tītapu o te iwi, e aku hei māpuna,  
e taku iti e taku rahi, koutou kua mahue mai nei  
hei toka piringa mōku i te ora,  
hei ruruhau i nga hau āwhio o te wā.  
E aku whakakai pounamu, e aku māpihi maurea,  
kia oho te mauri, kia māriri o koutou wairua,  
kia hora te marino, tēnā koutou katoa.  
Tēnei au te noho atu nei i te tihi o Te Pae o te  
Rangi,  
i tīhorea ai te whenua kia kī ake au,  
e koe e te hau o te uru te wawā rā, me te kī mai,  
e kore au e ora i ngā hau kōtiu, i āia ai te  
pūpūtara ki uta.  
Nāu nei te tono kia piki ake au i ngā tai whakatū  
a Kupe  
ki Te Waonui a Tiriwa me te Pae o te Rangi,  
Kia titiro whakaroto ahau ki te maunga o  
Puketōtara,  
kei raro e rere ana ko te awa o Waitākere  
kei tētahi taha ko Puke Whakataratara, kei tua  
ko Te Whau.  
Koinei rā te rohe kāinga o Te Au o Te Whenua me  
te Kawerau a Maki,  
ko rātou nei te whāriki i āhei ai te nohoa o tēnei  
moka o te rohe  
e tini whāioio kua whakakāinga ma.,  
Kua kōhatu nei nga paparahi ki te whenua,  
i tangata whenuatia ai tātou katoa.  
I whaikiko ai te kōrero,  
“Ko te hapori te tauawhi i te taiao, he mea  
motuhake, rerenga kē.” Kia hiwa rā, kia hiwa rā.**

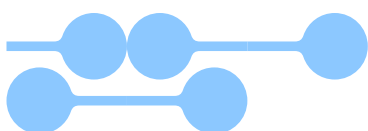
To all those who adorn the prow of this canoe,  
to the revered leaders of the people, to my  
treasured heirlooms,  
the lesser and the greater parts of me,  
you who are my refuge in life,  
my shelter from the storms of time.  
My objects of affection,  
let your very being flourish, let your spirit be at  
peace,  
let the calm be widespread, I send greetings to  
you all.  
Here I sit on the ridgeline of Te Pae o te Rangi,  
where the land had been laid bare,  
and the roaring wind of the west whispers,  
that I would not survive the blast of the northerly  
wind, that would drive the paper nautilus to shore.  
It was you who commanded me to ascend from the  
raised seas of Kupe,  
to the forest of Tiriwa, and Te Pae o te Rangi.  
So I look inland to Puketotara,  
at the foot of which runs the Waitākere river  
on one side stands Massey and on the other - Te  
Whau.  
Home of Te Au o te Whenua and Te Kawerau a  
Maki,  
the original settlers, they laid the way for later  
travellers  
to make a home here.  
They cast their footprints in stone upon these  
precincts of the region,  
and so made settlers of us all.  
Which gives substance to the adage,  
“Communities connected to their natural  
environment are unique and diverse.” Let us grow  
with vigour.



# Ngā upoko kōrero

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# He kōrero mai i te Heamana

## From the Chair

We are proud and excited to present our draft 2026 Local Board Plan, which will guide our priorities and investment in the Whau over the next three years. This plan is about shaping a future that reflects the aspirations of our community, and we invite your feedback to ensure our proposed initiatives truly meet the needs and wishes of Whau residents. For many years, the Whau local board area was underfunded compared to others. The introduction of Fairer Funding marks a significant turning point, creating new opportunities to invest in better services, facilities, and outcomes for our community. With this comes a responsibility to make thoughtful decisions that deliver real value and enhance how people live, work, and play in the Whau.



At the heart of this plan is a commitment to stronger collaboration and partnerships. We aim to work closely with mana whenua and mātāwaka to support their aspirations and recognise the deep cultural significance of the Whau. As our community becomes increasingly diverse, we also want to celebrate and support our many cultures, helping to foster a strong sense of belonging for everyone.

We will continue to invest in the people and places that support community wellbeing. This includes ongoing support for our community centres, hubs, and houses, which play a vital role in connecting residents and supporting those who need it most, particularly young people, seniors, and other priority groups.

Creating vibrant, welcoming, and safe places is another key priority. We will work with partners to enhance our town centres and public spaces, so they feel attractive, active, and inclusive for all who use them.

We also face important environmental challenges. The health of our waterways, along with risks from flooding, coastal erosion, and climate change, require urgent and sustained action. We will invest in practical solutions such as expanding cycleways to reduce emissions, supporting residents to prepare for extreme weather, and strengthening our urban ngāhere through planting initiatives. We will continue to back the dedicated environmental groups and volunteers whose work is essential to restoring and protecting our natural environment.

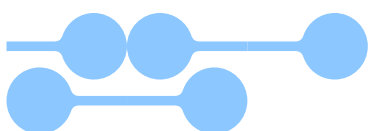
Looking ahead, we are committed to turning plans into action. Building on recent work such as the Creative Industries Needs and Opportunities Assessment, we will look for ways to grow and promote Whau's creative sector. We will also use our Sports and Recreation Facilities Plan to guide investment in spaces and opportunities that support active lifestyles. Working with schools, clubs, and community organisations, we aim to develop a well-connected network of sport and recreation facilities across the area.

Our work will also align with other key plans and initiatives, including town centre development, urban regeneration, and low-carbon approaches such as more sustainable food systems. By taking a joined-up approach, we can ensure our investment delivers lasting benefits for the Whau.

This plan is ultimately about creating a Whau where everyone feels connected, supported, and proud to belong. We encourage all residents, community groups, and stakeholders to share their ideas and feedback so we can shape this plan together.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kay M Thomas". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Kay Thomas  
**Whau Local Board Chairperson**



# He aronga poto ki tā mātou mahere

## Our plan at a glance



### Community

Our people have a sense of belonging and have places and opportunities to connect and grow.



### Natural environment

A healthy and resilient natural environment that we care for and connect with.



### Built environment

Whau is a place where people feel at home and connected.



### Economic development

Unique and vibrant town centres that attract people, business and creativity.



### Transport

Safe and easy travel in and around Whau.

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



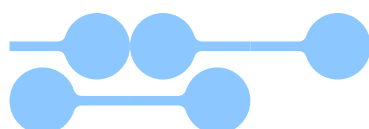
**Māori  
Outcomes**



**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 working alongside our communities, partners and mana whenua to make decisions together, using inclusive and accessible engagement approaches that reflect the diversity of our local 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 November 2025 - early April 2026

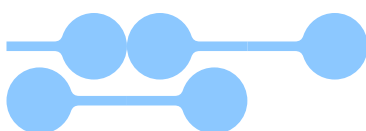
Te ara e tutuki ai ngā whāinga kei te mahere

### 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.

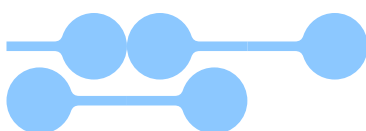


# Te Rohe ā-Poari Local board area



## MAP LEGEND

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





*Te Whau Pou*

## 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.

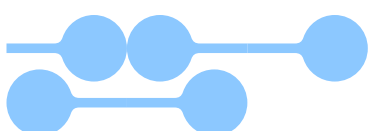
By linking to these wider plans, our local board plan can draw on Auckland-wide opportunities to deliver locally, while ensuring the goals of local communities contribute to Auckland’s shared future.

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

Our partnership with Te Kawerau a Maki continues to strengthen through kaupapa such as:

- Mana Kura Programme
- Te Kawerau ā Maki Community Officer
- Cultural Inductions
- Planning for a long-term vision for Rangimatariki
- Te Hono and other similar civic projects
- Advocacy for Te Henga marae
- Advocacy for the Waitakere Ranges Heritage Area Deed of Acknowledgement

We will continue to build relationships with local iwi through meaningful engagement.

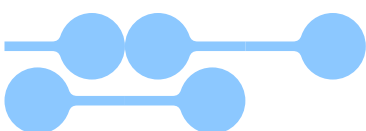
Whau, Henderson-Massey, and Waitākere Ranges local boards (the three ‘west’ local boards) are committed to our partnership with Hoani Waititi Marae as a major urban marae in West Auckland and jointly fund a Kaitūhono position.

## 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

Climate change and more frequent extreme weather are increasing flooding and erosion risks across the low-lying Whau area, including key coastal parks and assets. Local communities and ecology are becoming more exposed to climate-related hazards. Our climate action priorities are:

- Awareness and education
- Transport and lifestyle choices
- Community emergency readiness
- Flood resilience
- Looking after our coastal assets
- Ecological restoration
- Increase our tree canopy

## 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.

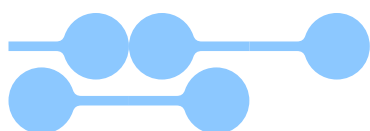
At its heart *Ngā Hapori Momoho* focuses on ensuring equitable outcomes for all Aucklanders – guiding Auckland Council to recognise that different groups and communities need different things to fully participate in the life of our region, and to feel valued, included, and that they belong.




### Local insights

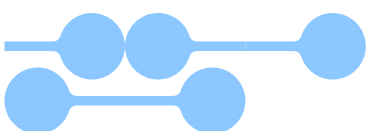
About 44 per cent of Whau residents live in deprived neighbourhoods, and many communities are facing increasing pressures. Homelessness and demand for food support are rising, young people lack safe places to connect, and many older residents feel isolated. Our diverse communities are not fully reflected in local play spaces, and limited facilities make it hard for some people to access sport and recreation.

We will build on the strengths of our network of local hubs and community groups, and over the next three years focus on these priorities:

- Programmes and support for ethnic communities, youth and elderly
- Providing safe and welcoming spaces for youth
- Considering people with disabilities in our asset renewals
- Working with schools, clubs and others to provide a network of sport and recreation facilities



Auckland-wide outcomes	How it's reflected across the plan
 <p data-bbox="236 271 472 349">Ngā huanga Māori <b>Māori outcomes</b></p>	<p data-bbox="557 271 1477 349">Partnership with mana whenua, Māori identity in local places, support for initiatives that reflect Māori priorities</p>
 <p data-bbox="236 392 512 470">He huanga āhuarangi <b>Climate outcomes</b></p>	<p data-bbox="557 392 1477 470">Reducing emissions, protecting biodiversity, building community resilience</p>
 <p data-bbox="236 519 501 598">He huanga tautika <b>Equitable outcomes</b></p>	<p data-bbox="557 519 1457 553">Targeted investment, access to services, focus on inclusion and fairness</p>





*Whau Arts Festival*

## Te hapori **Community**

**Our people have a sense of belonging and have places and opportunities to connect and grow.**

Over the next three years we will work alongside our communities to grow strong local leadership, uphold Māori aspirations, and strive for every resident to have opportunities to live well. Our community centres, libraries, and places are well used. We will nurture community led hubs, strengthen our networks of support, and build local systems that enable people to prepare for emergencies, live sustainably, and access healthy food. We will also repair, protect, and adapt our community assets so they remain resilient in a changing climate.

### **Challenges**

- More incidents of crime, theft, or damage to property have made people feel unsafe in the community, particularly around town centres.
- Some of our communities experience more social and economic difficulties than others. By focussing on equity, we make sure everyone can access the community services they need.
- There are growing numbers of people experiencing homelessness, particularly in New Lynn and Avondale, and demand for food services such as Kai Avondale is growing.
- Auckland Council's Māori outcomes framework identifies known inequities in economic participation, cultural wellbeing, and whānau resilience, areas relevant for Māori communities in Whau.
- Young people tell us there is a lack of safe and welcoming spaces where youth can engage.











- Older residents are experiencing isolation and cannot access the resources and support they need.
- Climate change increases the exposure of erosion and flooding to coastal assets and council land at the Whau River inlet and Archibald, Ken Maunder and Blockhouse Bay parks and reserves.









## Opportunities

- Our community is made up of many different cultural backgrounds. They feel a strong sense of identity and take opportunities to share their experiences and learn from one another.
- There is a growing interest in tikanga and te reo Māori, including among our new migrants.
- We can partner with others to deliver community services, such as investing into non-council owned open space or recreational facilities to provide public access.

## Our Plan

Our 3-year goals (Objectives)	What we plan to deliver in the next 3 years to make this happen (Key initiatives)
Strong local leadership that brings people together to strengthen community resilience.	Grow and strengthen the network of community-led hubs and houses to provide events and community programmes and support Fruitvale to develop a new community hub.
	Celebrate our diversity and cultural heritage through arts, culture, sports and events, and support Whau Pasifika and Whau Ethnic Collective to deliver on their strategic plans. 
	Develop a low carbon, resilient, local food system that provides Whau residents access to fresh and healthy food.  
All residents feel safe and enjoy better health and wellbeing.	Support and fund initiatives that are aimed at improving safety in our communities including increased lighting, compliance officers and CCTV cameras.
	Work with the New Zealand Police, community groups and business associations on community safety projects, focussing on local spaces.
	Support our vulnerable people and rough sleepers through cross-agency partnerships and community programmes. 
	Enhance current spaces and increase opportunities for young people to feel welcome, safe and connect to the wider community. 
	Support our older people through access to events and information. 
	Implement actions in the Welcoming Whau Plan. 
Māori identity and wellbeing are	Nurture our relationship with Te Kawerau ā Maki based on mutual respect and partnership. 



strengthened through rangatiratanga.	Work with Te Kawerau ā Maki, Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei and other local iwi to reflect Māori heritage and identity through parks naming and activation, portage route markers and the Mana Kura programme for schools.	
	Work with Hoani Waititi Marae to increase Māori engagement, community relationships and connections.	
Community places where people can meet, socialise, learn, and take part in cultural, arts and recreational activities.	Open Te Hono, the new library and community centre in Avondale and activate the space through programmes, events, and strong community use.	
	Partner with clubs, associations, and schools to provide public access to a community network of sports and recreation facilities.	
	Secure a site and progress planning to deliver the Whau Aquatic and Recreation Centre by 2032.	
	Investigate funding levers and strategic partnerships to support our asset portfolio to meet the needs of our community.	
High-quality network of parks and open spaces that are accessible and support a range of activities.	Design and build a new playground in Avondale Central Reserve and a new park at Crown Lynn Place, New Lynn.	
	Approve the Olympic Park Master Plan which will provide the vision for the future of the park.	
	Provide play opportunities in Miranda Reserve or nearby to serve the Glenavon community.	
	Develop a Whau Local Parks Management Plan to guide the use, enjoyment, maintenance, protection and preservation of the 146 parks and reserves in the local board area.	
Community and environment are prepared for climate change and lower emissions.	Support community groups to help people of all backgrounds and abilities to get emergency ready for local hazards including severe weather events.	
	Increase programmes and education around climate change risks and ways to take action, including in schools and for our diverse communities.	 
	Plant more trees to increase our tree canopy cover in our town centres, parks, and road reserves.	
	Support implementation of the Shoreline Adaptation Plans (Manukau Harbour North SAP and Waitemata Harbour West SAP) to manage coastal erosion and coastal flooding risks affecting council land and assets.	



## 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.

<b>What we will advocate for in the next 3 years (Advocacy)</b>	<b>Who we will advocate to</b>
Funding to implement the Shoreline Adaptation Plans to manage Whau’s coastal assets around the Whau River, Blockhouse Bay, Green Bay and Gittos Domain.	Governing Body
Funding support for Te Kawerau ā Maki to build Te Henga marae.	Governing Body
Increased Housing First placements in Auckland, with priority for high-need areas such as the Whau.	Central Government





*Whau River*

## Te taiao māori

# Natural environment

### **A healthy and resilient natural environment that we care for and connect with.**

We foster strong kaitiakitanga connections to our natural environment so we can treasure and protect it for future generations. Together with Māori and local community environmental partners and businesses, we restore our Whau River, streams and two harbours, grow a greener urban neighbourhood, and support our people and environment to adapt and prepare for the impacts of climate change.

## Challenges








- Most of the Whau area is low-lying and built up, so rain can't easily soak into the ground. This makes flooding more likely in extreme weather events and means floodwater takes longer to drain away.
- Addressing flood risk at scale requires long-term, regionally prioritised investment, beyond local board budgets and timeframes.
- The Whau River and the streams that feed it face poor water quality from urban pollution, rubbish and ageing pipes during heavy rain.
- Housing intensification and the need to retain green space and grow urban tree canopy as our population grows.
- Protecting our reserves and waterways from private encroachment to safeguard public access and the natural environment.



## Opportunities

- Strong community volunteer groups that work together. Their volunteering, funding, and donations help protect local wildlife and improve biodiversity across the Whau.
- Completed and planned Watercare projects in the Whau stormwater catchment to reduce wastewater overflows, and over the coming decades, the regional Making Space for Water programme will provide for growth and improve water quality.
- The Manukau Harbour’s environment is in poor health. By setting clear goals under the [Strategic direction for achieving better environmental outcomes for the Manukau Harbour](#), we can map out how to restore the harbour and take action on both past damage and future risks.

## Our Plan

Our 3-year goals (Objectives)	What we plan to deliver in the next 3 years to make this happen (Key initiatives)
The mauri and health of the Whau River, its streams, and the Manukau and Waitematā harbours are improved and protected.	Support community-led kaitiakitanga, improve access to waterways and enable local environmental groups to lead river care and stream restoration projects.  
	Restore wetlands and habitats to improve biodiversity and ecological resilience. 
	Provide education programs and events that promote the cultural and ecological significance of the Whau River. 
	Invest in projects to improve waterways through stream restoration and maintaining flood resilience. 
The biodiversity of our flora and fauna, and their habits is protected and enhanced.	Work with neighbouring local boards to input into the integrated water catchment management plan. 
	Partner with local groups, businesses, and residents to restore natural areas and reduce pests and weeds.
	Increase habitat for bees, butterflies, and other pollinators by expanding native planting and creating pollinator-friendly spaces.
Mana whenua and our local environmental groups are strong kaitiaki of te taiao (guardianship of the environment).	Work with Te Kawerau ā Maki to ensure protection and story-telling opportunities for sites of cultural significance and support the establishment of the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area Forum.
	Work with mana whenua and take part in the Manukau Harbour Forum to deliver activities that help restore the harbour, such as education, events, clean-ups, pest control, and monitoring. 
	Recognise and support our environmental organisations, community groups and volunteers.



## Advocacy

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<b>What we will advocate for in the next 3 years (Advocacy)</b>	<b>Who we will advocate to</b>
Implement the <a href="#"><i>Strategic direction to achieve better environmental outcomes for the Manukau Harbour.</i></a>	Governing Body
Ensure Watercare's future planning delivers better environmental outcomes for the Manukau Harbour, and further investigation of new dam sites, recycled water and desalination as a potential future water source for Auckland.	Watercare Governing Body
Support additional investment in renewals to help address aging infrastructure – particularly where it will reduce wastewater overflows into the Whau River and Western Isthmus catchment.	Watercare Governing Body
Include the Whau catchments early in the Making Space for Water Programme, because the area is low-lying, heavily built-up, and therefore at high risk of flooding.	Governing Body





*New Lynn town centre*

# Te taiao kua hangaia

## Built environment

**Whau is a place where people feel at home and connected.**

In the Whau, our built environment plays a central role in shaping daily life. Our places reflect our unique identity, shaped by its rich heritage and diverse cultures. Through planning and regeneration, we will support future growth and create neighbourhoods where people feel safe and welcome.

### Challenges

- Rapid population growth increases demand for accessible public open spaces, new infrastructure and services.
- We need access to more community and recreation facilities within the Whau area.

### Opportunities

- Upgrades to our town centres and neighbourhoods, like Avondale Town Centre, give us a chance to shape great public spaces and create high-quality parks and recreation areas.
- New facilities are being developed and/or included in Auckland Council's Long-term Plan.
- Te Whau Pathway will help people get to parks and move easily between different places.
- Sharing a clear plan for how New Lynn will grow will help us make the most of the CRL and support New Lynn to become a world-class neighbourhood with easy, convenient public transport.



## Our Plan

Our 3-year goals (Objectives)	What we plan to deliver in the next 3 years to make this happen (Key initiatives)	
Our town centres and neighbourhoods are unique places where people feel safe and welcome.	Work with Business Associations and other partners to identify and deliver town centre and streetscape enhancements.	
	Plant trees in town centres and along road reserves to create green corridors that connect small and large open spaces.	
Projects and plans to improve urban areas respond to current and future growth needs.	Continue to regenerate Avondale by leveraging the construction of Te Hono library and community centre, and upgrade the town square, and enhance public spaces.	
	Explore options for guiding development and investment to help turn New Lynn into a lively, distinctive, and sustainable town centre.	
Urban spaces celebrate the cultures and heritage of our community.	Reflect Māori heritage and identity through design and naming of our parks and places.	
	Install physical markers to celebrate the historical Māori portage route between Waitematā and Manukau Harbours via the Whau River.	

## 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
Investment in greenspace, including funding to secure Avondale Racecourse to provide open space and recreation areas for the community.	Governing Body
Inclusion of New Lynn as a priority location under the Urban Regeneration Programme.	Governing Body
Funding to deliver the remaining sections of Te Whau Pathway.	Central Government Governing Body





Blockhouse Bay

# Te whanaketanga ā-ōhanga

## Economic development

**Unique and vibrant town centres that attract people, business and creativity.**

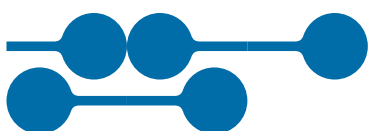
Our vision is for Whau to have unique vibrant town centres that attract people, businesses, and creativity. We support strong local businesses, and clear pathways to jobs and careers, especially for young people.

### Challenges

- 49 per cent of Whau’s young people aged 15 to 24 years are not in education, employment or training. A planned, long-term approach is needed to ensure fair access to jobs and skills.
- Rosebank Peninsula is a key employment area needing better transport and access.

### Opportunities

- Avondale urban regeneration will transform the town centre and bring new economic development opportunities to the area.
- The City Rail Link (CRL) will bring us closer to the city and increase accessibility to businesses and employment locations in Whau.
- High concentration of creative artists, music and other sound recording, jewellery, and ceramic manufacturing in Whau, with potential to begin work to position the Whau as a nationally distinctive model of community-rooted creative development.



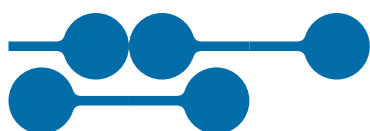
## Our Plan

Our 3-year goals (Objectives)	What we plan to deliver in the next 3 years to make this happen (Key initiatives)
Strengthen partnerships to support a growing local economy.	<p>Support business improvement districts (BIDs) and business associations to remain sustainable, grow the local economy and revitalise the town centres.</p> <p>Work with business associations to help local businesses make the most of the opening of CRL and benefit from increased access and foot traffic.</p> <p>Deliver a new civic space and foster the growth of local businesses in Avondale town centre. </p> <p>Support local businesses to reduce emissions and waste and lessen their impact on local waterways.</p>
Increase local jobs and training pathways.	<p>Support youth-focused skills development and employment programmes. </p> <p>Partner with BIDs and others to promote local career opportunities. </p>
Support a strong and resilient creative economy.	<p>Partner with local artists and organisations to increase the visibility of Whau’s creative scene and provide stewardship to plan and guide future investment.</p> <p>Strengthen youth career pathways into the creative sector. </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
Resourcing to support local economic development.	Governing Body





New Lynn Transport Hub

# Tūnuku

## Transport

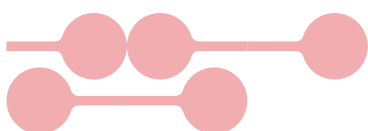
### Safe and easy travel in and around Whau.

Whau has a safe, reliable, and sustainable transport network that helps people move around easily in their neighbourhoods and across the region. Our community benefits from reliable public transport, safe and easy to use walking and cycling connections that strengthens links between our town centres, schools, parks, and local destinations.

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

- Transport network challenges, including congestion and lack of resilience, and insufficient public transport options for some areas.
- Urgent need to reduce carbon emissions and support active transport connections.



- Providing quality transport options for local people seeking employment, education and social opportunities within and outside of the area.








## Opportunities

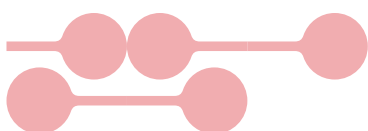
- The opening of City Rail Link (CRL) will increase the frequency of train services, encourage higher public transport use and can reduce car dependency.
- Transit-oriented development in New Lynn and proposed multi-storey park-and-ride create opportunities for integrated housing, commercial spaces, and encourage public transport.
- New Lynn Kelston cycling hub and Whau Neighbourhood Greenways Plan will strengthen active transport networks and connectivity.
- Te Whau Pathway will deliver a major shared path connection across west Auckland.
- Katoa Ka Ora Speed Management Plan will enhance transport safety.

## Our priorities

Set out below, are the transport priorities for the Whau area. In some instances, implementing these may require Governing Body decisions, under the governance arrangements proposed in the *Local Government (Auckland Council) (Transport Governance) Amendment Bill*.

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>	
It is easy and safe for people to walk and bike in our area.	Complete section 2 of Te Whau Pathway and upgrade the connecting footpath at Wingate Street.	 
	Progress the construction of the Kelston to New Lynn walking and cycling improvements providing an important connection for the town centres.	
	Support improved bike infrastructure and facilities including bike hubs, parking and connector cycleways.	
	Deliver projects from the Whau Neighbourhood Greenways Plan to improve walking, cycling and ecological connections across the area.	
	Improve wayfinding and travel information to help people navigate walking, cycling, and public transport networks.	
Safe travel routes to move around in our neighbourhoods.	Deliver safer roads and travel connections.	
	Deliver safety improvements, crossings and traffic calming measures along walking and cycling routes.	



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Public transport in our area is safe, easy to use, and convenient for everyone.

Provide special vehicle lanes along Great North Road from Peace Park to Waterview.

Support schools and community programmes that promote public transport and climate-friendly travel planning.



Improve lighting and pedestrian connections to major public transport hubs.

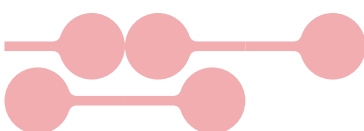
Investigate key journey to employment movement patterns and provide direct, reliable and frequent public transport options for west Aucklanders commuting south-east for employment.

Progress grade separation for our railway level crossings to maximise local benefits of the CRL.

Advocate to progress the development of the Avondale-Southdown rail line to support freight and potential crosstown passenger movement.

Encourage more public transport use and multi-modal travel through:

- improve frequency, reliability, and provide free/capped fares
- improve bus infrastructure including seats and shelters
- provide bike infrastructure on trains and buses.



# 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:

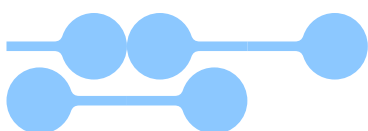
- operating expenditure (opex): to maintain and operate local assets like libraries, pools and parks, and to provide local activities and services
- capital expenditure (capex): to renew and develop local assets.

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

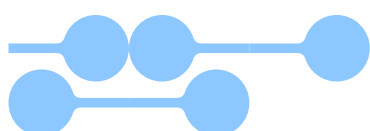
## Levels of service

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.*

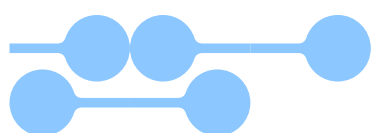
The statement of service provision, default levels of service statements, performance measures and performance targets from our last long-term plan can be found in section 2.6 in [volume 2 of the 10-Long-term Plan 2024-2034](#). The local board’s performance measures and performance targets, can be found in the Whau 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.



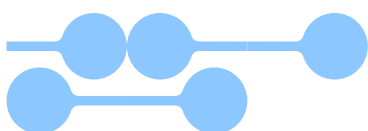
# Tirohanga take pūtea whānui

## 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	17,227	18,307	18,696	19,053
Targeted rates	1,017	1,021	1,040	1,060
Fees and charges	243	250	257	265
Other revenue	85	79	80	82
<b>Total operating funding</b>	<b>18,573</b>	<b>19,657</b>	<b>20,074</b>	<b>20,459</b>
<b>Operating expenditure</b>				
Community services ( <b>Community</b> )				
Libraries	2,547	2,597	2,649	2,702
Maintenance	6,716	6,850	6,986	7,125
Utilities	840	860	930	952
Other community expenses	6,041	6,895	6,969	7,116
Local Environmental Management ( <b>Natural Environment</b> )	196	200	204	209
Local Planning				
BIDs	1,018	1,022	1,041	1,061
Local Governance	1,215	1,233	1,294	1,294
<b>Total operating expenditure</b>	<b>18,572</b>	<b>19,657</b>	<b>20,074</b>	<b>20,459</b>
<b>Net operating funding</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(0)</b>	<b>(0)</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Capital funding</b>				
Increase in debt	39,060	8,993	9,232	12,196
<b>Total capital funding</b>	<b>39,060</b>	<b>8,993</b>	<b>9,232</b>	<b>12,196</b>
<b>Capital expenditure</b>				
Community services ( <b>Community</b> )				
Te Hono Library and Community Centre	23,171			
Whau Aquatic and Recreation Centre	6,000	925	1,000	3,800
Other community services	9,889	8,067	8,232	8,396
<b>Total capital expenditure</b>	<b>39,060</b>	<b>8,993</b>	<b>9,232</b>	<b>12,196</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 Whau Local Board Agreement 2025/2026 which is available as part of the [Annual Plan 2025/2026](#).



# Ngā Mema o tō Poari ā-Rohe o Whau

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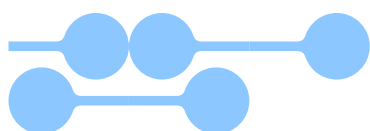


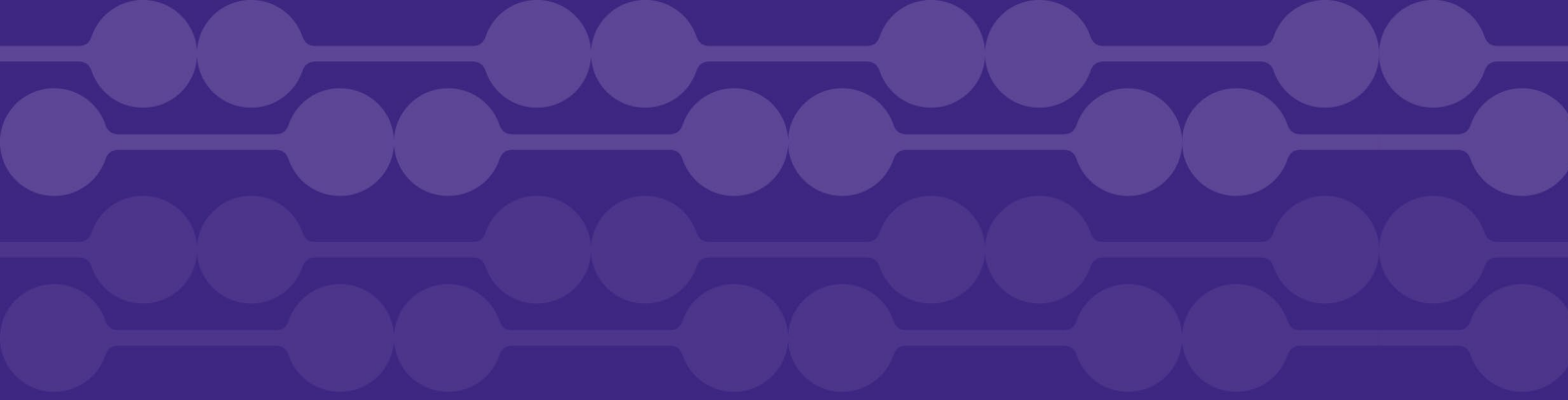
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**Tāmaki Turuki.**  
**Altogether Auckland.**

