

Te mahere ā rohe o Howick 2023

Howick

Local Board Plan 2023



Draft Summary – June 2023



From the Chair

I'm proud to present this draft Local Board Plan for public feedback and discussion.

Getting this ready for your feedback has been one of our top priorities since inauguration and we have spent a great deal of time and effort creating a plan that is both aspirational and practical. This draft is the result of countless conversations with locals during public engagement events earlier this year. All those ideas, captured in post-it notes, feedback forms and in conversations, have been reviewed, considered, and distilled into this plan. We've taken your feedback, together with strategic context and expert advice, to produce this draft for your review and input.

You'll recognise some of these initiatives from our previous plans as we continue these projects and build on their success. There are also initiatives that respond to new and emerging challenges and opportunities.

Over the past few decades, our population has grown but many of our community assets have not kept pace and are struggling to cope – the most urgent need is the Flat Bush Library and Community Centre. We must take a more strategic approach to the management of our assets over the long term to meet future needs. We need to consider how we maximise the benefits of our existing assets to unlock new opportunities and address inequity.

Some of this will require us to be brave and make difficult decisions – we will rise to the challenge to deliver the best outcomes for our communities. Before, during and after these decisions we will communicate in an open and transparent manner, allowing time for constructive feedback. We remain committed to lifting our engagement and visibility, creating more opportunities to meet and discuss the issues that matter to you.

Local Boards have recently been granted greater decision-making powers, including more control over our budgets. This should mean greater visibility, accountability, and responsiveness. However, we must also recognise that our annual budgets have reduced significantly in recent years so we will embrace the challenge of doing more with less by using innovative and creative approaches. Instead of trying to do everything ourselves, we will look more for partnerships and local procurement. We're determined to improve the financial sustainability of local groups, which means true empowerment for communities.

We believe we've captured what the public has asked for – please tell us if we've missed or misunderstood anything, or if we've got it right.

Damian Light

Chairperson, Howick Local Board

This summary is an overview of the statement of proposal for our draft Howick Local Board Plan 2023. We encourage you to read the full draft plan, available online at akhaveyoursay.co.nz/localboardplans, at public libraries and council service centres and tell us what you think by **4pm on Monday 14 August 2023**. Or tell us what you think in person at one of our local events.





Māori Outcomes & Climate Action

Delivering outcomes for Māori and taking action on climate change are important features of our plan.

Māori outcomes respond to Council's legislative obligations and to extensive engagement with Auckland's Māori communities.

Local Boards also have an important role to play in leading and supporting Auckland's response to the climate emergency, including supporting regional climate plan initiatives, integrating climate awareness into all decisions, including community investment.

This plan proposes the following initiatives to support Māori outcomes in our area:

- incorporating Māori culture, language, art and stories into the design of public spaces
- strengthening relationships with Ngai Tai ki Tāmaki to identify joint aspirations and acknowledge them as kaitiaki of our area
- support the Tūpuna Maunga Authority to protect and enhance Ōhūiarangi / Pigeon Mountain
- supporting Ngāi Tai Ki Tāmaki in its management of Te Naupata / Musick Point via the board's work programme.

Our plan meets the challenge of taking climate action in the following ways:

- development of a community-led local climate action plan
- supporting pest free programmes
- working with communities to adopt and restore sensitive ecological areas, improve local water quality and clean up the environment
- advocating for crucial infrastructure upgrades
- implement the Howick Nghahere Action Plan 2021 to increase tree canopy coverage on public land by 3%
- future rehabilitation of the former Greenmount landfill into public open space
- reducing waste to landfill
- improving public transport and increasing the walking and cycling network to encourage less reliance on private vehicles
- implement measures to manage coastal erosion and mitigate effects of storm surge and sea level rise
- advocate for development of a shoreline adaptation plan - including support for funding and implementation.

Our People

Supporting people in our diverse communities to be strong, resilient, inclusive and healthy, and who actively participate to make our area a wonderful, safe place to live, work and play.

Our Plan:

What we want to achieve

Objectives

- people actively contribute to their community
- build and maintain mutually beneficial relationships with Māori
- build community resilience
- rangatahi /Youth in Howick have a voice, are valued, and contribute
- support local arts, culture, music and heritage activities and experiences.

Key initiatives

- empower community groups and organisations to co-deliver projects with Auckland Council, and to take action to protect and maintain community assets
- develop a local board emergency response plan
- support community groups to become more sustainable by promoting volunteering and efficiency to help build capacity to successfully serve their communities.

Our Environment

Protecting our natural environment to ensure the world we pass on to future generations has been well looked after and nourished.

Our Plan:

What we want to achieve

Objectives

- protect our natural environment
- empower the community to take environmental action
- protect and enhance our unique coastline
- protect the mauri / life force of our awa / waterways
- our large natural areas are enhanced and protected
- accessible waste reduction services and activities.

Key initiatives

- develop a local, community-led climate action plan
- implement sustainable measures to manage coastal erosion and inundation, including mitigating loss of sand from local beaches
- support community-led initiatives to restore and enhance our natural environment.





Advocacy:

Advocate to the Governing Body for

- increased regional funding for the restoration of our beaches and to address the effects of climate change on our coastline due to climate change, sea level rise and severe weather including a Shoreline Adaptation Plan for the Howick Local Board area.
- improvements on our local stormwater infrastructure
- increased monitoring for illegal discharge into stormwater, our waterways and onto our beaches
- new assets and facilities to be environmentally sustainable
- local landfill diversion facilities for south-east Auckland, such as a recovery centre and hazardous waste disposal.

Advocate to local schools to

- make sustainability, environmental responsibility and waste management part of school values.

Our Community

Supporting community participation with our services and facilities and maintain them in such a way as to efficiently provide maximum benefit for our area.

Our Plan:

What we want to achieve

Objectives

- community facilities, spaces and activities enable people to participate, learn and grow
- parks and open spaces support a wide variety of recreational activities
- sports and recreational opportunities respond to the needs of our communities
- understand opportunities to optimise our asset portfolio.

Key initiatives

- investigate the sale of underperforming service property assets to help fund priority projects
- establish a sensory playspace that contains areas and equipment that provides stimulation of the senses for children with visual impairment or developmental disorder
- continue to support a multi-club and code facility at Lloyd Elsmore Park.

Advocacy:

Advocate to the governing body to

- build the multi-use library and community centre at Flat Bush / Ormiston and ensure it uses eco-friendly and environmentally sustainable building methods.

Our Places

Supporting our growth, development and transport by promoting vibrant town centres, better, more accessible public transport and greater connectivity with schools, key community facilities and transport hubs.

Our Plan:

What we want to achieve

Objectives

- vibrant town centres
- public transport services that people can easily access
- active transport infrastructure enables connection with schools, key community facilities and transport hubs.

Key initiatives

- investigate partnerships with privately owned town centres to support local business
- continue to represent community interests in the delivery of the Eastern Busway, whilst maximizing public benefit
- investigate options for more commuter focused cycleways in partnership with the Eastern Busway Alliance.

Advocacy:

Advocate to Auckland Transport for

- retention of the Local Board Transport Capital Fund
- feeder bus services or other innovative on demand services that will enable the community to access the existing bus / ferry networks
- more bus services to serve all areas of the local board, but particularly the fast growing areas of Flat Bush and Ormiston
- provision of more ferry and train services.

Advocate to the Governing Body to

- ensure adequate infrastructure is in place before approving housing intensification
- retention of the Local Board Transport Capital Fund.





Our Economy

Supporting our economic recovery by promoting local businesses, Business Improvement Districts, facilitating local youth employment and increasing tourism opportunities and visitor numbers.

Our Plan:

What we want to achieve

Objectives

- support local business recovery
- generate business activity and employment by increasing visitor numbers to the Howick Local Board area
- grow the number of businesses locating in the Howick Local Board area's key industrial and commercial areas.

Key initiatives

- support building resilience initiatives for local business
- investigate options for growing our presence in regional tourism and economy
- support local Business Improvement Districts (Business East Tāmaki and Howick Village Association).

Advocacy:

Advocate to the Governing Body for

- changes to the Procurement policy to allow greater use of smaller, local businesses.

Advocate to Auckland Transport for

- improvement in freight and commuter connectivity for business communities.

