

Outcome:

Belonging and Participation

All Aucklanders will be part of and contribute to society, access opportunities, and have the chance to develop to their full potential.

DIRECTION	FOCUS AREA
Direction 1 Foster an inclusive Auckland where everyone belongs	Focus Area 1 Create safe opportunities for people to meet, connect, participate in and enjoy community and civic life
Direction 2 Improve health and wellbeing for all Aucklanders by reducing harm and disparities in opportunities	Focus Area 2 Provide accessible services and social and cultural infrastructure that are responsive in meeting people's evolving needs
	Focus Area 3 Support and work with communities to develop the resilience to thrive in a changing world
	Focus Area 4 Value and provide for te Tiriti o Waitangi / the Treaty of Waitangi as the bicultural foundation for an intercultural Auckland
	Focus Area 5 Recognise, value and celebrate Aucklanders' differences as a strength
	Focus Area 6 Focus investment to address disparities and serve communities of greatest need
	Focus Area 7 Recognise the value of arts, culture, sport and recreation to quality of life



Belonging and Participation explained

Auckland is experiencing rapid growth and social change – and this will continue.

We have a diverse population in terms of:

- ethnicity and national origin
- culture, religion and lived experience
- socio-economic status
- gender
- gender identity
- sexual orientation
- disability
- age
- rural, island or urban location.

This diversity brings many differences in values and lifestyles, demands for goods and services, and expectations of civic engagement and democracy.

New Zealand legislation incorporates the principles of inclusion, anti-discrimination and human rights. However, discriminatory practices and prejudicial attitudes towards people continue to play out in every-day life and impact on emotional and mental health. Addressing racism and discrimination involves raising awareness. It is the responsibility of all Aucklanders to challenge prejudice and intolerance through our everyday actions.

We need to be proactive to ensure a sense of belonging and positive life experiences for all Aucklanders. We need to be open to learning about and valuing differences, and to understanding our shared and different histories.

This will lead to living together with greater acceptance, trust and mutual respect, and people working together to create a shared future.

Auckland will not be successful unless all Aucklanders feel they belong and can participate in society.

We can achieve this in a number of ways:

Celebrate Auckland's Māori identity

Te Tiriti o Waitangi/the Treaty of Waitangi is the foundation of a intercultural Auckland and recognises the special place of Māori.

The history and culture of mana whenua helped shape and define today's Auckland and is an important part of what it means to belong in Auckland.

Continuing to build on and celebrate Auckland's Māori identity recognises our history and underpins how we welcome people from diverse backgrounds and cultures.

Providing opportunities for mana whenua to develop and express Auckland's Māori identity and to share this with the people of Auckland, ensures mana whenua continue to have a strong presence in Tāmaki Makaurau. It also promotes wider understanding and strengthens our sense of belonging.

Recognise, value and celebrate our social and cultural differences

Auckland's identity continues to evolve. It is important that people are supported to maintain their cultural identities and traditions, and are provided with opportunities for cultural expression, in all their forms.

New Zealand has long-standing cultural, economic and political ties with South Pacific nations. Auckland's Pasifika population, Pacific languages and cultural

Figure 16 - Cultural diversity. Source: Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) Community Perception of Migration and Immigration (Wellington: New Zealand Government 2016)²⁷

74%



agree it is good for society to be made up of people from different races, religions and cultures

practices and customs also contribute to making Auckland distinctive. Many other population groups make valuable contributions to life in Auckland.

Rapidly growing populations can strengthen social cohesion or undermine it, simply because of the pace of change.

Most New Zealanders (74 per cent)²⁷ agree it is good for society to be made up of people from different races, religions, and cultures. The majority recognise that migrants make an important contribution to New Zealand's culture, society and the economy.

Social and cultural differences can:

- pose challenges around understanding and social cohesion
- cause individuals or groups to feel isolated and excluded from participating in society.

This can mean that some people are unable to achieve their aspirations, resulting in increasing economic disparity.

Intercultural cities recognise the value of cultural diversity and the benefits of cross-cultural interaction. This goes beyond tolerance and co-existence and focuses on more active approaches that build cross-cultural dialogue and cooperation to create greater wellbeing and prosperity for all. Cities around the world use this approach, known as interculturalism, to foster social inclusion.

Participation in social and community activities, and in civic life, can help Aucklanders to recognise interests they have in common with others. Celebrating our differences as a strength helps build relationships and reinforces our sense of belonging.

Participation can occur in many different settings, for example through:

- families and whānau
- interest and cultural groups
- geographic communities and neighbourhoods
- faith groups
- sports and arts
- community events
- in the workplace.

Community building initiatives

Festivals, Auckland-wide and local events, community programmes, arts and cultural initiatives, and celebrating local histories build local pride, develop and maintain

community cohesion, retain cultural knowledge, attract visitors, and stimulate the economy.

These initiatives can provide opportunities for people from different social, ethnic, and cultural backgrounds to meet, connect, participate in, and enjoy community life.

However, to really strengthen social cohesion, we need to take steps to pro-actively foster relationships between different communities in Auckland.

Local leadership and decision-making

Local leadership and volunteering are ways that people can be actively involved in their communities. They create a sense of purpose and achievement and help make communities resilient.

Participation in civic and community life leads to people feeling that they have influence over the decisions that affect their lives, and a high degree of confidence in their governmental institutions.

Summary

For Auckland to be a place where people continue to want to live and work, all Aucklanders must have the opportunity to succeed.

This means we need to be on a path that will lead to everyone being able to belong and to participate in society.

It also means a path to equity where all people can share in Auckland's prosperity.

How we track progress

We will track progress against a set of measures.

The measures for this outcome are:

- Aucklanders' sense of community in their neighbourhood
- Aucklanders' sense of safety in their homes and neighbourhood
- Aucklanders' quality of life
- relative deprivation across Auckland
- Aucklanders' health
- Treaty of Waitangi awareness and understanding

How we can implement the plan

Aucklanders have a shared responsibility for implementing the plan. Read more about implementation later in this section.

Foster an inclusive Auckland where everyone belongs

Many Aucklanders already have a strong sense of belonging. Some, however, experience loneliness and isolation, which impacts on their self-esteem and wellbeing.

The sense of belonging is different for everyone.

Belonging can be tied to feelings of wellbeing, identity, and attachment to place.

It can be influenced by:

- how safe and secure people feel
- whether people have the opportunity or ability to participate in society
- whether people feel able to express themselves and play an active role in decisions that impact them.

It can also be influenced by how well, and how easily, people can see themselves reflected in civic and community life, in positions of leadership, decision-making and in public spaces.

See Map 1 - Voter turnout - Local body elections 2016

Auckland’s significant population growth is an opportunity to increase a sense of belonging among existing Aucklanders and to foster it amongst newcomers.

It is not always easy for people to adjust to and welcome change. Sharing time and activities with other people builds trust, social connection, a sense of belonging, and attachment.

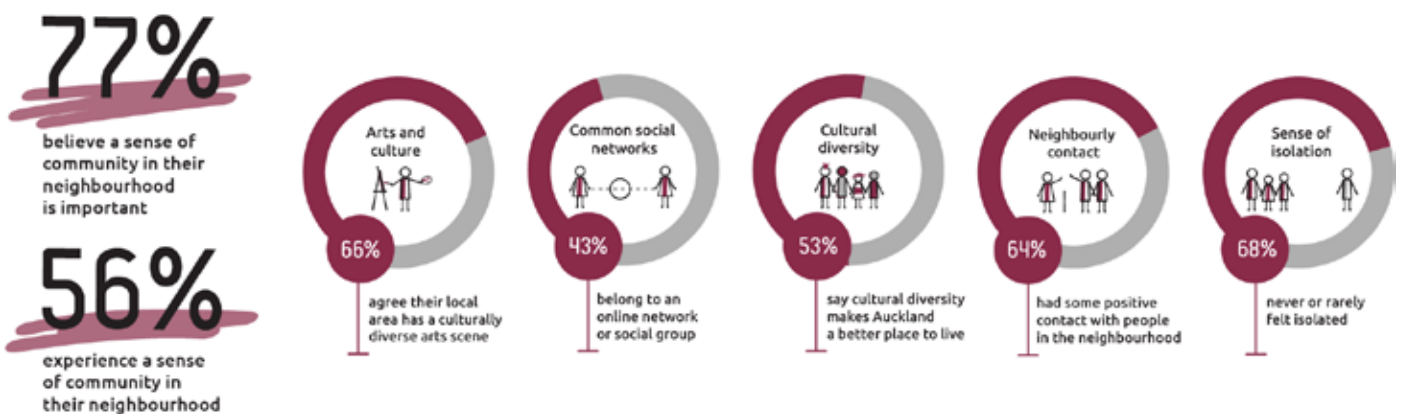
The more Aucklanders trust each other, the more connected, productive, and thriving they are likely to be.

The process of fostering inclusion, however, requires time and commitment. Building an inclusive Auckland is a collaborative endeavour, as it is not within the control of any one person, group or organisation.

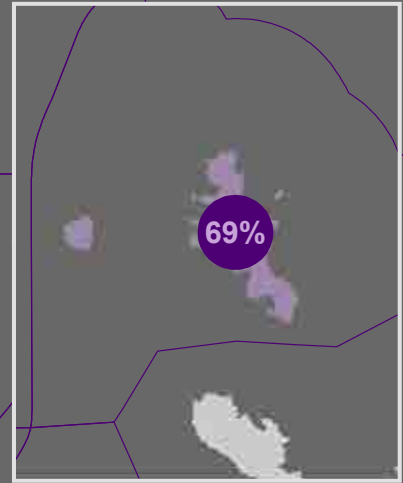
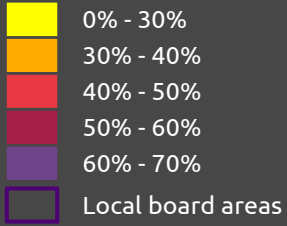
Achieving a sense of belonging and supporting the ability to participate requires activity under all the outcomes in the Auckland Plan 2050.

We can all help create a sense of belonging through our own actions.

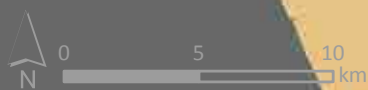
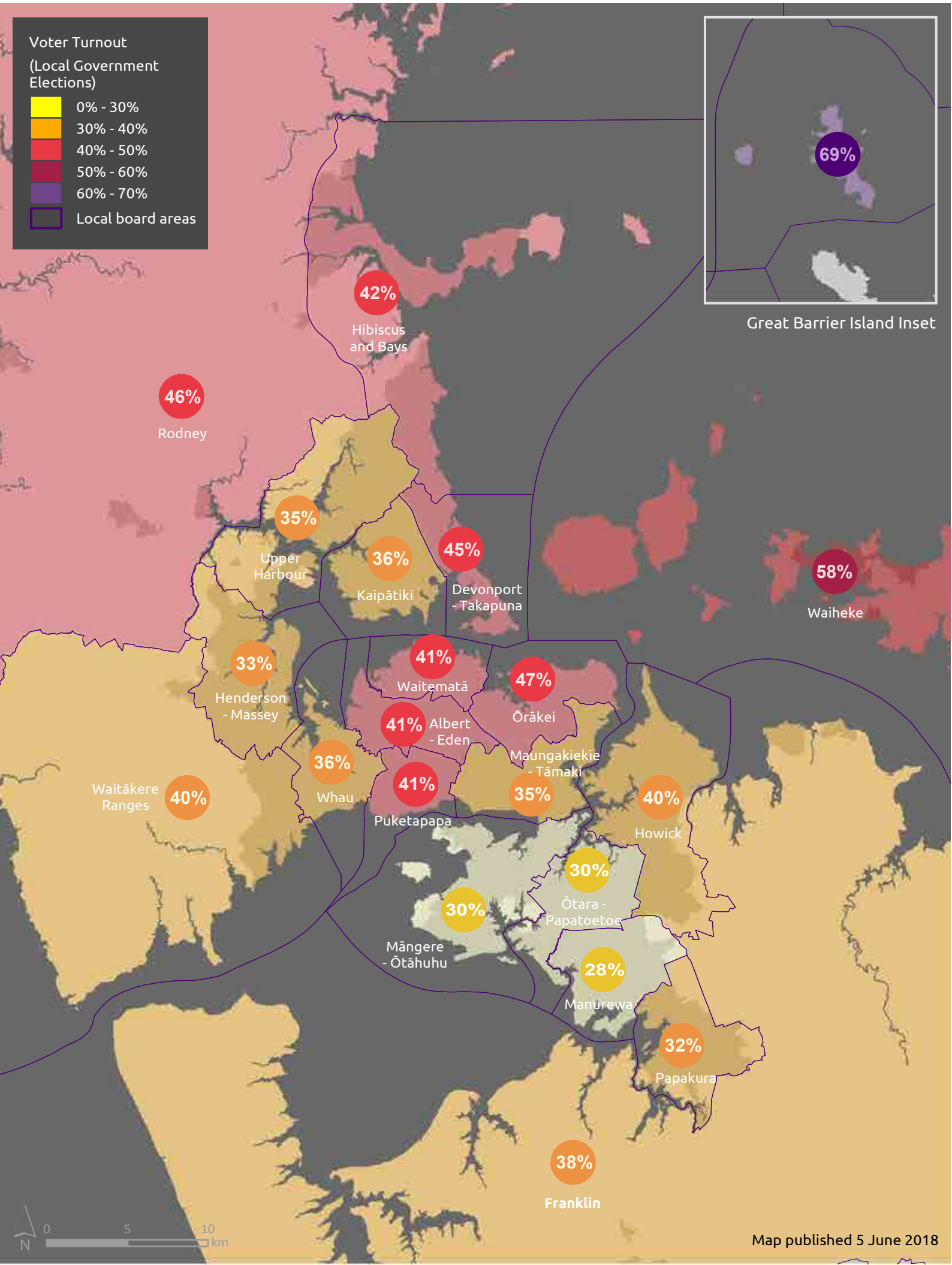
Figure 17 - Quality of life survey results for sense of belonging. Data source: Auckland Council, Quality of Life survey 2016: results for Auckland



Voter Turnout
(Local Government
Elections)



Great Barrier Island Inset



Improve health and wellbeing for all Aucklanders by reducing harm and disparities in opportunities

Improving Aucklanders' physical and mental health and wellbeing means people will be happier, healthier, and more able to participate in activities that they value.

A wide range of central and local government agencies, the private sector, and the community and voluntary sectors all play important roles in promoting wellbeing and reducing harm (for example from smoking, alcohol, drugs and gambling) to achieve good quality of life outcomes.

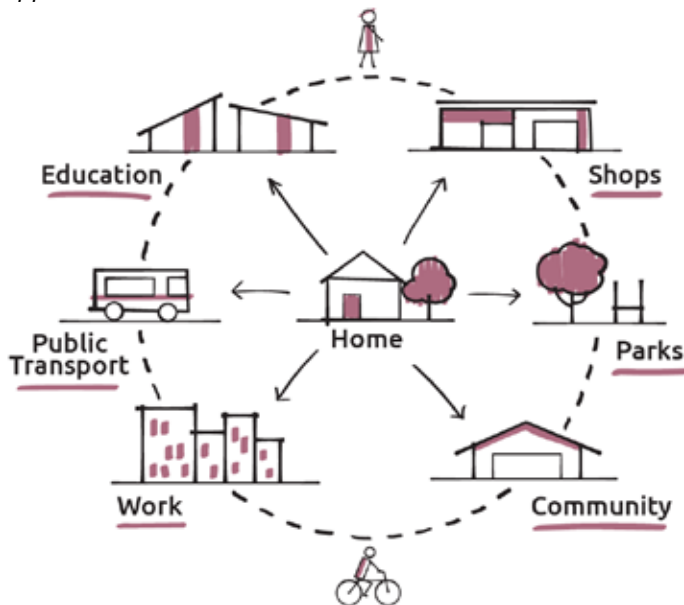
This includes positive actions towards a healthy lifestyle and programmes such as Healthy Auckland Together - visit the Healthy Auckland Together website to find out more.²⁸

You can also read the Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy²⁹ and the Smokefree Policy.³⁰

Assessing the health and wellbeing implications of decisions and promoting public health improves Aucklanders' health and wellbeing and helps to achieve equitable health outcomes.

Being able to get around easily and achieve educational or employment goals contribute to a person's ability and

Equal access to facilities, education and employment opportunities



motivation to participate in and enjoy community and civic life.

An increase in access to opportunities for all Aucklanders can have positive benefits in:

- health and life expectancy
- trust and social cohesion
- educational performance
- employment
- the reduction of crime
- cultural and civic participation.

To improve health and wellbeing, we must address inequity, exclusion and disadvantage experienced by individuals, whānau and communities.

This includes ensuring that children and young people are given the opportunity to reach their potential so that they do not experience disadvantage as adults.

We must also address structural discrimination by encouraging a more diverse range of people in positions of decision-making and influence.

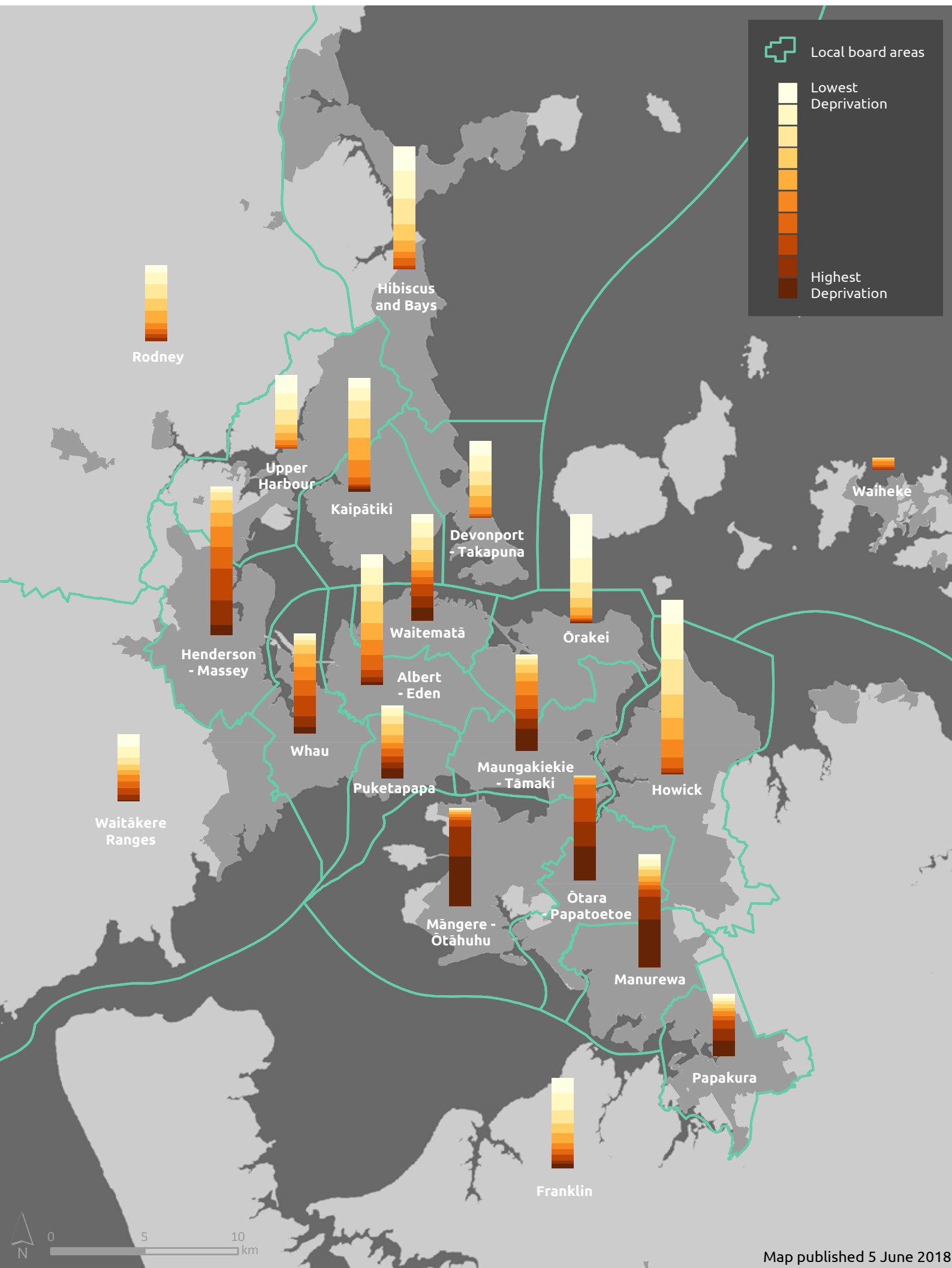
Socio-economic disparity, low social mobility and entrenched inequalities exist across Auckland, often in distinct geographic patterns.

See Map 2 - Deprivation Index for the region

Socio-economic disparity and poor living standards have multiple effects, both at the individual and household level and on society and the economy in general.

It's not just a matter of putting social systems in place. Individuals and communities need active support to ensure that they can make the most of opportunities and have the skills and resources to make positive changes.

To improve the health and wellbeing of all Aucklanders, we must work together to remove barriers, eliminate discrimination and disadvantage and provide meaningful opportunities and choices for all.



Create safe opportunities for people to meet, connect, participate in, and enjoy community and civic life

A well-connected society enables access to community resources, and provides for positive experiences and better life outcomes.

One key way to support a connected society is to provide safe, shared places and spaces where social and cultural life can flourish.

Welcoming and safe places can help combat loneliness, depression and addictive behaviours. Everyday interactions with others in such places help create positive relationships, increase our perception of safety and contribute to our sense of community.

The nature and quality of these places and spaces is therefore important. They need to be well connected, inclusive and easily accessible.

Also, our sense of belonging is tied to identity and attachment to place. The way people use Auckland's streets, squares, parks and other public open space influences the meaning they attach to these places and spaces. Heritage, particularly built heritage, anchors our sense of history and place and helps define what is unique and distinctive about Auckland.

Our urban, rural and island communities all have distinctive identities and unique character. Neighbourhoods and settlements reflect local heritage, culture and identity. This in turn fosters local pride,

connectedness, a willingness to work together, and ultimately enhances our sense of community.

This identity and character can be expressed in our places and spaces. Find out more in the Homes and Places section.

The rise of online communities is an important way for people to connect with each other and participate in issues important to them, but physical spaces for human contact remain important.


When people connect and interact they learn about other cultures, practices, languages and abilities. This leads to more trust and greater respect for differences.

How this can be done

Efforts to create community connectedness can focus on:

- providing sufficient safe, shared spaces and places that are flexible in how individuals, whānau and communities can use them and that are easily accessible
- ensuring universal access is built into developments
- community initiatives and expression of local identity, character, historic and cultural heritage
- festivals and events, including events that are accessible and free, especially at a local level, that create opportunities to interact and learn about each other



- 
- ways to better involve individuals, groups and communities, especially those generally under-represented and not often heard, in civic and democratic processes
 - supporting activities which actively foster relationships between different communities.

Provide accessible services and social and cultural infrastructure that are responsive in meeting people's evolving needs

Population growth and demographic change will put pressure on existing services and facilities. For example, our ageing population will increase and require services and social infrastructure that enable older people to fully participate.

It is essential that we proactively plan for, and develop, social and cultural infrastructure in tandem with physical infrastructure, if we are to create communities and neighbourhoods that are liveable and successful for everyone.

See Map 3 - Population Growth

Varied and accessible services and facilities which support the needs of communities are essential in helping people to participate in society and create a sense of belonging.

These services may include:

- pools
- parks and open spaces
- marae
- hospitals
- schools
- employment and housing services.

Local and Auckland-wide facilities such as museums and art galleries, theatres, libraries, community centres, sports fields and playgrounds, and public places all play

their part in helping people learn, socialise and connect with each other. They provide venues for recreation, arts, sports, and cultural events and community-led activities.

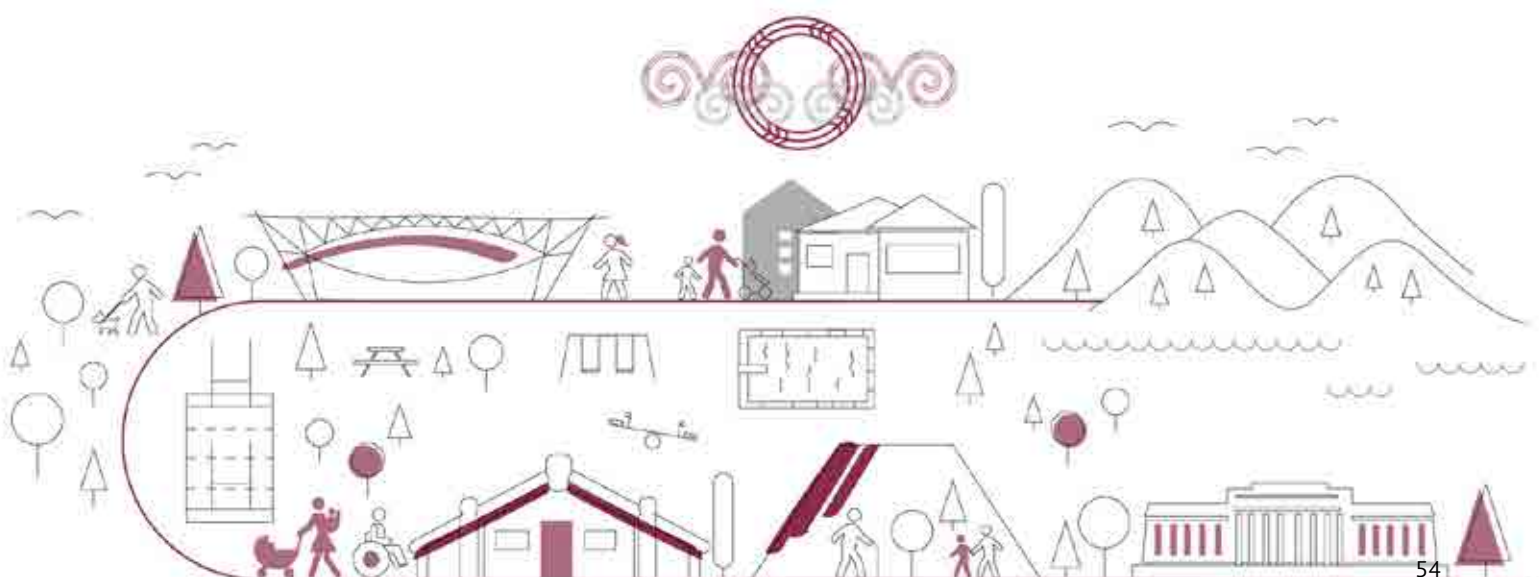
Not only do these social and cultural infrastructure and services provide opportunities for social interaction, many also encourage physical activity with its associated health and wellbeing benefits. Others stimulate the mind and encourage learning.

Local people and groups must be involved in their planning and development to ensure that services and facilities are responsive to local needs.

There are many barriers that prevent people from accessing services and facilities, such as affordability or social and cultural barriers. Providing affordable or free access to facilities, like council-operated pools, encourages children and young people to be active and healthy.

Homeless people experience disadvantage and value safe public places like libraries as a way to achieve important connections in the community.

Barriers to physical access (for example, from transport difficulties, disability or frailty, or hours of operation) must be addressed through universal design. Find out more on the Auckland Universal Design website.³¹



The under-provision of services needs to be addressed alongside investment in new development areas and in existing areas that have significant population growth. We also need to make sure people have easy access to a range of social infrastructure across Auckland. Good public transport connections and options to walk and cycle help improve access to social and cultural infrastructure.

It is essential that we plan and design services and infrastructure in such a way that they can adapt to different usage and demand over time.

We therefore need to better utilise existing facilities and develop new flexible and multi-purpose facilities. Find out more by reading the Community Facilities Network and Action Plan.³²

How this can be done

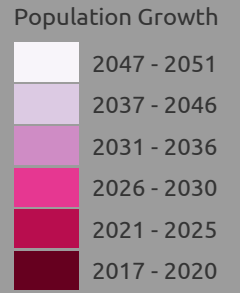
Efforts to maximise the investment in social services and infrastructure can focus on:

- areas where there is current under-investment and areas where there is significant population growth and redevelopment
- creating quality public places and spaces
- ensuring our urban landscape has high amenity value as it forms part of people's social space
- providing social infrastructure that encourages people to be active
- being innovative in how we develop and deliver social services and facilities, ensuring they are flexible to allow for different uses during their lifetime
- recognising and meeting local needs.

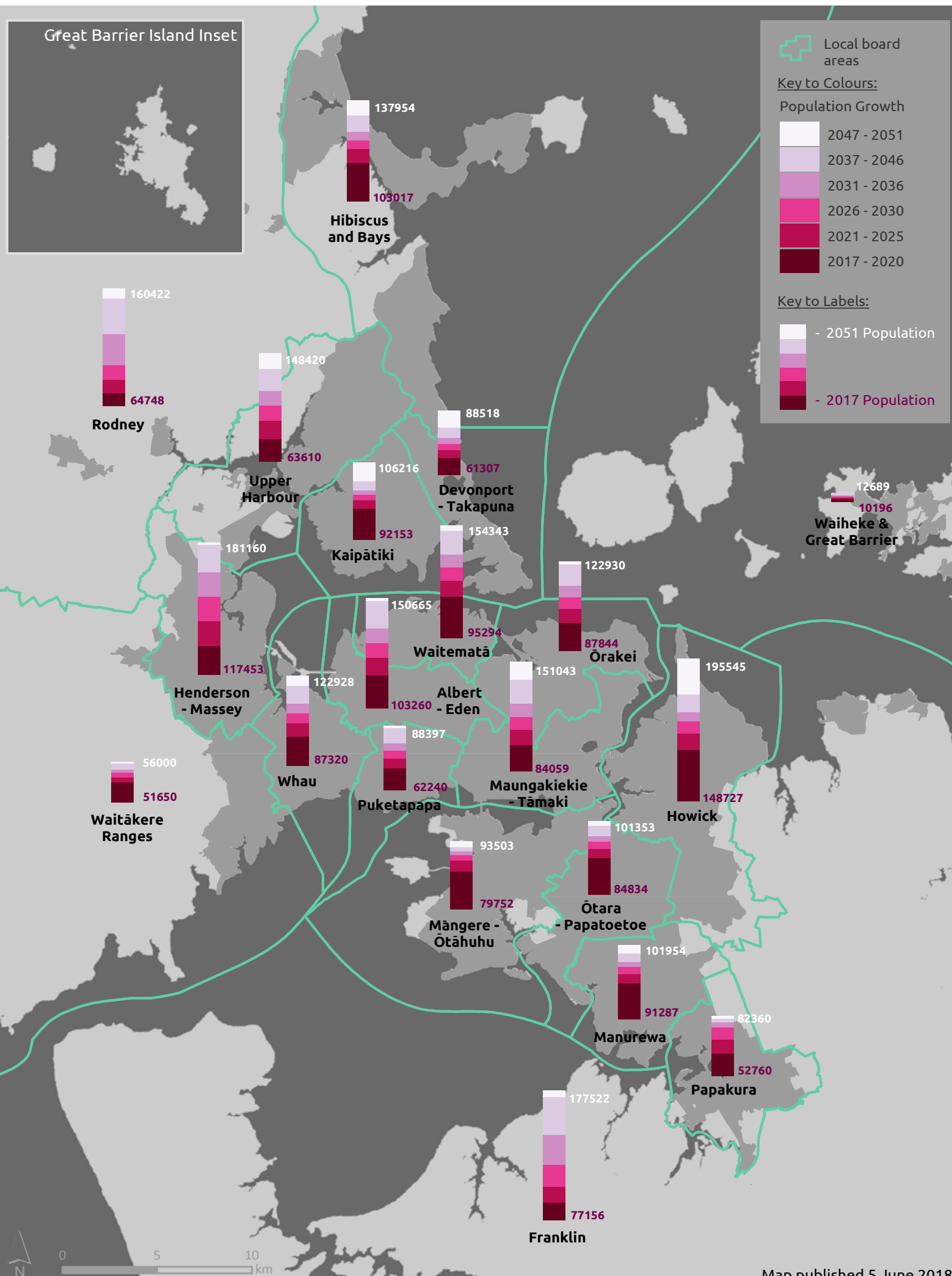


Local board areas

Key to Colours:



Key to Labels:



Support and work with communities to develop the resilience to thrive in a changing world

A community can be a community of place, interest or identity. An active community is one that can:

- take the lead
- influence decisions
- take action
- bring about change.

Supporting people to work with and lead their own community enables many positive results. Local ways of doing things and developing local solutions better addresses communities' diverse needs. Building strong relationships and a shared sense of purpose:

- brings diverse communities together
- builds a sense of belonging
- creates resilience.

This means communities and individuals are able to adapt as circumstances change.

Many people expect to have a more active role in decision-making when decisions affect their wellbeing, their home, community or area of interest.

This involvement in decision-making is an integral part of creating strong, sustainable and cohesive communities. Volunteers, and the organisations that support them, also play a vital role in enabling participation in local action and decision-making.

Supporting local leadership is a key way to support communities in decision-making. Local leadership

requires a more locally-centric approach, increasing the range and quality of relationships and developing a better understanding of local aspirations and needs.

This involves building on and developing local communities' existing strengths and assets. Some Aucklanders are already effective at working in and shaping their own community as seen on the [Creating a community-led physical activity space in Grey Lynn](#) page.

Others need assistance and support to increase their knowledge, skills and human and financial resources to act.

Organisations have a social responsibility and need to think differently about how they work at the local level and how current and future challenges for Auckland's communities can best be met.

How this can be done

Efforts and investment to support local leadership and community resilience can:

- provide support to and share decision-making with local people and organisations so they can actively shape, influence, lead and be part of what happens in their communities and how it happens
- support a strong and well-networked community sector that delivers services to those in need, especially vulnerable communities and those experiencing significant change and growth.



Value and provide for te Tiriti o Waitangi/ the Treaty of Waitangi as the bicultural foundation for an intercultural Auckland

Te Tiriti o Waitangi/the Treaty of Waitangi is the founding document of New Zealand. It recognises that Māori, as tangata whenua, belong in Aotearoa.

The relationship between Māori and the Crown is guided by te Tiriti o Waitangi/the Treaty of Waitangi. It provides the basis for working together in partnership and in good faith for mutual benefit.

It also recognises the desire to approach future New Zealand settlement and the governance of all future New Zealanders in an agreed way.

Te Tiriti recognises both the rights of Māori as indigenous people and the rights of all who have subsequently settled here. As such, the Treaty provides the basis for all people to belong in Aotearoa. Find out more about your rights and the Treaty of Waitangi at The Human Rights Commission.³³

It recognises the special place of Māori as tangata whenua by recognising and protecting rangatiratanga and the relationship between Māori, the government and future citizens.

Valuing and better understanding the Treaty helps us to engage with te ao Māori and contributes to our shared identity and sense of belonging.

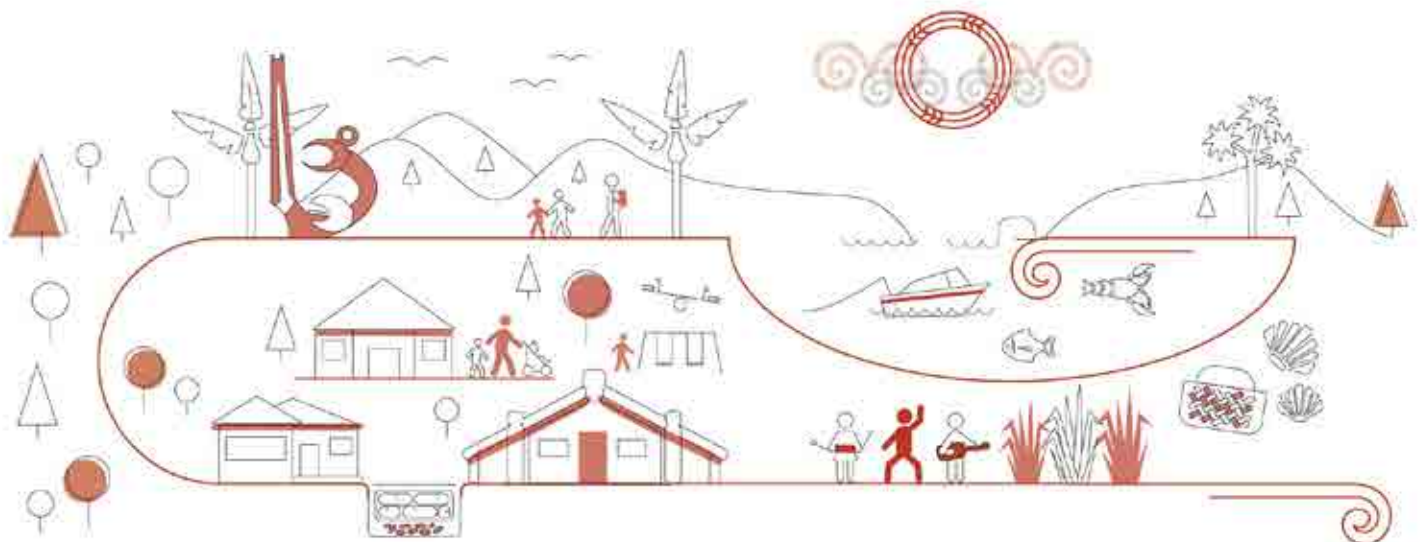
Auckland is diverse and multicultural with different cultural or ethnic groups. It embraces the place of whānau, hapū and iwi, as the indigenous people.

Auckland's Māori identity and vibrant Māori culture are important in creating a sense of belonging, cohesion and identity for everyone who calls Auckland home.

To be Māori is to have a tūrangawaewae, a place of strength and belonging, a place to stand. The history and culture of mana whenua helped establish, shape and define today's Auckland and is an important part of what it means to belong in Auckland.

Mana whenua obligations to manaaki manuhiri (extend hospitality and care for others) and tikanga Māori can help to connect all cultures and ensure that Auckland is a welcoming place for all.

Whanaungatanga can provide all Aucklanders with a sense of belonging and a strong basis for an intercultural Auckland. Interculturalism is an approach to fostering social inclusion that has been shown to have a positive impact on economic development and social cohesion. For example, all Aucklanders are invited to participate and experience Māori culture on Waitangi Day and during Matariki events.



Providing opportunities for mana whenua to shape Auckland's Māori identity and to share Auckland's Māori cultural heritage with other Aucklanders can promote wider understanding and strengthens our sense of belonging and pride as Aucklanders.

It is important to the future of Tāmaki Makaurau that all Aucklanders understand and can confidently engage with Māori culture. For recent migrants, learning about their new home includes learning about New Zealand's history, the role of the Treaty and traditions. Both existing Aucklanders and new residents can connect with Māori through, for example, experiencing a pōwhiri, engaging in customary Māori activities or attending a hui at a local marae.

We can all take part in Māori language and culture. Doing so helps to form part of our identity as Aucklanders. Celebrating Auckland's Māori identity recognises our history and underpins how we welcome people from diverse backgrounds and cultures.

Building strong positive relationships based on understanding and mutual respect will help strengthen Auckland's bicultural foundation.

How this can be done

We can do this by:

- promoting understanding of the history of Tāmaki Makaurau, the Treaty and what this means for Aucklanders in the future
- acknowledging and better understanding the importance of te ao Māori
- working with and supporting Māori to connect with all Aucklanders
- recognising and supporting the role of mana whenua to manaaki manuhiri in a way that expresses their cultural identity
- fostering engagement of all Aucklanders with te reo Māori as a means of accessing and understanding Māori culture
- encouraging all Aucklanders to engage and interact positively with Māori and Māori culture, values and ways of doing things to help build intercultural understanding. For example, through incorporating Māori urban design elements³⁴ in public places and spaces.

Recognise, value and celebrate Aucklanders' differences as a strength

Auckland is becoming increasingly diverse. Our diverse communities encompass a broad range of differences in addition to ethnic and cultural diversity. Diversity is a resource and adopting a positive approach is the first step in realising its benefits. Acknowledging, respecting and embracing differences are part of treating diversity as strength.

As our population grows and changes, it is important that we continue to nurture and support our diverse community identities. We must also tap into the skills and talents of all our citizens and create the conditions for everyone to fully participate in society.

Increasing social and cultural differences pose both challenges and opportunities.

Multicultural refers to a society that contains several cultural or ethnic groups that may not interact. We need to encourage intercultural approaches, where cultures exchange and interact constructively, and there is universal respect for human dignity.

To be the Auckland that New Zealand needs it to be, it is essential that we support all our people to achieve their social, economic and cultural potential and fully capture the benefits of diversity. One such benefit is when new skills and talent help the economy to prosper.

Auckland's organisations, whether large or small, all have an important role to play in supporting diversity. People need to see themselves reflected in the organisations they come into contact with. Diversity in organisations,

particularly at senior levels, enhances creativity, innovation and financial performance.

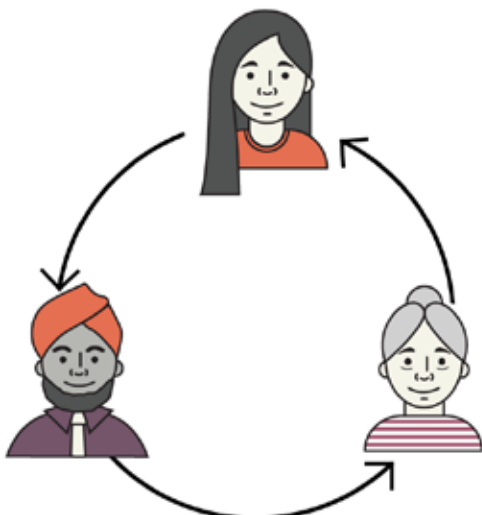
Auckland is a gateway to New Zealand. There is more we can do to welcome and include new people from other places and cultures. Successful settlement involves empowering people to participate in the social, economic and political life of Auckland.

How this can be done

Our rich diversity provides an opportunity to model a cohesive and inclusive society in which all groups can thrive. Ways by which we can achieve this are:

- actively building trust between communities by promoting interaction, inclusion and shared values
- providing opportunities for communities to express and celebrate their language and culture and share it with all Aucklanders
- supporting organisations that provide settlement services and programmes that assist with migrant settlement
- adapting governance structures, institutions and services to the needs of a diverse population
- providing opportunities for our diverse communities to participate in decision-making
- supporting initiatives by organisations to better reflect our diversity
- proactively addressing discrimination and prejudice against minorities.

Multi culturalism



Inter culturalism



Focus investment to address disparities and serve communities of greatest need

Growing socio-economic inequity in Auckland means that many people cannot achieve their potential.

As the population grows and successive generations of families experience inequity, the impact will be more visible and harder to change.

Adopting an 'equitable' approach means prioritising the most vulnerable groups and communities to achieve more equal outcomes.

People-based initiatives put the needs of vulnerable Aucklanders, including children, young people and families, at the centre of decision-making and support those most at risk of poor outcomes.

Supporting all parts of our community to succeed will benefit individuals and families now and will produce wider socio-economic benefits across generations and for all of society. Focusing our efforts to address disparities and communities of greatest need means doing more to achieve equitable outcomes for all Aucklanders.

When people feel disadvantaged in relation to other individuals or communities, it reduces social cohesion and affects the development of a sense of belonging, which in turn reduces the likelihood of community and civic participation.

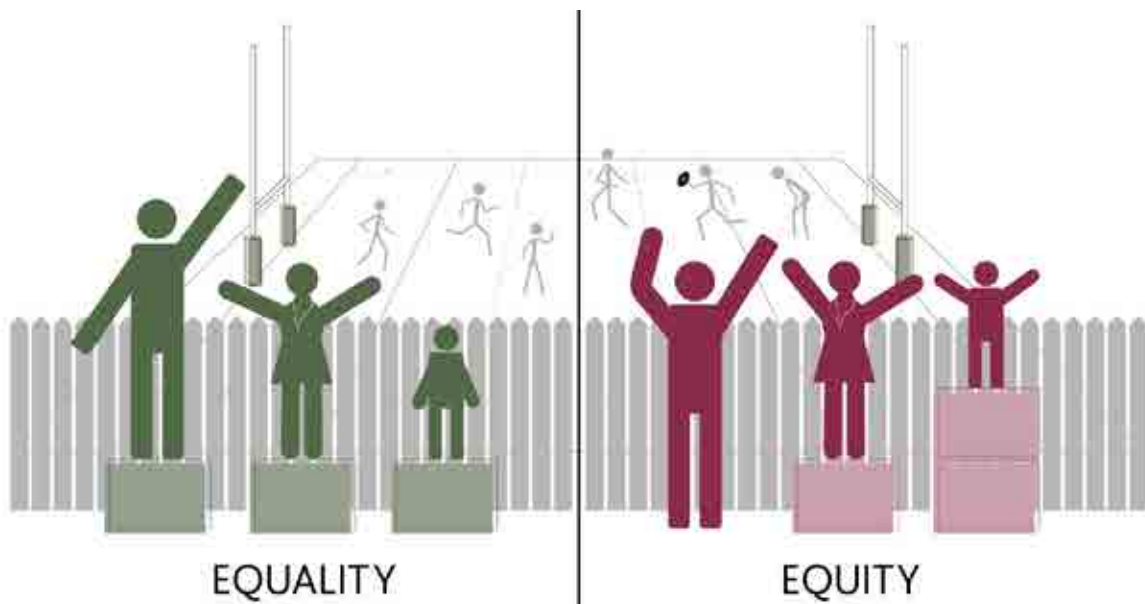
The reasons for socio-economic inequity are many and they often have to be addressed at the same time to make any real, long-lasting impact.

For example, we may increase school attendance, but if children go to school hungry they are not likely to succeed, and if they do not have waterproof clothing they may be unwell and unable to go to school.

Housing availability and costs are major contributing factors to the rise of inequity in Auckland. Rising housing costs increase neighbourhood segregation on the basis of wealth. Many people, particularly older people, young people, and people on low incomes are being priced out of their current community or cannot afford to hold on to their property. This can break social connections and support networks and add to the difficulty of finding employment or achieving educational success. This in turn limits the opportunities for social mobility and contributes to inter-generational disadvantage. Providing for a range of housing types and tenures in new developments helps support mixed neighbourhoods.

Place-based initiatives represent a targeted and integrated approach to addressing entrenched issues within a specific geographical area. Institutions and organisations can play their part in addressing disparities through place-based work such as The Southern Initiative.

Others can make a significant impact through the redevelopment of housing or assistance for warm and dry homes. Integrated approaches in targeted locations can achieve transformational change for Auckland's communities.



How this can be done

Focusing our efforts in communities of greatest need and areas where there are entrenched disparities in outcomes will create the greatest benefit to individuals, communities and Auckland as a whole.

Early action in areas of growth and significant change also provides the opportunity to focus activity on addressing disparities before they become embedded. This is a particular opportunity in the redevelopment of existing urban areas.

We are focusing on achieving change, and that means doing more in areas and communities where change is most needed.



Recognise the value of arts, culture, sport and recreation to quality of life

Our quality of life is central to our physical and mental wellbeing. We get fulfilment from having a purpose and feeling we contribute to society.

How we spend our time is important to a balanced and healthy lifestyle, whether it is spending time with family and friends, taking part in outdoor activities or going to an event.

Many Aucklanders already enjoy a lifestyle where they engage in a wide range of activities that contribute to their quality of life. The ability to take part in sport and recreation, and arts and cultural activities is particularly important. It supports both mental and physical wellbeing – they feed both body and mind.

Providing opportunities for all Aucklanders to access, participate in and experience arts and culture, helps create cohesiveness amongst people and communities through learning, understanding and appreciation of difference. Participating and engaging in the arts can:

- improve self-esteem and confidence
- foster identity and pride,
- build social connection
- increase our sense of belonging and wellbeing.

Participating in arts and cultural initiatives also enables Aucklanders to express our unique cultures and see ourselves reflected in public places. Creativity, culture and the arts make Auckland a vibrant and dynamic city.

The Toi Whītiki - Arts and Culture Strategic Action plan³⁵ aims to integrate arts and culture into our everyday lives and create a culturally rich and creative Auckland.

Appreciation of our cultural heritage, especially our built heritage, is an equally important aspect of what contributes to our quality of life. It reminds us of our past and provides a visual context of where we have come from. It is one aspect of our culture that is easily observed and there for everyone to see and appreciate.

Participating in sport and recreation is a major contributor to our quality of life, health and general wellbeing. More active lifestyles help combat obesity and related health issues. Evidence shows that participation can have a positive impact on physical and mental health, social cohesion and educational outcomes.

Recreation and sport draw people from different backgrounds together. They promote social interaction and help build relationships within and across diverse communities. Participation is especially important for children and young people. It helps them to develop life skills and confidence and life-long, healthy living habits. Providing a wide range of recreation and sport opportunities enables all Aucklanders to be more active, more often contributing to healthy lifestyles.

The sport and recreation sector is diverse. It relies on the significant contribution of volunteers, local clubs and community organisations to support delivery. The Sport and Recreation Strategic Action plan³⁶ provides an example of regional sports organisations and sporting codes working together to target resources more effectively and build capability.

Access to and the ability to participate in cultural events or sport activities are not equitable across the region. Common barriers are distance, affordability, location across the region and physical access, particularly for people with disabilities.

How this can be done

- supporting a range of arts and cultural activities that reflect Auckland's diversity
- providing a range of arts, culture and heritage experiences that all Aucklanders can enjoy
- integrating arts and culture as part of our everyday lives
- providing innovative and flexible options to meet the changing lifestyles of all Aucklanders including programmes for older people and disabled people
- continuing to build the sector's capability to deliver quality recreation and sport experiences.

Implementing the Belonging and Participation outcome

Implementation partners

We all have a part to play in creating an inclusive and equitable Auckland. The impact that communities and individuals have in shaping Auckland cannot be underestimated.

Mana whenua, as kaitiaki of Tāmaki Makaurau extend manaakitanga to visitors and new comers to Auckland.

Community groups and organisations provide opportunities for people to connect, learn, understand and support their community.

Central government contributes to this outcome through multiple functions, for example:

- providing funding and support for refugee and migrant resettlement facilities and programmes
- ensuring the human rights of all Aucklanders are upheld through the Human Rights Commission.

Auckland Council also undertakes a variety of functions that enhance Belonging and Participation for all Aucklanders. This includes:

- provision of social policy
- supporting community organisations and providing community facilities and services
- funding events and other initiatives that celebrate and showcase Auckland's diversity
- encouraging participation in the decision-making process by a range of diverse groups and communities through advisory panels.

Auckland Council will develop an implementation approach for this outcome working alongside our key partners and stakeholders. This will be built on existing programmes and ensure all new elements introduced in Auckland Plan 2050 are planned for.

Mechanisms used to work together

Auckland Council embraces an empowered community approach, where individuals, whānau and communities have the power and ability to influence decisions, take action and make change happen in their lives and communities.

Groups are encouraged and supported to identify their own ways for working together and for getting on with making a difference in their community.

Auckland Council, through its committees and local boards has a number of different ways that it listens, engages and supports its diverse communities.

Its advisory panels are an important source of knowledge and expert advice on the diverse interests and issues experienced by the disability, ethnic peoples, Pacific peoples, rainbow, seniors and youth communities.

An important part of civic participation is Aucklanders taking leadership roles in community activities in a variety of different ways such as voting in and standing for local or central government, district health boards, school boards, or being a representative for community, cultural or sporting groups.

Supporting strategies and plans

Toi Whītiki - Arts and Culture Strategic Action Plan

The Toi Whītiki - Arts and Culture Strategic Action plan's³⁷ overall goal is to enable arts and culture to be integrated into our everyday lives, and create a culturally rich and creative Auckland. One of its six goals is to build a flourishing creative economy. It is a 10-year plan for the region, delivered by Auckland Council in partnership with the creative sector.

Thriving Communities Action Plan Ngā Hapori Momoho

The Thriving Communities Action Plan³⁸ provides a platform for Auckland Council to work together with Auckland's diverse communities in new and more sustainable ways.

Sport and Recreation Strategic Action Plan

This is a sector-wide plan for Auckland's sport and recreation sector. The focus of the Sport and Recreation Strategic Action plan³⁹ is to get Aucklanders more active, more often.

Healthy Auckland Together

Healthy Auckland Together is a coalition of 26 organisations representing local government, mana whenua, health agencies, non-government organisations, university and consumer interest groups. The coalition has a five year action plan outlining the priorities and the solutions urgently needed to reshape Auckland's obesogenic environment. Visit the Healthy Auckland Together website⁴⁰ for more information.

Community Facilities Network and Action Plan

The Community Facilities Network and Action plan⁴¹ provides direction for the development of new arts, culture, community and leisure facilities, upgrades of existing facilities and dealing with facilities no longer meeting community needs.

Parks and Open Spaces Strategic Action Plan

Sets Auckland Council's priorities for investment in parks and open space⁴² (includes Open Space Provision Policy⁴³ and Parks and Open Space Acquisition Policy⁴⁴).

I Am Auckland - the Children and Young People's Strategic Action Plan

I Am Auckland - strategic action plan⁴⁵ sets out council's commitments to children and young people.

Auckland Design Manual

A Universal Design approach recognises and inclusively designs for human diversity and various life scenarios such as:

- pregnancy
- childhood
- injury
- disability
- old age.

The tool takes developers through a Universal Design approach to development. It provides practical design solutions illustrated with diagrams, real life examples and checklists.

Visit the Auckland Design Manual website.⁴⁶

Auckland Council's strategies, policies and plans have acted as an important input in the development of the

Auckland Plan 2050. With the adoption of the plan, the council will assess these documents to ensure they remain fit for purpose.

How to get involved

- Visit the Our Auckland website⁴⁷ or Auckland Live website⁴⁸ for information on events and activities in your area.
- There are a variety of ways Aucklanders can tell us what they think on what matters to them. All Aucklanders can help shape Auckland and have a say on projects, plans and strategies by visiting Have your say⁴⁹.
- Opportunities to volunteer can be found on the Volunteering Auckland website⁵⁰
- Community groups can email a local strategic broker⁵¹ for advice. Strategic brokers work alongside communities in local board areas to understand their aspirations, increase their capability do things for themselves, and to navigate the council and access resources and information.

Supporting information

Knowledge Auckland website⁵² provides free published research, information, analysis and data about Auckland's communities, economy and environment.

Auckland Counts website⁵³ contains 2001, 2006 and 2013 census information specifically for Auckland. It provides interactive mapping, graphing and data export functions.

Supporting information

Library engagement with homeless people

Creating a community-led physical activity space in Grey Lynn

The Southern Initiative

Library engagement with homeless people

Rough sleepers value the Central City Library as a safe public space.

This was one of the findings in An insight into the experience of rough sleeping in central Auckland study.⁵⁴

After learning this, library staff wanted to find out more about the experiences and expectations of the homeless community. Supported by the Auckland City Mission and other partners, they hosted a hui with more than 30 rough sleepers.

At this hui, and in other discussions, community members shared stories and ideas for initiatives the library could implement.

Now the library offers:

- Monday Movies and morning tea – for which participants select titles from the library's DVD collection and the library obtains a licence to screen them without charge
- a weekly book group
- a media club which enables participants to blog about life on the streets.

Building on the trust established through working together, the library and rough sleeping advocates have worked together to raise awareness of homelessness in Auckland.

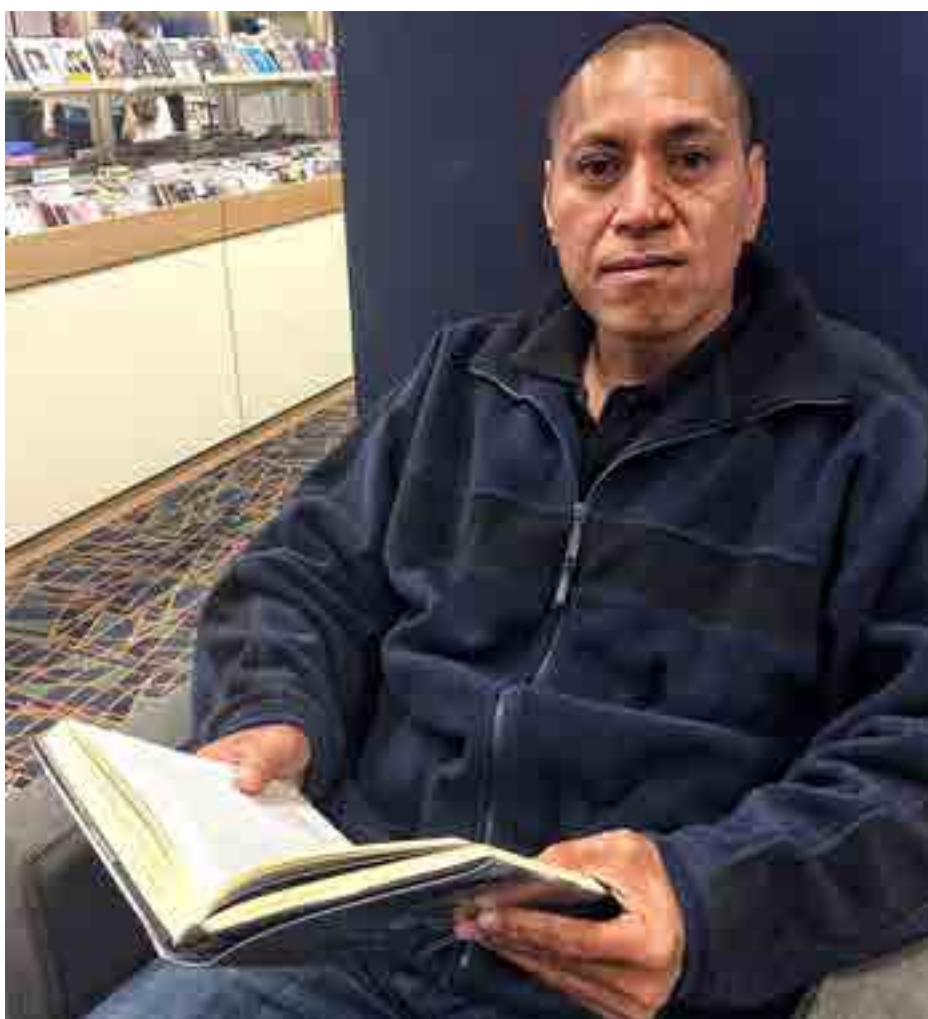
One example is the interactive maze created by urban artist Margaret Lewis. It takes people on a journey from being housed to homeless. It was an event run at the Central City Library as part of Artweek 2017 and marking World Homeless Day.

Another example is the Human Library event, in collaboration with

Splice that enabled people to book time with a homeless person to hear their story first-hand. Read more on the Splice website.⁵⁵

These initiatives have been shaped through co-design and partnership, and have been led by rough sleepers themselves.

A member of one of the weekly book groups held at a local library.



Creating a community-led physical activity space in Grey Lynn

The Grey Lynn pump track is a great illustration of how local communities can lead the development of exciting new spaces for fun and exercise. The track encourages kids of all ages to be physically active and burn off energy while having fun and adventure with their friends.

What is now the pump track was previously a patch of grass in an inner city park. Local residents, led by parents Scott Kuegler and Paul Wacker, formed the Grey Lynn Pump Track Association, and set about transforming it.

Once the initial concept was developed, the association worked with a number of partners to turn the dream into reality. Sport Auckland was a very helpful partner. They played an important advocacy and influencing role and gave practical assistance in how to source funds.

The Waitemata Local Board strongly supported the proposal. They saw how it could link to the local Greenways Plan, and how it fitted into their approach of working with the community. Other funders and partners were encouraged to join in, providing donations of materials and time that led to the track being built.

This has been a truly collaborative process, with the local community, Sport Auckland, Auckland Council and others coming together to provide a great, well-used asset for the community.

One parent thanked everyone for making this a reality as their children and friends “absolutely love it.”



The Southern Initiative

The Southern Initiative (TSI) was established through the 2012 Auckland Plan to provide a focus for work in an area covered by the four local board areas of Māngere-Ōtāhuhu, Ōtara-Papatoetoe, Manurewa and Papakura.

See Figure 18 - Map of the Southern Initiative

The purpose of The Southern Initiative

The purpose of TSI is to plan and deliver a long-term programme of co-ordinated investment and actions to bring about transformational social, economic and physical change in this area.

It was set up with six priorities:

- early childhood intervention and strong family attachment
- education, training or employment for all young people leaving school
- an outstanding international gateway and destination area

Figure 18 - Map of the Southern Initiative



- economic development and jobs for local people
- increased public transport services
- housing development.

TSI is responsible for kick starting, enabling and championing social and community innovation in South Auckland.

It tackles complex socio-economic challenges and creates opportunities that will benefit the people of South Auckland.

It focuses on purpose-designed effective innovations that make better use of current resources and empower local people. It tests solutions lightly, quickly and affordably to understand what works and why before implementing them more widely.

By applying a 'think like a system, act like an entrepreneur' mind set we do not attempt to take on grand societal challenges in their entirety, instead we look to identify nimble opportunities for change within the system, seed innovations, test prototypes and support successful efforts to grow and influence other parts of the wider system.⁵⁶

The Southern Initiative's focus

Working towards the same priorities, there is now a particular focus on social innovation and entrepreneurship.

This is evident in the following streams of work:

1. Lifting incomes through quality employment opportunities and establishing businesses that create shared prosperity.

The vision: South Auckland will be an example of inclusive growth where social and economic development is explicitly integrated.

2. Building resilience and adaptability to use creativity, culture and technology to harness opportunities from climate change, technological breakthroughs, shifts in the economy and major demographic changes.

The vision: South Auckland will be known for intergenerational creativity, entrepreneurship and innovation and its young people will be sought after in an increasingly globalised and technological world because of their advanced skill base.

- Supporting whānau, especially those with very young children, to develop their own solutions to thrive and set the foundations for positive lifelong outcomes for their children.

The vision: children and young people in South Auckland will be given the best start in life.

How The Southern Initiative started

This initiative was started in 2012 to unleash human and economic potential in an area of Auckland with high social need, yet with significant economic opportunity.

Its aim was to drastically improve the quality of life of local residents, reduce disparities between different parts of Auckland, and grow businesses and jobs in the area.

Almost 20 per cent of all Aucklanders live in TSI area. At the 2013 Census, the area was home to almost a quarter of all Auckland’s children and young people, and almost 40 per cent of people living in south Auckland were 25 years or younger.

Three out of every five residents is from a Pasifika ethnic group, or is Māori.

The area is part of New Zealand’s largest centre of economic activity. However, as Auckland grows, so too does the risk of South Auckland not fulfilling its potential.⁵⁷

Given the mix of a young and ageing population, coupled with the current low wage, low productivity economy, complex social and economic challenges need to be tackled.

These challenges include:

- low incomes, high unemployment and underemployment
- poor housing quality
- many social and health harms caused by hardship and poverty.

At the same time, South Auckland’s economic importance, abundance of talent and creativity and large, diverse and youthful population are strengths and assets waiting to be unlocked.

TSI recognises that a different approach is needed – one that sufficiently lifts personal and inter-generational outcomes, rather than trapping people in ongoing poverty.

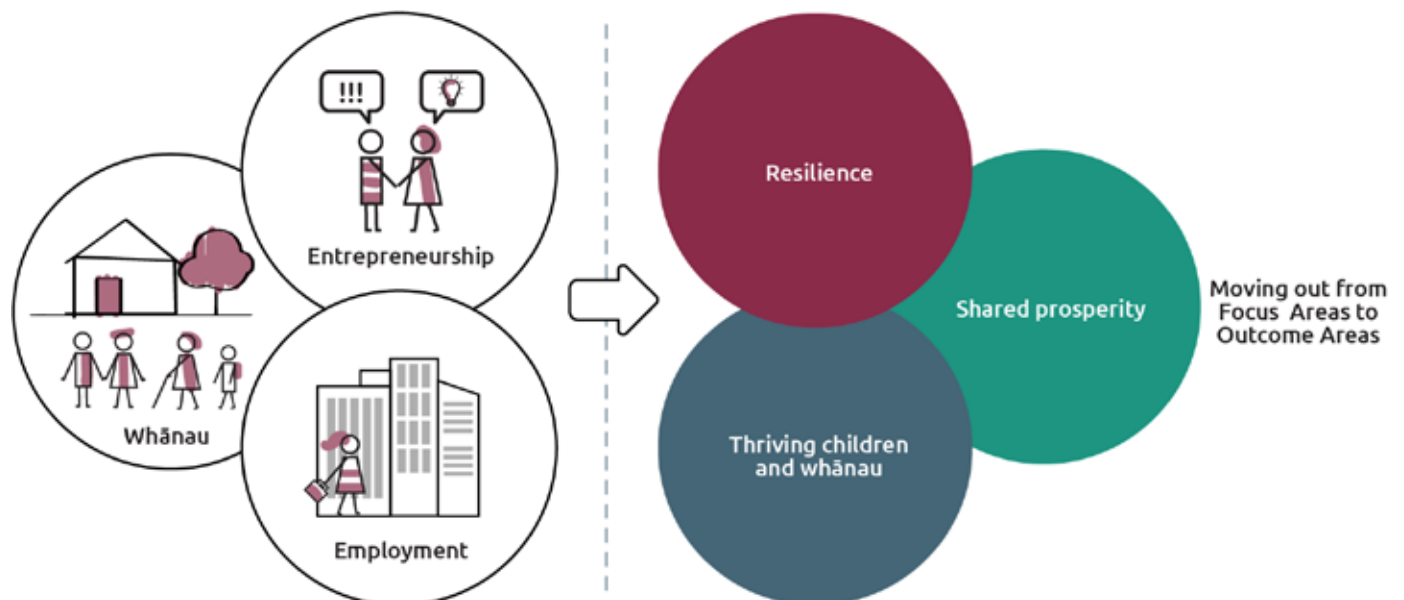
Solutions lie within local communities themselves. Rather than creating more services to ‘fix’ South Auckland, the initiative works with whānau, local social change agents, grassroots entrepreneurs, businesses and agencies to explore, create and test radical and innovative solutions.

To create deep change, TSI has concentrated on improving people’s lives in real time and making change to systems that affect population groups.

How the Auckland Co-design Lab supports The Southern Initiative

The Co-design Lab is an integral part of the project’s innovation capability. It is funded by Auckland Council and sponsored by eight central government departments.

The Lab was established to provide a neutral space to explore the use of co-design and other innovative approaches to address complex social issues.



A key focus is to provide space for multi-agency teams to collaborate, work alongside citizens and to support and broker innovative ideas and solutions.

It also focuses on unlocking people's capability to participate in designing their future, while advocating for system-level change.

Highlights of The Southern Initiative

- Training more than 400 people in pre-apprenticeship construction, infrastructure and allied trades through its Māori and Pasifika Trades Training programme.
- Supporting the business growth and development of more than half a dozen Māori, Pasifika and community-led enterprises.
- Developing sustainable procurement practice, to the point of being recognised as a leader in New Zealand.
- Creating the UPsouth online platform. Here young South Aucklanders can contribute their ideas, in any creative medium, to questions about opportunities and challenges facing South Auckland. It develops and nurtures a network of young people who lead together and support one another's development in a way that is both entrepreneurial and altruistic. Visit the UPsouth website for more information.⁵⁸
- User-centric co-design with families experiencing some of the toughest housing and poverty challenges. This has led to valuable insights and prototypes, designed by the very people who are affected.
- Turning South Auckland into a Maker City and part of the global maker movement. Events include days where locals fix, upcycle and repurpose items. The Fix Stop initiative transforms bikes from the landfill to new. Others have involved young makers in shared projects including Mbots (a way for kids to learn electronics and programming), coding, gaming, virtual reality and 3D printing. Read more on the Maker City website.⁵⁹