

Report by Board Member Richard Northey to Waitemata Local Board Meeting 22 November

I was delighted and honoured to be elected to the Waitemata Local Board on October 8th. This role provides me with very worthwhile challenges and opportunities to help enhance the inner city communities.

I have really appreciated the warm welcome I have received from community members and organisations, my fellow Board Members and other elected representatives and from staff. My thanks for all the advice, support, familiarisation and thorough briefings I have received. Robyn and I sold our home in Onehunga in September, will be leaving there at the end of the year, and moving into an apartment in the Hereford, on the corner of Hereford Street and Hopetoun Street, once it is completed in May. We are keenly looking forward to moving back into central Auckland.

Each Tuesday and quite a number of other days have been taken up with briefings and learning about our roles and issues. On October 17th, as chair of the Auckland Community Housing Trust, I led development of that body's strategic plan to enhance its provision of homes for people with mental illness and others in need, and I am looking forward to utilising my knowledge of housing to help facilitate appropriate responses to the issues of homelessness and secure healthy affordable housing provision.

The 26th October Auckland Conversation on Universal Design provided powerful arguments and evidence for all design to meet the needs of all abilities, ages and cultures and for an Age and Child Friendly City.

On 2nd November I was one of four Waitemata Board Members that participated in the Low Carbon Network that was initiating or sharing innovative ideas for business and community substantially to reduce carbon usage.

On the 4th to 6th November the Viaduct Events Centre hosted the Labour Party's Annual Conference. I took an active part as the Party's Local Government Sector representative on the Labour Party Policy Council and chaired the debate on infrastructure, transport, housing, climate change, environment and local government resolutions as chair of Labour's Infrastructure and Environment Policy Committee. Useful debate and resolutions resulted on integrated transport planning, urban design, betterment levies and other additional sources of local government finance, housing, urban redevelopment and mitigation responses to climate change, many of which may be appropriate to raise or advocate for in my Board role.

I look forward to getting down to work with my Board colleagues and staff.

Richard Northey
8 November 2016