

## Sport and Recreation Community Access Scheme guidelines

### Purpose

The purpose of the Community Access Scheme is to gain access to non-council operated facilities to support increased levels of sport and recreation participation and reduce inequities of access to opportunities. The scheme will support implementation of the Auckland Sport and Recreation Strategic Action Plan.

The aim is to open up access to facilities where there are gaps in the existing network of facilities provided both by council and the sports sector, encourage greater use of existing assets and support multisport/use facilities.

### Context and strategic alignment

- a) The Auckland Plan sets out a single vision to make Auckland the world's most liveable city over the next 30 years, to 2040. The particular priorities in the Auckland Plan that the Community Access Scheme impacts the delivery of are:
  - Provide quality opportunities for all Aucklanders to participate in Sport & Recreation
  - Optimise sport and recreation facilities use
  - Provide social and community infrastructure for present and future generations
  
- b) The Auckland Sport & Recreation Strategic Action Plan (ASARSAP) sets out how the priorities and strategic directions of the Auckland Plan will be put into action. The Community Access Scheme is part of a suite of investment tools that deliver on three (Participation, Infrastructure, Sector Capability) of the four priority areas and key actions of this plan. Specific to the Community Access Scheme is the key priority of:

**Infrastructure:** Access to open spaces, harbours, coastlines, waterways and a fit for purpose network of facilities that enable physical activity, recreation and sport at all levels. The Community Access Scheme will support the key actions to:

  - Improve access to new and existing school sport and recreation assets
  - Promote and prioritise investment into partnership facilities
  - Deliver access to a recreation centre and swimming pool network across Auckland
  - Implement the sport code facility plans
  - Address equity of access to facilities
  
- c) The Te Whai Oranga - Māori Sport & Recreation Plan, developed as an action of the Auckland Sport & Recreation Strategic Action Plan will guide thought-leadership to empower participation in Maori sport and recreation and improve Māori health and well-being.
  
- d) I am Auckland – the Children and Young Peoples Strategic Action Plan outlines Auckland Council's region-wide commitments to children and young people in Auckland. Specific to the Community Access Scheme is the key priority area of:

**Auckland is my playground:** This means: We provide a range of opportunities for sport, recreation, arts and culture, which are easy for children and young people to take up.

- e) Whilst the priorities for funding from the scheme will be set regionally, the increased access will be provided locally. This means the Community Access Scheme will align with Local Board Plans and support delivery on sport and recreation participation priorities from ASARSAP at the local level such as:
- Meet the needs of local diverse communities such as LGBT
  - Providing a range of easily accessible and safe activities for children and young people
  - Encourage active communities and use of active transport methods

## Principles

The following principles will guide decision-making:

- **A focus on outcomes**  
Enabling community access through grants is a means, not an end in itself. We will invest in facility access based on the outcomes for sport and recreation participation and improving equity of access to facilities geographically, to low participant communities, and by opening up opportunities to more sports/recreation activities and supporting facilities to provide community access.
- **Fairness and equity of opportunity**  
The Community Access Scheme grants will enable the reduction of inequities of access, and in turn increase opportunities to participate in sport and recreation.
- **Make the best use of resources**  
We will maximise the recreation and sport benefits for Aucklanders within the resources available, making the best use of every dollar spent to deliver good value and high quality experiences.
- **Be inclusive**  
When making investment decisions we will recognise the recreation and sport preferences of all Aucklanders, taking into account the diverse make-up of our communities including different ethnicities, ages, abilities and socio-economic status.
- **Enabling Māori outcomes and valuing Te Ao Māori**  
The Community Access Scheme will support Auckland Council's commitment to Māori and support positive outcomes for Māori in and through sport and recreation by investing in eligible organisations that help achieve this objective. Mātauranga Māori / Māori knowledge and world views will be respected. We will ensure that we:
  - Engage effectively with Māori to identify investment opportunities to increase access
  - Provide appropriate capacity building support to those invested in to support improved wellbeing through increased Maori participation in sport and recreation

## Scope and eligibility

The Community Access Scheme is primarily targeting regional gaps in sport and recreation facility provision and/or improving equity of access through local solutions. For organisations to be eligible for investment, they must propose a solution to meet an existing or identified need in the Sport Facility Investment Plan and/or Community Facility Network Plan or demonstrate improving equity of community access.

The scheme is complementary to the Regional Grants Programme that provides for grants to regional organisations providing sport and recreation opportunities and investment in strategic partnerships with organisations that coordinate and build the capability of the sector. At the local level, local boards also have the discretion to provide funding support to local sport and recreation providers and facility operations.

### **Who is the scheme targeted at**

The investment will be targeted primarily at facility providers such as community trusts, marae, and schools, tertiary institutes, sports clubs and sports centres. Private sector providers will also be considered in some circumstances. Investment may also be made in regional or national sporting associations where a gap in provision or equity of access issues exists in a code. There may be times when these associations are best placed to distribute the funding to get the most equitable impact from the investment.

### **What we will fund**

Operational investment will be made in facilities to:

- fill a specific gap in sport provision as identified in the Sport Facility Investment Plan by providing funding to increase access to prioritised sport and recreation activities or targeted populations
- improve the use of existing facilities by providing funding to expand community access
- support the start-up phase of multisport facilities by providing a finite and reducing operating subsidy to maximise their use.

### **What we will not fund**

Investment will not be made in facilities for:

- capital works
- access to sports fields and sports field maintenance. The Sports Field Capacity Development Programme identifies gaps in provision and sports field development priorities. Where partnership opportunities exist to fill these gaps there is an opportunity for Council to partner with external providers through providing maintenance services, refurbishments and other support to secure and support access.

### **Prioritisation criteria**

We will prioritise investment where:

- there is a known or identified geographic gap in the provision of council recreation facilities
- the Sport Facility Investment Plan identifies a priority action to respond to current sport facility needs
- new and emerging sports can be accommodated
- there is a potential to address an identified equity of access issue
- barriers to access can be greatly reduced e.g.: cost, cultural, physical, transport
- partnerships with other organisations are leveraged and multi-use of facilities can occur

- outcomes for Maori sport and recreation participation will be improved
- priority outcomes of partners in the sector such as Sport NZ and Aktive Auckland Sport & Recreation can be impacted e.g: participation rates for:
  - young girls (10-18)
  - young people (5-18) in lower socio economic areas
  - Asian people, particularly Indian
  - Pacifika people, particularly Samoan

### **Investment approaches**

The scheme contains two distinct types of investment: direct investment into eligible facilities for a period of time and investment made as a result of targeted expressions of interest to fulfil priority gaps may be one-off or over a period of time.

#### **Direct investment**

Auckland Council will enter into multi-year funding relationships with a small number of identified eligible facility providers including those under legacy agreements (where they continue to be eligible) that best deliver the outcomes of the scheme, align to the principles and address the priority criteria.

#### **Targeted expressions of interest**

On a three yearly basis, expressions of interest may be called to address targeted facility access issues for example in a geographic area, for a type of facility or to increase access to a particular sport and recreation activity or targeted populations. This may result in multi-year funding agreements being put in place to support access or one off grants for a specific purpose.

### **Monitoring and reporting outcomes**

Outcomes achieved through investment via the Community Access Scheme will be monitored through standard Funding Agreements with all organisations. These will contain a regular reporting approach and key performance indicators (KPI's) to measure community access impact. Measures will cover:

- Auckland Plan targets for sport and recreation
- Participation rates of targeted populations
- Māori outcomes for sport and recreation
- Value for money
- Satisfaction levels of customers and/or participants
- Diversity of activity on offer
- Affordability and accessibility

As the outcomes of these partnerships will benefit the local community, local boards will be involved in setting targets and KPI's for organisations invested in.

### **Approval**

Approved by the Parks, Recreation and Sport Committee 20 July 2016  
Resolution number: PAR/2016/49