

Attachment B - Seniors Advisory Panel: Advice to Finance and Planning Committee 21 March 2018

1. This report uses the WHO Age Friendly domains to summarise the Panel’s feedback on the Auckland Plan and 10 year plan. The Panel believes the Age Friendly domains provide a holistic assessment framework.
2. The Seniors Panel held its community engagement forum *Focus on the future* on Friday 16 March. The forum was attended by over 90 seniors from across the region representing over 50 organisations. Invites targeted a wide range of ethnicities and seniors who are not always included in engagement processes. Speakers included HW the Mayor, the Minister for Seniors, kaumatua, the Office for Seniors and futurist thinkers.

The following areas were identified as the top 5 priorities by participants:

- 1 Housing
- 2 Respect and social inclusion
- 3 Transport
- 4 Outdoor space and building; and Social participation.

Housing and transport are predominant concerns, however social isolation and investment in services, facilities, and solutions which enable fairness and equity, social participation and inclusion are of very high importance. In other words the focus should be as much on people as on infrastructure. The Panel has incorporated the priorities from the Forum in this feedback.

3. Specific feedback on themes

Panel Priorities and comments	Response to AP/10YB
Transportation (= Transport and access)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fuel tax supported in order to invest in public transport • Transport infrastructure to include real accessibility for people, including: sufficient mobility parks at park and ride points; adequate and suitable seating in waiting areas; toilets at stations and on trains; adequate shelter at train stations and bus stops; adequate bicycle parks • More creative future-focussed transport solutions given the speed of change in electric and self-drive solutions likely to occur prior to 2030. Could include flexible local shuttles Uber style • Older people more likely to use public transport when they feel safe – removal of train supervisors therefore a concern 	<p>Investment in transport is welcomed Investment seems to be in hard rather than people focussed infrastructure</p> <p>Transport solutions not sufficiently future focussed or creative</p>
Housing (= Homes and buildings)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support introduction of intergenerational and mixed housing solutions as these address many other social needs. There are many excellent overseas examples and some in Auckland already. • Support exploring different ownership models • Adapting existing family homes to become intergenerational, accessible and able to house more people should be encouraged, however regulatory barriers make this very hard • Enforce and incentivise developers to apply the Universal Design Manual 	<p>Emphasis in Auckland Plan is supported, however suggest different emphasis and more innovative responses required</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council should facilitate an increase in the number of suitable pensioner housing units (currently 1400 units) to address waiting lists and growth 	
Environment and cultural heritage	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support targeted rates for clean water, harbours etc • Support option b to address kauri dieback and other environmental protection • Plastic is a major concern. Council should work towards limiting use of plastics across the region, especially plastic bags • Limited mention of heritage or protection of cultural heritage 	<p>Environmental priorities are supported. Suggest greater focus on removal of plastics from Auckland's environment Protect Ihumatao</p>
Social participation (= Belonging and participation, and Maori identity and wellbeing).	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need for more community spaces/hubs where people can meet easily and low cost; maximise existing spaces eg in libraries, as well as growing the number and range available. • Opportunity to support development and improvement of marae as significant community facilities / meeting places • Ensuring that community venues are truly accessible including parking and public transport – Ellen Melville as an example of a facility that is not accessible for many seniors. • Addressing these needs helps address social isolation 	<p>Not addressed and needs more attention in Auckland Plan and 10 Year Budget, especially related to growth</p>
Respect and social inclusion (= Belonging and participation; Maori identity and wellbeing)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Growing problem of loneliness, social isolation and loss of connection is a high priority to be addressed. Improved focus on social participation will assist with this. • Community and street signage should be improved to help people connect, know what is available and find their way around, especially newcomers to Auckland • Importance of affordability as key to inclusion • NZ Herald article 19 March 2018 	<p>Auckland Plan/10 year budget is silent on this need which is likely to worsen in the period to 2030.</p>
Community support and health services (= Belonging and participation, and Maori identity and wellbeing).	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthy environment, good housing and equitable solutions are an important factor • Council could partner with DHB's more to achieve shared outcomes 	<p>Limited mention of partnerships to achieve wider community outcomes</p>
Outdoor spaces and buildings (= Homes and places)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Panel wishes to emphasise the importance of outdoor green spaces in relation to growth, as existing spaces are potentially impacted by housing developments, and to compensate for the lack of outdoor spaces in intensive housing developments 	<p>Suggest more attention to need for more urban green spaces and maintenance of existing outdoor spaces</p>
Communication and information (= Opportunity and prosperity)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council and other agencies could make better use of different media to reach different ethnic communities, eg Chinese TV, to reach more citizens and keep them informed. This helps engagement and reduces social isolation. 	
Civic participation and engagement (= Opportunity and	

prosperity)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prescriptive engagement approach used by Council limits creative responses. • More creative culture-specific engagement activities should be encouraged • Concern that seniors are not visible in the Auckland Plan or 10 year budget – creates a sense that seniors are not valued 	
Other	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rates rebates will be increasingly crucial. These should be publicised more and easier to access, including that there is no shame involved • Suggest that Central government (Office for Seniors) should be asked to review Rates rebate eligibility criteria, especially noting that superannuation does not increase proportionately to rates 	Support rates increases, however concern re equity and ability to pay

4. Conclusion

The Seniors Advisory Panel believes that Auckland Council should become an Age Friendly City, on the basis that age friendly is inclusive and beneficial for everyone.

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21 March 2018