

Additional feedback

To: Nancy Chu, Principal Policy Analyst
Paul Marriot-Lloyd, Senior Policy Manager

From: Lotu Fuli – Chair, Ōtara-Papatoetoe Local Board

Date: 5 April 2019

Subject: Ōtara-Papatoetoe Local Board’s additional feedback on the Draft Increasing Aucklanders’ participation in sport: Investment Plan 2019-2039

1. At the March meeting of our local board, we endorsed the draft Increasing Aucklanders’ participation in sport: Investment Plan 2019-2039 and undertook to give some additional feedback.

Resolution number OP/2019/1

That the Ōtara-Papatoetoe Local Board:

- a) **support in principle the draft *Increasing Aucklanders’ participation in sport: Investment Plan 2019-2039*, subject to additional feedback to be delegated to Chairperson L Fuli to approve and submit by the end of March 2019.**

2. We welcome the intention of the plan to target communities of greatest need, address disparities and deliver a broad range of programmes, services and facilities that respond to the diverse needs of Auckland’s communities.
3. Ōtara-Papatoetoe Local Board is home to some of Auckland’s communities of greatest need and a relatively young population. Having diverse communities means we have diverse needs to cater to however investment in sports facilities has not been equitable to date. The southern board areas, including Ōtara-Papatoetoe, contain 75% of Auckland’s youth population.
4. We have given our support to the plan but the intention of our additional feedback is to remind the Governing Body and officers about the real challenges on the ground that this plan must address when it enters implementation phase. A plan that seeks to address inequity and increase participation of residents must not ignore the kind of sports that our residents participate in. Investment must not be prioritised only towards mainstream sports.
5. In Ōtara-Papatoetoe Local Board and the broader South Auckland, other sports that must be considered for investment include as kilikiti, kabaddi, tag, and touch. Our local board is of the view that if we continue to channel more investment into ‘mainstream’ sports and not support ‘diverse’ sports, our residents’ participation rates will remain low.
6. In previous and ongoing conversations with staff, we have identified some challenges and opportunities that we hope this plan will start to address. I want to reiterate these for your perusal:

Opportunities

7. Ōtara-Papatoetoe is great at producing natural sporting talent. It is the birthplace of some of New Zealand’s top sportsmen and women, including All Blacks and Olympians. Despite this, the

area lacks the premium facilities needed to nurture these high performance sportsmen and women.

8. The board sees significant opportunities to optimise its sports facilities assets and is open to discussions about how to repurpose or dispose of poor-performing sports facilities and reinvest proceeds in local facilities. We are keen improve and enable local facilities to cater to the needs of our community.
9. We have parks facilities with untapped potential that are ripe for investment. These facilities can be developed for the benefit of the rest of South Auckland. e.g.
 - Manukau Sports Bowl – we have a large park in located beside State Highway 1 in Manukau and on a direct route to the airport. This park is near many communities (including Pacific Island communities) with huge talent potential in sports. We are currently developing a masterplan for the park and would invite regional input and investment. This park is large enough to host multiple sporting facilities eg an athletics facility/track, swimming pool etc

Challenges & community aspirations

10. High deprivation presents many barriers including to participation in sports. We know members of our community are not able to travel to and access facilities outside of South Auckland. However, Council has had some challenges advocating for and responding to these local needs.
11. For instance, our residents told us that they want an athletics track and athletics fields for sports such as javelin. A new athletics club came forward and has started working in one of our local parks even though the facilities are not fit for purpose. The athletes being trained here regularly win Gold, Silver and Bronze medals at local, regional and national competitions so we are very supportive of providing for this on our local park.
12. However, the advice we received from Council staff is that there is **no 'need'** for athletics facilities in our area because there are facilities in Mt Smart, Papakura or Pukekohe. This advice ignores the fact that for our communities, the distance and cost involved in getting to these other local board areas is a real barrier. Very few of our local board residents travel outside of our board area to participate in athletics. Some residents who live in Ōtara do not even travel to nearby Papatoetoe because even that distance and the cost is still a barrier for some. Taking an equity approach has to take into account the local circumstances of residents as well as the provision of assets on an equal basis across the region.
13. Existing facilities are struggling. For instance:
 - Kolmar multisport facility and Rongomai Park (a hub for local rugby) are both in need of financial and governance support.
 - The poor quality outdoor playing surfaces at Rongomai Park, Kolmar, and Murdoch Park
 - Some of our local parks were built on remediated land (e.g. quarries, landfill etc.) which performs poorly in wet weather. A trend towards wetter weather (linked to climate change) means that these facilities are being closed more often, meaning matches are having to be cancelled. This is interfering with regional sporting competitions and poses a risk to the future viability of rugby clubs operating at these grounds. The solution is seen as installation of artificial pitches, or sand-carpeting.
14. There is no Olympic length swimming pool in our local board area – schools from surrounding areas in South Auckland come to Papatoetoe pools because it is the closest thing to an Olympic length pool. We would volunteer