

Memorandum

21 May 2018

To: Planning Committee, Auckland Council

cc: Kalinda Gopal, Senior Governance Advisor
Nina Siers, Relationship Manager Franklin Local Board
Bonnie-May Shantz, Principal Strategic Adviser
Claes Sandstrom, Senior Policy Advisor

Subject: Franklin Local Board - Submission to be attached to the Auckland Council submission on the Local Government Act Amendment Bill 2018

From: Angela Fulljames, Chair, Franklin Local Board

Purpose

- To:
 - Provide the perspective of Franklin Local Board supplementary to the Auckland Council submission on the Local Government Act (Community Well-being) Amendment Bill 2018.

Summary

- The Franklin Local Board supports changes to the Local Government Act that will enable Council to develop new or enhanced local community amenity prompted by growth and that enables the procurement of local services locally.
- The Franklin Local Board are concerned that in amending the local government role to be to promote the social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of communities, the potential for duplication in the leadership and delivery of well-being initiatives is increased.

Context/Background

- The Franklin Local Board area, on Auckland's south and east extremity is currently experiencing significant increases in population. This growth is anticipated to continue over the next 10 years, dramatically increasing demand on existing and requiring development of new services and facilities.
- The Franklin Local Board have anticipated this demand within the Franklin Local Board plan 2017-2020, prioritising the need to build a local economy/local jobs and respond to growth by advocating for and investing in new and justified quality of life amenity.
- The amendments to the Local Government Act propose restoring the purpose of local government to be to promote the social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of communities.
- The consequence of the amendment is intended to restore territorial authorities' power to collect development contributions for any public amenities needed as a consequence of development.
- A further consequence of the amendment is that "buy local first" procurement policies can be pursued by Local Government i.e. that Local Government will no longer be restricted to procurement policies that prioritise price over social or local economic development or social outcome.

Comment

6. The Franklin Local Board agrees;
 - i. with the reintroduction of territorial authorities' power to collect development contributions for any public amenities needed as a consequence of development such as libraries, swimming pools and sports grounds where these amenities are justified.
 - ii. with technical changes that allow for development contributions to be collected on initiatives that receive New Zealand Transport Agency advanced funding where this does not impede the delivery of transport enhancements.
 - iii. with the principle of broadening the definition of community infrastructure in section 197 of the Act and considers this the appropriate time to reflect on the resilience of this definition for the future. (e.g. community infrastructure definition to include)
 - a. community infrastructure (that can be capitalised) but are not land-based (i.e. digital web-based library services and pop-up transportable facilities)
 - b. to include community assets that are developed in partnership a third party to deliver long-term public amenities.
7. The Franklin Local Board does not agree that a wholesale change in purpose is required to affect these outcomes i.e. that in changing the approach from "are we allowed to do this" to "should be do this" the scope of Local Government responsibility becomes too broad and creates potential for inefficiency and duplication.
8. The Franklin Local Board is concerned that by assigning responsibility for the promotion of the four well-beings to Council, Local Boards will experience increased pressure from local social service agencies to support social well-being outcomes without commensurate budget.
9. The Franklin Local Board suggests that the flexibility to plan for and manage development and demand on local amenity could be achieved by requiring investment to be "justifiable". In doing so, the "how we do this" can be developed according to local need and priority e.g. procurement policies that support local economic development or application of developer contributions to community facilities not otherwise available.