

# Sport and Recreation Facilities Investment Fund

## Guidelines

### About the fund

The Sport and Recreation Facilities Investment Fund was established to support the development of sport and recreation facilities to increase the number of Aucklanders who participate in and benefit from sport and recreation. *Aucklanders more active more often.*

The Long-term Plan 2018-2028 allocated \$120 million to the Sport and Recreation Facilities Investment Fund over the next ten years. The fund will allow Auckland Council to proactively invest in changing sport and recreation preferences and deliver value for money by leveraging external investment.

The fund will support new and existing facilities that address an identified gap in provision and provide fit for purpose facilities. The fund will focus on community sport and recreation provision, that delivers the best outcomes for Aucklanders and ensures that the best possible value for investment is achieved. The fund will support the development of regional and sub-regional facilities and address the shortfall in facilities.

### Outcomes from Councils Sport and Recreation Investment

*Increasing Aucklanders' Participation in Sport: Investment Plan 2019-2039*, sets out Council's approach to investment in sports facilities, programmes and services for Aucklanders.

The Sport and Recreation Facilities Investment Fund seeks to increase the level of community sport and recreation participation in Auckland.

The participation outcome directly aligns with the Auckland Sport and Recreation Strategic Action Plan 2014-2024 to enable 'more Aucklanders living physically active lives through participation in informal physical activity, recreation and sport.'

The fund will target participation in three areas: (as identified in the Sports Investment Plan)	
<b>1</b>	Enabling participation of low-participant communities
<b>2</b>	Increasing participation in emerging sports with high growth potential
<b>3</b>	Sustaining or increasing participation in high participation sports

## Available Funding

Council invests a significant amount into sport and recreation. Council uses several mechanisms to invest in sport and recreation; the provision and management of sport facilities and programmes, use of Council land and buildings, direct financial contribution for capital and/or operating costs and through partnering investments and grants.

The Long-term Plan 2018-2028 has allocated \$120 million to the Sport and Recreation Facilities Investment Fund over the next ten years. The next four years allocation - \$7 million in 2019/2020, \$7 million in 2020/2021, \$13.4 million in 2021/2022 and \$13.6 million in 2022/2023.

By partnering with community groups and leveraging other community investment more of the facilities that Auckland needs will be available faster and more effectively. Proposals for facilities targeting the Fund as well as LDIs could consider the Facility Partnerships Policy process.

### Who might develop a proposal?

- Community organisations with a formal legal structure eg. Sports clubs
- National or Regional Sport and Recreation organisations
- Schools
- Commercial entities may apply for grants in certain circumstances

Eligibility for the Sport and Recreation Facilities Investment Fund will be guided by the Community Grant Policy Guidelines.

<https://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/community-grants-policy-guidelines.pdf>

Project applications involving partnerships between groups and leveraging other community investment is encouraged.

The fund will prioritise significant facility developments over \$500,000.

Council funding for smaller facility projects should seek funding through the Local Board Local Discretionary Initiatives (LDI) Capital Funds.

Council funding for regional programmes and services is available through the Regional Sport and Recreation Grants Programme.

Council funding for local sport and recreation programmes and services is available through the Local Boards Grant Programme.

## What can be funded?

The primary focus for the fund is community sport and recreation facilities. The intention is to ensure Auckland Council investment provides for the greatest number of people possible and meets the changing needs of the community. Investment will:

- Provide a basic level of provision of fit-for-purpose sport and recreation facilities to support community sport and recreation.
- Prioritise investment in core infrastructure and ancillary infrastructure required for safe and sanitary public access.
- Not prioritise investment in sport and recreation facilities that are already funded or incidental infrastructure that delivers private benefits to small groups of users. Exceptions will be made if applicants can demonstrate increased sport participation or increased use of a core facility.

The fund will prioritise investment in facility development but may consider operational funded related to facilities where a significant increase in participation can be demonstrated.

Funding allocations can be made towards feasibility, planning, design and development stages of a project.

## Definitions:

Core Infrastructure (courts, fields, playing surfaces/structures, and lighting) that is central to sport and recreation participation

Ancillary infrastructure (toilets, changing rooms, equipment storage and carparking) that enables safe and sanitary access for participants and spectators.

Incidental infrastructure (such as clubrooms and administration facilities) that is not required for sports participation but exist for social and management purposes

## Assessment Approach

*The Assessment approach will be guided by a number of complementary processes and documents.*

*The Sport and Recreation Strategic Action Plan*

<https://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/sport-recreation-strategic-action-plan.pdf>

*Increasing Aucklanders' Participation in Sport: Investment Plan 2019-2039*

<https://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/draft-sports-investment-plan.PDF>

*The Auckland Sport Sector: Facilities Priorities Plan – a sector-based plan to help inform and shape sports code plans and future sport facilities investment in Auckland.*

<https://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/sport-sector-facility-priorities-plan>

*Facilities Partnership Policy – outlines Councils rationale for entering partnerships and the approach to selecting, shaping and supporting them, it enables informed and strategic decisions about shared investment in facilities.*

<https://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/facility-partnerships-policy>

The proposal and assessment approach will ensure all investment is evidence based and focused on outcome delivery and good practice.

The first stage involves community groups introducing the proposal on a one-page 'Canvas'. This outline is discussed with council staff and updated.

The one page 'Canvas' includes:

- A. Need/Opportunity
- B. Inputs, Outputs
- C. Intermediate and long-term outcomes
- D. Composition of partnership, nature of entity
- E. Funding projected
- F. Partner willing and able to deliver

Those proposals that have sufficient information are encouraged to develop a more detailed Proposal Template (Stage 2).

When Council initiates input from community groups through an Expression of Interest, proposals are sought directly in this more detailed format.

The Proposal Template covers:

- Strategic Alignment
- Links to code plans, and Local Board Plans
- Benefits and Outcomes
- Facility ownership and prospective partners and other groups
- High level Return on Investment analysis
- Achievability – estimated project costs

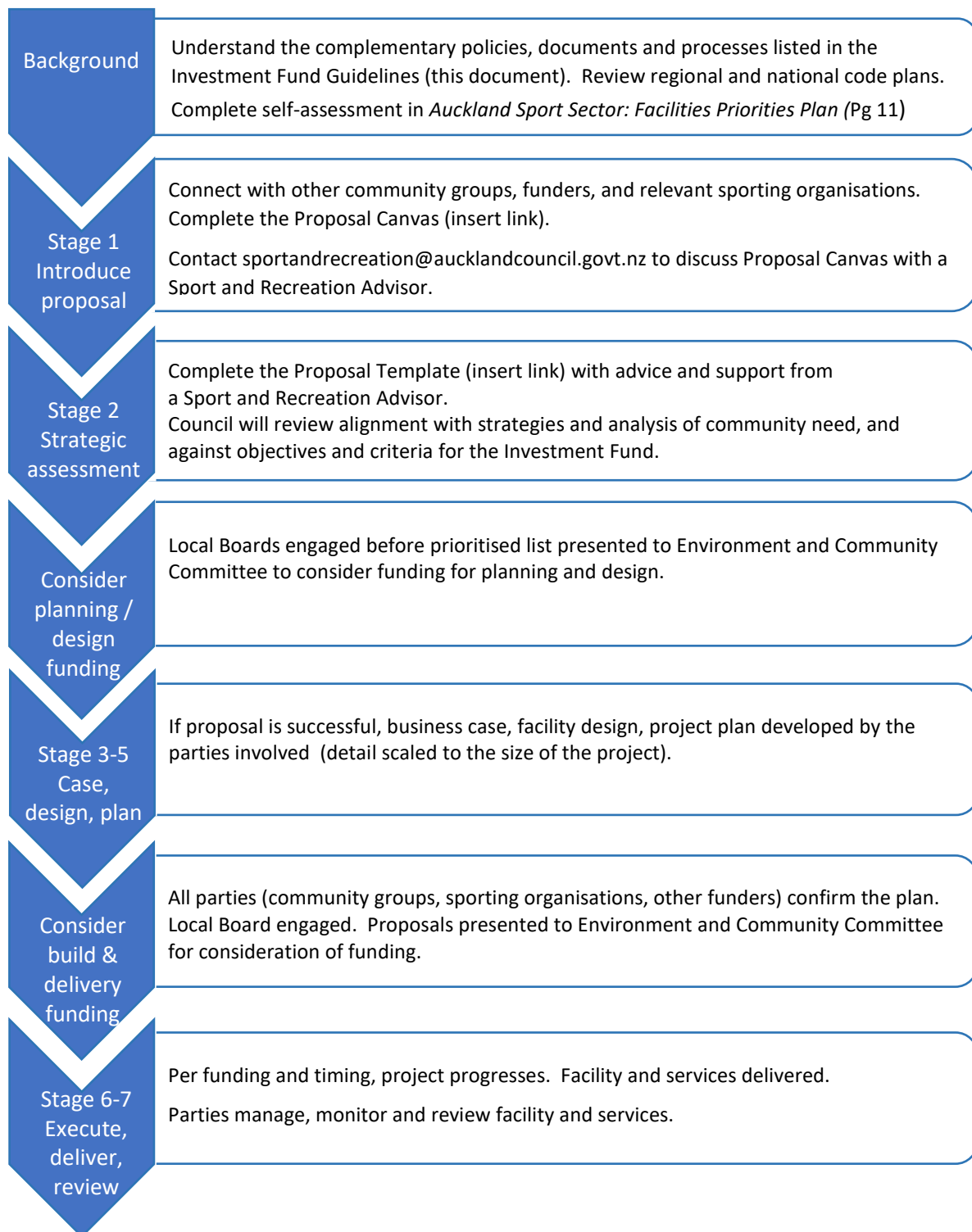
The Investment Principles outlined in *Increasing Aucklanders' Participation in Sport: Investment Plan 2019-2039*, will assist to prioritise across investment proposals.

- Equity (40% of assessment): ensure equity of outcomes across the population regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, socio-economic status or location.
- Outcome-focused (30% of assessment): needs to be a clear 'line of sight' between the investment and the outcomes it delivers.
- Financial sustainability (20% of assessment): projects need to be financially sustainable
- Accountability (10% of assessment): investment needs to be in the best interests of Aucklanders.

The breadth and depth of information required for the planning and design stage will be proportional to the overall level of council investment (fund, land and other inputs).

For low-level low-complexity investments, a scale-down approach will be taken. As the value and risk profile increases, investment decisions need to be informed by more comprehensive analysis. The Facility Partnership Policy p23 indicates the criteria.

## How to develop a proposal<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup> Stages: Refer to the stages in the proposal development lifecycle p14 of the Facility Partnership Policy. All proposals, whether partnerships or not, follow a similar process.