Henderson-Massey Local Board

OPEN MINUTE ITEM ATTACHMENTS

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Chris Carter - Chair’s Report for May 2020

Nga mihi nui ki a koutou

The country has weathered well, so far, the health risks associated with the COVID 19 global pandemic. However, the economic impact, despite unprecedented levels of support from central Government, is already serious.

Rising unemployment, small business closures, reduction in hours or pay for many workers and, the suspension of both international tourism and international students, are having a huge impact on our economy. Local, as well as central government, is facing significant financial downturn as revenue from services decline. This will inevitably impact on other activities and facilities provided by Auckland City Council, including our Local Board services.

Our Local Board is undergoing an exercise at present on how this loss of revenue could impact on the levels of support we can provide in the Henderson Massey Local Board area. Local Board members are aware that the support we provide in our local area is important for many of our community partners. These partners currently provide a huge range of local support services including environmental, sporting, social care and cultural services. For many of these community groups the relatively small amounts of financial support provided by the Henderson-Massey Local Board are critical for their continued operations and events.

The Henderson-Massey area has significant pockets of high needs compared to other parts of Auckland and continued support for our community partners and community initiatives is critical for supporting recovery and wellbeing through the Covid crisis.

In addition to the support given to community partners, the Local Board is also responsible for Auckland Council facilities located in the Henderson-Massey Local Board area. Deferring maintenance of community facilities must be treated with caution as it can magnify problems and increase costs in the long term. For example, West Wave Recreation Centre in Henderson, containing the only pool serving the wider West Auckland area, requires substantial investment to be kept to a minimum standard. Deferring capital spending would balloon costs and risk closure at worst.

The Government has announced a massive stimulus fund to invest in infrastructure projects that are potentially ready to start. The Henderson Massey Local Board was asked by Auckland Council to nominate some potential “shovel ready” projects in our local area.

We put forward the completion of the Te Whau Pathway, a cycle and walking track linking Te Atatu and New Lynn, the expansion of patient services at Waitakere Hospital and completion of the North-western Busway located on the North-western motorway as our priorities. The Te Whau Pathway and the North-western Busway made the final Auckland City Council list referred on to central Government for consideration.

The upgrade of Waitakere Hospital is still under negotiation between the Waitemata District Health Board and the Ministry of Health.
The Henderson-Massey Local Board has continued to operate weekly with our scheduled workshop and business meetings. Local Board members have been active in working on a range of issues relating to COVID 19 response as well as the usual liaison and advocacy work on behalf of community partners.

I want to thank Local Board members and Local Board staff for the work they have been doing despite the operational challenges presented by working from home.

Naku noa na

Chris Carter
Chairman
Henderson-Massey Local Board