

I hereby give notice that an ordinary meeting of the Albert-Eden Local Board will be held on:

**Date:** Thursday, 13 June 2024  
**Time:** 10.00am  
**Meeting Room:** Albert-Eden Local Board Office  
**Venue:** 114 Dominion Road  
Mt Eden

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## Albert-Eden Local Board

### OPEN AGENDA

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#### MEMBERSHIP

|                           |                     |
|---------------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Chairperson</b>        | Kendyl Smith        |
| <b>Deputy Chairperson</b> | Margi Watson        |
| <b>Members</b>            | José Fowler         |
|                           | Julia Maskill       |
|                           | Christina Robertson |
|                           | Liv Roe             |
|                           | Rex Smith           |
|                           | Jack Tan            |

(Quorum 4 members)

**Michael Mendoza - Democracy Advisor**

**6 June 2024**

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**1 Nau mai | Welcome**

**2 Ngā Tamōtanga | Apologies**

At the close of the agenda no apologies had been received.

**3 Te Whakapuaki i te Whai Pānga | Declaration of Interest**

Members are reminded of the need to be vigilant to stand aside from decision making when a conflict arises between their role as a member and any private or other external interest they might have.

**4 Te Whakaū i ngā Āmiki | Confirmation of Minutes**

That the Albert-Eden Local Board:

- a) whakaū / confirm the minutes of its ordinary meeting held on Thursday, 23 May 2024, including the confidential section, as true and correct.

**5 He Tamōtanga Motuhake | Leave of Absence**

At the close of the agenda no requests for leave of absence had been received.

**6 Te Mihi | Acknowledgements**

At the close of the agenda no requests for acknowledgements had been received.

**7 Ngā Petihana | Petitions**

At the close of the agenda no requests to present petitions had been received.

**8 Ngā Tono Whakaaturanga | Deputations**

Standing Order 7.7 provides for deputations. Those applying for deputations are required to give seven working days notice of subject matter and applications are approved by the Chairperson of the Albert-Eden Local Board. This means that details relating to deputations can be included in the published agenda. Total speaking time per deputation is ten minutes or as resolved by the meeting.

At the close of the agenda no requests for deputations had been received.

**9 Te Matapaki Tūmatanui | Public Forum**

A period of time (approximately 30 minutes) is set aside for members of the public to address the meeting on matters within its delegated authority. A maximum of three minutes per speaker is allowed, following which there may be questions from members.

At the close of the agenda no requests for public forum had been received.

## 10 Ngā Pakihi Autaia | Extraordinary Business

Section 46A(7) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (as amended) states:

“An item that is not on the agenda for a meeting may be dealt with at that meeting if-

- (a) The local authority by resolution so decides; and
- (b) The presiding member explains at the meeting, at a time when it is open to the public,-
  - (i) The reason why the item is not on the agenda; and
  - (ii) The reason why the discussion of the item cannot be delayed until a subsequent meeting.”

Section 46A(7A) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (as amended) states:

“Where an item is not on the agenda for a meeting,-

- (a) That item may be discussed at that meeting if-
  - (i) That item is a minor matter relating to the general business of the local authority; and
  - (ii) the presiding member explains at the beginning of the meeting, at a time when it is open to the public, that the item will be discussed at the meeting; but
- (b) no resolution, decision or recommendation may be made in respect of that item except to refer that item to a subsequent meeting of the local authority for further discussion.”

## Options for voting methods in local elections

File No.: CP2024/06159

### Te take mō te pūrongo

#### Purpose of the report

1. To receive feedback from local boards on a range of voting method options following the Governing Body's 27 April 2023 decision asking staff to investigate options of postal, booth or a combination voting method for the 2025 elections.

### Whakarāpopototanga matua

#### Executive summary

2. Postal voting is the current voting method for Auckland Council elections.
3. Following the review of the 2022 elections, several short and long-term issues were identified. These include:
  - some eligible voters not receiving voting documents
  - few special voting centres
  - general consequences of a declining postal service
  - general decline in voter turnout.
4. In March 2023 local boards were asked for their feedback on whether council should move from a 'postal only' voting method to a 'combination' (postal and booth) voting method. (Attachment A)
  - 14 supported combination voting (postal, with booth on election day).
  - One supported postal and online voting.
  - One supported online voting, and booth voting on election day.
  - One supported retaining postal only.
  - Four did not provide feedback on this issue.
5. In April 2023 the Governing Body supported staff to investigate options of postal, booth or a combination method of voting for the 2025 election. The council can change its voting method through resolution.
6. Local boards are being consulted on this topic again, as the option for a booth only voting method is now also under consideration.
7. Staff are investigating the feasibility of five options:
  - Option One - postal voting with limited special voting centres (status quo)
  - Option Two - postal voting with more special voting centres (status quo plus)
  - Option Three - booth voting
  - Option Four - combination voting (postal, with booth on election day only)
  - Option Five - combination voting (booth and postal).
8. The management of postal voting is relatively straightforward. The short-term issues identified at the 2022 election can be remedied through the addition of more special voting centres on election day (status quo plus option).

9. The management of booth voting is more complex and comes with risks and higher costs. The organisation will need to build capacity to manage a booth voting election with up to 630 voting places, and to hire and train up to 3000 temporary staff.
10. Booth voting has not been used in local elections since 1992 and the current booth voting regulations have not been tested since that time. No recent policy work has been done to determine if any amendments to the regulations are necessary to ensure their workability in the modern context. The Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) has stated it may be challenging for policy work to be completed and ready for the 2025 local elections.
11. A combination method will be costly (estimated between \$10.7-\$17.1 million) with the separate costs for postal and booth operations. Additionally, the close of voting on election day for postal is 12 noon, and 7pm for booth. This could lead to the confusion and frustration of voters.
12. Staff recommend that the postal voting method should be retained, with an increase of special voting centres to avoid queues on election day (status quo plus option).

## Ngā tūtohunga Recommendation/s

That the Albert-Eden Local Board:

- a) whakarite / provide feedback on their preferred voting method provided in this report and on the staff recommendation for the status quo plus option.

## Horopaki Context

13. Auckland Council appoints an Electoral Officer to conduct its elections for mayor, councillors and local board members. The Electoral Officer also conducts the elections for five licensing trusts.
14. The Chief Executive is responsible to the council for “facilitating and fostering representative and substantial elector participation in elections and polls held under the Local Electoral Act 2001”. For this reason, a small team of seconded, fixed term and sometimes volunteer staff work alongside the Electoral Officer to ensure all eligible voters are well informed and motivated to vote and that voters have a diverse range of candidates to choose from.
15. The Governing Body can make decisions about specified matters relating to elections, including the voting method.
16. The Local Electoral Act 2001 allows a council, through resolution, to change the voting method of its elections. The authorised methods are:
  - postal voting (current method)
  - booth voting
  - a combination method.
17. Attachment B provides details of the different methods of voting. Attachment C provides three flow charts outlining how voters would interact with each of the three distinct voting processes (postal, booth and combination) and how each process interacts with the others.
18. Online voting is not an option within the Local Electoral Act 2001. The Governing Body has not previously considered a change from postal voting.
19. Voter turnout has declined from 59 per cent at the first Auckland City Council postal method election (1986), down to 35.5 per cent at the 2022 Auckland Council election. Although Auckland Council’s result was up 0.3 per cent from the 2019 election it still does not compare favourably with other parts of New Zealand. The average voter turnout at the 2022 elections across local governments was 42 per cent.



20. An evaluation of the Auckland Council 2022 elections was provided to the Governing Body in April 2023 (Attachment D). This review outlined several short and long-term issues with the postal voting method from Auckland voters including:
  - some voters not receiving voting documents. This is largely because the Electoral Commission have difficulties getting eligible voters to enrol or update their enrolment information when they shift to another residential location. This information needs to be up to date so that eligible voters can receive their voting pack in the mail.
  - the need to travel far for a special voting centre
  - having to queuing at a special voting centre on election day
  - the challenge of voting paper security.
21. Long-term issues were also identified, including:
  - the declining and costly postal service
  - the general decline in voter turnout.
22. One of the options in the 2022 evaluation is to consider moving from postal voting to a combination method (postal and booth) at the 2025 election, whereby booths are staffed on election day and do not close until 7pm. Postal voting would be available as has been past practice, closing at 12 noon on election day. Including this option, staff are investigating the feasibility of five options:
  - Option One - postal voting only (status quo)
  - Option Two - postal voting with more special voting centres ('status quo plus')
  - Option Three - booth voting only
  - Option Four - combination voting (postal, with booth on election day only)
  - Option Five - combination voting (booth and postal).
23. The Department of Internal Affairs (DIA), in their 2023 Briefing to the Incoming Minister, has signalled changes to current voting method regulations. They describe the need to modernise a system that 'relies heavily on traditional postal services and has not kept up with many improvements to parliamentary election processes.' DIA believe these changes might happen in time for the 2028 elections.
24. This report provides a staff recommendation that responds to the short-term issues described above and outlines current risks with options that respond to the long-term issues.

## Tātaritanga me ngā tohutohu Analysis and advice

### ***Option One – Status quo – postal voting with limited special voting centres***

25. Postal voting is used in every council in New Zealand and is widely supported by Electoral Officers across local governments who are a mixture of both independent and council staff. It is relatively cost effective, and a system known to those who are involved so there is a high probability of achieving a clear and defensible election result.
26. It does have some problems however which are contained in Attachment D and noted above which has led to improvements being made in recent years such as the provision of special voting centres.
27. To overcome people not receiving their voting papers, special voting centres have been used to ensure eligible voters can cast a vote during the electoral period.

28. At the 2022 election the eight special voting centres had lines out the door, with some voters queuing on the last hours of the last day.
29. New Zealand Post have previously advised that postage costs will rise in the order of 30 per cent per annum meaning that the estimate of the 2025 election costs of postage is likely to be around 100 per cent more than the 2022 elections, with mailer printing set to increase by 25 per cent over the same period.

**Option Two – Status quo plus – postal voting with more special voting centres**

30. Despite its drawbacks, postal voting is a straightforward and relatively cost-effective method for Auckland Council to administer and has a high likelihood of a clear and defensible election result, compared to booth only voting. A postal voting election, with increased special voting centres would provide a short-term response to some of the issues from the 2022 election. An increase in the number of special voting places (minimum one per local board area) will reduce travel and wait times and ensure those who do not receive or lose their voting documents can easily vote.

**Option Three - Booth voting**

31. The main perceived benefit to Auckland Council running booth voting for the next election is that it would be similar to Parliamentary elections which is something that voters are very used to and attracts nationwide media coverage. Booth voting also would overcome the issue of a declining postal service and address perceptions about postal ballots being stolen and/or misused.
32. There are some drawbacks however:
  - Booth voting has no provision for voters outside of Auckland. Currently, the Local Electoral Regulations 2001 do not give voters who are overseas and outside of Auckland voters an option to return their vote electronically. DIA has stated that they have started early policy work to allow the return of votes electronically for overseas voters but if any changes are made, they may not be ready for the 2025 local elections.
  - To be comparable to a booth voting experience provided by the Electoral Commission for Parliamentary elections, up to 3000 temporary staff would need to be hired and up to 630 voting places would need to be managed over the voting period. This resource has not been budgeted for. The capacity and capability of the organisation to manage this large undertaking is a risk. The financial and reputational cost to re-run a booth voting election is extremely high.
  - Auckland Council and Independent Election Services (our contracted service provider) have not run a booth voting election before.
  - Voter turnout might be impacted. Dale Ofsoske, the Auckland Council Electoral Officer, suggests there could be up to a 10 per cent decrease in voter turnout. This is based on the last booth voting election undertaken by a local authority in New Zealand, where Hutt City Council adopted booth voting for their 1992 election and achieved a 26 per cent turnout compared to the previous postal voting election where a 45 per cent turnout was achieved. Although there may be other circumstances relating to that case, it is worth bearing in mind that a shift of this nature has risks.
  - Time taken to cast a vote is not conducive to booth voting. Voters in a general election have to make only two choices; one for an electorate vote and one party vote. This is in contrast to the number of choices for an Auckland local election where a mayor, councillor, up to nine local board members and five licensing trusts are decided. The regulations state that candidate profiles must be provided when a voting document is issued. The time it will take for voters to review candidate profiles and make their decision could cause long wait times at polling places. This was evidenced at special voting places in 2022.

### **Options Four and Five - Combination postal and booth voting**

33. The benefits of a combination method, of postal and booth voting, are that these options overcome the known problems of postal and booth voting as follows:
- a combination voting method provides a process (postal voting) for overseas and outside of Auckland voters with a way to return their votes, which booth voting only does not.
  - a combination voting method, reduces reliance on and responds to the declining postal service, while giving voters more options for casting and returning their votes.
34. There are additional risks however:
- The risk with a combination of voting methods is the potential for widespread confusion and frustration. Conveying to voters a combination method, and the different closing times of postal and booth voting, 12 noon and 7pm, respectively, is not straightforward. This could also impact on a later release of election results.
  - Because turnout trends for election methods are mixed, the potential level of confusion could decrease turnout.
  - Managing and running two discrete election method processes (plus special voting) is a capability and capacity risk. Council and independent election providers in New Zealand do not have sufficient experience to run a booth voting election.
  - If systems fail and an election result is not clear, the financial and reputational cost to re-run an election is high (above \$10million).
  - The cost of running the postal voting method will have increased by approx. \$2.6 million since 2022 by the time council runs the 2025 election, the addition of a booth voting method in addition to postal will further increase costs. This is covered further in the financial analysis section.

#### **Staff recommendation**

35. Staff recommend retaining the postal voting method with an increase in special voting centres (the 'status quo plus' option).

### **Tauākī whakaaweawe āhuarangi Climate impact statement**

36. This report discusses booth voting. The climate impact of people travelling to a booth is likely to be mixed, depending on where they are located.
37. Voting documents for postal and booth method elections rely on the use of paper. A more climate friendly option would be online voting. However, online voting is currently not an authorised voting method in the legislation.

### **Ngā whakaaweawe me ngā tirohanga a te rōpū Kaunihera Council group impacts and views**

38. A decision about the voting method affects how voters elect the mayor, councillors and local board members. It does not have major impacts on the council group.
39. In some options, libraries and volunteer staff may be engaged. Libraries have been consulted and are able to help. Volunteer staff will be engaged if necessary.

### **Ngā whakaaweawe ā-rohe me ngā tirohanga a te poari ā-rohe Local impacts and local board views**

40. In March 2023 local boards were asked for their feedback on whether council should move from a 'postal only' voting method to a 'combination' (postal and booth) voting method.
- 14 supported combination voting (postal, with booth on election day).

- One supported postal and online voting.
- One supported online voting, and booth voting on election day.
- One supported retaining postal only.
- Four did not provide feedback on this issue.

41. Local communities have not been consulted regarding voting methods.

### Tauākī whakaaweawe Māori Māori impact statement

42. Demographic data shows that turnout for electors of Māori descent was lower than the average turnout. [Further analysis conducted by RIMU about who voted in the 2022 local elections](#) suggested that a range of interrelated factors may be contributing to these discrepancies, including:
- differences in the perceived relevance of local government to the everyday life of different communities
  - differences in family and work commitments and an ability to pay attention to local politics in light of other life priorities
  - the complexity of the local government system and voting process, along with differences in knowledge about local government across communities in Auckland
  - for some communities, a lack of identification with and ability to see one’s identity reflected in the local governance system
  - a distrust of and disengagement from the local government system, particularly amongst Māori
  - the existence of a social norm of non-voting in some families, neighbourhoods and communities.
43. The impact of a different voting method on Māori voter turnout is not known and difficult to estimate. This is also true for non-Māori voter turnout.

### Ngā ritenga ā-pūtea Financial implications

44. Of the options considered, the estimated financial implications run between \$10,060,390 and \$19,849,574. Only options One and Two have sufficient budget provided for in the Long-term Plan. Any other option would require additional funding to be made available by making further trade-offs in another budgetary allocation.
45. The costs below are estimates. This is especially true for options which include booth voting as not all costs are known.

| Option   | Description  | Cost (estimate) |
|--|--|-----------------|
| Option One - Postal voting only (Status quo)                                   | Same as 2022, with 8 special voting centres                      | \$10,060,390    |
| Option Two - Postal voting, plus more special voting centres (Status quo plus) | Same as 2022, with a minimum of one special voting centre per LB | \$10,160,390    |
| Option Three - Booth only  | 20 places per LB, 7 days   | \$11,377,653    |
|  | 30 places per LB, 7 days   | \$13,714,734    |

| Option   | Description   | Cost (estimate) |
|--|---|-----------------|
|  | 20 places per LB, 14 days<br>(same voting period as<br>Parliamentary elections) | \$15,467,546    |
|  | 30 places per LB, 14 days   | \$19,849,574    |
| <b>Option Four -<br/>Combination: Postal<br/>voting, with booth voting<br/>on election day</b> | Postal, with 20 places per LB on<br>election day                                | \$10,673,874    |
| <b>Option Five -<br/>Combination: Booth and<br/>Postal voting</b>                              | 30 places per LB, 7 days  | \$17,071,634    |

## Ngā raru tūpono me ngā whakamaurutanga Risks and mitigations

46. Staff have taken the short-term issues from the findings of the 2022 election to provide a recommendation to maintain postal voting, with more special voting centres (status quo plus).
47. In consideration of the declining postal service and voter turnout, staff will continue to work with DIA, the Electoral Commission, and other entities to inform policy work for any potential changes for the 2028 elections.
48. The analysis in the body of this report includes information on the risks of each option and Attachment E describes these in more detail. This analysis shows that Option Two 'status quo plus' has the least risks. The risks noted include:
  - voter fraud
  - voter intimidation
  - technical issues
  - long queues and voter suppression
  - misinformation and disinformation
  - security concerns
  - accessibility issues
  - logistical challenges
  - communication of results
  - postal service
  - fit for purpose.

## Ngā koringa ā-muri Next steps

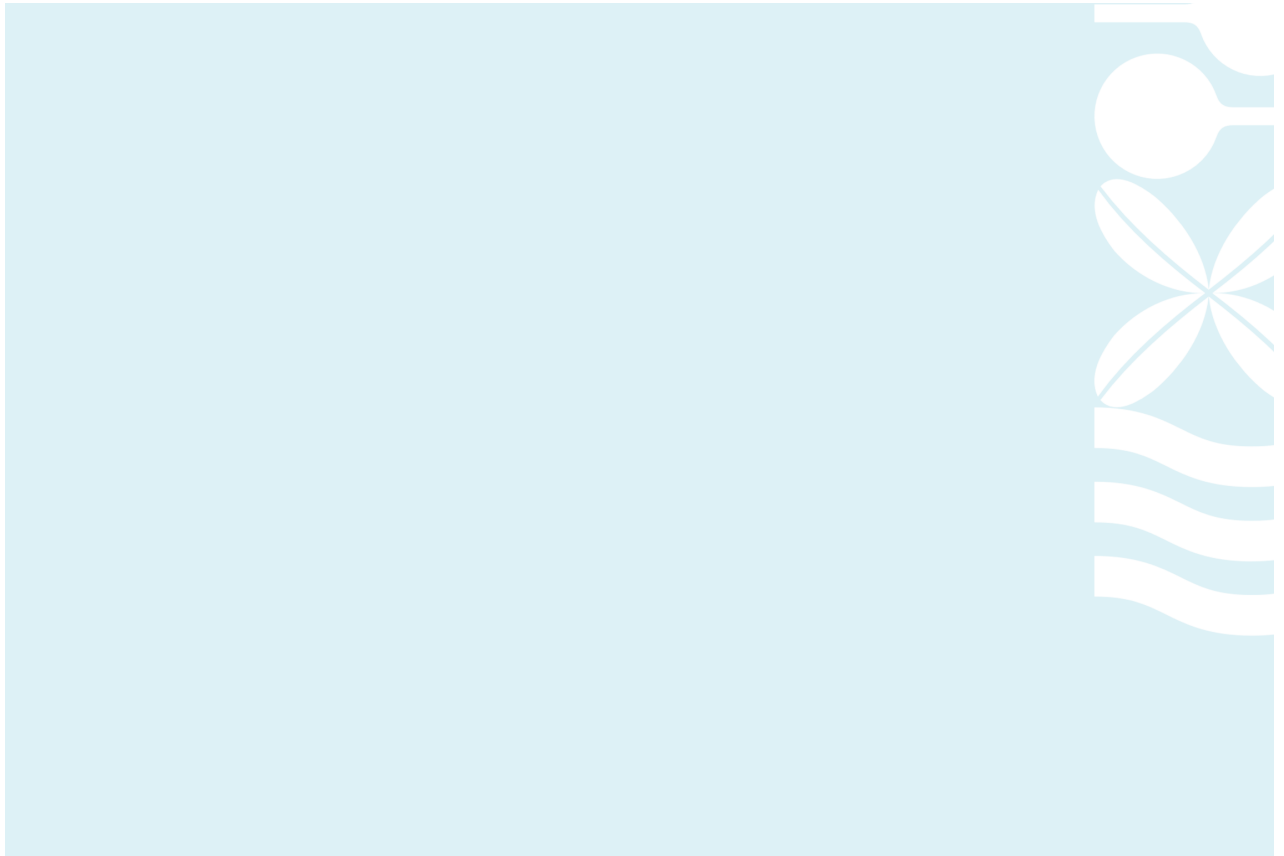
49. Your feedback will be provided to the Governing Body in June where a decision on the voting method for the 2025 local elections will be sought.

## Ngā tāpirihanga Attachments

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## Ngā kaihaina Signatories

|             |  |
|-------------|--|
| Authors     | Liam Davies - Graduate<br>Warwick McNaughton - Principal Advisor   |
| Authorisers | Rose Leonard - Manager Governance Services<br>Louise Mason - General Manager Local Board Services<br>Nina Siers - Local Area Manager |



## LOCAL BOARD SERVICES

E mahi ana mātou i te mahi mō Tāmaki Makaurau

# Evaluation of Auckland Council 2022 elections

April 2023

[aucklandcouncil.govt.nz](https://aucklandcouncil.govt.nz)



E mahi ana mātou i te mahi mō Tāmaki Makaurau

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**Four** boards did not provide feedback on this item.



E mahi ana mātou i te mahi mō Tāmaki Makaurau

## Albert-Eden Local Board

Resolution number: AE/2023/35

That the Albert-Eden Local Board:

1. provide its feedback, as outlined in resolutions b) – j), regarding the Evaluation of the 2022 Auckland Council Elections.
2. note with concern the low turnout in local body elections and recommends:
  - a. that Auckland Council continue to explore the most effective means of reminding voters throughout the election period to look out for their ballots and return them on time, by targeted as well as broad messages
  - b. that the election period be timed to avoid school and university holidays
  - c. that the Local Electoral Regulations 2001 be amended to allow voters overseas to receive and return their voting documents electronically, as is permitted by clause 45A in the Electoral Regulations 1996
  - d. that the Local Electoral Act 2001 be amended to allow enrolment until the close of voting
  - e. that voting close at 7.00pm on a Saturday, since this is what voters are used to from general elections and some may be caught out by a midday close of voting
  - f. implementation of recommendations for extensive civics education both for school age children and for the community generally so people have both the confidence and the competence to vote
  - g. the Electoral Commission and other agencies should fund impartial, measured coverage of local government decisions noting that the current funding of regional news reporters is already having a beneficial effect in that regard.
3. note that some confusion remains (including among electoral workers) about eligibility for residents on some categories of visa, and recommends further training for electoral workers on eligibility and clear messaging in publicity materials so that all eligible residents are aware they are able to vote.
4. note the success of placing voting boxes at Countdown supermarkets as well as libraries and recommends this initiative continue and be expanded if possible to other supermarket chains.
5. note that there appeared to be more widespread difficulties with voting papers being delivered than in previous local elections, and recommend investigating whether this is indeed increasing, and if so, how it might be addressed.
6. note that postal delays have increased since 2019 and that postal deliveries no longer take place daily, which can lead to delays both for voters receiving voting packs and in returning ballots to the electoral officer, effectively reducing the voting period and meaning that some ballots arrived too late to be counted; and to mitigate this, the board recommends that votes postmarked as having been sent before the close of voting should be accepted and counted if they arrive before the final count is finished.
7. note that requesting a special voting pack by mail is also subject to postal delays, which makes it crucial for electors to be able to obtain a special vote in person until the close of voting, and that

E mahi ana mātou i te mahi mō Tāmaki Makaurau

there were very few places electors could do this (only eight across Auckland, and only one on the isthmus, with most open only during business hours), and the Board recommends:

- a. Providing at least one 'one-stop shop' with weekend and evening hours in each local board area throughout the voting period, where electors can enroll, obtain a special ballot, or seek advice on difficulties such as damaged or missing voting packs
  - b. Establishing and publicising a day on which more pop-up one-stop shops are available across the region
  - c. That these locations be managed similarly to voting booths at general elections, with campaigning and branded party items not allowed within 50 metres
  - d. That staff ensure that ample voting papers are available at one-stop shops, and develop procedures to ensure quick delivery of more papers if they are needed, noting that both in 2019 and in 2022 some voters missed out on casting a special vote because of a shortage of voting papers. The Board notes that the system proposed in Auckland Council's submission (of providing electronic access to staff at special voting centres to print out ballots in case of running out or not having the correct papers for a voter from a different area) is a promising avenue for investigation
  - e. Developing procedures for allowing electors to authorise another person to pick up a special voting pack for them if the elector is unable to (for instance, if they are isolating with Covid).
8. support the introduction of a combination of booth and postal voting with booths set up on voting day to enable people to enroll and vote and support those booths closing at 7.00pm on voting day.
  9. strongly recommend further investigation into giving responsibility for all local government elections to the Electoral Commission.
  10. note that security issues around online voting are at present insurmountable.

E mahi ana mātou i te mahi mō Tāmaki Makaurau

## Aotea / Great Barrier Local Board

Resolution number: GBI/2023/26

That the Aotea / Great Barrier Local Board:

1. provide the following feedback on the evaluation of the Auckland Council local elections 2022:
  - a. support a combination of postal and booth voting.
  - b. encourage the introduction of an online voting option.
  - c. advocate for a change to the by-election thresholds that should a newly elected position become vacant prior to the inauguration that the next individual on the list automatically gets the opportunity to take the position.
  - d. advocate for implementation of civic education in schools to encourage future engagement

E mahi ana mātou i te mahi mō Tāmaki Makaurau

## Devonport-Takapuna Local Board

Resolution number: DT/2023/44

That the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board:

1. tuhi ā-taipitopito/note the Boards feedback provided at the 7 February 2023 business meeting on the Auckland Council's submission in the Inquiry into the 2022 Local Elections (DT/2023/9)
2. ohia/endorse the evaluation of the Auckland Council local elections 2022.
3. ohia/endorse the option of moving from postal voting to a combination of postal and booth voting

E mahi ana mātou i te mahi mō Tāmaki Makaurau

## Henderson-Massey Local Board

Resolution number: HM/2023/46

That the Henderson-Massey Local Board:

1. support the evaluation of the Auckland Council local elections 2022 with a mixture of postal and online voting.

Item 11

Attachment A

E mahi ana mātou i te mahi mō Tāmaki Makaurau

## Hibiscus and Bays Local Board

Resolution number: HB/2023/29

That the Hibiscus and Bays Local Board:

1. kohuki / consider its feedback on the evaluation of the Auckland Council local elections 2022
2. whakaae / agree with the recommendation to have a combination of postal voting and polling booth voting, to allow for greater choice of voting method, although it is noted that this may not greatly increase voter turnout
3. tono / request that all Libraries are used as voting hubs, where trained staff are able to download and provide special voting forms, polling booths are available for the duration of the voting period, and information on the local candidates are displayed
4. tono / request that funding is made available for more meet the candidate events, and in every local board area, and that this funding go towards making these events recorded and published on an Auckland Council elections site
5. tono / request that further investigation is undertaken to understand how to increase the understanding of Auckland's complex governance model, and that this is done with partners such as the local tertiary institutions
6. tono / request that Auckland Council advocate for a more responsive special voting system for those eligible voters who are not in Auckland during the election period
7. tono / request that an alternative term is used to describe postal voting, to reflect the fact that the postal element is now a misnomer.

E mahi ana mātou i te mahi mō Tāmaki Makaurau

## Howick Local Board

That the Howick Local Board:

1. recommends the postal voting system be discontinued, noting the following reasons:
  - a. It is inefficient, in many cases voting papers are forgotten, misplaced, or thrown out with junk mail, so this immediately reduces the potential voting return numbers.
  - b. many potential voters did not receive voting papers, or received them late, due to the inadequate postal system.
  - c. there was a low voter turnout in the recent election.
  - d. if the postal voting system was discontinued, recommends a shift towards either an online voting system, which should encourage younger voters more, or run local body elections the same way as parliamentary elections and have one set day where people go to a polling booth to vote, or a combination of both. This would focus voters' attention on the one day they have an opportunity to support their chosen candidates.
2. in regard to candidate information and nominations, notes the following points for input:
  - a. notes there was a lack of support for candidates, especially new candidates.
  - b. notes that the candidate handbook was removed from the website which created confusion, especially regarding authorisation statements and promotional rules.
  - c. notes that compliance is full of grey areas and there needs to be clarity around signage, and other electioneering activities.
  - d. notes that changes made by Parliament through the Local Electoral (Advertising) Amendment Act 2022 were not well communicated or understood.
  - e. recommends that nominations for candidates should be handled by an independent body.
  - f. recommends that work is done to make nomination forms and the related process clearer. There were a number of mistakes in the processing of this information.
  - g. recommends that the application process for candidates should go online and a payment gateway option needs to be provided online also.
  - h. suggest that all potential candidates attend at least two Local Board or Council meetings (whichever is appropriate to their nomination) to give them some idea of the role and matters they would be dealing with.
  - i. suggest potential candidates be offered a familiarisation session where they might learn more about the elected member role including their obligation and restrictions and skills required.
3. in regard to candidate criteria, notes the following points for input:
  - a. recommend that are more prescriptive criteria of candidate suitability is created and communicated. Whilst we are always excited to encourage a wide representation of our diverse communities some potential candidates are of the belief that they wouldn't have the ability to do the role; others need continual help with basic understanding of their role, and

## E mahi ana mātou i te mahi mō Tāmaki Makaurau

with using technology. Clear descriptions of each role is important to ensure candidates are confident able to operate at the level required.

- b. recommend that candidates are made aware of the commitment required, noting that they must be available to attend meetings/workshops during daytime hours, and must be able to accommodate the hours set out for the role they are standing for.
4. in regard to the voting system, notes the following points for input:
  - a. requests proper consideration of moving from First Past the Post (FPP) voting to Single Transferable Vote (STV) as allowed by the Local Electoral Act.
5. in regard to candidate advertising, notes the following points for input:
  - a. recommends consideration of options to further limit the impact of financial advantage on advertising to level the playing field such as limitations on the number of signs / billboards or reviewing the spending limits.
  - b. recommends consideration of partnering with community groups to run well organised and promoted “meet the candidate events”, including recording questions and answers to be published online for those that cannot attend.
6. in regards to other related matters, provides the following points for input:
  - a. Highlight the importance of political neutrality from Members of Parliament around and during the Local Government election campaign.
  - b. Suggests that the lack of council facilities in the Flat Bush/Ormiston area contributes to the lower turn out. There is no Countdown or Library, therefore no local ballot boxes which made it harder to post votes.



E mahi ana mātou i te mahi mō Tāmaki Makaurau

## Kaipātiki Local Board

That the Kaipātiki Local Board:

- a) provides the following feedback on the evaluation of the Auckland Council local elections 2022 (in no particular order):
  - i) support a combination of both postal voting and booth voting:
    - A) agree with the Evaluation that there was a noticeable number of people wanting to vote in the last two days of the voting period, and sizeable queues at some ballot boxes on the last day, indicating a desire for voting at the end of the voting period.
    - B) support the promotion of a single day of booth voting to help galvanise voters and to help prevent people forgetting to post their vote.
    - C) We support a reduction in the voting period from 3 weeks to 2 weeks, to help prevent people deferring voting until it is too late.
  - ii) commend the increase in ballot boxes from previous elections, which were located at Countdown Supermarkets. However as many of the supermarkets are located in close proximity to other ballot box locations, such as at libraries, there wasn't an increase in geographic spread across the local board area. We would like to see more ballot box locations next time with greater coverage of the local board area, especially considering the decline in postboxes in recent years.
  - iii) we noticed that many ballot boxes were full in the lead-up to the end of the voting period and boxes were not removed immediately at the end of the voting period. Ballot boxes needed to be cleared more regularly and removed from sight at the close of voting..
  - iv) the most significant obstacle to voting for North Shore residents was the lack of local special voting booths. Many residents did not receive their voting papers, or their papers were damaged by wet weather. Those who needed replacement papers were told to travel to Orewa or the City, which was inconvenient and not always possible. Casting a special vote should be easy. We recommend that there is at least one special voting booth per local board area, or at the very least one per electoral ward.
  - v) would like to see greater and swifter enforcement of the rules around billboards and candidate brochures. There were many instances of billboards being located outside of the designated site, or not carrying an authorisation statement. There were also instances of candidate brochures not including authorisation statements.
  - vi) suggest that one way to help supply more candidate information to voters would be to offer the opportunity for candidates to each supply a flyer (of specified size) to accompany the standard voter booklet.
  - vii) support the subject of compulsory voting being explored by the Electoral Review Panel as a means to increase voting turnout and transforming it from a right to a duty.
  - viii) strongly support the teaching of Civics at schools, including on the voting system, structure and purpose of Auckland Council, and the role of Local Boards.

E mahi ana mātou i te mahi mō Tāmaki Makaurau

- ix) hold concerns about the role that Auckland Council has played in the election in targeting candidates to stand for elected positions. This is effectively the operational arm of council trying to shape/alter the makeup of the governance arm, which is inappropriate. We do, however, support Council encouraging the public to vote and seek information on nominated candidates.
- x) would like consideration to be given to passing the responsibility of running local body elections to the Electoral Commission.
- xi) support an increase in Māori representation on the Governing Body, such as by way of Māori wards. However, the role and purpose of the Independent Māori Statutory Board should be reassessed in this instance, in particular, whether the Board members continue to hold voting rights at meetings.
- xii) do not support STV as a method of voting.
- xiii) request that the number of board members on each Local Board is reassessed once the 2023 Census population data is released. The Kaipātiki Local Board currently has a population of over 88,000 people (2018 Census) and 8 members, however to ensure representation is approximately one member per 10,000 in population, there should currently be 9 members and this is likely to be reinforced by the 2023 data.
- xiv) support moving to a 4-year electoral term for local bodies.

E mahi ana mātou i te mahi mō Tāmaki Makaurau

# Māngere-Ōtāhuhu Local Board

Resolution number: MO/2022/172

That the Māngere-Ōtāhuhu Local Board:

1. provide the following feedback on the evaluation of the Auckland Council local elections 2022:

## Postal voting

- a. support the proposal of moving from the postal voting method to a combination of postal and booth voting whereby booths are staffed on election day and do not close until 7 pm noting:
  - i. that the postal voting system is no longer effective for most voters. The proposal should be more effective with in-person voting, in addition to postal voting. Options to offer secure online voting should also be explored
  - ii. council has witnessed a decade of low voter turnout in lower socioeconomic areas, yet no successful measures have resulted in voter turnout parity when compared to our central and affluent counterparts. A closer inspection would reveal that the voices often disengaged are Māori and Pacific and may require a bespoke approach
  - iii. postal voting has also failed to support democratic participation in areas such as South Auckland, due to, highly mobile communities meaning addresses on the roll can run several changes of home behind; reduced mail deliveries to voters; few locations at which to post votes back; young people not engaging with the postal system at all; and the pressures of daily life in low socio-economic areas as some contributing factors for lower voting turn out
  - iv. request that special voting procedure requires more thought – locations for this were few essentially Council’s “super-centres”; The sites were often too far to travel to for workers and busy families on a budget, even if sites are known; hours were essentially business hours, and shift workers would struggle to take time off work and queue to cast their special vote.

## Maori representation

- b. support Māori representation in future local elections. A move to implement dedicated Māori wards will enable the council to better reflect Māori values, issues, priorities, and aspirations as they relate to council roles and functions and help us better reflect the needs and aspirations of our entire community
  - i. Auckland Council is committed to honouring the Treaty of Waitangi and embraces the opportunity to develop and implement Māori representation into its unique governance structure
  - ii. support the Central Government in developing a new legislative framework for Te Tiriti-related provisions in the Local Government Act that drives genuine partnership in a local context and explicitly recognise Te Ao Māori values and wellbeing concepts.

E mahi ana mātou i te mahi mō Tāmaki Makaurau

Item 11

### Improving voter turnout

- c. request future local election advertising is better resourced to reach diverse ethnic communities, like Māngere-Ōtāhuhu, through local radio stations, faith-based communities, targeted forums in addition to online platforms to attract diverse participation and local election promotional material that are meaningful and relevant being translated into a wide variety of languages that includes Pasifika, Māori and growing Hindi population. If resources are not adequate, then consideration for local government elections be facilitated by the electoral commission; freeing up the human resources committed by Council as it would be conducted entirely by the commission.

Attachment A

E mahi ana mātou i te mahi mō Tāmaki Makaurau

## Manurewa Local Board

Resolution number: MR/2022/169

That the Manurewa Local Board provide the following feedback the evaluation of the Auckland Council local elections 2022:

### Improving voter turnout

1. the board suggests the following ways to increase voter turnout:
2. civics and citizenship education should be compulsory as a part of the social studies curriculum in schools. This should include components on local government, as well as central Government. This could include running mock elections. Age-appropriate civics education should be included in the primary curriculum.
3. the local government election voting process should be simplified and made as similar as possible to central government elections.
4. engagement with target communities to increase participation needs to be ongoing, not undertaken only in the lead-up to elections, as is often the case now.
5. working with community groups is an important method of increasing community understanding of local government.
6. engagement programmes need to be funded appropriately by central Government in order to be effective.

### Management of elections

7. the board does not support the ongoing provision of election services by private organisations. We prefer giving responsibility for overseeing the administration of local body elections to the Electoral Commission. They have a proven track record for competently running elections and it makes sense to use this expertise for local government elections.
8. This will also mean that the same body will be responsible for enrolling voters and overseeing the election, which will simplify matters for voters and allow for a 'one-stop shop' approach, where voters can enrol and vote at the same time.

### Postal voting

9. the board feels that the postal voting system is no longer effective for most voters, due to the increasing unreliability of the postal system and the reduced number of post boxes in most neighbourhoods. More options for in-person (booth) voting or locations to drop off votes should be made available, in addition to postal voting. Ways to make postal voting more secure should be explored if it is to be retained as an option. Options to offer secure online voting should also be explored.
10. making the voter experience in local body elections as similar as possible to general elections would help to reduce confusion and encourage greater turnout. Offering inperson voting and having a strongly promoted voting period, including a final 'election day' should be part of this.

### Electoral system

E mahi ana mātou i te mahi mō Tāmaki Makaurau

11. the board does not support adopting the Single Transferrable Vote (STV) voting method for Auckland Council elections. STV complicates the voter experience and will not encourage higher turnout. It requires voters to take more time to fill out their ballots, and to have a high level of knowledge of the candidate in order to be able to rank them.

Item 11

Attachment A





































































































## Adoption of the Albert-Eden Local Board Agreement 2024/2025

File No.: CP2024/07483

Item 12

### Te take mō te pūrongo

#### Purpose of the report

1. To adopt the local content for the Long-term Plan 2024-2034 which includes the Albert-Eden Local Board Agreement 2024/2025, the message from the chair, and approved local board advocacy.
2. To adopt a local fees and charges schedule for 2024/2025.

### Whakarāpopototanga matua

#### Executive summary

3. The Local Government (Auckland Council) Act 2009 states that for each financial year, Auckland Council must have a local board agreement (as agreed between the Governing Body and the local board) for each local board area.
4. From 28 February to 28 March 2024, council consulted on the proposed Long-term Plan 2024-2034. Local boards considered the feedback received and then provided feedback to the Budget Committee at a workshop on 8 May 2024 on regional issues, community feedback, and key local board initiatives and advocacy areas.
5. The Albert-Eden Local Board formally resolved its feedback on the Long-term Plan 2024-2034 at its business meeting on 2 May 2024 (resolutions AE/2024/49-53). That feedback was reported to the Budget Committee meeting on 16 May 2024 to be considered as part of the decision-making on the final Long-term Plan.
6. For the council to finalise the Long-term Plan 2024-2034, local boards need to approve the local content for the Long-term Plan 2024-2034. This includes a local board agreement, a message from the chair, and the approved local board advocacy, as well as a local fees and charges schedule for 2024/2025.
7. On 27 June 2024, the Governing Body will meet to adopt Auckland Council's Long-term Plan 2024-2034 including 21 local board agreements.

### Ngā tūtohunga

#### Recommendation/s

That the Albert-Eden Local Board:

- a) whai / adopt the local content for the Long-term Plan 2024-2034, which includes the Albert-Eden Local Board Agreement 2024/2025, the message from the chair, and approved local board advocacy (Attachment A).
- b) whai / adopt a local fees and charges schedule for 2024/2025 (Attachment B).
- c) tautapa / delegate authority to the Chair to make any final minor changes to the local content for the Long-term Plan 2024-2034 (the Albert-Eden Local Board Agreement 2024/2025, message from the chair, and approved local board advocacy).
- d) tuhi ā-taipitopito / note that the Albert-Eden Local Board Agreement 2024/2025, will be included in the Long-term Plan 2024-2034 to be adopted by the Governing Body when it meets on 27 June 2024.

## Horopaki Context

8. The Local Government (Auckland Council) Act 2009 states that for each financial year, Auckland Council must have a local board agreement, as agreed between the Governing Body and the local board, for each local board area.
9. The Albert-Eden Local Board Agreement is informed by the Albert-Eden Local Board Plan 2023. Local board plans are developed every three years and outline the priorities and preferences of the communities within the local board area in respect of the level and nature of local activities to be provided by the Auckland Council in the local board area.
10. Throughout the development of the Long-term Plan 2024-2034, local board chairs (or delegated local board representatives) have had the opportunity to attend Budget Committee workshops on key topics and provide local board views on regional issues being considered as part of the Long-term Plan 2024-2034.
11. Six locally-held events, and five activations at existing local events, were held in the Albert-Eden Local Board area to engage with the community and seek feedback on both regional and local proposals.
12. A report analysing the feedback on local board priorities, as well as feedback from those living in the local board area related to the regional issues, was included on the 2 May 2024 business meeting agenda.
13. Local boards considered this feedback, and then provided feedback to the Budget Committee at a workshop on 8 May 2024 on regional issues, community feedback and key local board initiatives and advocacy areas.
14. The Albert-Eden Local Board formally resolved its feedback on the Long-term Plan 2024-2034 at its business meeting on 2 May 2024 (resolutions AE/2024/49-53). That feedback was reported to the Budget Committee meeting on 16 May 2024 to be considered as part of the decision-making on the final Long-term Plan.
15. The Albert-Eden Local Board also approved advocacy initiatives for the Long-term Plan 2024-2034 at the 2 May 2024 business meeting (resolution AE/2024/49).

## Tātaritanga me ngā tohutohu Analysis and advice

### Albert-Eden Local Board Agreement

#### Key features of the local board agreement

16. The local content for the Long-term Plan 2024-2034 (Attachment A), includes the Local Board Agreement 2024/2025, the message from the chair, and approved local board advocacy.
17. Table one below provides an outline of the sections in the local board agreement:

| Section   | Description   |
|---|---|
| <b>Planned operating and capital spend in 2024/2025</b> | The planned capital spend to renew and develop assets and operating spend to maintain and operate assets as well as deliver local activities. |

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <p><b>Priorities by activity area</b></p> | <p>Funding priorities, levels of service, and performance measures for local activities which contribute to key community outcomes.</p> <p>These are set out under each local activity area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local Community Services</li> <li>• Local Planning and Development</li> <li>• Local Environmental Management</li> <li>• Local Governance.</li> </ul> |
| <p><b>Funding Impact Statement</b></p>    | <p>This funding impact statement has been prepared to meet the requirements of Section 21(5) of the Local Government (Auckland Council) Act 2009. It covers the year from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025 and outlines the council's sources of funding for local activities in this local board area and the plan to apply them.</p>  |

Consideration of submissions and feedback

- The Albert-Eden Local Board has considered the submissions and feedback received as part of consultation on the Long-term Plan 2024-2034.
- A full analysis of the submissions and feedback on the Long-term Plan 2024–2034 for Albert-Eden Local Board can be found here:  
[https://infocouncil.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/Open/2024/05/20240502\\_AE\\_AGN\\_12491\\_AT\\_WEB.htm](https://infocouncil.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/Open/2024/05/20240502_AE_AGN_12491_AT_WEB.htm)
- The local board consulted on the following priorities, however, these are not included in the Local Board Agreement 2024/2025 for the following reasons.

| Priority consulted on   | Reason why not recommended as priority for 2024/2025  |
|---|---|
| <p><b>Working with the community on activations in the Mt Albert Civic Square</b></p> | <p>Mt Albert civic square is not developed yet, and development of the current car park into a civic square is not yet a project in a forward work programme.</p> <p>Local Board Services will continue to work with the council family to add the development of the civic square into a forward work programme.</p> <p>Connected Communities are exploring the possibility of smaller scale activations with key stakeholders and in the short term will aim to trial activations in and around the town centre. This can be provided for within the existing work programme.</p> <p>Activations in the car park itself could occur at a later stage, after exploring and trialling activities in other town centre spaces. There are some challenges to utilising the car park given existing lease agreements.</p> <p>Community feedback through the consultation was that this proposed priority was 22 per cent very important, 36 per cent fairly important, 34 per cent not important.</p> <p>Given these reasons, it is not recommended as a key priority for the Local Board Agreement 2024/2025.</p> |
| <p><b>Making our parks rubbish-bin free to minimise waste</b></p>                     | <p>Impacts of the recent bin reductions are being assessed and will be reported to the local board. This should include information such as the number of</p>   |

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <p><b>and improve environmental and climate outcomes</b></p> | <p>complaints received, a review of loose litter requests, a review of bin locations and if any need to be moved, and what savings have been achieved.</p> <p>This information should be considered before looking to remove more bins or all bins from local parks.</p> <p>If this priority was progressed in the future, an educational piece would also need to be undertaken around taking rubbish with you, it is a mindset and behaviour change for park users.</p> <p>Community feedback through consultation was that this proposed priority was 24 per cent very important, 23 per cent fairly important, 47 per cent not important.</p> <p>Given these reasons, it is not recommended as a key priority for the Local Board Agreement 2024/2025.</p> |
|--|--|

Service levels and performance measures

21. As part of the Long-term Plan 2024-2034, the service performance measures framework has been reviewed against council's legislative requirement to have performance measures (and targets) that enable the public to assess the level of service for major aspects of local activities.
22. New performance measures and targets, different to prior years, are proposed for inclusion in the Local Board Agreement 2024/2025. These new measures better reflect local levels of service, but also local boards' increased decision making and their role in setting service levels for local activities.

**Local Fees and Charges**

23. The Governing Body has agreed to the setting of baseline fees and charges for Active Communities and venue hire spaces, and therefore these fees have been reflected in the schedule of fees to be adopted by the local board.

Pool and leisure centres

24. The review of fees and charges for Active Communities services have been split into two phases due to its size and complexity. The first phase of the fees, bookable spaces for hire at 19 of the 25 council managed sites, were reviewed and adopted as part of the Annual Budget 2023/2024.
25. As part of the consultation on the Long-term Plan 2024-2034, the council consulted on the second phase of the review of fees and charges for Active Communities services, which focused on the appropriate level of cost recovery for all the services provided from pool and leisure centres including memberships, swim schools and entrance fees. The assessment of cost recovery was balanced with enabling the council to provide a service that can be accessed by all parts of the community across the network.
26. The second phase includes both council-managed pool and leisure facilities and memberships and aquatic entrance fees for facilities managed under contract. There are 45 Active Communities sites across the Auckland region, 25 of these are managed directly by Auckland Council.
27. The proposed changes introduce an Auckland wide membership option to allow customers to access all 45 pool and leisure council-managed and contracted sites. It is also proposed to align legacy and discontinued memberships to current membership options over three years.
28. The proposed changes will establish baseline fees for like services across Active Communities activities. This will mean that the impact on each facility will vary. Changes are proposed to the following baseline fees:

- entrance to all council managed and contracted pools and leisure facilities along with an increased discount rate for qualifying customers.
  - swimming lessons to better align to market rates, along with a new discount rate for those who qualify.
  - OSCAR before and after school care and holiday programme fees to maximise government subsidies and ensure costs are recovered.
  - term programme fees to simplify the fees framework.
29. After reviewing local board feedback, changes have been made to the proposed supervising adult and spectator fees. The proposed fee for these services which was consulted on as part of the consultation document was set to increase however, this fee is now proposed to be retained at previous levels. However, the proposed decrease to the supervising adult fee at Tepid Baths and West Wave Pool and Leisure Centre fee is proposed to proceed as the fees at these facilities were generally much higher than at other sites.
30. Learn to swim fees have also been reviewed following consultation. As the current fees at Manurewa Pool and Leisure Centre (Manurewa Local Board), Moana-Nui-a-Kiwa Pool and Leisure Centre (Mangere-Otahuhu Local Board ) and babies fees at Tepid Baths (Waitemata Local Board) and Stanmore Bay (Hibiscus and Bays Local Board) are lower than those for the rest of the network, these fees are now proposed to be moved to a mid-point in financial year 2024/2025 to transition them to full alignment with the network in financial year 2025/2026.

#### Venue hire and bookable spaces

31. Venue hire and bookable spaces incorporates council managed community halls, community centres, art centres and bookable library spaces.
32. The review of this portfolio has been split into two phases. The consultation on the Long-term Plan 2024-2034 included proposals following phase one of the review of baseline fees across similar venues to ensure they are charged appropriately across the portfolio. Fees for 252 bookable spaces at 110 venues are included in this review.
33. The existing pricing frameworks currently in place for bookable spaces contains variations and inconsistencies inherited from legacy councils. The basis for phase one of the review is the Hire Fee Framework which considers the size, condition and quality of each bookable space, the levels of staffing, the amenities available, and current patterns of utilisation of the spaces. Phase one of this review addresses variations within local board and adjacent areas to bring pricing of comparable venues closer together.
34. Fees for around half of the venues reviewed in phase one are not proposed to change as they have been set at an appropriate level when compared to spaces nearby or with similar types of spaces or capacity. While some fees are proposed to increase, a number of fees are proposed to decrease.
35. Phase two, planned for 2025/2026, will assess the appropriate level of cost recovery balancing value to the ratepayer and accessibility for customers and communities.
36. The current discounts framework is not proposed to change, and these will be applied to eligible community groups and regular hirers.

#### Other fees and charges

37. All other local fees and charges are proposed to increase by an inflationary adjustment of 4.7 per cent.

### **Tauākī whakaaweawe āhuarangi** **Climate impact statement**

38. The decisions recommended in this report are procedural in nature and will not have any climate impacts themselves.

39. Some of the proposed projects in the local board agreement may have climate impacts. The climate impacts of any projects the council chooses to progress with will be assessed as part of the relevant reporting requirements.
40. Some of the proposed projects in the local board agreement will be specifically designed to mitigate climate impacts, build resilience to climate impacts, and restore the natural environment.

### **Ngā whakaaweawe me ngā tirohanga a te rōpū Kaunihera Council group impacts and views**

41. Local boards worked with council departments to develop their local board work programmes for 2024/2025 that will be adopted at June business meetings. The draft local board work programmes help inform the local board agreements.

### **Ngā whakaaweawe ā-rohe me ngā tirohanga a te poari ā-rohe Local impacts and local board views**

42. This report seeks local board adoption of its content for the Long-term Plan 2024-2034 and other associated material, including the Local Board Agreement 2024/2025.

### **Tauākī whakaaweawe Māori Māori impact statement**

43. Many local board decisions are of importance to and impact on Māori. Local board agreements are important tools that enable and can demonstrate the council's responsiveness to Māori.
44. Local board plans, which were developed in 2023 through engagement with the community including Māori, form the basis of local priorities. There is a need to continue to build relationships between local boards and iwi, and where relevant, the wider Māori community.
45. Of those who submitted feedback on the Long-term Plan consultation, seven per cent identified as Māori. There were submissions from 23 Māori entities, many of which provided specific feedback on local priorities and advocacy. Of the 23 Māori entities, 12 presented feedback at a Town Hall Have Your Say event specifically for mana whenua and mātāwaka entities. These submissions were provided to the local board for consideration at local board workshops during the development of their local board agreement.
46. Ongoing conversations will assist local boards and Māori to understand each other's priorities and issues. This in turn can influence and encourage Māori participation in the council's decision-making processes.

### **Ngā ritenga ā-pūtea Financial implications**

47. The local board agreement includes the allocation of Locally-driven Initiatives (LDI) funding and Asset-based Services (ABS) funding to projects and services for the 2024/2025 financial year.
48. LDI funding is discretionary funding allocated to local boards based on the Local Board Funding Policy, which local boards can spend on priorities for their communities. Local boards can also utilise LDI funding to increase local levels of service if they wish to do so.
49. Funding for ABS is allocated by the Governing Body to local boards based on current levels of service to run and maintain local assets and services including parks, pools and recreation facilities, community facilities, and libraries.
50. As part of the Long-term Plan 2024-2034 decisions the Governing Body adopted to amend the Local Board Funding Policy to take effect from 1 July 2025. As part of this change there will no longer be a differentiation between ABS and LDI funding after 2024/2025 and funding



will be allocated to bring 18 local boards to within 5 per cent of funding equity within four years.

51. A local fees and charges schedule for 2024/2025 is adopted alongside the Local Board Agreement 2024/2025. The fees and charges have been formulated based on region-wide baseline service levels and revenue targets. Where fees and charges are amended by a local board that results in lower revenue for the council, the shortfall will need to be made up by either allocating LDI funds or reducing expenditure on other services to balance overall budgets.

## Ngā raru tūpono me ngā whakamaurutanga Risks and mitigations

52. Decisions on the local content of the Long-term Plan 2024-2034, including the Local Board Agreement 2024/2025 and a local fees and charges schedule for 2024/2025, are required by 13 June 2024 to ensure the Governing Body can adopt the final Long-term Plan 2024-2034 including each local board agreement, at its 27 June 2024 meeting.

## Ngā koringa ā-muri Next steps

53. The Governing Body will meet on 27 June 2024 to adopt the Long-term Plan 2024-2034, including the 21 local board agreements in volume 3.
54. It is possible that minor changes may need to be made to the attachments before the Long-term Plan 2024-2034 is adopted, such as correction of any errors identified and minor wording changes. Staff therefore recommend that the local board delegates authority to the Chair to make any final changes if necessary.
55. Local board agreements set the priorities and budget envelopes for each financial year. Work programmes then detail the activities that will be delivered within those budget envelopes. Work programmes will be agreed between local boards and operational departments at business meetings in June 2024.

## Ngā tāpirihanga Attachments

| No.               | Title   | Page |
|-------------------|---|------|
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## Ngā kaihaina Signatories

|             |   |
|-------------|---|
| Author      | Phoebe Peguero - Senior Advisor Operations and Policy<br>Emma Reed – Senior Local Board Advisor |
| Authorisers | Louise Mason – General Manager, Local Board Services<br>Nina Siers - Local Area Manager         |





























