



AK Have Your Say

Auckland Council – Long-term Plan 2021-2031

Executive Summary

Introduction

Active is a charitable trust that has been established to make Auckland the world's most active city. It is a key strategic partner of Sport NZ, Auckland Council and major grant-makers and funders and invests in a range of delivery partners, organisations and projects that will get more people recreating and playing sport in Auckland, with focuses on young people (tamariki and rangatahi) and communities.

More than one million Aucklanders – adults and children – are active each week. They are supported by 308,880 volunteers contributing 22.1 million hours of their personal time per annum, worth \$391 million to keep the sport and recreation sector moving.

This sector contributes at least \$1.9 billion to the Auckland economy, providing more than 25,000 jobs for Aucklanders. In addition, there is an estimated \$372 million in healthcare savings in Auckland¹.

Sport, recreation, physical activity connects Tāmaki Makaurau, and delivers significant physical and mental health and wellbeing, social, economic and educational benefits.

We are pleased to read the statement that Council will continue working with key partners (Active and Sport NZ) to invest into and target populations of low participation, and or are high risk of becoming inactive.

This submission by Active is based on evidence: bespoke research, desk research, sector plans adopted by Council and insights from recent surveys. It outlines options, opportunities and solutions that can be implemented to help to mitigate the current situation. These include:

Acknowledging the impact of Covid-19

- Recognise the economic, social and community value of the sport and recreation sector
- Recognise the impact Covid-19 has had on our sector

Capital and Operational investment

- Retain the Sport and Recreation Facilities Fund, the Regional Sport and Recreation Facilities Operating Grant and the Sportsfield Development Capacity Fund
- Increase the funding level of the Sport and Recreation Facilities Fund, the Regional Sport and Recreation Facilities Operating Grant and the Sportsfield Development Capacity Fund to reflect sector demand

Supporting Local Boards

- Support Local Board sport and recreation projects and priorities
- Support the Local Board sport and recreation One Local Initiatives projects which address regional priorities
- Support reinstating the local Board Transport Capital Fund to previous levels

Asset management and delivery

- Seek clarification about Council's proposal to move from an asset-based approach to alternative ways of delivering services
- Supporting a focus on renewals and proactive asset maintenance
- Urging caution around the implications and potential impacts of community asset divestment
- Ensuring Council has the capacity to deliver the budgeted projects

¹ Active Citizens Worldwide, Auckland City Report, Portas Consulting, 2019

We know our communities, clubs and recreation providers are vulnerable and struggling. They need Auckland Council's investment support to recover from the pandemic impacts. Some short-term solutions could include:

- Funding to enable making membership fees affordable or free
- Budget to fill the gap for the reduced revenue due to lack of membership fees, loss of income, funding and sponsorship reductions and ongoing administration costs
- Operational support for a loss of staff, not having enough hours for staff, staff affordability and lack of and retention of volunteers.

Overview

A thank you

Auckland Council is the major provider of our city's sport and recreation facilities. We greatly appreciate this support and investment – without it much of what happens in our sector simply wouldn't be possible. Council's commitment to the sector has provided positive outcomes across the region for an inclusive range of codes, demographics, cultures, ages and abilities. We also wish to acknowledge the commitment of council staff in supporting the sector.

We acknowledge the challenge Council faces with balancing the various competing demands impacting Auckland, such as growth, transport, climate change and water quality within a context of falling revenue. We also recognise that there are capital constraints, particularly in the immediate three years of the Long-Term Plan (LTP).

Strategic context of sport and recreation

The statistics prove what we know – Aucklanders love physical activity – it is incredibly important in our lives and the lives of our whanau and friends.

There is clear evidence of the huge and wide-ranging benefits of sport and recreation – improved physical and mental health and wellbeing, social connectedness, economic and productivity gains, and educational outcomes.

The following four aspects of wellbeing found within the Local Government Act underpin the six Auckland Plan Outcomes:

1. Environmental
2. Social
3. Cultural
4. Economics.

The sport and recreation sector provides opportunities for the people of Tāmaki Makaurau to experience all of these aspects. Similarly sport and recreation contributes to all the Auckland plan outcomes through providing for:

1. Belonging and participation
2. Māori identity and wellbeing
3. Homes and place
4. Transport and access
5. Environment and cultural heritage
6. Opportunity and prosperity.

There is a significant amount of research demonstrating the benefit of sport and recreation on the outcomes of the Auckland Plan²:

- **Belonging and participation and improving Māori identity and wellbeing**
 - Physical activity brings \$372 million of healthcare savings for Auckland, as well as adding 7,100 additional years of healthy life and contributing to 279 fewer deaths³;
 - Participation in sport brings 74.3 million hours of meaningful, positive social interaction each year⁴.

² ACW Auckland City Report 2019, Portas Consulting

³ ACW Auckland City Report 2018, Portas Consulting

⁴ ACW Auckland City Report 2019, Portas Consulting

▪ **Homes and places**

- Evidence is emerging that underspending on facilities leads directly to lower participation levels⁵;
- Sport and recreation operating spend has a direct and significant correlation with participation levels⁶.

▪ **Opportunity and prosperity**

- Physical activity has a positive link to improved educational outcomes, leading to an increased \$8.6 million of GDP growth for Auckland⁷;
- Physical activity is delivering \$0.02 monetary impact of reduced crimes savings⁸;
- Physical activity brings \$210 million of savings to Auckland through increased productivity levels, due to reduced sickness costs⁹.

The Council consultation documents state that over the next three years Council will focus its efforts and investments on three recovery objectives, guided by the Auckland Plan:

1. **Community** - Strengthen social cohesion and build inclusive and resilient communities
2. **Economy** - Restore economic activity with greater equity and longer-term resilience
3. **Jobs** - Enable sustainable employment opportunities.

In our view, the sport and recreation sector align strongly with these three recovery objectives. There is significant strategic justification for the Council to consider investment in the sector to be a core role of the Council. Although often lost in the infrastructure delivery conversation, the provision of sport and recreation facilities is a critical aspect of what makes Auckland a world class city. Such infrastructure provides us with belonging, opportunities for participation, opportunities for Māori identity and wellbeing through the provision of traditional sports, a sense of place, improved access through active transport modes, a driver for a cleaner environment and improved water quality and through economic benefits.

Auckland Council's Increasing Aucklanders' Participation in Sport Investment Plan 2019-2039 (July 2019) supports this view and clearly sets out the reasons that Council invests in sport – to provide Aucklanders with the opportunity to participate in society and develop a sense of belonging in Auckland. It acknowledges that participation in sport has multiple benefits including health and wellbeing, social and community, education and economic development outcomes. This investment plan states that Auckland Council's objective for investment is increasing participation in community sport. **Aktive urges Council to continue to reflect this objective in the LTP.**

Local Boards recognise the value of sport and recreation in their communities. We note that 16 out of 21 Local Boards have nominated sport and recreation projects in their key priorities or advocacy positions under this LTP. This is further recognition of the key benefits that are delivered through sport and recreation into our communities.

The impact of Covid-19

We acknowledge that Covid-19 has had a significant impact on Auckland Council's revenue and has exacerbated a challenging fiscal investment environment. However, the pandemic has also had a significant impact on the health of our sport and recreation providers. In August 2020 Aktive surveyed clubs and active recreation organisations, and the following impacts were identified (refer appendix 1):

- 39 per cent of these organisations have seen a decrease in membership
- Feedback suggested a decrease in junior membership has been the most significant impact
- Seven key challenges have been identified:
 1. Membership retention
 2. Financial sustainability and reduced revenue
 3. Facilities and maintenance - access to facilities, updating of facilities, maintenance
 4. Staffing and volunteers - loss of staff, not having enough hours for staff, staff affordability and lack of volunteers
 5. Member wellbeing - possibility of further lockdowns and player safety and wellbeing
 6. Cancelled events - cancellation of events, tournaments and competitions, both in Auckland and globally, as well as travel restrictions

⁵ ACW Auckland City Report 2019, Portas Consulting

⁶ ACW Auckland City Report 2019, Portas Consulting

⁷ ACW Auckland City Report 2019, Portas Consulting

⁸ ACW Auckland City Report 2019, Portas Consulting

⁹ ACW Auckland City Report 2019, Portas Consulting

7. Changes in delivery - challenge of completing seasons and delivery due to delays.

- Reduced finances, cashflow and revenue are the biggest differences between now and previous years.
- Funding support would be most valuable for the sector over the next six months including awareness of funding available and support in making successful applications.

We know our clubs and recreation providers are vulnerable and struggling. They need Auckland Council's investment support while we all recover from the pandemic impacts. Some short-term solutions could include:

- Funding to enable making membership fees affordable or free
- Budget to fill the gap for the reduced revenue due to lack of membership fees, loss of income, funding and sponsorship reductions and ongoing administration costs
- Operational support for a loss of staff, not having enough hours for staff, staff affordability and lack of and retention of volunteers.

Getting Aucklanders active – the risk to our tamariki and rangatahi

The obesity epidemic and Aucklanders' inactivity remain a significant public health risk. Physical inactivity already costs New Zealand's health system hundreds of millions each year (\$200 million in 2013 alone). Thirty-two per cent of New Zealand children are expected to be overweight or obese by 2025, with 21 per cent of 4-year-old children in Auckland already in this category. These obesity rates are crippling our communities and our economy¹⁰.

Whilst most Aucklanders are physically active in any given week, their levels of activity are well below World Health Organisation (WHO) guidelines. If nothing changes, there is the clear risk that 1.5 million Aucklanders will be underactive or inactive by 2040. 480,000 of these will be tamariki and rangatahi. Significantly the overall numbers hide inequities: women and girls, people with disabilities, those of Asian and Pacific ethnicities, and those living in low socio-economic areas, are less active.

Without a significant focus and targeted investment, the recovery of the sport and recreation sector from the Covid-19 pandemic will take many years, while the current obesity epidemic will continue to remain a major health issue. The survey results showing that junior membership appear to be most affected is particularly concerning as there is evidence that healthy lifestyle habits are formed at a young age¹¹.

Response to the Long-term Plan Consultation Documents

Commentary on the key themes and issues identified

Capital investment

The primary vehicle for Council capital investment in sport and recreation infrastructure is the current 10-year \$120 million Sport and Recreation Facilities Fund. The fund is aimed at regional and sub-regional level facility development and is a critical funding stream for the sector.

Known, current, and well-researched regional facility plans prepared by sports codes demonstrate current, short-, and medium-term shortfalls in facility provision before this current Long-term Plan period is over. This demonstrates that we are already struggling to meet demand in certain geographical areas of Tāmaki Makaurau.

Examples of these shortfalls include¹²:

- Indoor courts shortfall of at least 30 courts right now, rising by an additional 24 within the life of the Long-term Plan
- Winter sports fields shortfall in hours the equivalent of circa 30 artificial turfs within the life of the Long-term Plan
- Outdoor netball courts shortfall of more than 70 courts
- Outdoor tennis courts shortfall of approximately 40 courts
- Hockey turfs shortfall of an estimated 15 new turfs plus replacement surfaces on existing turf.

¹⁰ Sport New Zealand Value of Sport and Recreation Auckland Report 2015 and Sport New Zealand Regional profile Auckland 2013-2014

¹¹ Sports Participation in Youth as a Predictor of Physical Activity: A 5-Year Longitudinal Study, Murphy et al. 2016

¹² National Indoor Sports Facilities Strategy updated by preliminary findings from Auckland Indoor Courts Facility Plan; individual code facilities' plans supported by findings from Auckland Council Sport Field Capacity Development Plan; individual code facilities' plans produced by independent consultants

We believe that while this fund goes some way to address the identified shortfalls it simply does not reflect the capital investment the sector needs now and into the future. **We recommend that this fund be reviewed and increased to at least partially address the shortfall.**

We are also concerned that this fund only applies to regional and sub-regional projects, leaving investment in local facilities to Local Boards who themselves have had their capital budgets reduced. **We recommend either widening the criteria and quantum of the fund or increasing the local board budgets to enable them to address local demand. We recommend that advice is sought from relevant council staff in support of this matter.**

We acknowledge that Auckland Council is the significant capital investor in the sector, but also that they are not and should not be the only investor. Active is working with the sector to investigate other options for capital investment and programme delivery, as well as working to upskill the sector in alternative funding approaches.

Auckland Council's Auckland Sports Sector: Facilities Priorities Plan (2017) is a sector led plan developed to communicate the sector's priorities for investment to Auckland Council and other potential funders. This Plan was developed with input from over 80 regional and national organisations, Regional Sports Trusts and facility providers. Active believes that this Plan must continue to be at the forefront of the Council's investment in sport. Similarly, the Increasing Aucklanders' Participation in Sport Investment Plan 2019-2039 is intended to guide Council's investment decisions in sport. Active supports Auckland Council's target areas of emerging sports, high participation sports and low participation communities. It is unclear how these documents have been realised in the proposed investment in this LTP.

The ability of club participants to access fields is a key constraint for the growth of many codes. Improvements to playing surfaces, such as sand carpeting, can greatly increase the use of fields, particularly in the winter months. The Sportsfield Development Capacity Fund is an important funding source for upgrading playing fields across the region. However, the \$5 million budget is inadequate to meet the demand. **We recommend that consideration be given to increasing the quantum of this fund to help address this challenge.**

Operational investment

As Council notes in its LTP documentation, Auckland Council owns and operates a large and ageing community asset portfolio, inherited from the amalgamation of legacy councils. As the portfolio of assets has grown over time, so too has the level of funding needed to support the portfolio. Limited funding, an ageing community asset portfolio and Auckland's population growth has put the community facilities portfolio under pressure, requiring prioritisation resulting in deferred investment.

We acknowledge and support the focus of this LTP on funding of renewals – urgently required and in many cases long overdue. However, it is concerning that Council has stated in the LTP documentation that it has insufficient renewal funding for assets assessed as being in the most need of renewal (condition 5 assets), and investment requirements will continue to rise as the portfolio ages and deferred investment becomes more costly to deliver. **We are concerned that the condition of Council's current assets will continue to decline with a lack of investment and the impact this will have on club membership and participation.**

The Council's focus on capital investment often leaves operational costs to facility users such as clubs. These users may struggle to manage the operational side of facilities, therefore impacting the quality and condition of the asset with capex implications. We know our clubs can find operational costs, such as cyclical maintenance, challenging. **We see an ongoing need to also include budget for operational costs to ensure the facilities are appropriately maintained and managed.**

An Active Sector Support Survey in March 2020 found:

- 22 per cent of organisations have cashflow and reserves to last one to four weeks
- Almost half (49 per cent) have cashflow and reserves to last three months or more
- Almost two-thirds (65 per cent) of organisations employ full or part-time staff
- Of these, just over half (53 per cent) applied for the Government Wage Subsidy Scheme
- 30 per cent are not confident the Government Wage Subsidy Scheme will provide the necessary financial support to remain operational during the Covid-19 pandemic
- Over one quarter (28 per cent) of organisations would consider structural change to remain operationally viable due to Covid-19.

As evidenced by the sector survey results set out above, operational costs are a significant issue for many clubs, and this has been exacerbated by Covid-19. Clubs are struggling with the impacts of shortened seasons, reduced members (particularly junior members), staff wages, loss of volunteers and cancelled events.

Auckland Council has introduced the contestable Regional Sport and Recreation Facilities Operating Grant, offering it for the first time this financial year.

It is very clear that the Regional Sport and Recreation Facilities Operating Grant is a critical mechanism for improving the sustainability and viability of our clubs, however the sector demand far outstrips the fund's budget. **We recommend that advice is sought from relevant council staff in support of this matter.**

Community Asset divestment

The Council is looking to divest aging assets that are no longer fit for purpose and “*maintain the same service levels for our communities, just delivered differently.*” As an external party it is unclear which assets are to be divested or how the new approach to move away from an “asset-based approach” to alternative ways of delivering services is to be funded or achieved. Selling off community assets has the capacity to impact on sports and recreation delivery at a local level and undermine the wider regional network. As noted previously in this submission there is currently a significant shortfall in facility provision. **Therefore, we urge the Governing Body to consider the impact asset divestment can have on peoples’ access to sport and recreation opportunities, particularly at a local level and listen to the views of the relevant Local Board.**

We note Council is proposing to also fund investment through a programme to sell or lease surplus properties to the value of \$70 million a year over the next three years. It is not clear which properties have been identified for this process and what impact this might have on the sector.

Council’s Delivery Capacity

Since the impact of COVID-19, Aktive understands Auckland Council has reduced its staff numbers by more than a thousand employees, including the majority of contractors. We have a real concern that Auckland Council is not adequately resourced to deliver the capital projects it has budgeted for. Again, we acknowledge the challenging fiscal environment facing Auckland Council, but given the Council is already reducing the level of capital investment in community infrastructure over the next three years the impact might be exacerbated by an inability to deliver. **We urge that projects which are funded have adequate personnel capacity to be delivered.**

Creating sport and recreation opportunities

We commend the ongoing commitment to active transport modes through proposed investment in walking and cycling and the ongoing investment in public open spaces in the city centre including the commencement of stage one of the Te Hā Noa Victoria Street linear park and the Downtown Investment programme.

We also welcome investment which can improve water quality of our streams and beaches to enable greater and safer use for water sport activities.

Supporting Local Boards

Local Board projects

Local Boards are voices of their communities and as noted previously recognise the value of sport and recreation. This is demonstrated by the key local priorities set out by Local Boards in the current LTP with 15 of the 21 Local Boards identifying at least one sport and recreation project as a delivery priority and 16 out of 21 Local Boards identifying a sport and recreation project in their key advocacy list. There is strategic justification that they should be supported by the Governing Body. There are projects which, significantly, seek to redress the highest needs and address the greatest shortfalls across the region such as aquatic facilities in the northwest, indoor courts across the region and sportsfield investment in the southern local board areas. These include:

- Aquatic facilities proposed for the north-west (Whau)
- Aquatic Facilities at Flat Bush Aquatic & Leisure Centre (Howick)
- Scott’s Point Sustainable Sports Park (Upper Harbour)
- Covered Courts in Albany and Kumeu (Rodney and Upper Harbour)
- Chamberlain Park (Albert-Eden)

- Sports field improvements (Ōrākei, Ōtara-Papatoetoe, Manurewa)
- Manukau Sports Bowl (Ōtara-Papatoetoe)
- War Memorial Park Improvements (Manurewa)
- Seaside Park improvements (Mangere-Ōtāhuhu).

We understand that Local Board locally-delivered initiatives' capital budgets have been significantly reduced particularly those projects funded by growth. **This is of concern given Local Boards are the primary capital investors in facilities that sit below a sub-regional level and are therefore those facilities that are not eligible for funding through the Sport and Recreation Facilities Fund.**

We know Auckland is growing quickly and the Unitary Plan has greatly enabled increased residential density throughout the existing urban area as well as opening up large areas of greenfield development. We know the growth of many of our clubs are already constrained by the limitations of their facilities such as fully booked and used indoor courts. As population density increases the demands for access to sport and recreation facilities will grow.

We are concerned that Local Boards will not have the necessary capital budgets to progress much-needed local projects with a consequential negative impact on sport and recreation participation. Growth funding has previously enabled local boards to deliver significant capital projects that they would not have been able to fund otherwise. Frequently, local sport and recreation delivery can be significantly enhanced through relatively low-cost investments, such as sand carpeting of sports fields, which has been successfully undertaken by Local Boards. Such investments also improve the viability and sustainability of our sports and recreation clubs through increased membership and strengthen communities.

Most Local Boards and their communities have invested significant budget and time in developing masterplans for their parks. **Without the necessary capital budget, Local Boards will not be able to implement the desired outcomes of these masterplans and they will lose value and currency.** Masterplans that sit on shelves rapidly become obsolete and inevitably cause reputational damage.

We believe that Local Board funding and the role they play in the sector needs to be closely considered, to ensure that the locally-delivered sport and recreation opportunities are not lost in the funding of regional and sub-regionally facilities.

One Local Initiatives (OLI)

We note that the OLI programme has its budget allocation deferred to outer years for all except two projects in the first three years: the Orewa seawall and the Flat Bush community hub. This is disappointing given the purpose of the OLI programme was to identify each Local Board's most important local initiative beyond their funding capability and ensure that funding would be made available. **Local Boards and their communities have committed many hours and funds into the OLI projects and we believe that they should be prioritised for funding in the first three years of the LTP.**

Many of the projects which were nominated as an OLI, such as Rodney Local Board's Kumeū-Huapai indoor courts facility and Waitematā Local Board's Ponsonby Park project have been progressed for many years. The OLI projects have high levels of community support and address identified areas of shortfall and need. Without delivery much of the work already undertaken will become obsolete and areas of shortfall will continue to grow.

Local Board Transport Capital fund

There is evidence that busy roads create a perception of safety and encourage Aucklanders to use motorised vehicles in preference to active modes of transport. The Local Board Capital fund was an appropriate programme for Local Boards to invest in localised road safety measures and also to provide active transport infrastructure. Auckland's streets are important public spaces. **We note that 14 of the 21 Local Boards are seeking the Transport Capital Fund to be reinstated to pre-emergency budget levels. We support those local boards and welcome well designed and appropriately located active transport initiatives that support Aucklanders to be active and that provide alternative options to private car use.**

Recommendations

Acknowledge the impact of Covid-19

- Recognise the economic, social and community value of the sport and recreation sector

- Recognise the impact Covid-19 has had on our sector.

Capital and Operational investment

- Retain the Sport and Recreation Facilities Fund, the Regional Sport and Recreation Facilities Operating Grant and the Sportsfield Development Capacity Fund
- Increase the funding level of the Sport and Recreation Facilities Fund, the Regional Sport and Recreation Facilities Operating Grant and the Sportsfield Development Capacity Fund to reflect sector demand.

Support Local Boards

- Support Local Board sport and recreation projects and priorities
- Support the Local Board sport and recreation One Local Initiatives projects which address regional priorities
- Support reinstating the local Board Transport Capital Fund to previous levels.

Asset management and delivery

- Seek clarification about Council's proposal to move from an asset-based approach to alternative ways of delivering services
- Supporting a focus on renewals and proactive asset maintenance
- Urging caution around the implications and potential impacts of community asset divestment
- Ensuring Council has the capacity to deliver the budgeted projects.

We acknowledge that that Auckland Council is contending with reduced revenue and capital constraints and has to make difficult choices about the mix of services it provides. The impact of Covid-19 will be with us for some time to come, so too the decisions made in this 10-year Budget. It is proven that sport, active recreation and physical activity makes a substantial contribution to the health and wellbeing of all Aucklanders, of all ages, socio-economic levels and ethnicities, in all communities.

As demonstrated, physical activity -its wide-ranging benefits and its importance to our communities - is fundamental to meeting the outcomes identified in the Auckland Plan. Council itself notes *"community infrastructure supports the essential services in helping people to participate in society, promote health and wellbeing and create a sense of belonging."*

We urge greater investment in the sport and recreation sector under this Long-term Plan. Without this commitment from Council our current and future community sport and recreation spaces will be compromised. This means our growing, increasingly diverse population will not have access to suitable infrastructure and spaces to participate in physical activity – whether it's a competitive rugby match, social tennis, outdoor netball, school sports events, kī o rahi or kilikiti.

We believe all Aucklanders, regardless of age, ethnicity and ability level, should be able to participate in sport, active recreation, play and physical activity in fit-for-purpose facilities and spaces to enable them to connect with their community and live active, healthy lives.

Let's recognise the social, cultural and economic value of the sport and recreation sector and let's make Auckland the World's Most Active City: Tāmaki Makaurau – te tāone ngangahau rawa o te ao

Return to Play Survey Findings

We are all in this together

Active's Return to Play Survey of the wider Auckland sport and active recreation sector ran from Thursday 6 to Friday 21 August. This survey aimed to help Active and our partners CLM Community Sport, Harbour Sport, Sport Auckland, and Sport Waitākere to understand the needs of the sector in Auckland and to identify the areas where we can focus our support over the next six months.



39% Have seen a decrease in membership

Comments suggest a **decrease in juniors has been most impacted**, which may be due to families having less disposable income as a result of job losses and wage cuts from Covid-19, as well as parents taking their children out of contact or close proximity sports.

Seven Key Challenges

1. Membership Retention

Retaining members, making membership fees affordable and supporting members due to the impact of Covid-19 is the most common challenge facing organisations in the next six months

2. Financial Sustainability

Reduced revenue and financial implications due to lack of membership fees, loss of income, funding and sponsorship reductions, and ongoing administration costs

3. Facilities & Maintenance

Lack of or access to facilities, updating of facilities, repairs and maintenance, and increased cost of hygiene measures under Covid-19 guidelines

4. Staffing & Volunteers

Loss of staff, not having enough hours for staff, staff affordability and lack of and retention of volunteers

5. Member Wellbeing

Possibility of further lockdowns and player safety and wellbeing

6. Cancelled Events

Cancellation of events, tournaments and competitions, both in Auckland and globally, as well as travel restrictions

7. Changes in Delivery

Challenge of completing seasons and delivery due to delays and extensions, and the impact of Covid-19 on this.

Return to Play Survey Findings

We are all in this together



Reduced finances, cash flow and revenue

are the biggest differences between now and this time last year.



Funding Support

would be most valuable for the sector over the next six months including awareness of funding available and support in making successful applications.



Online forums

would be the most useful way overall to bring the sector together, followed by newsletters. Conferences were seen to be least useful.

Next Steps

Active will use these findings to guide the response across Auckland:

1. Funding Support

Communicating available funding and grants to the sector; facilitate and support with writing successful applications



2. Membership Retention

Support with successfully retaining members and potentially attracting new members



3. Volunteer Retention

Support to retain staff and volunteers as well as attract more volunteers



4. Financial Assistance

Facilitating and advocating for financial assistance; advocating on behalf of the sector to Auckland Council.



Active will provide regular communications to the sector, including updates. It will bring the sector together for networking opportunities, to discuss best practice and to share what is working for others.

