

# Investing in the Future of Sport

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## Have Your Say

### What is the Long-term Plan?

**The Long-term Plan (LTP) is Auckland Council’s 10-year budget, setting out the activities, services and investments Council is planning or proposing for the next decade. Essentially, it’s the mechanism by which Council sets rates and determines how ratepayer money will be spent.**

The LTP is reviewed every three years, with public consultation for the next LTP currently underway.

Auckland Council is facing some big fiscal challenges and competition for funding is high. The consultation period offers individuals and

organisations an opportunity to have their say on Council’s plans – including funding for the sport and recreation sector.

Public consultation on the draft LTP opened on 28 February 2024, and closes on 28 March 2024. The Mayor and Councillors will then consider all feedback received through the consultation process, with the final LTP taking effect from 1 July 2024.

If we’re to succeed in making Auckland the world’s most active city, we need to have sustainable and dedicated funding available from Auckland Council for sport and recreation.

To make this funding a reality, it’s vital that we, as a sector, speak loudly and clearly and let the Mayor and Councillors know why funding sport and recreation is so important, and the difference it makes in our communities.

## What's being proposed for the sport and recreation sector?

Auckland Council plays a crucial role in providing support and investment for our sport and recreation facilities. We value and rely on this support – without it, many of the activities within our sector would not be possible.

As many of you will know first-hand though, developing and maintaining fit-for-purpose facilities for sport and recreation is a major challenge. The Mayor's LTP proposal recognises this too, stating that "there is a major infrastructure deficit for indoor sports facilities in Auckland."

To address this, as a result of Aktive's advocacy, this LTP proposes a \$35m increase in capital funding for sport and recreation over the next three years (an additional \$10m in years one and two, and \$15m in year three) through the Sport and Recreation Facilities Investment Fund (SRFIF).

**In addition, the Mayor has also proposed to:**

- Refine the criteria of the SRFIF, so that a large proportion (circa 70%) is no longer contestable, utilising the independent Single Facilities Priority Plan that Aktive has commissioned to inform decisions on where capital investment should be placed.
- Assist in leveraging different funding available from other organisations (such as licensing trusts and Foundation North) for priority projects. This can include providing seed funding or supporting the aggregation of funding from source for priority projects.
- Pursue, as a matter of priority, working with the Ministry of Education and local schools to find better opportunities to share sport and recreation assets.
- Look at developing a regional sports and recreation facilities network investment plan that looks across all local board areas to prioritise investment.

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## Why should you have your say?

Auckland Council is required to carry out consultation before adopting the LTP. This consultation provides the Mayor and Councillors with important feedback from the community on what we want to see with future direction and priorities. During the consultation period, individuals and organisations can make submissions on the LTP. For example, Aktive as an organisation can make a submission but so can our Chief Executive, Jennah Wootten as an individual.

The recommendations for sport and recreation in the Mayoral Proposal are a superb outcome, particularly considering the current fiscal environment, and one that Aktive has advocated hard for. But for these proposals to be locked into the final LTP, it's important that sport and recreation organisations take the opportunity to participate in the decision-making process.

Aktive assured the Mayor that there would be a large number of positive responses from the sector if this detail were to be included – **now is the time** for us to show the Mayor and Councillors how much we support these sport and recreation inclusions.

We need to ensure all Aucklanders can participate in sport and physical activity in fit-for-purpose facilities and spaces to enable them to live active, healthy lives. We, as a sector, must advocate for the support and investment needed to make this happen.

A significant number of well-prepared public submissions make a real difference in the decision-making process. Aktive strongly encourages all sport and recreation organisations to have your say and make a submission. And beyond this, we ask you to encourage your members to do the same. The more submissions we can achieve, the greater likelihood of securing investment for community sport and recreation facilities into the future.

# How do I make a submission?

Whether you're filling the form online or in a paper version, community sport and recreation comes under **Parks and Community** for point 1b as shown.

There are then a number of questions regarding aspects like Transport, Major Investments and Local Boards Priorities, that you can answer if you would like to. These are not compulsory, and you can choose to answer none, some or all of the questions asked.

Comments regarding community sport and recreation can be made under **Do you have any other comments?** on the form or step 3 online. This is the final section.

You can also add any letters or other material, either online or with your paper copy here.

## 1b. What would you like Auckland Council to do more or less of?

(Note that while we can do less of some activities, we will still fund those things that we legally have to do)

	Do less	As proposed	Do more
<b>Transport:</b> Roads, public transport and safety improvements across the transport network	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Water:</b> Managing stormwater to minimise flooding and protect waterways.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>City and local development:</b> Deliver urban regeneration and lead development of the city centre	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Environment and regulation:</b> Protecting and restoring our natural environment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Parks and Community:</b> A wide range of arts, sports, recreation, library and community services including a fair level of funding for local boards	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Economic and cultural development:</b> Major events funding and economic development	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Council support:</b> Supporting the delivery of services, enabling effective governance, emergency management and grants to regional amenities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Step 3 of 4 | Other comments

## Do you have any other comments?

Including Local Board Funding Policy on page 110. Council Controlled Organisation Accountability Policy on page 19.

Tell us here:

Upload any supporting information you have

Drop files or click here to upload

**Once you've completed your submission, you can send it to Auckland Council any of the following ways:**

- **Online at [www.akhaveyoursay.nz/ourplan](http://www.akhaveyoursay.nz/ourplan) >**
- **Email your completed form to [akhaveyoursay@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz](mailto:akhaveyoursay@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz) >**
- **Drop your completed form off at your local library**
- **Post your completed form to:**  
**AK Have Your Say**  
**Auckland Council**  
**Freepost Authority 182382**  
**Private Bay 92300**  
**Auckland 1142**

# What should my submission cover?

Given the volume of submissions received by Auckland Council, the most effective submissions are clear, short and to the point. There is also value in the sector providing consistent messaging.

It is also worth acknowledging the existing funding commitment by Auckland Council, the great work that they do in the sport and recreation sector space and highlighting any success stories you have.



## Organisation submissions

Here are some tips to help your organisation create a compelling LTP submission:

**Be clear:** clearly state your topic and concerns – *for example, our club is unable to grow any further because we cannot find enough funding to cover our netball courts, this means young people are missing out*

**Examples:** provide evidence of a need that is quantified and verifiable – *for example, our club has increased by 300 junior girls in the last three years. This has taken our total club membership to over 700 members and we no longer have capacity to provide playing or training space, particularly when impacted by weather. We are having to make our junior teams train every second week to accommodate this growth and some teams never get to play at home*

**Benefits:** outline the benefits to your area, sport, and community – *for example, as well as ensuring that our girls and women remain active, we also provide opportunities for our diverse communities to engage and connect by providing a welcoming and family friendly club. However, if we cannot provide a quality playing experience then this connectiveness will be eroded*

## Community connection:

make sure you emphasise how your thinking will benefit the wider community – *for example, our club is located in a very diverse neighbourhood. In our area, netball provides the common link between our different communities and enables new migrants to connect with people they may not meet otherwise and to feel part of the community*

**Call to action:** tell Council what decision you want them to make – *for example, we need Council to increase the funding in the Sport and Recreation Facilities Investment Fund to enable projects like our covered courts to be delivered.*



## Individual submissions

If you're planning on making an individual submission – whether you're a coach, manager, referee, parent or participant – pick something that's relevant and important to you (it can be a single aspect) and use your own words.

## Key messages to consider

From a community sport and recreation perspective, there are several themes you may wish to use for developing the key messages for your submission. **Below are some examples that you could choose to copy and paste or use as the basis for your own submission:**

- **Appreciation for Council support:**  
We're very thankful for the vital role Auckland Council plays as the major provider of sport and recreation facilities. Without Council's support and investment, many Aucklanders would not have the opportunities to take part in sport and recreation in their communities.
- **Positive impact of Council commitment:**  
Auckland Council's current commitment to community sport and recreation has a very positive impact for the Auckland region, benefiting diverse sporting codes and recreation activities enjoyed by the community.
- **Acknowledging Council's many challenges:**  
We recognise the challenges faced by Auckland Council, including balancing competing demands such as population growth and climate change amidst falling revenue and rising costs. Investing in our people and communities must however remain a priority.
- **Critical role of facilities investment:**  
Auckland Council's Sport and Recreation Facilities Investment Fund is essential for non-Council assets, acting as a seed fund for other sector funders. Identified shortfalls in facilities already exist, and this gap will only widen without the Sport and Recreation Facilities Investment Fund being funded as outlined in the Consultation documents. Increased funding for capital projects to meet growing demand and address inflation-related challenges is essential.
- **Support for the LTP Funding Proposal:**  
We endorse retaining the Sport and Recreation Facilities Investment Fund, supporting an additional \$35m investment, and propose the additional funding be non-contestable and used to fund a range of community sport and recreation facilities including, but not limited to indoor sports facilities. This will be vital to developing the sports and recreation facilities Aucklanders want and need.
- **Aucklanders want fit-for-purpose facilities:** Every week, more than one million Aucklanders are out taking part in sport and recreation, supported by 300,000 volunteers and 10,000 employees. Demand for fit-for-purpose facilities is on the rise, and if we don't continue to invest, it is likely to negatively impact these numbers.
- **Sport and recreation's impact on Auckland:** Our sector contributes \$2.6b to the Auckland economy, with \$585m in annual healthcare savings. Every \$1 spent on sport and physical activity yields a social return of \$2.12, contributing to physical and mental well-being, social connection, economic benefits, and educational attainment.
- **Backing the Regional Operating Grant:**  
We fully support maintaining the Regional Sport and Recreation Facilities Operating Grant, which plays a crucial role in supporting major facilities. While recognising the challenges Auckland Council is facing, we suggest considering an increase to meet growing community needs.
- **Reviewing maintenance costs:** We fully support reviewing costs and contracts for sports field maintenance. Inconsistent quality and accountability need addressing to improve the usability of our existing facilities and to preserve these assets for as long as possible.

## Have your say

Public consultation on Auckland Council's 10-year Budget runs from Wednesday 28 February 2024 to Thursday 28 March 2024, and there are a number of ways you can make your voice heard.

Find out more at:  
[akhaveyoursay.nz/ourplan](https://akhaveyoursay.nz/ourplan)

This toolkit is proudly developed by Aktive and distributed to the sector with support of our System Build Partners CLM Community Sport, Harbour Sport, Sport Auckland and Sport Waitākere.

**AKTIVE**

