

Auckland Sport Sector: Facility Priorities Plan
Round 1 Assessment
October 2018
Report

Facility Priorities Assessment

Summary

The Assessment Panel convened on 29th October to consider 13 projects in Round 1 of the Facility Priorities Plan, against the criteria agreed in the Plan.

5 projects were identified as showing alignment or strong alignment against most or all of the more detailed criteria, and demonstrating a readiness to proceed with significant funding applications.

These projects are, in the opinion of the panel, in a position to make immediate applications for funding, and are endorsed as current priorities by the panel at this round.

Those 5 projects are:

Papakura Netball Centre Courts Resurfacing
Counties Manukau Hockey Turf Resurfacing and Upgrade of Lighting at Rosa Birch Park
Auckland Rowing Association Highbrook Watersport Centre*
Ellerslie Sports Club Michaels Avenue Reserve*
Metro Park Pavilion*

The Facilities Priorities Assessment Report is written and distributed by Active – Auckland Sport & Recreation as facilitator of the Auckland Sports Sector:Facilities Priorities Plan process, on behalf of the members of the Assessment Panel representing the sport sector in Auckland. The views contained within the report are those of the Assessment Panel.

Individual reports have been sent to the project teams for their use, containing their own assessment and comments. These might be expected to be used in communications with Council and funders in support of funding applications.

**Note that in the opinion of the panel the three projects with an asterisk above would potentially benefit from some further refinement and detail, or from confirmation that the positions noted in the project synopsis as due during the latter part of 2018 (for example in the leasing or consenting process) have been reached.*

Process

Members of the panel had received project synopses and supporting material prior to the panel convening. Members had taken the opportunity to independently review the projects against the assessment criteria as noted on pp 16-19 of the Appendices of the Facilities Priorities Plan.

The panel considered the projects first of all against the Pass/Fail (gateway) tests arising from the published and agreed Facilities Priorities Plan, of “Strategic Alignment” and “Meeting a Gap in Provision”.

Those passing the gateway tests were then considered in detail against the 22 topic areas in the 6 assessment criteria headings from the Facilities Priorities Plan, being Community Need and Participation, Complementary to Existing Network, Strategic Support, Sustainability, Return on Investment, and Achievability.

Once the panel had completed their initial assessment, Auckland Council feedback on the projects was also added into the conversation before a final assessment was completed.

The panellists used the information provided to place the projects passing the gateway tests into one of three categories.

Priority Level 3 - Projects which may pass the gateway test but which show either poor alignment with a high proportion of the more detailed criteria, or some alignment with only a low proportion of the more detailed criteria. Whilst the option to apply for funding is open to project sponsors, these projects would, in the opinion of the panel, struggle to gain financial support from external funding partners, even if more work were to be undertaken. *It would not be expected that these projects in their current form would come back to the panel for future assessment. Endorsement to funders that these projects are seen as a current or likely future priority by the sector would not be received from the panel.*

Priority Level 2 - Projects which pass the gateway test and which show alignment or strong alignment with some or a high proportion of the more detailed criteria, but which appear to have important gaps in the information and evidence base. Whilst the option to apply for funding immediately is open to project sponsors, and they may consider that they are approaching readiness to seek project funding, these projects would benefit, in the opinion of the panel, from further evidence-base and/or detailed business case information to provide a more compelling and complete story for support from funders. *It would be expected that these projects along with additional information would come back to the panel for future assessment, in some cases for the next round. The underlying project appears to be sound or have merit, and may well be in a position to make applications at a future date. However, endorsement to funders that these projects are seen as an immediate priority by the sector would not be received from the panel at this round.*

Priority Level 1 - Projects which pass the gateway test and which show alignment or strong alignment against most or all of the more detailed criteria, and which demonstrate a readiness to proceed with significant funding applications. NB where noted with an asterisk, some projects in Level 1 would nonetheless, in the opinion of the panel, benefit from further refinement and detail, or from confirming that the position noted in the project synopsis as due during the latter part of

2018 has in fact been reached. *It would not be expected that these projects would need to come back to the panel for a further assessment. The projects in this level, are in the opinion of the panel, in a position to make immediate applications for funding, and are endorsed as current priorities by the panel at this round.*

Facility Priorities Assessment Reports – Priority 1 Projects

In accordance with the aims and objectives of the Auckland Sport Sector:Facilities Priorities Plan, the criteria for assessment which were collectively determined by the sector, and the processes for considering individual projects which were contained in it, the following information is provided as a report to Auckland Council, as a funder, to other funding agencies who may find it useful in determining applications received, and to the project sponsors themselves as feedback and suggestions for future action to aid them bringing quality projects back to the panel and to funders for future support.

Papakura Netball Centre Courts Resurfacing

Priority Level 1

Comments: Meets a demonstrated need for continuation of current service and even increased capacity (due to improved surface quality and rectification of current drainage issues) for quality provision of participation opportunity in a fast-growing part of Auckland. Aligns with the code Regional Facilities Plan as an identified priority. Ready to proceed as no other consents required. Multisport marking should be followed up with formal agreements with other codes to use the facilities. Sustainability might be revisited with a further business case on operational costs and income, and the Zone and/or national body might be engaged to ensure growth comes from the existing and newly establishing communities serviced by the netball centre.

Counties Manukau Hockey Turf Resurfacing and Upgrade of Lighting at Rosa Birch Park

Priority Level 1

Comments: Meets a demonstrated need for continuation of current service and even increased capacity (due to improved surface quality and rectification of current drainage issues) for quality provision of participation opportunity in a fast-growing sub-region of Auckland. (As a sub-regional hub the catchment is much larger than the immediate area). Aligns with the code Regional Facilities Plan as an identified priority, which was scheduled to have been completed already. Aligns with stated Local Board priorities. Ready to proceed with no other consents required. Some reserves are in place to assist with the replacement surface, and future operational sustainability/profitability should be created to ensure further future replacements are also able to be undertaken.

Auckland Rowing Association Highbrook Watersport Centre

Priority Level 1*

Comments: Meets a demonstrated need for combined watersports use (Rowing, Waka Ama and Canoe Racing) in a new facility and location. A significant amount is already invested in infrastructure on the site to access the new course. The project displays good partnerships. A charitable trust entity is being established to lead the project development. Resource consents are already in place, though a necessary re-classification of the reserve land is underway it was not confirmed in the project synopsis. Aligns with Auckland Council combined paddling and rowing facilities plan, and code facilities plans for rowing (ARA) and for waka ama (AROCA). Staged construction of the Centre sees ground floor built first, critical for equipment storage. (Second stage is upper floor community facility). *Local Board support is required. The future business model requires income from hire to create a financial surplus.

Ellerslie Sports Club Michaels Avenue Reserve

Priority Level 1*

Comments: Meets a demonstrated need to improve the quality of experience of existing participants, replacing existing out-dated and no-longer fit-for-purpose changing facilities and infrastructure, and will better cater for growth in the women's game in both cricket and football as core users. A charitable trust entity is already in place to lead the project development. A significant financial contribution has already been committed from Council via the Local Board. Project aligns well in support of previous code Regional Facility Plan, with Stages 1 and 2 providing increased field capacity through lighting, sand carpeting and the artificial turf. This facility development is stage 3 to complete the upgrade of the reserve. The project displays good partnership between the two core code users with further community users to be sought when facilities are fully designed. Resource and building consents are required, as well as a new lease on the new footprint.* Consenting and leasing are not seen as providing a barrier as this is stage 3 of an overall Master Redevelopment Plan, and good relationships are enjoyed with local community groups and residents. A project timeline has been created to achieve all the required consents and leases by mid-2019. *Once design is completed and costs confirmed, future work on the operating business model will further test alternative scenarios and firm up on a sustainable operating model. The Panel has subsequently also been informed that a Resource Consent application will be lodged prior to December 31st 2018 and Landowner Approval has already been sought through the Orakei Local Board.

Metro Park Pavilion

Priority Level 1*

Comments: Meets a demonstrated need to provide services and infrastructure for users of the Metro Park playing facilities across multiple codes (cricket, athletics, football, rugby) for quality provision of participation opportunity in a fast-growing part of Auckland. A charitable trust entity is already in place to lead the project development. A significant amount has already been spent on the core playing infrastructure, which aligns well against code Regional Facility Plans and the Local Board plans. The Local Board has committed further funding to design of the next phase, and Council is committed to further part-fund the pavilion. The core project has been underway for some years, and has demonstrated a genuine partnership approach between codes and with Council. *Resource and building consents will be required once final design is completed, with a modular build contemplated to enable future expansion.