

#Sportmatters – Have Your Say

Making a submission on Auckland Council’s Annual Budget 2020/2021

Sport, recreation, physical activity requires recognition and investment in [Auckland Council’s Annual Budget 2020/2021](#). Consultation on this is currently open, closing on 22 March 2020. During this period, the public can have their say.

We need to ensure all Aucklanders regardless of age, ethnicity and ability level can participate in sport, recreation or physical activity in fit for purpose facilities and spaces to enable them to live active, healthy lives, with positive health, community and economic benefits.

It’s your democratic right to have a say – so use it!

What we know

- **Auckland Council is a major provider of our sports and recreation facilities – we appreciate this support and investment.** Without it, much of what happens in our sector wouldn’t be possible.
- **Sport and recreation connects people.** All Aucklanders deserve opportunities to participate.
- **A lack of inclusion and underinvestment in sport, recreation and physical activity** in Auckland, particularly around our spaces and facilities, will have a **negative effect on Auckland, our communities and the economy.**
- **A focus on facilities is essential.** It is important that existing facilities have sufficient investment in renewals and improvements to maintain a network of fit for purpose facilities to meet existing needs. New facilities are also required to address the current shortfall and the rapid growth in population – these needs are applicable to both indoor and outdoor spaces.
- **It’s critical that investment meets growth.** It’s essential that growth in population both at the urban fringe and in the existing urban area is matched by investment in sufficient new facilities to meet the new demand that will be generated.
- **The sport sector has aligned and collaborated in planning and prioritisation.** Projects such as the Indoor Courts Facility Plan and the Sports Facilities Priorities Plan show that **we are playing our part** in making sure every Council dollar is invested wisely for maximum return in benefits to the community.

How to have your say

While numbers count in politics, it’s persuasion that influences decisions – that’s why, it’s essential for Council to have tailored submissions, not templates.

If you’re a sport organisation or club, well prepared and widely supported public submissions make a difference. Workshop your ideas with others, outline why they’re important, be positive and succinct, and encourage others to have their say. Here are some tips:

- **Be clear:** clearly state your topic and concerns – headings and/or bullet points can help
- **Examples:** provide evidence of a need that is quantified and verifiable
- **Benefits:** outline the benefits to your area, sport, community
- **Community connection:** make sure you emphasise how your thinking will benefit the wider community

- **Call to action:** tell Council what decision you want them to make.

As an individual – whether you're a coach, manager, parent or participant – pick something that's relevant and important to you (it can be a single aspect), don't cut and paste, and use your own words.

Message ideas

The #Sportmatters communication from Aktive's submission to Auckland Council's Auckland Plan and draft Long-term Plan for 2018-28 references messages that are still valid two years on.

Here are some other ideas:

- The benefits of physical activity are HUGE! They include improved physical and mental health and wellbeing, social and community connectedness, economic and productivity gains and educational outcomes
- Belonging and participation are vital for all Aucklanders – sport and recreation connects people
- Auckland is my playground – it's important for all Aucklanders to have opportunities to participate in sport and recreation
- We need to reduce barriers to participating in sport and recreation, particularly for young Aucklanders
- Quality sport and recreation experiences will help lead to a lifelong participation in physical activity
- We want Auckland to be the most liveable city and most active city in the world
- We need to future proof community sport and physical activity facilities for the predicted population growth and diversification
- We need invest in indoor and outdoor facility maintenance, refurbishment and development
- It's critical to keep community sport affordable for all Aucklanders.

These messages may also help:

- **Coaches, parents and players/participants of all ages** need to enjoy quality experiences that encourage belonging, participation and a lifelong love of physical activity
- **Sports organisations** need investment so they have the resources and facilities that enable them to attract and retain members, share best practice and deliver high quality experiences
- **Clubs** need the ability to cater for all participants to give them an enjoyable experience, to service the population growth and demographic changes and to retain people in physical activity
- **Facilities** need to be upgraded and maintained to ensure their longevity, and new facilities are required to address the current shortfall and the future growth in population – these needs are applicable to indoor and outdoor spaces

Adequate support will help ensure new and existing facilities are able to keep up with the unprecedented growth across the Greater Auckland Region and provide the opportunities and experiences our communities and children need.

Ways to have your say

Consultation is open until Friday 22 March 2020. There is no question on sport and recreation so add your comments under 5) Other feedback, and also check for Local Board priorities that may impact your organisation.

Online: You can provide feedback using the [Have your say on our Annual Budget 2020/2021](#).

In person: You can provide feedback in person at community events with details available [here](#). If you need an interpreter and/or you would like to submit feedback in New Zealand Sign Language or in Te Reo Māori, please contact Council.

Social media: Comments made through these channels will be considered written feedback:

- **Twitter:** Comments using @aklcouncil and #akhaveyoursay
- **Facebook:** Posts on facebook.com/aklcouncil – using #akhaveyoursay

By email: You can complete the attached AK Have Your Say feedback form and email it to akhaveyoursay@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz.

By post: You can complete the [AK Have Your Say feedback form](#) and send it freepost to:

Auckland Council
Freepost Private Bag 92300
Victoria Street West
Auckland 1142

For further information about advocacy, you can also review the Sport and Recreation Advocacy Toolkit developed as part the [Sector Development Toolkits](#).

#Sportmatters – so have your say
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