



Submission to the draft Auckland Plan.

About ACDA

Auckland Community Development Alliance (ACDA) is an informally constituted alliance of community organisations and Auckland communities who are working in the field of community development.

ACDA was instigated in December 2009 in the context of Auckland's changing governance structure and is now made up of over 660 community development focused organisations from around Auckland, including over 50 paid members. ACDA's role is to formally progress regional collaboration opportunities between community sector organisations and communities of place across Auckland, including with Auckland Council.

We wish to be heard orally in support of this submission. Please contact Denise Bijoux at dbijoux@orcon.net.nz or phone 815 0963 or 021 2456 898.

Our Submission

The Draft Auckland Plan seeks to renew, transform and change Auckland so that it becomes the most liveable city in the world. ACDA strongly supports this ambitious and inspirational vision for Auckland and agrees with Mayor Brown in that the "Auckland we want is one that cares about its people first and foremost". For Auckland to become the best place in the world to live, ACDA believes that communities must come first, and must be enabled to contribute to their own development, wellbeing and quality of life.

To enable this, strengthening communities and community-led development are integral to the Auckland Plan. This means, for example, that growth and opportunity need to be understood in terms of positive qualitative human-environment development rather than simply quantitative increase for some people and places at the expense of others. ACDA believes that these factors are critical to the achievement of "an outstanding quality of life, economic opportunity and sense of belonging" for Auckland's people by 2040.

Achieving cohesive, resilient and prosperous communities means actively working together with the celebrated "unparalleled cultural diversity and wealth of Auckland's people" in creative conversations and decision-making processes. It also means recognising that this diversity has real life daily implications for communities in their places: economically, environmentally, socially, culturally and politically. While this diversity and wealth of Auckland's people is recognised in relation to the Auckland economy and elaborated somewhat in Chapter One, it is only implied in the first principle of 'working together' and the third principle of 'act fairly' and is not included in the implementation framework.

We recommend that the Auckland Plan puts people at the centre in order to increase integration of social, economic, environmental, and cultural objectives and to ultimately improve the experience of living in Auckland, now and into the future. This means that strategic community-Council partnerships are resourced in order to facilitate communities as key partners in the implementation,

adaptation and continuous improvement of this plan so that the plan delivers on its promise in a collaborative and effective way.

We also recommend that community development be included as one of the transformational shifts required and elaborated in each of the 11 strategic directions. To support this we recommend that a Community Development Strategy, along the lines of the Economic Development Strategy, is co-developed with Auckland's communities to clearly communicate how Auckland's people and their communities are integrated across the key areas highlighted within the Draft Auckland Plan. A Community Development Strategy should also include detail on key areas omitted from the Auckland Plan such as older adults and community infrastructure.

Further, it is essential that Council develop processes that:

1. enable sharing of information with communities in transparent ways; and
2. enable communities to be resourced and supported to contribute to decision making and action taking.

Auckland's Strategic Direction

- In terms of the overall strategic direction, it is great to see "a strong and equitable society" where "local communities are actively involved in shaping and leading their own future" as part of one of the key outcomes for Auckland in 2040. However, it is disappointing that this is not supported by the same strong presence of 'people' throughout the various sections of this document as there was in Auckland Unleashed.
- ACDA supports the principles underpinning how the identified outcomes will be achieved and agrees that "working collaboratively and as partners", recognising interdependencies and ensuring all Aucklanders can participate equally are critical aspects of these principles. Yet, while both diagrams C.1A and C. 1B recognise people as the centre of the approach proposed the actual roles of people, communities and community-led development are not elaborated in this document. We suggest that this is a critical omission and recommend that community development be included as one of the transformational shifts required to achieve the vision. It would also be useful to have Community Development elaborated in each of the remaining ten strategic directions.

Auckland's High Level Development Strategy

- ACDA agrees that an "inclusive community" in Auckland should respect the special place of Tangata Whenua; acknowledge Auckland as the world's largest Pacific city; and embrace its increasing diversity. ACDA also agrees with the acknowledgement of interdependencies and the need for stronger working relationships with central government and other key partners including iwi. The development strategy, as a place-based approach, tends to only reference people and communities, however. It does not prioritise them and it does not elaborate in any detail as to how they are integrated into the eleven strategic directions.
- Achieving a cohesive partnership to realise this vision as well as to address social disadvantage requires collaboration and commitment from communities. To provide this, communities need to see themselves in this plan, and need to be able to influence and even lead its implementation at the local, subregional and regional levels.
- To begin to support this cohesion and partnership, we suggest that community infrastructure also needs to be developed as part of the critical infrastructure focus. This is as critical in making a compact city work for Auckland as it is in achieving the goals for each of the Two Big Initiatives. Strong community infrastructure can help integrate social, cultural, economic, environmental and political aspects, including citizenship, of this plan

and enable collaboration with a strong sense of participation, belonging and ownership from communities themselves.

- For these same reasons, ACDA suggests that communities need to be included as key partners in the implementation, adaptation and continuous improvement of this plan in order to ensure the plan delivers on its promise in a collaborative way. This means working collaboratively with **ALL** communities through connections that communities express as appropriate and effective. At several ACDA hosted forums over the past eighteen months communities have clearly said that they want to be a part of a cross sector, inclusive approach and this is a key way in how Auckland Council can help build strong communities. Communities and community organisations have in-depth knowledge about the strengths and talents within their communities, along with wisdom and evidence about what lies behind key social issues, and practical strategies for bridging social policy and implementation. It makes sense to include this in decision making and action taking.
- We also believe that, for this collaboration to be more than consultation, it must be grounded in principles of community development. Communities have already expressed their support of such community development principles as communicated in the [Auckland Community Development Charter](#), a copy of which is attached as Appendix One.
- So, while, ACDA endorses the collaborative approach emphasised in the Auckland Plan and applauds the specific recognition of iwi and other migrants, we are disappointed not to see a clearer elaboration of how communities of both place and interest are recognised as key stakeholders in the Development Strategy.


Auckland's People

- ACDA supports the intent of Council's goals in this section and endorses the opening statement that "people are at the heart of this plan". It is great to see this extended in a small way so that specific groups are highlighted but disappointing that there is no mention of older people as a specific and valued community. It would also be great to see the various directives elaborated in more detail so as to better understand the plans for what Council will undertake and how these are integrated with the remaining key strategic directions.
- ACDA supports the intention to support the distinctive areas of Auckland and implication that this approach is also applied to "the dynamic and changing needs of Auckland's families and communities". It is great to see recognition that "some communities may require support to build on their strengths and grow local leadership, capacity and skills". ACDA believes that it is critical that people and communities are enabled to contribute to the approaches developed by Council in an equitable fashion whereby people and communities are not dominated by those with positional power. Strengthening social capital will help ensure the success and sustainability of positive social change within communities over the medium and longer terms.
- It is also critical that these approaches are flexible, responsive and transparent as well as being applied in a developmental way. For example *He Ara Hou: The Pathway Forward Getting it right for Aotearoa New Zealand's Māori and Pasifika children* (Henare et al, 2011) highlights that current measurements of and approaches to Māori and Pasifika well-being are inadequate, because they do not take account of the Māori and Pasifika world views, values, spirituality and capabilities. This report advocates a capabilities approach so that new ways of thinking and acting can begin to "support Maori and Pasifika aspirations for participation in their own worlds and within New Zealand society more broadly"(p.viii). Such an approach may well be useful in non-Maori and Pasifika communities as well.
- So while ACDA applauds the inclusion of a directive to support community-led development and to work with communities to develop leadership, skills and capacity, we would like to see the focus of this directive widened to include all communities, including

those of interest as well as of place. We fully support the opportunities that the Southern Initiative provides to children, families and communities in South Auckland and recommend explicitly resourcing community-led development approaches in this area, as well as amongst the groups identified as “disadvantaged” and those working to improve their own liveability.

- ACDA also believes that to “facilitate better and further engage with key stakeholders” it is critical to the success of the Auckland Plan that Council as an organisation adopts a community development culture. Such a culture needs to be operationalized and resourced in the form of equitable partnerships that respect the principle of subsidiarity, building on the strengths communities themselves can identify, and strongly grounding community conversations and actions in what communities have energy for. This means moving away from a deficit model and capitalising on our local strengths while sharing our resources and expertise to address our local issues.
- A key aspect of such a culture is the development of strategic community-Council partnerships. We recommend an explicit commitment to working in partnership with communities and the development of a Community Development Strategy which includes the defining of relationships, approaches, targets and reporting processes.

Appendix One: The Auckland Community Development Charter



AUCKLAND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CHARTER

The Auckland Community Development Charter communicates a vision, a set of values and guiding principles that outline the way in which community development is understood, facilitated and undertaken within Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland. This Charter guides effective communication, planning, resourcing, support and participation between the Auckland Council and the communities within and across Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland.

Vision
An Auckland in which communities are strong, equitable, empowered, connected and actively involved in their own development. The Auckland Council will support, enable and encourage communities to achieve their full potential.

Values
The values that underpin this charter include commitment to Te Tiriti o Waitangi, inclusion, social justice, diversity, respect, integrity, shared participation and ownership, creativity, innovation, ongoing learning and sustainability.

Guiding Principles

- ✓ Communities have capability, knowledge and expertise to participate in and lead their own development.
- ✓ Auckland's diverse communities' voices and views are reflected in the structures and decision making processes of the new Auckland so that the new Auckland reflects communities' needs and aspirations.
- ✓ Communities are active partners of local government, with the new Auckland Council committed to working with local communities and understanding that decisions affecting communities should be made as locally as possible;
- ✓ The need for communities to work and lead locally yet connect regionally is acknowledged and supported.

The signatories to this Charter commit to supporting the above vision, values and guiding principles.

Name: _____

Signed: _____ Date: _____