

Auckland District Council of Social Services
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Submission on Auckland Unleashed, the Auckland Spatial Plan Discussion Document by the Auckland District Council of Social Services

We wish to be heard orally in support of this submission please if such an opportunity is provided. Our delegation is Angela Maynard and Josie King. Please contact Angela Maynard at the above postal address or phone / fax 09-4459996 or email: a.maynard@xtra.co.nz to arrange.

The Auckland District Council of Social Services (ADCOSS)

ADCOSS is an umbrella organisation covering the Auckland isthmus area. Membership is made up of representatives from voluntary agencies, community groups, statutory bodies and interested individuals. This submission was drafted by our Submissions sub-committee and was approved by our 12 member Executive on 19th May.

Our functions include disseminating information on social policy issues, social legislation and on policy changes, to our members and to other social and community service providers. We do this by running workshops, seminars and training sessions. We also frequently make submissions to Parliamentary Committees, to the Auckland Council and to public bodies.

We have an Executive, made up of members elected at our AGM and co-opted throughout the year. This meets monthly to discuss current issues and programmes, and it is to this meeting that representatives from our sub-committees report. We currently have sub-committees on: housing issues, producing submissions, children, and disabilities.

We are affiliated to the New Zealand Council of Social Services, based in Wellington, which works closely with Central Government, the New Zealand Council of Christian Social Services, the New Zealand Federation of Voluntary Welfare Organisations and ANGOA in the social policy field.

1. Transport

We strongly support option 3. We want priority given to enhancing our provision for rail, ferries, buses, cycling and walking. We strongly support the early and progressive construction of the Inner City Loop, the rail loop to the airport from Onehunga and Manukau, the Avondale to Southdown connection and then rail to the North Shore with an extension of the Northern Busway to Orewa all within 30 years. We need more ferry services including to St Heliers, Panmure and Pakuranga and on the Manukau Harbour. This will give Aucklanders more transport choices and help meet the challenges of climate change, oil prices, energy efficiency, pollution and congestion. All transport should have good signposting and accessibility for people of all abilities.

2. Urban Form

We strongly support the proposal for most development to occur within the current Metropolitan Urban limits and somewhat to intensify Auckland's compact urban form. This will provide greater not less housing choice, be less expensive in infrastructure provision, be more sustainable, less energy intensive, leave a lesser carbon footprint and provide a better quality of life based around town centres. Maintaining and protecting green "lungs" for the city in the ranges, environmentally valuable land, productive farm and horticultural land, and land prone to subsidence or flooding is crucial.

3. Affordable Housing Provision

We strongly support the recommended measures to increase affordable housing provision. Specifically we support increasing the supply of Council housing, both for young families and for older people for rental for low income Aucklanders who are not eligible or are a lower priority for Housing New Zealand provision. The legacy Councils have a proud record of careful and appropriate allocation and support of tenants for their housing and the Auckland Council needs to be a major housing provider. Council should be systematically providing serviced land for development and utilization by community housing providers. Council should be collaborating with central government to provide community services to enrich greater government housing provision. We also urge the introduction of inclusionary zoning to require developers to provide a minimum proportion of affordable housing in their developments.

4. Putting Children and Young People First

We strongly support this proposed strategic priority. Pre-school education and post-school skills training and employment creation are vital elements.

Council should systematically consult children and young people about their needs and wants and about the nature of proposed programmes and facilities.

5. Reducing Inequalities

We strongly support this proposed strategic priority. Helping to ensure better health, education, literacy and numeracy, training and employment, particularly in disadvantaged areas, is vital. We strongly support the proposals for council providing a wide range of adequate accessible and affordable facilities and programmes, supporting community initiatives like community gardens, especially to grow fruit and vegetables, and also reducing the local availability of alcohol and gambling outlets. Council itself needs to ensure that its own rating policies and the charging policies of it, such as for library books and swimming pool use, and of its CCOs, such as for water and wastewater, reduce rather than increase inequality. The needs and aspirations of older adults must be actively sought out and provided for.

6. Aucklanders with Disabilities

We strongly support full participation by people with disabilities, particularly in decision-making and in full access to information, communications, transport, buildings and the physical environment.

7. Environment and Climate Change

We support the proposals for protecting Auckland's natural environment and extending Waitakere's eco-city across the region. We support reducing waste to landfill by 40% by gaining more control over the waste stream and more re-use and recycling. We also support the target of reducing Auckland's greenhouse gas emissions by 40% by 2025.

8. Urban design and Heritage

We support the proposals for improving the built environment, preserving heritage with a well-integrated Heritage Plan and ensuring good urban design. The horrors of the too ready demolition of heritage buildings and structures must be prevented in the future.

9. Strengthening and Connecting Communities and Supporting Diversity

We strongly support this strategic priority and the specific proposals within it. This includes community development, community events and the fostering of diverse cultural expressions.

10 People and the Economy

We support these proposals. We are particularly supportive of the proposals for: building the skills, education and learning of all Aucklanders; supporting diverse Maori, Pasifika and ethnic economic development; creating a sustainable eco-city and economy; and supporting the arts and creative industries.

Yours sincerely

Angela Maynard
Co-ordinator
Auckland District Council of Social Services