



Freepost Authority 237170
Auckland Council
The Auckland Plan
Private Bag 92300
Auckland 1142

23rd May 2011

Submission on Auckland Unleashed, the Auckland Spatial Plan Discussion Document From Community Waitakere

Introduction

Community Waitakere is a Charitable Trust, dedicated to achieving our vision of a sustainable Waitakere with strong, connected communities. We have a thirty year history of supporting and strengthening community organisations, building and maintaining relationships with central and local government and communities, undertaking and supporting community development initiatives and fostering collaborative actions that achieve our vision.

The values that we hold are:

- Acting with integrity
- Growing sustainability
- Inspiring
- Partnering
- Inclusion

Community Waitakere is recognised locally and nationally as a key linkage between national, regional and sub-regional networks. We provide the “glue” which joins diverse community organisations with each other and with local and central government agencies and funders. This function enables the sharing of resources, knowledge and networks across a broad sector.

We strongly **support the vision for Auckland** and agree with Mayor Brown that the **potential of Auckland lies “in its communities and people”**. We believe that communities must be enabled to contribute to their own development, wellbeing and quality of life. We can achieve cohesive, resilient and prosperous communities through actively including and resourcing our diverse communities in Auckland, in creative conversations and decision-making processes.

***Submission to Auckland Unleashed from Community Waitakere, P O Box 21 068 Henderson (09) 838 7904
Pat Watson, Manager
May 31st 2011***

The Auckland Plan seeks to renew, transform and change Auckland so that becomes the most liveable city in the world. This is achievable, provided communities and **community-led development** is at its heart. This key factor and considered discussion around **how** we can work together are critical to that outcome.

The Big Picture

It is heartening to see “people” as one of the identified strategic drivers for the Auckland Plan – people and quality of life; people and economy; people and environment; people and place and people and infrastructure: a clear commitment to all of our peoples and our communities. Community Waitakere knows well that inclusive and safe communities, based on strong local identity, are great places to live.

Recognition of Mana Whenua and Tangata Whenua

Waitakere has a strong and thriving Maori community who hail from all “four corners of the wind” and our own Mana Whenua: Te Kawerau a Maki and Ngati Whatua ki Kaipara. Maori are long established citizens of our region and play an integral part in the history and shaping of our community and environment. We believe strongly that Maori should be provided unique status that acknowledges their right to participate, contribute and influence the future planning of Tamaki Makaurau.

Working Together

Communities across Auckland have stated in no uncertain terms that they want to be part of a cross sector, inclusive approach. The relationships and collaborations across the sectors between communities and the Auckland Council at both Council and Local Board levels need to be well connected and networked – using the simplest and most time-efficient processes. All of our citizens need to feel a strong sense of belonging to their neighbourhoods and to Auckland itself. This can be achieved if there are real opportunities for contributing.

This is about more than “consultation” – it is about active collaboration, building on what is already working well and being resourced sufficiently to do it properly. It is heartening that already Mayor Brown and some of the Auckland Councillors, and Local Board members have signed up to the Auckland Community Development Charter which clearly states the guiding principles for community development.

In our experience, the long-standing partnering collaborations between communities and the local authority have been the critical factor in many outstanding achievements in Waitakere. It is encouraging that The Auckland Plan emphasises this as a most effective way of working.

Communities wish to be active partners around the decision making tables and bring a wealth of knowledge, skills and understanding to contribute. Community organisations such as Community Waitakere realise the need to interact regionally and locally so as to ensure connections at all levels.

This is necessary to ensure reciprocal communications, guidance and information sharing at all levels. It is, more importantly, essential to keeping the local work grounded and unique.

People and the Quality of Life

We strongly support the notion to **put children and young people first** and the idea that we are all guardians of our young people. As we grow resilient, more connected communities and neighbourhoods this can be achieved, as the responsibility is shared amongst every citizen and street. Extending the role and services of Auckland schools to become community hubs would make sense as these premises are potentially local “anchor” facilities, not fully utilised outside of school hours. Combining the social and educational focus and whanau friendliness will be a more cooperative and holistic asset to any community.

People and the Economy

We believe that **Community Economic Development** is a key component to the Auckland economy. Following two national CED Conferences co-hosted by Community Waitakere and the CEDNZ Trust a strong national Community Economic Development Network has evolved. Community Waitakere urges the Auckland Council to develop a culture which supports Community Economic Development, both internally and externally in partnership with organisations like ourselves, ACDA and the Community Economic Development Network. Furthermore we wish to engage in the development of Council’s Procurement Policy, and planning for the transfer of assets as leverage for community organisations for the establishment of social enterprise and social innovation. Auckland Council is recognising the momentum generated from the CED Conferences and the potential for connecting Economic Development and Social and Community Economic Development with the planning for a joint forum in July/August. We wish that community representatives with a depth of understanding of this work are around the planning tables for this whole area of development.

People and the Environment

Community Waitakere fully supports the extension of **the Eco-City concept** across Auckland. Taking advantage of the Waitakere experience will hasten progress. We are resolute that we must **protect our unique environment for future generations to enjoy**. The Waitakere Ranges must be protected for their environmental value, their ecosystems and natural beauty and as a jewel in the Auckland crown. We fully support the protection of the Waitakere Ranges from inappropriate development and short term thinking.

People and Place

Community Waitakere believes that it is essential to accommodate a rapidly growing population without compromising liveability. The re-categorisation of our centres is potentially a place to start, but we need to be working together with our communities to ensure we get it right!

People and Infrastructure

Finding solutions to our current transport system is urgent. The inability to move around Auckland easily and unheeded is what curtails the activities of many of our citizens, both for work and for leisure. Community Waitakere supports the need for a **world-class transport** system that allows us to move around our city.

In summary Community Waitakere submits:

That the Auckland Plan can achieve a place of opportunity, creativity, ideas and energy and the most liveable city in the world if the following key messages are clearly included:

- Resilient, prosperous connected communities are the heart and soul of our city.
- Auckland Council abides by the community development principles laid out in the Auckland Community Development Charter.
- That Maori should be provided unique status that acknowledges their right to participate, contribute and influence the future planning of Tamaki Makaurau.
- Auckland Council works collaboratively with all communities through the development and maintenance of key community partnerships.
- Auckland Council recognises the readiness of communities to work in partnership with Council to achieve community-led development together.
- Community brokers such as Community Waitakere are key conduits for deepening Council's reach into communities and neighbourhoods in Waitakere
- Community Waitakere is an experienced community partner and advocate for local government and communities in Waitakere
- Community Waitakere has been an initiator in the establishment of the Auckland Community Development Alliance
- That Community Economic Development is included as part of the Auckland Plan around People and the Economy
- That Auckland Council develop a culture which supports Community Economic Development, both internally and externally.
- That Auckland Council develops a Procurement Policy and an Asset Transfer Policy in collaboration with community.
- That Auckland's unique environment is protected for future generations to enjoy.