
HARBOUR SPORT SUBMISSION

Submission to:

Devonport-Takapuna Local Board Draft Plan

From:

Harbour Sport (North Harbour Regional Sports Trust representing 305,000 residents)
Sports House, Stadium Drive, Albany, PO Box 300-633
North Shore City 0752

INTRODUCTION

Research has shown that increasing community participation in organised sport and recreation contributes to social capital which acts as the social fabric that binds New Zealand communities. Sports clubs, community organisations, and recreational parks and facilities are important conduits for developing social capital and are good indicator of community strength.

The key benefits of increased social capital through community sport and recreation include:

- Building community sense of pride and belonging
- Increased social inclusion
- Reduced anti-social behaviour
- Educational programmes
- Improved health and well-being
- Economic growth
- Urban and regional regeneration

With almost 80% of Devonport-Takapuna residents actively participating in sport and recreation once a week, 98% of residents participating once a year and volunteering ingrained in the local community, the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board have a unique opportunity to make a considerable difference to their people.

Devonport-Takapuna has 50 sport and recreation clubs, 5 regional sport organisations and 87 sport and recreation facilities which cater for approximately 53,000 of your community residents and potentially 305,000 North Shore City and Rodney residents.

The North Harbour Region has one of the fastest growing populations in New Zealand, with clear indications suggesting that growth will occur around existing town centres in areas such as Devonport-Takapuna. These factors need to be taken into consideration when developing effective community strategies around sport, recreation, parks and facilities in the region.

Harbour Sport supports the key projects/initiatives outlined in the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board Plan and encourages the Local Board Members to consider the following when making the final decisions:

- Development of partnerships with community organisations for the delivery of sport and recreation, including the continued provision of community funding
- Advocating to Auckland Council for the development of a 'Regional Sport and Recreation Strategy' as a key priority

- Leading the development of multi-agency partnerships (i.e. with local schools and clubs) that improve the delivery of sport and recreation
- Partnering with other Local Boards in the development of sub-regional sport and recreation programmes and facilities
- Development of 'Community Sport and Recreation Hubs' where a number of sport and recreation opportunities can be offered
- Having a sport and recreation portfolio holder on the board who is the key contact for all related activities
- Continue provision for the upgrade of sport and recreation facilities to meet current and future growth demand
- Including sport and recreation specific KPI's within your local board agreement that will drive improved levels of service within the Auckland Council
- Advocating for equity across codes in terms of provision and maintenance of surfaces/facilities. Currently fields are maintained for football, rugby and rugby league by council. Sports codes utilising hard courts or turfs (e.g. netball, hockey) are required to fund and maintain their facilities/surfaces themselves.

Harbour Sport is a Charitable Trust that leads and supports the development of the North Harbour sport and recreation sector to provide quality sport, recreation and social experiences. We achieve this by partnering with key sector enablers and deliverers to ensure that there are enjoyable and equitable opportunities to participate.

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Harbour Sport endorses the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board priority areas, particularly '***Cherishing our Environmental and Historic Treasures***', '***Improving our Economy***' and '***Community Facilities and Services***'. We believe that sport and recreation can play a significant role in achieving successful outcomes within your communities.

CHERISHING OUR ENVIRONMENTAL & HISTORIC TREASURES

Harbour Sport supports the Torpedo bay Coastal walkway, Takapuna to Milford Coastal walkway & Takapuna to Devonport Inner coastal walkway. These walkways provide excellent recreational opportunities for people and highlight the stunning natural features of the area.

Harbour Sport would support the development of a shared walkway/cycle way around the perimeter of Lake Pupuke.

Harbour Sport supports the retention (or further development) of the skate board park at Ngataranga Reserve. It is well utilized and provides opportunities for youth to be active in an informal and unstructured manner. We support the maintenance of the green belt cycle way between Takapuna and Devonport which borders this park and allows youth to cycle to the skate board park using this track.

Harbour Sport supports the Takapuna Caravan Park being removed and the reserve being developed for sport and recreational activities so that all people living in Takapuna and on the North Harbour (as well as the rest of Auckland) can enjoy this beach front reserve.

IMPROVING OUR ECONOMY

Harbour Sport supports the provision allocated to the key projects/initiatives and would encourage the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board Members to consider the following submissions when making the final decisions:

- **Investigate the land use opportunities in the Barry's Point precinct, taking into account future rail**
Opportunity to partner with schools and the Ministry of Education to develop this land for sports field use. The Secondary schools have indicated a strong interest in this option.

IMPROVING OUR TRANSPORT

- Harbour Sport supports the further development of cycle ways in the Devonport-Takapuna Local board area as a means for providing sustainable options for active transport. These will support with reducing road congestion, encouraging school students to utilize the already existing cycle lanes as well as encouraging recreational riding.
- We also support any other initiatives which facilitate and encourage walking and cycling in our region due to the many benefits: public health, environmental, economical, social and community.
- Ensure all forms of public transport (in particular buses) are equipped to carry bicycles in order to provide people with integrated public transport and sustainable transport options. Harbour Sport supports the further development of bus/public transport options advocating for well integrated models which encourage active transport to public transport. Ensure there are options for safely locking bicycles at bus stops. Look at overseas models utilizing 24 hours locked cages for bikes accessed by swipe cards.
- Harbour Sport would support the development of a shared walkway/cycle way around the perimeter of Lake Pupuke.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND SERVICES

Harbour Sport supports the provision allocated to the key projects/initiatives and would encourage the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board Members to consider the following submissions when making the final decisions:

- **North Shore Leisure Centre – new Takapuna pool within the next 10 years**
Harbour Sport would like to support the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board by consulting with the local sport and recreation sector to evaluate specific needs and requirements that can feed into the planning.
- **Investigate provision of community facilities in Sunnynook & Milford village centres**
Harbour Sport would like to support the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board by consulting with the local sport and recreation sector to evaluate specific needs and requirements that can feed into the planning.
- **Support creation of Shore exhibition centre**
Harbour Sport would like to support the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board by consulting with the local sport and recreation sector to evaluate specific needs and requirements that can feed into the planning.

CONCLUSION

Harbour Sport thanks the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board for the opportunity to comment on the draft local board plan. We hope that the comments and feedback will help support the decision making and provision allocation process.

We believe that the final Devonport-Takapuna Local Board Plan will be well placed to become a blueprint for future Sport and Recreation development in the Auckland Plan.

This submission supports the position that Harbour Sport currently holds within the North Harbour region and their involvement as a key stakeholder in any future development of sport and recreation in the Devonport-Takapuna communities.

If you would like further clarification of any of the areas raised in this submission, please contact Toni-Maree Carnie, CEO, Harbour Sport.

Contact:

Toni-Maree Carnie

CEO

ceo@harboursport.co.nz

09 415 4642

021 2833 444

Signature:

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