
HARBOUR SPORT SUBMISSION

Submission to:

Rodney Local Board Draft Plan

From:

Harbour Sport (North Harbour Regional Sports Trust representing 305,000 residents)
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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 Rodney 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 Rodney Local Board have a unique opportunity to make a considerable difference to their people.

Rodney has 47 sport and recreation clubs and 67 sport and recreation facilities which cater for approximately 50,000 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 Rodney. 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 Rodney 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 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

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.

Harbour Sport endorses the Rodney Local Board priority areas, particularly priority five: ***'Provide for the recreational needs of our community'*** and priority six: ***'Engage with our diverse communities and provide for their social and cultural needs'***. We believe that sport and recreation can play a significant role in achieving successful outcomes within your communities.

PROVIDE FOR THE RECREATIONAL NEEDS OF OUR COMMUNITY

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

- **Prepare a sport and recreational strategy considering all community facilities and needs across the local board area, including consideration of aquatic, multisport and other facilities in Rodney**

Harbour Sport support the development of a recreation strategy and see real value in being involved as a key partner and regional provider of sport and recreation development. Harbour Sports' role within the community is to advocate for sport, recreation and health and wellbeing activities. Harbour Sport play a leadership role in sport and recreation and provide sector knowledge and best practice examples of sport working to meet the needs of the community. Harbour Sport currently facilitate opportunities for regional sport and recreation consultation and planning and believe that this is a crucial service to keep the Rodney Local Board abreast of community sport and recreation issues. Harbour Sport considers the budget allocated for this (\$6,690,000) as excessive.

- **Assess needs and construct a swimming pool/aquatic facility in Rodney**

Harbour Sport recommends that a robust feasibility study and formalized consultation process is initiated prior to the construction of such a facility. It is very important to have a planned approach to the cost and resources required to build and in particular maintain this type of venture. Harbour Sport recommends utilizing documents such as the ARPASS Aquatics Study in making decisions as well as considering the regional aquatics requirements across Auckland. If a pool is to be developed then Harbour Sport supports it being located at the Warkworth Show Grounds as part of a multi-purpose sports complex.

- **Prepare a parks strategy to determine future land acquisition and development priorities for Rodney**

Several Regional Sports Organisations (RSO's) and local clubs have identified a shortage of fields to play on. A formal review and plan to allow for future needs of parks will be required to meet the needs of the growing population and growth of sports played on parks.

- **Implement a programme for the continued improvement of the quality of our sports fields, parks and recreational spaces and review and implement reserve management plans**

Harbour Sport advocate for the development of a Sport and Recreation Strategy for the Rodney region which would provide real direction for future maintenance and development of existing sports fields, parks and recreational spaces. Some consideration should be afforded to the equity of Local Board and Auckland Council maintenance support across all sports facilities in the region. The development of multi-purpose facilities on existing recreational spaces may be an important development for the community.

- **Complete the Warkworth Showgrounds development including Atlas site**

The potential of the Warkworth Showgrounds and Atlas site is significant. It is strongly recommended that a community plan, feasibility study, and formal community consultation for these sites is budgeted. The development of a multi-sport facility will have a large impact for sport and recreation in the Rodney community. Harbour Sport would like to support the Rodney Local Board in the planning and development of this sport and recreational facility.

- **Plan, programme and provide recreational walkways and bike trails**

Harbour Sport is supportive of this initiative as it promotes activity and healthy living. Harbour Sport would be interested in being involved promoting these walkways and bike trails to the communities within the Harbour region.

ENGAGE WITH OUR DIVERSE COMMUNITIES AND PROVIDE FOR THEIR SOCIAL AND CULTURAL NEEDS

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

- **Deliver community development programmes, social/community services and ensure the delivery of community safety initiatives in Rodney**

Harbour Sport believes the following priorities as important for community development programmes. Sport and Recreational programmes that are made easy to access for the community play a significant role in community development and safety. These aspects need to be acknowledged in the Local Board plan:

Allocation of budget in the community programmes for the training and development of coaches and volunteers Regional Sports Organisations have limited funding. Consequently the resourcing to ensure quality training of coaches and volunteers is limited. This has a negative effect on quality of coaching and volunteers. This effects the number of people willing to coach and volunteer. Consequently less quality coaches are available, less support for volunteers is provided and a reduced number of students get to participate in sport and recreation.

Allocation of budget for targeted community programmes for Regional Sports Organisation to develop the sport in the Local Board Area.

Support for an RSO to add to in return for service delivery of the sport programme in the local board area. Local Boards could negotiate specific targeted programmes in their area for a sport or combination of sports to deliver on.

- Allocation of budget for School-Club link programmes
 - Support for schools and clubs to establish school –club projects.
 - Funding allocated to seed fund projects
 - Harbour sport to oversee projects.
- **Participate in the regional review of halls and public facilities and develop and implement a programme for upgrading and maintaining community halls**

Harbour Sport would like to be actively involved in any community consultation around development of halls and public facilities. This will ensure that if an asset is redeveloped or upgraded the asset can reflect any community sporting requirements when work is completed.

CONCLUSION

Harbour Sport thanks the Rodney 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 Rodney 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 a stakeholder in any future development of sport and recreation within Rodney communities.

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

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