



## Section Eight – Next Steps

It is anticipated that this Framework will be updated on a regular basis (i.e. bi annually) as it is used to help shape the integration of social infrastructure into growth planning.

Particular issues that will need to be addressed at this time relate to:

- Funding
- Setting in place appropriate structures to facilitate a collaborative approaches
- Upskilling growth planners (policy and resource consent)
- Strengthening local and regional planning (RMA) policy
- Improving databases and forecasting capacities including GIS mapping
- Research and investigations

## 8.1 Funding

A significant issue raised by all social infrastructure providers (public and private) is the lack of certainty over funding, and the extent to which this hampers the ability to take advantage of opportunities as they arise in the development process. A lack of certainty over funding arises from a range of issues, including:

- Poor forward planning of needs
- Competing demands on financial resources
- High cost of new investments
- Limited dedicated funding streams.

A significant long-term goal of the Framework is to set in train processes that will help to overcome these issues. Important actions are related to:

- (a) More formal identification of needs and delivery gaps in relation to growth centres. Through various asset based strategies, the Council is moving to better identify future infrastructure needs, but often these programmes are not related to the growth management programme. The suggested centre-specific infrastructure investment frameworks that are part of the design-based work completed for growth areas, should help to address this.
- (b) Additional funding streams. The Council's ability to raise funds for infrastructure are fairly wide ranging under the LGA (including loans, targeted rates and development contributions), but to support and justify funding demands, Councils need to have good planning systems in place that can predict demands and develop and implement projects.

- (d) Significant issues exist around land purchase, and whether there is sufficient scope in current legislation for Councils to compulsorily acquire land for more general community infrastructure-type projects. On the other side of the coin, is the inability to capture some of the value uplift achieved through rezoning proposals. Some form of value capture would help create further funding streams for infrastructure (the UK is investigating this).
- (e) In terms of the RMA, there are opportunities to require space within larger developments for community activities. For example, under the Auckland City District Plan (Isthmus Section) the Sylvia Park shopping centre development has to provide a number of facilities for community activities, linked to the stages of the development. This is on the basis of the size of the centre and its potential affects on other centres and the community resources within them.



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## 8.2 Upskilling

It is apparent from developing this Framework that many growth planners are uncertain about the characteristics of social infrastructure and to how to incorporate social infrastructure needs into the planning process. Equally many social infrastructure providers are uncertain about the growth planning process and how to engage in it.

There would therefore be considerable benefit from improving the understanding of all parties.



## 8.3 Policy development

### Regional Level

Policy-level engagement in regional level policy development related to the long term framework and the on-going implementation of the Regional Growth Strategy would benefit local actions by helping to achieve a degree of regional agreement. It is important to recognise that some infrastructure providers operate at a regional level.

### City Level

A social infrastructure planner has been appointed by the Council and is part of the Strategy team. This position will ensure that social infrastructure issues are addressed, be a conduit for growth planning information to be circulated to other providers and ensure that Council provided infrastructure takes into account city-wide growth planning. They would amend and update the Framework and take the lead role in the running of inter sector forums/ groups.

### Locality level

Locality brokers could participate in local area planning exercises, identifying needs, actively contributing to locality-level planning and helping to co-ordinate delivery between different providers at local level. An example of this is the Massey Matters project.

## 8.4 Research / Investigations

To assist with the implementation of the framework the following types of investigations /actions will be needed on a regular basis:

- Improved population forecasting – including socio economic characteristics
- Needs, capacity and options analysis for growth areas;
- Monitoring – regular update of social infrastructure asset information
- Funding streams and options for social infrastructure
- Periodic review of the Framework.
- Research and develop levels of provision for Council infrastructure that are appropriate to intensively developed centres.