

27. **Household energy efficiency advice project**

This project combines Household Energy Checks with Water Checks and aims for a target of 400 households per annum. The energy checks involve a visit to the customer's home where EcoMatters look at:

- Insulation
- Hot water / hot water system
- Shower / shower flows
- Standby costs

The core aim of the energy efficiency audits is to facilitate behaviour change, in order to reduce energy usage.

Update for 2009/2010: Since 2006, 2069 homes in Waitakere have been visited by EcoMatters for energy or water efficiency checks. Of these, 1305 homes have been audited for energy efficiency.

The service was initially offered for \$39 and never achieved a very high uptake. Since March 2007 the service has been provided free of charge which has resulted in a high upturm in interest.

As part of the Household Energy Efficiency Advice project, several seminars on energy efficiency have also been held at:

- Sustainable Living Centre
- EcoDay
- A number of schools, including Windy Ridge School in Glenfield, North Shore
- ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) class
- Grey Power.

Promotion & Education

28. **EcoDesign Advisor**

Update for 2009/2010: Waitakere City appointed an EcoDesign Advisor is 2006. The advisor initially worked part time and has been employed full time since 2007. The advisor provides free, impartial guidance to residents on the options for sustainable heating, insulation and other aspects of sustainable living. The service has received excellent feedback. In the 2008/2009 financial year, the EcoDesign Advisor had person to person interactions with approximately 850 owners, designers, trades people and council staff. The Council was the first Council in New Zealand to offer an eco-design adviser service.

29. **Sustainable Home Guidelines**

Update for 2009/2010: The Sustainable Home Guidelines are an extensive eco-building guide. A new edition of the guidelines was finalised in May 2009. These are available on the website and in the library. A survey of online hits indicated that the insulation chapter was one of the most visited pages on the Council website with some 15,300 hits from 1/7/2008 - 1/5/2009. These are still in use and Council has sold 10 of these (mainly to businesses) in 2009.

30. **Tools for Urban Sustainability Code of Practise (TUSC)**

Update for 2009/2010 : TUSC was a programme that was ahead of its time in terms of its holistic approach to assessing the sustainability of potential developments. One problem with its adoption was that it had a user interface that was not the easiest to use. The incentives for using the TUSC programme for assessment were also relatively weak, and misunderstood. Use of the tool in development projects enabled the users to get a \$2,000 rebate on their development contribution. However, to a large scale developer, this does not seem to have been a sufficient incentive to use TUSC.

More recent tools for assessment of housing sustainability such as the recently adopted Green Star building assessment tool are now superseding TUSC. The advantage of TUSC is that it covered a broader range of criteria than the green star rating system currently does. An example of this is the criteria that TUSC uses to assess the proximity of the property to public transport, a key component of the overall sustainability of the property.

31. Solar hot water project

This project operates through promoting the installation of solar hot water systems and waiving of consent fees for such systems. The average installation cost for such a system is relatively high, between \$6,000 and \$10,000. The Council has endeavoured to work with local suppliers to produce a unit that costs around \$2,000.

Update for 2009/2010: After offering full waiver of fees, the Council reduced the subsidy to \$500 towards each building consent fee for the installation of solar hot water systems in June 2009. The \$500 now generally covers the cost of a straight forward consent. This subsidy will come to an end in June 2010. The Council has not succeeded in sourcing a cheaper solar hot water system. The cheapest system is currently around \$5,000.

32. Cleaner Production programmes

This covers business energy use related to industrial processes as well as building energy use. It also covers waste reduction. This has been delivered through the EnviroSmart programme.

Update for 2009/2010: The EnviroSmart programme was administered and delivered by Landcare. Twenty-two councils signed up to the EnviroSmart programme. In July this year four businesses in Waitakere achieved gold EnviroMark accreditation through the EnviroSmart programme. Due to certain problems with implementation of the programme the Council together with the other Auckland councils have now launched a new programme EcoBiz; which is a similar initiative as EnviroSmart for businesses to join. EcoBiz offers businesses a wider range globally recognised accreditation that businesses could get certification for. Along side the programme the Council will be running workshops on various topics which will educate businesses on what they can do to reduce resource use.

Research into more Sustainable Cities

33. Beacon Pathway Limited

Beacon Pathway Limited is a collaborative research consortium which looks at ways to create affordable homes that are more resource efficient and sustainable. Council was one of the founding shareholder of Beacon Pathway Limited in 2004 along with other private sector and public sector organisations. It has an aspirational goal of 90 percent of homes in New Zealand reaching a high standard of sustainability by 2012. Some of

the early home research projects provided valuable information to Beacon project on affordable and sustainable housing. The first of these houses, the Waitakere Now House was opened in 2005 and cost \$218,000 to build. It was part of a collaboration between the Council, Scion, BRANZ Limited, University of Auckland and the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority (EECA).

Update for 2009/2010: Beacon is in its final year of Foundation for Research Science and Technology (FRST) funding and is completing several current research projects, including:

- *The Beacon Home Smart renovations project.* This will create holistic sustainability renovations of existing homes in order to further test the outcomes of previous research by Beacon. 600 homes around New Zealand have been recruited for this project. This project is also informed by several other research projects that are part of this.
 - Creating Beacon's High Standard of Sustainability®
 - A definition of housing typologies and preference for these in New Zealand
 - Renovation pilots and consumer preference with respect to these.
- The Neighbourhoods Research project looks at the sustainability aspects of existing developments in New Zealand as case studies.
- Energy research
- Water use research
- Indoor environment quality
- Systems and materials research
- Beacon is also currently undertaking a market transformation project. In order to stimulate demand for environmentally sustainable homes, this requires 'supply push' and 'demand pull'.

Beacon also currently holds annual symposia to share its research leanings on sustainable housing and is working with the New Zealand Green Building Council and BRANZ Limited on a New Zealand residential rating tool.

Leading by example – Corporate Actions

34. **Sustainability Standards for Buildings**

Council currently has detailed standards for its buildings. These are outlined in the Better Building Code, which is also available to others wanting to build more sustainable buildings.

In 2006 Council's sustainable buildings included:

- Massey Leisure Centre and Library
- New Lynn Community Centre
- Glen Eden Library
- New Lynn Library

Update for 2009/2010 : Since 2006 several new sustainable buildings have been built. These include:

- Waitakere Central Library
- Waitakere Central Civic Centre
- The new Civil Defence building.

The sustainable buildings have been a key part of the energy savings made by Council since the energy efficiency programme began in 2001/2002.

35. **New building monitoring and management**

This programme ensures that the benefits of new buildings are monitored for efficient operation until proven.

Update for 2009/2010: Monitoring of the new buildings has been achieved through allocating a staff member responsible for Council's energy management. Other essential aspects of the monitoring programme include:

- Installing energy management software to quantify and report on energy usage and costs
- Working with staff to identify opportunities and implement energy efficiency projects
- Quantifying and reporting the savings from projects.

36. **Energy management programme**

The programme is aimed at increasing the efficient management of Council buildings, streetlights and other infrastructure. The energy management programme is closely tied to the monitoring programme.

Update for 2009/2010: The Council reached the joint milestones of saving/avoiding \$1.56 million dollars energy costs and 11,196,816 kilowatt hours energy usage since it began its energy efficiency programme in 2001/2002.

Of these savings, the Council achieved energy cost savings of \$260,611 (excluding GST), from reductions in energy usage of 2,023,032 kilowatt hours and 17,339 litres of fuel during 2008/2009. Of these, the most striking example was Waikumete Cemetery. More efficient energy use at the crematorium with an overall 673,045 kWh (70 percent) reduction in gas compared to the peak year of 2003/2004.

37. **Green power**

Investigating the possibility of purchasing electricity from new renewable generation for Council buildings.

Update for 2009/2010: The 2009/2010 electricity supply for the Auckland councils included sustainability in the procurement criteria. Tenderers were also asked how they could support the Auckland councils in energy management and greenhouse gas reduction programmes.

38. **Upgrade of Council pensioner housing to include energy efficiency**

Update for 2009/2010: Major renovations of the Council Housing for Older Adults have been undertaken, commencing the physical works in 2007/2008 financial year. The project was initially intended to be a three year project, and upgrades were to be completed on all of the Council owned pensioner villages, excluding Wilsher Village. The original intention included upgrades on 268 units.

Major refurbishment work has been undertaken on 161 units. Contracts are currently taking place for major refurbishment of another 17 units. It is estimated that there will be up to a further 10 units completed by the end of June, however due to budget restrictions in the final year of the project from both the funders, the Council and the Housing New Zealand Housing Innovation Fund, the original number of intended upgrades will not be undertaken.

During the process of upgrading the units, several improvements were made:

- Council utilised water and energy efficient products where possible.
- Insulation of the housing was undertaken. This included sealing concrete slabs, draught stopping doors, and insulating roof cavities and under floor (where applicable) and exterior walls where wall linings were required to be removed.

The Council has investigated all options for maintenance and renewals, ensuring that it takes into account the best options for the environment.

39. West Wave aquatic centre plant efficiency programme

Update for 2009/2010: West Wave Aquatic Centre has achieved substantial energy reductions in the past few years. This has partly been achieved through reviewing co-generation and gas usage. Over the year 2008/2009 West Wave has achieved electricity savings of 7.7 percent of its peak year 2004/05. It has also achieved overall savings in gas usage to 6.1 percent of its peak year, which was 2004/2005. West Wave is examining further energy efficiency opportunities.

40. Education about Council's buildings

Update for 2009/2010: This is an ongoing project. It is aimed at staff and the public. Information is available through brochures, displays, tours and information on the Council website. Educational panels have also been placed in and around the various Council buildings.

Renewable local generation

Encourage Large Scale Commercial Generation

41. Waitakere City Renewable Resource Assessment

Update for 2009/2010: Research into the potential for renewable energy generation in Waitakere was undertaken in 2006, with a masters thesis by a Massey University student on the Renewable Energy potential of Waitakere. A further national programme of regional studies was undertaken by Sinclair Knight Merz (SKM) consultants for Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority (EECA). These included a discussion of the potential of tidal generation in the Manukau Harbour and wind generation. The investigations concluded that there are no commercially viable sites in Waitakere for large scale renewable energy production. However, tidal (Manukau Harbour mouth, Puponga Point and other smaller tidal inlets) and wave energy resources (West Coast) are significant, and may have commercial scale potential as these technologies advance. The wind resource present in the Waitakere Ranges is no better than many other locations around the Auckland region but has the disadvantage of significant native forest (which 'slows' the wind through friction and turbulence) and landscape values creating consenting difficulties. Hydro resources are limited due to the small steep catchments, the largest of which are now dammed for water supply purposes (within which Watercare operates small scale hydro generation for their own use). There is also currently no statutory planning policy basis for assessing large scale renewable energy generation applications in Waitakere.

42. Working with others to achieve generation north of Waitakere

Council aims to work with others to achieve renewable generation north of Waitakere.

Update for 2009/2010: The Council made a submission on the resource consent proposal and Plan Change for the Genesis natural gas powered power plant at Rodney. The Council submission supported the station in principle, but also aimed to minimise the environmental impact of the power plant, particularly the impact of proposed discharges of waste and cooling water on the Kaipara Harbour, a key marine species breeding ground that supplies almost the whole west coast fisheries stock. A number of these suggestions have been incorporated into the final consent conditions. These consents and the related Plan Change are currently under appeal by the applicant, a number of neighbours and interested parties. The Council is not party to the appeals.

The Council has previously supported a 2006 resource consent application by Crest Energy Limited for tidal electricity generation in the Kaipara Harbour, using up to 200 1MW marine turbines. Again the submission was in support of the proposal, but conditional on suitably addressing issues around adverse effects particularly barrier effects of the large turbine array to fish and marine mammal migration in and out of the harbour. The consent was significantly amended, addressing the Council's concerns and granted. A subsequent appeal (by interests related to the local Iwi) has also been held, and is now awaiting the decision of the Court.

Encourage Small Scale Embedded Generation

43. **Demonstration project**

Encouraging small scale local generation. The Council would like to see small scale embedded local generation.

Update for 2009/2010: The Vector Swift wind turbine was installed at the Waitakere Central Civic Centre in 2007. It was a landmark project. It was aimed at resolving technical issues and encouraging local embedded generation. The original intent of the wind turbine was that it would provide the energy requirements for an average sized house. While the turbine does contribute some energy to the Council building, it does not contribute as much as was expected. The main issue that impacts the wind turbines performance is that the air flow is not constant enough to provide a reliable source of electricity. Despite the limited generation provided by the test project, it was however a worthy attempt to create more local generation and demonstrates Council's commitment to innovation and sustainability.

44. **Encouraging renewable generation via the District Plan**

A review will be undertaken to ensure that the District Plan encourages renewable generation.

Update for 2009/2010 : A review of the District Plan was undertaken in 2008 and a Plan Change has been drafted to ensure that the District Plan and Council policies are not imposing unnecessary barriers to the development, uptake, cost and effectiveness of renewable energy or energy efficiency programs, devices or technologies. The draft Plan Change also aims to enable energy efficiency through good urban design and building.

This draft Plan Change has not progressed further as it was pending the approval of the National Environmental Standards (NES) for Electricity Transmission, the National Policy Statement (NPS) for Renewable Electricity Generation (REG) and a review of Chapter 6: Energy of the Regional Policy Statement (RPS). The RPS review has been

stalled due to pending governance changes, and the NPS on REG has yet to be released.

Council is also encouraging small scale renewable energy through Plan Change 26. Solar panels are now excluded from the consent rules around height restrictions for houses, through being added to the list of exclusions that already apply to chimneys, decorative features and gable ended roofs.

45. **Working with others to encourage local energy**

Update for 2009/2010: The Council has undertaken several collaborative renewable energy projects with external organisations. The Waitakere Central wind turbine was a trial conducted by Vector Networks and Council. Council provide roof space for this and manages the asset. Massey Leisure Centre and Library has a photovoltaic energy supply to supplement its electricity supply, which was funded by Waitemata Electricity Trust.

46. **Solar street lighting**

In September 2008 the Council co-hosted 'Advancing New Zealand Street Lighting Technologies Forum and night tours to promote discussion on energy efficient street lighting infrastructure with over 120 participants from all over New Zealand, including government officials, local government managers, lighting engineers, urban designers, developers and lighting suppliers.

Update for 2009/2010: The Council undertook the installation of 203 CosmoPolis luminaries with 23 percent energy savings and 19 Stealth LED luminaries with 55 percent energy savings. This is compared to the standard high pressure sodium luminaries that would have otherwise been installed during the capital upgrade project for 14 Waitakere streets. Solar was initially proposed but LED provided a starting point. The Council installed 7km of LED lights in the Project Twin Streams cycleway during November 2009 to March 2010.

Waste reduction-cutting methane emissions

Support Community Waste Projects

47. **Composting workshops and free compost bins**

Update for 2009/2010: EcoMatters Environment Trust currently provides free organic waste bins and courses for Waitakere residents. EcoMatters run composting courses as a core part of its education programme. EcoMatters has run a variety of courses that involve composting from 2005 until 2009. A total of 377 residents have attended these courses.

Ecomatters have provided free organic waste bins through the Sustainable Homes project. This was initiated in April 2008 and is still ongoing. Funding for this has come from the Council and from the Ministry for the Environment Sustainable Management Fund. To date the free organic waste bins have been provided to 810 homes in Waitakere.

48. **Establishment of a community initiatives fund and cloth nappy project**

Update for 2009/2010: The Council supported community waste projects through the Waste Not Fund. The project was started in May 2008. It has been used to sponsor

13 projects. This includes the establishment of a large scale worm farm at Vision Waitakere Gardens retirement village. This diverts approximately 3,000kg of food waste from landfill per year. The Waste Not Fund was not continued for the 2009/2010 financial year.

The cloth nappy project has been quite successful. The Council and West Auckland Health Services are subsidising cloth nappy hire kits. Bi-monthly 'Cloth nappy know-how' courses are run through the Cloth Nappy education centre at Te Atatu Peninsula. When parents attend one of these courses, they are also able to purchase subsidised trial kits for \$15, which are of the value of \$70. Cloth nappy hire kits are also available. As one of the outcomes of this project, Waitakere Hospital has now returned to cloth nappies in the maternity ward. The project has been a success with an estimated 80,000 disposable nappies being diverted from landfill per annum.

49. **Encourage recycling**

Update for 2009/2010: The Council currently offers kerbside collection of plastics, cans, glass bottles and paper. These are processed for recycling at the Council owned Refuse and Recycling Transfer Station. The total tonnage of recyclable items (plastic, glass and aluminium) collected in the 2008/2009 financial year has been 17,423 tonnes.

Other measures undertaken to encourage recycling include supporting the introduction of the waste levy on each tonne of solid waste that goes to landfill. The levy was introduced through the Waste Minimisation Act 2008. The intent of the levy is to create a financial incentive to reduce waste going to landfill, and provide funding for waste minimisation activities.

The Council is also investigating organic waste collection and processing. In order to be successful, the organic waste collection needs to be implemented on a broader scale than just Waitakere. The current Auckland councils have collectively carried out a stage 1 options report on the possible and the most viable organic waste processing option for the region.

Promotion & Education

50. **Promotion and education**

Update for 2009/2010: The 'Bags Not!' campaign to reduce plastic bag use in Waitakere is currently under way. In March 2009 the Mayor hosted a forum for local retailers to address the indiscriminate use of plastic shopping bags. The forum has since raised awareness of the issue and reinforced support for action from the local retailers. Major retailers like The Warehouse and Foodstuffs have introduced a national charge on their plastic shopping bags. The Council has also been working on a campaign to raise community awareness and bring about consumer behaviour change. The public awareness campaign developed is positive, engaging, and inclusive and reflects the character of Waitakere, offering real alternatives to plastic bags and tips for reducing their use.

The Learning Centre at the Refuse and Recycling Transfer Station continues to provide talks for schools and other interested groups on waste minimisation.

51. **Subsidised compost bins available to residents**

Update for 2009/2010: Subsidised compost bins have been provided to residents through EcoMatters Environment Trust.

EcoMatters has been selling Bokashi composting bins since April 2008. These were subsidised by the Chinese Conservation Education Trust. Approximately one hundred 15 litre compost bins were sold at the subsidised rate.

Since November 2009 worm farms have also been available for sale from EcoMatters.

52. **Construction and demolition waste minimisation project**

This project is aimed at local construction projects.

Update for 2009/2010: The NZ Housing Foundation has provided good case studies of what to do in terms of sustainable construction and demolition. The Council provided information to the NZ Housing Foundation and suggested initiatives that could further improve sustainability. Currently there are no new waste minimisation projects being undertaken for construction and demolition at Waitakere.

53. **Waste minimisation and management plans case studies**

Update for 2009/2010: The Council provides advise on waste management and minimisation as and when requested by businesses. Recently there have been no new requests to assist with waste management plans.

The Council has recently started a new programme - EcoBiz for businesses and already 32 companies have signed up to the programme in the Auckland region

Leading by example - Corporate Actions

54. **Corporate waste audits**

Update for 2009/2010: Regular waste audits of the former Council offices and the current building have been undertaken from the year 2001 to 2006. The information from these audits has been used to develop waste systems that were implemented at the new building. A further waste audit was undertaken in 2006, the first year of the Council corporate building being in place. This audit reinforced information gathered from previous findings. Waste management and minimisation at the Council offices is working well, and it was not deemed necessary to continue with the waste audits,

55. **Worm farming of staff cafeteria organic waste and other waste reduction initiatives**

Update for 2009/2010: The worm farm is currently in place and it is being administered by staff members. All food scraps from the cafeteria and kitchenettes currently go into the worm farm.

Adaptation to climate change

Ensuring that we adapt to the changing climate as well as possible

56. **Assessment of likely local impacts**

Modelling of the effects of climate change on the Waitakere region based on the Climate Impacts on New Zealand Infrastructure (CLINZI) study.

Update for 2009/2010: Findings from the Climate Impacts on New Zealand Infrastructure study undertaken by the New Zealand Centre for Ecological Economics have been used to inform the Activity Plans for stormwater, wastewater, water supply, transport assets, parks and open space, and property assets, for the Long Term Council Community Plan 2009-2019.

Civil Defence Emergency Management

57. **Integrate climate change effects into emergency and Civil Defence planning**

Update for 2009/2010 : The Climate Impacts on New Zealand Infrastructure study highlighted that extreme weather events could lead to stretched services and increased costs to the repair of infrastructure. Water supply also could also be at risk due to climate change impacts.

Civil Defence Waitakere has stated that although extreme weather events may become more common in the future they anticipate that no significant changes to the response procedures are necessary.

A new installation by Civil Defence is the tsunami siren warning system at coastal locations. This system will significantly improve the ability of civil defence to warn local communities of tsunami risk.

Publicity and Education

58. **Communications programme around climate change (adaptation)**

Update for 2009/2010:

A public relations programme on climate change was designed in 2007 by Colman Stone Public Relations. This now needs updating, as most of the events in the programme have been delivered on.

Education and awareness

59. **Ensure education and public awareness about climate change**

Update for 2009/2010: The Council has a range of useful resources on the website relating to climate change under 'eco initiatives'. These include detailed information on buying more fuel efficient vehicles and using public transport. Background information on climate change and energy use is also provided. EcoMatters Environment Trust also hosts workshops on reducing energy use. The Council continues to support events that raise awareness about climate change, like the 350 campaign and Earth Hour 2009.

60. **Sustainable living courses**

Update for 2009/2010: The Council Sustainable Living Programme (this is different to the EcoMatters Sustainable Living Centre which they run):

- In 2009 Council ran a regional 3 hour workshop for the Chinese community.
- From this 22 people signed up in the region to attend the full five week course being run in New Lynn.
- Another five topic session will be held in 2010.

- Currently Waitakere Workers Education Association (WEA) is running a six week English course in Ranui.
- The Council Sustainable Living programme is currently investigating holding the courses at Hoani Waititi Marae in Glen Eden.

61. **EcoDay, Waitakere City's annual eco festival**

Update for 2009/2010: EcoDay is currently organised by EcoMatters Environment Trust under a contract with the Council. In 2009, EcoDay attracted around 5,000 visitors. There were over five seminar sessions, including a tour through Waitakere's eco friendly 'NOW home', an open day at the sustainable living centre, a small organic market and a bus tour of Earthsong Eco-village.

62. **Climate change events**

Supporting local community groups in holding climate change events.

Update for 2009/2010: The Council supported the community 350 events in the City in 2009. 350 is the global campaign to encourage governments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to the safe level recommended by the IPCC.

The Council has also undertaken the 'Bags Not' campaign, working in partnership with retailers and the community to raise awareness and work towards a plastic shopping bag free Waitakere.

The Council also participated in Earth Hour in 2009. Waitakere showed a higher rate of participation than the national average. On average around 51 percent of New Zealand residents participated compared with 63 percent in Waitakere.

63. **Waitakere City website**

Update and improve climate change content.

Update for 2009/2010: Up to date content on climate change is currently featured on the Council website. Useful suggestions on how to reduce individual impact of climate change is also included.

AUCKLAND SOCIAL POLICY FORUM

DISCUSSION DOCUMENT



CONTENTS

MINISTER'S INTRODUCTION	1
COMMENT FROM AUCKLAND TRANSITION AGENCY	2
CONTRIBUTING TO THE DISCUSSION	3
NEXT STEPS	4
CONTEXT	5
INTRODUCTION	6
WHO WILL BE ON THE FORUM?	7
WHAT WILL THE FORUM ACHIEVE?	8
WHAT WILL THE FORUM DO TO ACHIEVE ITS OBJECTIVES?	9
HOW WILL THE FORUM WORK?	10
HOW COULD THE FORUM WORK WITH THE NGO AND COMMUNITY SECTOR?	13
APPENDIX ONE – CABINET MINUTE ON SOCIAL ISSUES	15
APPENDIX TWO – FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS	17

NOTES

There is no all-encompassing way to refer to the vast range of communities of interest, ethnic and geographic communities, non-government organisations (NGOs), iwi organisations, the disability sector and community and voluntary groups that exist in Auckland. This document uses the term 'NGO and community sector' as an inclusive term to refer to all of these groups. 'Community sector' is deliberately chosen to refer not only to community and voluntary groups, but also to the different cultural and ethnic groups, and communities of interest in Auckland. Māori, as tangata whenua, have a particular and unique role in this grouping.

The Auckland Council is made up of two parts – the governing body made up of elected councillors and the Mayor, and local boards. Where the term Auckland Council is used in this document, it is understood to incorporate references to local boards and the governing body.

MINISTER'S INTRODUCTION

Auckland is a fantastic place in which to live. We have some of New Zealand's most beautiful natural features, our region is made up of a wonderful diversity of people and communities, and our cultural life is second to none.

But this isn't the whole picture. Auckland also has some of the most disadvantaged communities in New Zealand. We do poorly on a range of social statistics. I know we face some significant challenges to overcome the entrenched social issues that are dragging down our communities and our economic performance.

The Government is committed to responding to these challenges. We are committed to making Auckland a world-class city where Aucklanders enjoy strong, vibrant neighbourhoods, healthy communities and a strong economy that creates opportunities for meaningful employment and rewards hard work.

The Auckland governance reforms offer us a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to get the structures that support the social fabric of Auckland right. That's why I am excited to be the Minister for Social Development and Employment at this time in Auckland's history. The Government has announced the establishment of the Auckland Social Policy Forum to bring the key political leaders from Auckland and central government together to do better for the region.

The Forum is a bold innovation in the way central and local government will work together to line up our priorities, agree on what needs to be done, and translate that agreement into concrete action on the ground. For the first time, central and local government in Auckland will have a dedicated forum to find agreement on the big social issues in Auckland and how we will respond to them.

The decisions made by Cabinet in early 2009 create the framework for doing this, and now it is time to 'put flesh on the bones'. I am asking for your help to do this.

I know that there is strong interest in the Forum across the community, NGO and philanthropic sectors, existing local authorities in Auckland, and the government sector. As mana whenua, Auckland Māori have a particular role and interest in the social outcomes for people in the region and how these are achieved. It is important to me that everyone has the opportunity to share their views and ideas on the Forum. Some of the issues raised in the document will be decisions for central government, some will be decisions for the Auckland Transition Agency and the Auckland Council. I intend this discussion document to be for all of these audiences as well as the communities of Auckland. It is important that everyone has the opportunity to think about the Forum and how it will work overall, not just the parts that are directly relevant to them. Silo thinking will not help us to respond to the issues Auckland is facing – we need to work better together and I intend this document to be the first step in setting a new way we can do this.

I am looking forward to reading your responses, hearing your ideas and working together to do better for the people of Auckland.

Hon Paula Bennett
Minister for Social Development and Employment

A104

COMMENT FROM THE AUCKLAND TRANSITION AGENCY

The Auckland Transition Agency (ATA) was established by the Government to amalgamate the councils across the Auckland region into the new Auckland Council by October 2010. From the local elections in 2010, the new Auckland Council will be established, with 20 councillors and a single Mayor elected by the people of Auckland.

The history of how and why the ATA was established has its roots in the Royal Commission on Auckland Governance, which delivered its report in March 2009. The Government agreed with the Royal Commission's recommendation that there needs to be bold change to make Auckland the most exciting, vibrant metropolitan centre in Australasia.

An important part of the Government's response is to establish the Auckland Social Policy Forum, bringing central government and local government together to address the pressing social issues in Auckland.

The ATA welcomes the Government's discussion document, which sets out the background to the Forum and asks Aucklanders for their feedback and ideas on how it can respond to the critical social issues Auckland faces now and will face in the future.

Mark Ford

**Executive Chairman
Auckland Transition Agency**

CONTRIBUTING TO THE DISCUSSION

This document discusses the main features of the Auckland Social Policy Forum (the Forum), including what it will do, how it could work, and how it might relate to the NGO and community sector. All of these areas are interrelated and decisions about one aspect of the Forum will affect decisions about other areas of its work and design.

Decisions about the Forum's design and how it operates are closely linked to decisions about how the Forum can most effectively engage with Auckland communities and the NGOs and community agencies that support them. Getting this right is a critical challenge. In addition to seeking your feedback about the Forum itself, this document asks for your feedback and suggestions on how the Forum could best make and maintain these connections.

Some decisions about the Forum have already been made by the Government (see Appendix One). Other decisions will be made once the feedback period has ended, and some others will be the responsibility of the Forum once it is established (such as the role and function of the Auckland Social Policy Advisory Group). Your feedback on this document will help inform these decisions. You may want to comment on other issues about the Forum or have additional ideas or alternative suggestions to contribute – these are welcome as well.

There are two ways you can send your feedback and ideas:

by email to: aucklandsocialpolicyforum@msd.govt.nz

by post to: Auckland Social Policy Forum Feedback
Ministry of Social Development Regional Policy – Auckland Office
Private Bag 68-911
Newton
Auckland 1143

A tear-out response form is included in the back of this discussion document for optional use.

The closing date for feedback to be received is **Friday 21 May 2010**.

NEXT STEPS

The Government will continue to work with the ATA to develop thinking about the design and function of the Forum. Your feedback will inform this process and it is expected that some announcements will be made prior to the October 2010 local body elections.

After the elections the ATA will be disestablished and the Government will work directly with the new Auckland Mayor, councillors and local boards. Once the Forum is established it will determine how it wishes to operate, and how it will set priorities for its initial work. At that point, your feedback on this document will also assist the Forum to understand community priorities and preferences as it begins to make decisions about its work.

CONTEXT

The Auckland Social Policy Forum is one part of the Government's response to the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Auckland Governance. The Royal Commission was established to respond to growing concerns about the workability of local government arrangements in Auckland.

The Government has agreed there will be:

- a single, unitary authority for the region from 1 November 2010
- one Mayor, elected at large
- two complementary decision-making bodies in the Auckland Council – the governing body of the Mayor and councillors and the local boards
- an agency (the Auckland Transition Agency) to oversee the initial design of the Auckland Council, make interim appointments to senior Council staff positions, and manage the transition period.

At the time of writing (January 2010), the Local Government Commission has proposed there be:

- 12 wards
- 19 local boards.

Specific decisions about social issues, including the establishment of the Auckland Social Policy Forum, are contained as Appendix One. These decisions, together with the supporting Cabinet Paper, are available on the Ministry of Social Development website at:

www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/working-papers/wp-09-08-royal-commission-on-auckland-governance-social-issues.html

The full set of Government decisions on Auckland governance reform is available on the Department of Internal Affairs website (this also includes links to decisions posted on other agency websites) at:

www.dia.govt.nz/diawebsite.nsf/wpg_URL/Legislative-Reviews-Royal-Commission-on-Auckland-Governance-Index

The report of the Royal Commission on Auckland Governance is available at:

www.royalcommission.govt.nz/rccms.nsf/CONTENTPAGES/

The Auckland Transition Agency is responsible for planning and managing the transition from Auckland's current local government arrangements to the new Auckland Council. Updates on the Agency's work are available at:

www.ata.govt.nz

The Local Government Commission proposals for the boundaries of Auckland and the number and boundaries of Auckland's wards and local boards are available at:

www.lgc.govt.nz/lgcwebsite.nsf/wpg_URL/Auckland-Governance-Index

INTRODUCTION

The Auckland Social Policy Forum responds to the Royal Commission's concerns about the lack of co-ordinated action to address social policy issues across Auckland.

In Auckland, central and local government have a history of working positively together. Building on the best of this experience, the Forum will introduce both a combined regional and local focus and the direct involvement of Auckland Council and government political representation in decision-making about social issues. It is a new, formal mechanism that enables the Government and Auckland Council (including local boards) to work effectively together on social issues.

The Forum provides the first formalised structure for senior political leaders in Auckland and central government to meet, discuss social priorities, agree on a shared vision and align priorities that will, in turn, drive action on the ground.

Some issues will be evident across the region, while others will be significant in particular communities or neighbourhoods. The Forum will need to find the right balance of regional and local focuses. Similarly, some problems will be emerging while others will have been visible for some time. This will require the development of a way to assess issues so that the right ones are selected for joint action. Deciding what to tackle and why will underlie much of what the Forum does.

Underpinning the work of the Forum will be good information, research and local experience and knowledge about what is happening in Auckland. The Forum cannot work in isolation. To make the greatest difference, the Forum needs to be well connected to the ethnic and geographic communities of Auckland, and the NGOs, agencies and community groups that support them. This will include building on, and strengthening, existing links across ethnic communities in the region and, in particular, with Māori as tangata whenua.

WHO WILL BE ON THE FORUM?

The Forum membership will bring together the key political leaders from Auckland Council and Government who can make decisions and commit to action. The size of the Forum is designed to reflect this and ensure action-orientated discussion among Forum members. Similarly, it will be important that Forum members can engage in free and frank discussions about budgets, priorities and other considerations. For this reason it is intended that the Forum be a closed meeting, with outcomes and decisions shared through public reporting mechanisms.

The Government has agreed that membership of the Forum will consist of:

- the Minister for Social Development and Employment (Chair)
- the Mayor of Auckland and the Chairs of relevant Council committees
- select representation from local boards.

When Cabinet agreed to establish the Forum, it recognised that some decisions (such as the organisational structures of the Council and how local board representation will be determined) cannot be finalised until the new Auckland Council takes office. The Government is working with the ATA to ensure that the Council will be able to play its part in the Forum and that the Forum can start its work shortly after the establishment of the Auckland Council. Any interim decisions made by the ATA will be reviewed by the Mayor, councillors and the local boards after they take office.

Decisions still to be made include:

Auckland Council committee structure – decisions about the Council committee structure (for example whether the Council has a Social Issues Committee or similar) will determine which committee Chairs sit on the Forum. The structure of Council committees will be determined by the Mayor, who also appoints the committee Chairs.

Local board representation – Cabinet agreed that local boards will be represented on the Forum, but did not direct how this representation would be determined. This is a decision for Auckland Council to make.

WHAT WILL THE FORUM ACHIEVE?

The Government has identified and agreed on a number of high-level objectives that it wants the Forum to achieve. These include:

- **progressing social issues in Auckland** at the political level
- demonstrating **strong leadership** on social issues
- setting a **clear strategic direction** and identifying **long-term social goals and strategies**
- clearly **identifying the roles and responsibilities** Government and Auckland Council have in responding to critical social issues
- driving the **alignment of thinking and action** on social issues.

(Full details of Government decisions on the Forum are contained in Appendix One.)

The Forum will focus on concrete action on the ground that responds to agreed priorities. It will set a clear, agreed strategic direction for the region, highlight the roles and responsibilities of central and local government, and drive alignment of thinking and action. Bringing Auckland Council and Government together to agree on shared approaches and plans of action will inform budget and resourcing decisions for both Auckland Council and government agencies.

Auckland Council, local boards and central government have different roles and responsibilities for social issues. Central government agencies and Auckland Council will therefore each retain control over their own budget processes and distribution of resources. To ensure the effective alignment of both planning and action, the Forum will provide clarity about what issues are given priority, what actions will occur on the ground and who will undertake them.

The Forum will use its connections and influence to drive strategy and shape decisions about the strategic priorities adopted by the Auckland Council and central government where this is appropriate. The Forum will also identify a broad strategic approach to Auckland social issues, including the development of a strategy for managing and responding to the Forum's priorities.

This twin approach will help to enhance and maintain good social outcomes for the region. A joined-up approach to planning, priority-setting and actions on the ground will support better social outcomes through better co-ordination of effort and resources across Auckland Council and government. By influencing key strategies of Auckland Council and government, the Forum will help ensure that social wellbeing is enhanced through their planning and decision-making processes.

Questions

Is this the right balance of objectives for the Forum?

Are there other objectives the Forum could consider?

WHAT WILL THE FORUM DO TO ACHIEVE ITS OBJECTIVES?

In order for the Forum to achieve the objectives outlined on page 8, Government has identified some specific activities the Forum will undertake. They include:

- **identifying and prioritising social issues** in Auckland, both at the regional level and for specific neighbourhoods
- **discussing proposed central and local government responses** to priority social issues and identifying best practice examples that work
- **considering and agreeing on joint venture action plans and projects** and who will carry out agreed actions
- **identifying duplication or gaps** in the provision of services
- **identifying activities that undermine good social outcomes** in Auckland
- **influencing wider regional strategies and plans** that can improve social outcomes
- **monitoring and reporting** on agreed Government and Council actions.

(Full details of Government decisions on the Forum are contained in Appendix One.)

Questions

Is this the right balance of activities for the Forum?

Are there other activities the Forum could consider that would support its objectives?

HOW WILL THE FORUM WORK?

The Government's decisions about the Forum did not specify how it would work – this was deliberately left as a matter for further discussion between local and central government, and with the community sector. Your feedback will help shape how the Forum might consider approaching the prioritisation of issues and agreeing on joint actions that respond to them.

The Forum creates a new opportunity for local government and central government to work together in Auckland. Many decisions about how the Forum will work cannot be made until it meets and decides on how it wants to undertake its business. This and the next section of the document identify some areas on which your feedback is particularly sought to assist the Forum to make decisions about how it will work and how it will relate to the NGO and community sector.

The Forum's relationship with central government and Auckland Council

One of the key roles of the Forum is to drive alignment of thinking and action across central government and Auckland Council. Where there is agreement on priority areas, this will inform central government and Council's individual decision-making and budget processes about funding and resourcing of action on social issues. The Forum will have particular regard for government social priorities together with social priorities identified by Auckland Council. The Forum does not have any formal powers to override the Auckland Council or central government budget and decision-making processes. Forum members will make recommendations to their respective decision-making bodies, influence funding and resourcing decisions to support action on the ground, and inform the development of strategies. The Forum itself, however, will not have a direct funding role or be able to require central government or Auckland Council to fund or undertake particular activities. Action on the ground will be undertaken through the respective agreement of Auckland Council and Government to support the responses developed by the Forum.

Agreement between Auckland Council and Government on priorities and action plans will also provide increased certainty for those in the Auckland NGO and community sector contracting with central and local government. Knowing the priorities and actions that Auckland Council and Government have agreed to fund will give clear signals to the NGO and community sector about the types of contract agencies and groups may choose to deliver as part of a shared response. This will also assist capacity, training and resourcing decisions for organisations and agencies.

A recent example of this approach in action is the successful experience of central government and local government teaming up to respond to the specific issue of youth gang activity in Counties Manukau.

The Auckland Youth Support Network

The successful creation of the Auckland Youth Support Network (AYSN) demonstrates what can be achieved when central government and local government work together with the NGO and community sector.

In November 2005, agencies, Manukau City Council and the community joined forces to do something about the problem of youth gang activity in Counties Manukau and Otahuhu. New Zealand Police, the Ministries of Education, Justice, Social Development and Youth Development, Counties Manukau District Health Board, Manukau City Council and local communities brought each of their strengths to the table in tackling a problem concerning them all.

The Ministry of Social Development undertook research, including interviews, to ask: 'What works and what doesn't when it comes to keeping kids away from gangs?'. It asked for feedback from community members including school principals and social service agencies, as well as youth with and without gang involvement. The community identified particular problems and suggested ways of addressing them.

The feedback from research and community engagement and work undertaken by the Council and government agencies were combined to develop the 26-point action plan *Improving Outcomes for Young People in Counties Manukau and Otahuhu*, which was produced by AYSN.

The action plan ensured that both short- and long-term goals were measurable and accounted for. Agencies were clear on their responsibilities, and actions were agreed across the board that supported positive outcomes for young people.

The community identified a priority for community-based youth workers who were available to young people and families, and for integrated case management so that one worker would co-ordinate across the range of NGO and government services a young person and their family needed to access. On behalf of AYSN the Ministry of Social Development managed the contracting of dedicated youth workers in five suburbs across Counties Manukau and Otahuhu.

Police and families identified issues with the care of young people who were picked up by Police during the night and had no responsible adults at home who could care for them overnight. In response, Child, Youth and Family established a 24-hour supervised residential facility that enabled Police to direct these young people to assistance rather than having to find accommodation for them in Police cells or motels, or return them to situations where they might be at long-term risk.

AYSN has since grown to include the Auckland and Waitakere City Councils, Papakura District Council, Te Puni Kōkiri, the Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs, the Office of Ethnic Affairs and Housing New Zealand Corporation. The results have been dramatic and include significant decreases in reported youth gang activity, truancy and youth-related violence. In addition to addressing the presenting 'problem' issues, the creation of AYSN has resulted in a significant contribution to community capacity and the development of a strong youth work capacity in the Counties Manukau and Otahuhu area.

While AYSN is an excellent example of what the Forum might achieve and one way it can work, it is important to acknowledge that the Forum will need to take different approaches to the different issues with which it deals. Adopting a rigid approach to decision-making and action will not achieve the outcomes sought for Auckland. The Forum must be flexible and innovative in its approach, and for this reason the discussion document does not try to identify the 'best' approach for the Forum to work.

One of the first tasks for the Forum will be to identify issues that could become priority areas for action. Once the issues have been agreed, the Forum will be able to choose the most appropriate joint response to them and identify how to measure success.

Questions

Your feedback is sought on the issues you think the Forum could consider early in its work. Once the Forum has identified its priorities, it can begin the work of identifying approaches and actions that will respond best to them. The tear-out feedback form on the back page of this document asks for your views on:

- the issues you think are important for the Forum to consider in its first year
- what the right balance between local and regional priorities might be
- any particular issues, communities or locations to which you think the Forum could consider giving priority.

HOW COULD THE FORUM WORK WITH THE NGO AND COMMUNITY SECTOR?

There is no 'one size fits all' solution to addressing social issues. What works for one issue in a particular location may not be appropriate for a different issue or a different place or, indeed, the region as a whole. To understand the complexity of the issues facing Auckland, as well as particular issues facing specific neighbourhoods or communities, the Forum will need to be well connected to local communities and agencies working on the ground across the region. Understanding local and regional perspectives and identifying the solutions that work will be key elements in the Forum's success.

The NGO and community sector works at the grassroots of social issues. It brings significant knowledge and experience of Auckland, its communities, issues and strengths. The sector is responsible for managing and delivering significant programmes, social infrastructure and resources across the region. The establishment of the Forum creates a new opportunity to think about how best to engage with NGO and community groups. The right mechanisms for engagement will help to ensure the Forum works in a way that reflects the knowledge and experiences of those working directly with Auckland's communities.

Ensuring the diverse range of community and sector voices, experiences and knowledge is reflected in discussion and decision-making at the political level is a central responsibility for the Forum. Deciding how it will achieve this will be a key consideration for the Forum early in its life.

Making meaningful connections with Auckland's communities and agencies

Forum members will represent the views of their communities as elected members of Government, Auckland Council and its local boards. Local board members participating in Forum discussions will bring forward the perspectives of local communities and be able to represent their views.

Forum members will need to be well connected to the community perspective so they can make good decisions on the priority issues for Auckland. Maintaining these existing relationships during the establishment of the new Council will be important.

As tangata whenua, Māori have unique and vital perspectives on issues facing the people and communities of Auckland. The Forum will have particular regard to these perspectives and an early task for Forum members will be identifying how best to ensure a meaningful relationship between the Forum and Māori in the region.

Ensuring that there is an effective sharing of information and alignment of priorities across the sector will be critical if the Forum is to drive the alignment of action in the region successfully. Finding the right mechanisms to engage with the NGO and community sector will be a vital, early task for the Forum.

The Government, Auckland Council and its local boards will work with social sector agencies, community organisations, communities and the philanthropic sector on the Forum's work. This will include seeking NGO and community sector advice to inform

priority-setting and decision-making, and seeking local knowledge about local solutions that work.

The Forum will have the option of seeking direct input from NGO and community leaders. This includes the possibility of individuals or organisations participating in Forum meetings through presentations, discussions, and sharing information on specific programmes, research or initiatives. Other groups may want to propose mechanisms for formal engagement with the Forum. For instance, the not-for-profit sector may choose to organise itself in such a way as to identify an agreed point of contact for the sharing of information and engagement with the Forum.

It is particularly important that the Forum has the right links with Māori, and with Pacific and other ethnic communities. Strong relationships with the Forum will ensure that the broad diversity of Auckland is reflected in the Forum's decision-making and the particular place of Māori is acknowledged.

The Government proposes to establish a statutory independent board to promote issues of significance to Māori. It also proposes that the Auckland Council establish Pacific and ethnic advisory panels no later than 31 March 2011. At the time of writing these proposals are contained in the Local Government (Auckland Law Reform) Bill. The board and panels will have important roles in terms of identifying social priorities for communities in Auckland. Finding the best way to work with the board and panels to ensure they are fully heard in discussions and decision-making will be a critical task and a joint decision for the Forum, the board and panels.

NGOs are likely to have a central role in delivering services and contracts in areas prioritised by the Forum. The alignment of focus and effort across central and local government will give added certainty to the NGO and community sector. Clarity about the issues that are considered priorities for response in Auckland will assist for organisations to plan and build capacity. A shared approach across central and local government, working together with the NGO and community sector, will help to achieve better outcomes for the people and communities of Auckland.

Your feedback and suggestions on mechanisms that could support effective communication and engagement between the Forum and the NGO and community sector is sought, and will help the Forum to determine how best to approach this critical element of its work.

Questions

What roles do you think the NGO and community sector could have in shaping the focus and priorities the Forum considers? How do you think this could best happen?

How might the Forum best identify and engage with communities or organisations that have particular interests in issues the Forum is considering?

How can the Forum ensure the voices and perspectives of Māori are heard in its prioritising and decision-making?

How might the Forum best engage with Pacific and other ethnic communities?

Where would the best point of connection be between the NGO and community sector and the Forum? What mechanisms or arrangements could best support this?

APPENDIX ONE – CABINET MINUTE ON SOCIAL ISSUES

Cabinet

CAB Min (09) 15/12

Minute of Decision

Royal Commission on Auckland Governance: Social Issues

Portfolio: Social Development and Employment

On 4 May 2009, following reference from the Cabinet Committee on Implementation of Auckland Governance Reforms (AGR), Cabinet:

- 1 **noted** that the Royal Commission on Auckland Governance (the Royal Commission) concluded that Auckland needs a governance structure for social well-being that enables local and central government to share decision making and accountability for improving the effectiveness of resources spent, and addressing the critical social issues in Auckland;
- 2 **agreed** that in the development of the Auckland Council, consideration be given to a Social Services Committee or equivalent, which will align effort between central and local government, and within local government, to promote positive social outcomes;
- 3 **noted** that much work important to good social outcomes is done, and must continue to be done, at the local community level, and that decision making mechanisms must support this imperative and preserve funding for grass-roots initiatives;
- 4 **noted** that Local Boards are the appropriate mechanisms to provide community views on priorities and that, as work progresses on their design, options for their formal role in securing funding for community initiatives will be developed and considered;
- 5 **agreed** that the Social Issues Board, as proposed by the Royal Commission, not proceed;
- 6 **agreed:**
 - 6.1 to establish the Auckland Social Policy Forum to progress social issues in Auckland at the political level;

- 6.2 that the Forum comprise the Minister for Social Development and Employment as Chair, the Mayor of Auckland Council, and Chairs of relevant Auckland Council Committees, together with some select representation from Local Boards;
- 6.3 that the role of the Forum be to demonstrate strong leadership, set a clear strategic direction, highlight the roles and responsibilities of central and local government, and drive alignment of thinking and action, including:
 - 6.3.1 identifying guiding social priorities and discussing proposed social policy responses and strategies, both at a regional level and for specific geographic communities;
 - 6.3.2 considering and agreeing on joint venture action plans and projects
 - 6.3.3 identifying duplicated activity, identifying gaps, and highlighting activity that would undermine positive social outcomes;
 - 6.3.4 influencing wider regional strategies to actively support good social outcomes;
 - 6.3.5 monitoring and reporting on agency activities, plus social outcomes at regional and prioritised neighbourhood levels;
- 7 **agreed** that the Auckland Social Policy Forum be supported by an Auckland Social Policy Advisory Group comprising officials from the Ministry of Social Development, other agencies as appropriate, and Auckland local government;
- 8 **noted** that the Auckland Social Policy Forum referred to in paragraph 6 above will not commence until late 2010, and that transitional arrangements will need to be considered.

APPENDIX TWO – FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why an Auckland Social Policy Forum?

The social wellbeing of the country's largest city will be improved by a new Auckland Social Policy Forum. The Forum will ensure central and local government work together to identify and address agreed priority social issues in Auckland.

Poor social outcomes in Auckland compromise the lives of residents, as well as the region's economic growth. As Auckland is New Zealand's fastest-growing and only international city, it is vital to maximise social outcomes for Aucklanders that are critically connected to their quality of life and the economic performance of the region.

What is the Forum?

The Auckland Social Policy Forum is a part of the Government's response to the *Report of the Royal Commission on Auckland Governance*. The Forum is a central-local government group being set up to address social issues in Auckland at a political level by bringing key political leaders together.

What is the role of the Forum?

The Forum's role is to demonstrate strong leadership and set a clear strategic direction for addressing social issues in Auckland. The Forum will draw upon the different roles and responsibilities of central government and local government, and drive the alignment of thinking and action.

In determining joint actions the Forum will:

- identify the critical social issues for Auckland
- select the ones that should be prioritised for joint government and Auckland Council action
- agree on how each issue will be tackled and what each party will do
- review the effectiveness of the actions.

Who will be on the Forum?

The Government has agreed that the Forum will include the Minister for Social Development and Employment as Chair, the Mayor of Auckland Council, the Chairs of relevant Council committees and some select representation from local boards.

How will local board representatives be selected?

The representation of local boards and the views of communities are important. As local boards are part of the Auckland Council governance structure, final decisions about local board representation will be the responsibility of Auckland Council in consultation with local boards.

Will the Forum be open to the public?

No. The Government has agreed, however, that the Forum will report on its work. The Forum will also have strong connections to the communities of Auckland and the NGOs, agencies and community organisations that support them, and this connection will inform good decision-making by the Forum.

What social issues will come before the Forum?

A broad range of social issues will be considered by the Forum. However, it is important that the Forum stays focused and tackles the most important issues that will make the biggest difference to Aucklanders' lives, both now and into the future.

Will the Forum give consideration to the views of communities within Auckland?

The Mayor, councillors and local board members will represent their communities, express their views and advocate in their interests when at the Forum. Consideration is being given to the best ways to draw together the views of community organisations to allow the Forum to consider their perspectives. Your views about how best this can happen will help to ensure the Forum has a strong connection to the community.

How can I comment on this discussion document?

You can send your feedback in any form and feedback is not limited to only the questions contained in this discussion document. Feedback can be sent by:

email to aucklandsocialpolicyforum@msd.govt.nz

post to: Auckland Social Policy Forum Feedback
Ministry of Social Development Regional Policy – Auckland Office
Private Bag 68-911
Newton
Auckland 1143

Your feedback is invited on the questions raised in the document and on any other aspect of the Forum about which you want to share your ideas or views.

The last date for feedback to be received is Friday 21 May 2010.

Thank you for taking the time to read and respond to this document – your feedback is important and will be considered as decisions are made about the function and form of the Forum.

To help the Forum think about the issues it will prioritise in its first year, you are invited to suggest particular issues or areas that you think could be priority issues in the new Auckland City.

The tear-out form at the back of this document details the specific questions asked in the discussion document and can be used as a template for feedback if you wish. Your feedback does not have to be limited to the questions contained in the discussion document. Your views are sought on any aspect of the Forum on which you wish to comment.

Feedback can be sent in any form and returned either

electronically:

aucklandsocialpolicyforum@msd.govt.nz

or by post:

Auckland Social Policy Forum Feedback
Ministry of Social Development Regional Policy – Auckland Office
Private Bag 68-911
Newton
Auckland 1143

QUESTIONS CONTAINED IN THE DISCUSSION DOCUMENT

What will the Forum achieve?

- Is this the right balance of objectives for the Forum?
- Are there other objectives the Forum could consider?

What will the Forum do to achieve its objectives?

- Is this the right balance of activities for the Forum?
- Are there other activities the Forum could consider that would support its objectives?

How will the Forum work? – Issues and priorities

- What issues do you think are important for the Forum to consider in its first year?
- What do you think would be the right balance for the Forum to strike between local and regional priorities?
- Are there any particular issues, communities or locations to which you think the Forum could consider giving priority?

How could the Forum work with the NGO and community sector?

- What roles do you think the NGO and community sector could have in shaping the focus and priorities the Forum considers? How do you think this could best happen?
- How might the Forum best identify and engage with communities or organisations that have particular interests in issues the Forum is considering?
- How can the Forum ensure the voices and perspectives of Māori are heard in its prioritising and decision-making?
- How might the Forum best engage with Pacific and other ethnic communities?
- Where would the best point of connection be between the NGO and community sector and the Forum? What mechanisms or arrangements could best support this?

Name Organisation (if applicable)

Postal address

Email

Send to: Auckland Social Policy Forum Feedback
Ministry of Social Development Regional Policy – Auckland Office
Private Bag 68-911
Newton
Auckland 1143

A124