

Physical and social infrastructure requirements

Stormwater

Auckland City's stormwater drainage systems require major upgrades to catch up on a maintenance backlog, and to cater for higher environmental standards and growth in demand.

A remedial programme is in place, including an annual \$21 million spend on infrastructure as described in the Auckland City stormwater asset management plan, and catchment management plans. As areas of change are identified and released they will be made priorities for upgrades.

Sustainable urban drainage systems, such as swales or home recycling tanks, will become more widely used. Council is working with homeowners and the regional council on ways to encourage more sustainable drainage methods.

Water and Wastewater

Wastewater and water systems in Auckland City are owned and managed by Metrowater, a council-owned business. Council will continue to work closely with Metrowater to ensure water capacity keeps up with demand. Funding of Metrowater's services is through user pays.



Transport

Auckland City and Auckland Regional Councils are committed to completing an integrated transport system for private and passenger transport, for goods and people. It is a priority for both Councils to cater for both the growing population and economic growth in the region. All the councils in Auckland are working with Transit NZ and central government to advocate and plan for a complete transport system. Completion of the motorway system is a priority, to complement investment in passenger transport including rail, bus and ferries. More people living and working around transport hubs – rail stations, bus routes or ferry wharves – will in turn be more likely to support improved passenger transport services. Safe and attractive streets to encourage people to walk to their train or bus are a key part of the mix.

Solid waste management

Auckland City generates substantial amounts of solid waste. The council's waste management plans aims to reduce waste significantly over time. Further initiatives need to be added over time to continue a downward trend in waste volumes to landfill and an upward trend waste reduction.



Key social infrastructure

Recreation and community facilities, open space

Auckland City and Auckland Regional Councils both have strategies for the provision of open space for passive and active, casual and organised recreation.

Auckland City Council will need to assess other facility and service needs when plans are developed for each area of change. Financial contributions collected from new development will partly fund any new facilities - which means that communities that accept and experience growth will be provided with new facilities.

Streetscape and urban design

An intensive style of development will require a higher standard of urban design – both for private buildings and for public spaces. Where people are living with less private open space, streets and plazas will become the social and relaxation spaces that private gardens provide in suburban areas. Urban design rules will need to be included in district plan zones to ensure the public domain functions well and has a look and feel that reflects Auckland's special character.

Community anchors

Communities with existing schools and community facilities attract growth. These successful facilities can act as community anchors, providing the attractor to support nearby neighbourhood retail and services. Areas that already have these community anchors can likely accommodate change more quickly and can be prioritised for development as urban living communities.



Funding of Key Infrastructure

Auckland City Council's approach to growth management will require substantial investment in the proposed areas of change. Council will need to invest in infrastructure for both community services and physical needs such as drainage and transport.

A significant proportion of these works is to be funded through priorities in the Council's Asset Management Plans. Applications will be made to Infrastructure Auckland to help fund a number of stormwater and public transport projects. Applications will also be made to Transfund to fund major roading projects.

Acquisition of additional open space areas or the upgrading of existing open space areas will be funded from developer's financial contributions. Some work may need to be funded from the rating base or by special rating areas. The community must always be consulted before any changes to Council's long term or annual financial plans.

Partners in Growth

Services provided by others include:

Transport:

Auckland City and Auckland Regional Councils will need to work cooperatively with other councils in the region and the numerous bodies involved in planning, funding and building Auckland's transport infrastructure.

Education:

In Auckland City there has been a history of uneven provision of education facilities in certain parts of the city, in part because of changes in government policy. Planning and provision of schools is improving and will become a critical part in establishing strong "community anchors" in areas of change.

Preschool and primary schools are often the community anchors that provide a focus and meeting place for local residents. To deliver a "complete community" for each urban living community, each will need quick and easy access to these facilities. The increase in population expected will increase the demand for more schools and bigger school.

Auckland Regional Council and Auckland City will continue to work with the Ministry of Education to ensure appropriate decisions are made on provision of schools, based on expected changes and growth in population.

Health:

Health services are provided by both the private and public sector. Auckland City and Auckland Regional Councils are working with these providers to ensure services keep pace with other changes to the city.

Affordable housing:

Auckland's growth management strategy will ensure people can still choose the lifestyle and housing they prefer – from rural lifestyle and suburban houses to urban townhouses or apartments.

Auckland City Council through its regulatory role promotes a mix of housing types and communities. The nomination of traditional communities will preserve a choice of suburban communities while urban living areas will provide more intensive housing types close to town centres and transport.

Council's current position on housing is that central government is responsible for providing and managing social housing. Council is working with Housing New Zealand to ensure that public housing and the surrounding public areas are improved over time, in line with the growth strategy for the city.

