Te Poari ā-Rohe o Ōtara-Papatoetoe Te Rīpoata ā-Tau 2024/2025

ŌTARA-PAPATOETOE LOCAL BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 2024/2025

Volume 2.13

Ōtara-Papatoetoe Local Board
Auckland Council

Mihi

Tēnā kia hoea e au taku waka mā ngā tai mihi o ata
e uru ake ai au mā te awa o Tāmaki
ki te ūnga o Tainui waka i Ōtāhuhu.
I reira ka toia aku mihi ki te uru ki te
Pūkaki Tapu o Poutūkeka,
i reira ko te Pā i Māngere.
E hoe aku mihi mā te Mānukanuka o Hoturoa
ki te kūrae o Te Kūiti o Āwhitu.
I konā ka rere taku haere mā te ākau
ki te pūaha o Waikato, te awa tukukiri o ngā tūpuna,
Waikato Taniwharau, he piko he taniwha.
Ka hīkoi anō aku mihi mā te taha whakararo
mā Maioro ki Waiuku, ki Matukutūreia
kei konā, ko ngā Pā o Tāhuna me Reretewhioi.
Ka aro whakarunga au kia tau atu ki Pukekohe.
Ka tahuri te haere a taku reo ki te ao
o te tonga e whāriki atu rā mā runga i ngā hiwi,
kia taka atu au ki Te Paina,
ki te Pou o Mangatāwhiri.
Mātika tonu aku mihi ki a koe Kaiaua
te whākana atu rā o whatu mā Tīkapa Moana
ki te maunga tapu o Moehau.
Ka kauhoetia e aku kōrero te moana ki Maraetai
kia hoki ake au ki uta ki Ōhuiarangi,
heteri mō Pakuranga.
I reira ka hoki whakaroto ake anō au
i te awa o Tāmaki mā te taha whakarunga
ki te Puke o Taramainuku, kei konā ko Ōtara.
Ka rewa taku mihi ki runga ake o Kohuora,
kātahi au ka toro atu ki te Manurewa a Tamapohore.
Ka whakatau aku mihi mutunga
ki runga o Pukekiwiriki
kei raro ko Papakura
ki konā au, ka whakatau.

Let this vessel that carries my greetings
travel by way of the Tāmaki River
to the landing place of Tainui canoe at Ōtāhuhu.
There, let my salutations be borne across the isthmus
to the Pūkaki lagoon
and the community of Māngere.
Paddling the Manukau Harbour
we follow the Āwhitu Peninsula to the headland.
From there we fly down coast
to the Waikato river mouth,
sacred waters of our forebears.
Coming ashore on the northern side at Maioro,
we head inland to Waiuku and Matukutūreia,
there are the Pā – Tāhuna and Reretewhioi.
Heading southward I come to Pukekohe.
My words turn to follow the ancient ridgelines along
the southern boundary,
dropping down into Mercer
and Te Pou o Mangatāwhiri.
My greetings reach you at Kaiaua
who gazes across Tīkapa Moana
to the sacred mountain, Moehau.
Taking to the sea, my remarks travel to Maraetai
and then to Ōhuiarangi,
sentinel to Pakuranga.
There we follow again the Tāmaki River
to Te Puke o Taramainuku,
Ōtara resides there.
I am suspended high above Kohuora
before I reach for Manurewa.
My greetings come to rest
on Pukekiwiriki
below which lies Papakura
and, there I take rest.

◀ **On the cover:** ASB Polyfest 2025

ŌTARA-PAPATOETOE LOCAL BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 2024/2025

He kōrero mō tēnei rīpoata

About this report

This annual report tells the story of how Auckland Council has performed in delivering services in the Ōtara-Papatoetoe Local Board area from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025.

You can read about our progress, expenditure, service performance and challenges faced in 2024/2025. It's part of the wider annual reporting package for the Auckland Council Group and meets our Local Government Act 2002 obligations to report on our performance against agreed measures. It reports against the council's Long-term Plan 2024-2034 and the Ōtara-Papatoetoe Local Board Agreement 2024/2025.

This report also reflects the local flavour of your area by profiling its population, people and council facilities. It features a story about a council or community activity that adds special value to the area and demonstrates how **together we're delivering for Auckland**.

Contents

▼ Movies in the Park: Coco at Ngāti Ōtara.

He kōrero mai i te heamana

From the chairperson

Talofa lava!

O lupe sa vao eseese, ae ua fuifui faatasi - We are from different parts of the forest, but we are bound together. The Ōtara-Papatoetoe Local Board is proud to continue to create a community where our diverse people can come together to live, play, work and thrive.

I am pleased to present the Ōtara-Papatoetoe Annual Report for 2024/2025. This year has been busy and productive, marked by steady progress despite the budgetary constraints we faced.

We have successfully delivered a variety of projects and initiatives. Notable achievements include the completion of the circular pathway at Mayfield Park, the installation of basketball and volleyball courts, and the renewal of the roof and gutters at the Allan Brewster Leisure Centre. We also did significant renewal works at the Ōtara Skills Shed on Boundary Road, revitalised the Aerovista footbridge and refurbished the Tupu Library following storm damage.

Local communities led activities with support from our Local Community Grants programme where we assisted 84 organisations and 32 individuals in their pursuit of excellence, distributing a total of $271,165. This year, we also proudly supported Polyfest, enabling it to celebrate its 50th anniversary in Ōtara, preserving its heritage and supporting its kaupapa.

We supported community activities to celebrate Matariki in partnership with local groups and artists across our area.

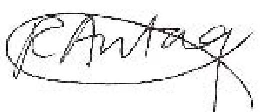
The Diversity Festival, in its seventh year, showcased the rich multicultural tapestry of outh Auckland, drawing many to a new location with support from Eke Panuku's Transform Manukau programme and Westfield Manukau.

Guided by our Sports and Active Recreation plan, we allocated $90,000 to the Kolmar Charitable Trust for the renewal of the artificial bowling green surface at the Papatoetoe Hunters Corner Bowling Club.

Making real changes to our environment is achieved through initiatives such as Pest Free South, Eco-neighbourhoods and participation from local schools and communities. This helps people take action, understand the why and feel proud to be part of the solution.

Looking ahead, we must find ways to work prudently to manage services. We remain focused on advocating for funding to implement the Manukau Sports Bowl masterplan and a community hub in Papatoetoe.

Fa'afetai tele lava for your ongoing support. Our journey is guided by partnership—with mana whenua, mataawaka, and our residents. Together, we are building a vibrant, inclusive, and resilient Ōtara-Papatoetoe.



Apulu Reece Autagavaia
Chair
Ōtara-Papatoetoe
Local Board

Te Poari ā-Rohe o Ōtara-Papatoetoe

Ōtara-Papatoetoe Local Board

▲
(L to R) Topou Folau, deputy chairperson Vi Hausia, Li'amanaia Lorenzo Kaisara, Apulu Reece Autagavaia (Chairperson), Ashraf Choudhary, Ofa Dewes and Albert Lim.

Contact us

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ŌTARA-PAPATOETOE LOCAL BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 2024/2025

Ngā kaupapa me ngā whakapaipai ake

Ōtara-Papatoetoe projects and improvements

Key to current and planned projects

Delivered projects

1. Allan Brewster Leisure Centre - roof and gutter renewal
2. Ōtara Skills Shed [Boundary Road] - facility renewal
3. Papatoetoe Town Hall - building interior renewal
4. Mayfield Park - circular pathway development
5. Aerovista footbridge structural renewal
6. Tupu Library - Refurbishment of storm damaged HVAC

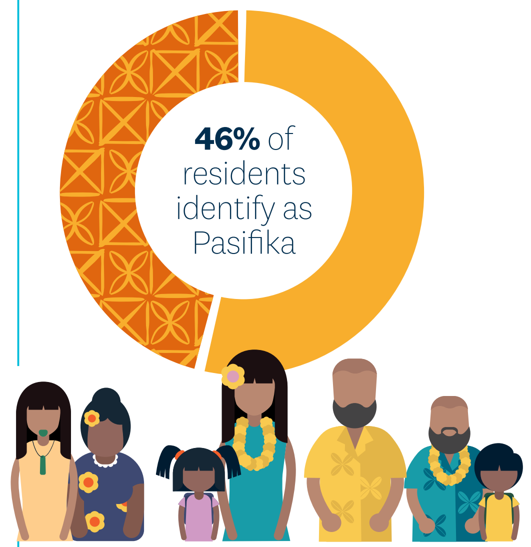
Current projects

1. Ōtara Pool and Leisure Centre - comprehensive renewal
2. Allan Brewster Recreation Centre - comprehensive renewal
3. Papatoetoe Centennial Pools and Leisure Centre - asset renewals
4. Ōtara Pool and Leisure Centre - roof renewal
5. Allan Brewster Leisure Centre - interior renewal
6. Waenganui/Allenby Park - skate bowl and playground renewal
7. Kimpton Park - playground renewal
8. East Tamaki Reserve - sports fields upgrade
9. Ngāti Ōtara Park - toilet block, depot and boxing gym renewal
10. Ngāti Ōtara Park - netball facilities upgrade

Map legend

Local board office | Public open space (Unitary Plan) | Motorway
Major road | Arterial road | Medium road | Minor road

Ōtara-Papatoetoe has a population of **95,000** with more than **100** different ethnicities



We're home to more than **110** local parks and sports fields, **4** libraries, **3** recreation centres and **2** community centres

Data sources: Council Growth Scenario AGS23v1 (Feb 2024), StatsNZ Census 2023 (initial release May 2024)

ŌTARA-PAPATOETOE LOCAL BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 2024/2025

Tā mātou pūrongo whakahaere mahi

Our performance report

KEY

Achieved · Substantially achieved (+/-2% slim margin) · Not achieved · Not measured

For more information on our service performance judgements and assumptions please refer to pages 122-123 of Volume 1 of this Annual Report.

Local Community Services

We invested in a wide range of local arts, culture, events, grants, and sport and recreation activities, recognising their vital role in fostering community connection, wellbeing, and local identity. This included funding for capacity-building programmes that strengthen neighbourhood networks and empower community-led development. These initiatives support local groups and individuals to take an active role in shaping their communities and creating inclusive spaces for all.

Our ongoing support for libraries and community centres enabled the delivery of diverse programmes that celebrate and reflect the cultural richness of our area. This includes events and activities that honour the unique traditions of Māori and Pacific peoples, as well as the many other ethnic communities that contribute to the vibrancy of Ōtara-Papatoetoe. These cultural programmes promote mutual understanding, respect, and pride in our shared community.

We also supported lifelong learning and personal development through initiatives like the Age Friendly Ōtara-Papatoetoe programme which focuses on literacy, digital skills, and upskilling opportunities for older adults. These efforts ensure our older residents remain active, connected, and empowered to continue contributing to their communities.

Enable a range of choices to access community services and recreation opportunities

The number of visits to library facilities (Achieved)

	Target	Result
2025	**386,000**	**458,212**
2024	410,700	438,754

Visitor numbers at Ōtara-Papatoetoe libraries exceeded target across every quarter. Of note, and in line with the regional trend, Q3 was an impressive 55 per cent above target. This substantial result showcases the ongoing demand for libraries and reflects the consistently high customer satisfaction with our services.

Percentage of time physical library services are accessible to the community[1] (Substantially achieved)

	Target	Result
2025	**100%**	**99.3%**
2024	New measure	New measure

Ōtara-Papatoetoe libraries had four closures this year, totalling 73.5 hours, or just 0.7 per cent of the total planned hours. Most of those hours were due to significant roofing issues at Tupu Youth and Ōtara Libraries. In all other instances, Ōtara-Papatoetoe libraries remained open and fully dedicated to serving their communities.

Number of visits to Pool and Leisure Centres (Achieved)

	Target	Result
2025	**466,000**	**678,268**
2024	New measure	New measure

Visitor numbers at Papatoetoe Centennial Pool and Leisure Centre exceeded target this year, partially due to attendance and behaviours returning to pre-COVID levels. The centre performed particularly well during the October to December period compared to the previous year.

Percentage of time main Pool and Leisure Centre services are accessible to the community[1] (Achieved)

	Target	Result
2025	**95%**	**99%**
2024	New measure	New measure

The time centre(s) were available to customers is within the target range for the quarter and year.

Percentage of local community facility asset components that are not in poor or very poor condition[2] (Achieved)

	Target	Result
2025	**79%**	**88.8%**
2024	New measure	New measure

Within the building portfolio, a significant proportion of roof system assets, including roof panels, gutters, fascias, and downpipes, are currently in average condition, and expected to deteriorate further as part of standard asset lifecycle. These components are anticipated to require renewal over the coming years and will be incorporated into our renewals planning process.

Provide opportunities for communities to lead and deliver their own initiatives

Number of partner organisations and groups funded to deliver placemaking activities (Achieved)

	Target	Result
2025	**12**	**26**
2024	New measure	New measure

Targets were set conservatively as this is a new measure; however, outcomes surpassed expectations, supported by local board funding and reflecting strong community interest.

Provide urban green spaces (local parks, paths and ngahere) and access to the coast

Percentage of local parks, facilities and spaces meeting maintenance quality standards[3] (Achieved)

	Target	Result
2025	**90%**	**94%**
2024	New measure	New measure

Percentage of local open space asset components that are not in poor or very poor condition[2] (Not achieved)

	Target	Result
2025	**93%**	**85%**
2024	New measure	New measure

7.6 per cent of assets are currently rated as poor, and 7 per cent as very poor. While most poor-condition assets have been renewed, a significant proportion of land fixture assets - such as bins, fitness equipment, drinking fountains and seating - have deteriorated from average to poor or very poor condition. While most poor-condition assets have been renewed, a portion of those previously rated as average have now deteriorated into the poor category. The movement from average to poor condition should be covered by the current work programme for the next financial year.

Number of trees planted in the Urban Ngahere programme[4] (Not achieved)

	Target	Result
2025	**81**	**0**
2024	New measure	New measure

Funding streams other than the Urban Ngahere programme were used to fund the planting of 668 trees this year. This allowed the local board to provide additional funding to other activities, but not achieve the target for this measure.

1. This measure compares actual opening hours to advertised opening hours to achieve a result.
2. For definitions of "Community Facilities" and "Local open space assets" please refer to the Glossary in Volume 1 of this Annual Report, pages 124-126
3. Maintenance quality standards are defined through SOP (Standard Operating Procedures) and asset maintenance contracts. These standards are monitored by staff who have received specialised training and are audited through a quality process to ensure consistent scoring.
4. Urban Ngahere delivers specimen trees intended to be over 3m tall. Additional plantings occur outside this programme.

ŌTARA-PAPATOETOE LOCAL BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 2024/2025

Local planning and development

We supported local business associations by continuing to invest in the Business Improvement District (BID) programme which plays a key role in promoting business resilience and encouraging the sustainable growth, development, and activation of our town centres. Through this initiative, we aim to create vibrant, economically active commercial areas that benefit both businesses and the wider community.

To nurture local entrepreneurship, we funded the Pop-up Business School programme which provides practical, hands-on support for residents interested in starting their own businesses. This programme helps aspiring entrepreneurs build confidence, develop business skills, and launch their ventures with minimal risk and upfront costs.

We funded a local economic broker to draft a local economic development strategy and plan, engage with businesses, groups and community collectives in the local area.

We also supported local food vendors, helping them navigate licensing requirements, build business capability, and operate within compliance.

Support a strong local economy

Percentage of Business Associations meeting their Business Improvement District (BID) targeted rate grant agreement obligations

The Hunters Corner Town Centre Society Incorporated is responsible for developing and implementing the Hunters Corner BID programme under the Auckland Council BID Policy (2022) and the signed three-year BID Targeted Rate Grant Agreement. The society did not meet several requirements set out in the Auckland Council BID Policy and was non-compliant with the policy for 2023/2024. The result is beyond the control of the local board, as BIDs may become non-compliant during the year, without influence from the Local Board.

	Target	Result
2025	**100%**	**80%**
2024	100%	83%

Local environmental management

We continue to support the Ōtara Waterways and Lake Trust in restoring and maintaining key stream sites, including Ōtara Creek, Preston Road / Rongomai, and Pearl Baker Drive Reserve. This ongoing programme enhances the health of the local environment, creating thriving habitats for native aquatic species and birdlife. Equally important is the trust's comprehensive community engagement work which helps rebuild local pride and connection to the awa (streams). Through educational activities and hands-on involvement, residents are encouraged to deepen their relationship with te taiao (the natural world), fostering a stronger sense of stewardship and care for their local environment.

Protect, improve and minimise risks to the natural environments and cultural heritage

Number of events/workshops held for sustainable outcomes

Participation in sustainability programmes exceeded the target, reflecting strong community interest in environmental initiatives.

	Target	Result
2025	**36**	**62**
2024	New measure	New measure

Number of community groups supported to undertake waste initiatives

Targets for this measure were set conservatively as it is the first year of reporting. However, interest from community groups was greater than expected allowing us to exceed the target.

	Target	Result
2025	**29**	**37**
2024	New measure	New measure

Local governance

Activities in this group supported the board in engaging with and representing its communities, and making decisions on local activities. This included strategic advice; local board plans, agreements and work programmes; community engagement including relationships with mana whenua and Māori communities; and democracy and administrative support.

Respond to the needs and aspirations of mana whenua and Māori communities

Number of local activities that deliver moderate to high outcomes for Māori as outlined in 'Kia Ora Tāmaki Makaurau' (Council's Māori outcomes framework).

	Target	Result
2025	**Set baseline**	**26**
2024	New measure	New measure

▲ Puhinui orchard community planting day.

▲
Sensory fun day at Ōtara Library embracing Autism Awareness month.

Te āhuatanga ā-rohe

Local flavour

Investing in cultural heritage and supporting healthy communities

Polyfest 2025

The board stepped in to ensure this iconic festival which first began in Ōtara in 1976 and is one of the world's largest Pacific festivals, remained rooted in its founding community. Polyfest 2025 embraced the theme He oha nō tua, he taonga tuku iho – a legacy, a treasure handed down. For the board, this theme reflects a deep commitment to cultural heritage, youth empowerment, and community-led leadership. Alongside $75,000 from Auckland Council's Regional Events Fund, the board's investment was pivotal. It reaffirmed their role as a proud supporter of Pacific and Māori identity, and a champion for keeping culture alive in the heart of the community.

ASB Polyfest 2025 blessing and opening ceremony ▼

Double the local (Rua te Rohe)

Recognising the health disparities faced by Māori and Pasifika communities, particularly as they age, the local board has taken action to promote wellbeing, inclusion and connection in Ōtara.

With nearly half of the board's population identifying as Pasifika, the board partnered with Total Healthcare Charitable Trust to launch Double the Local (Rua te Rohe), a free community Zumba initiative designed especially for seniors. This collaborative effort will deliver classes three times a week in the Ōtara town centre, encouraging regular movement and social interaction.

Physical activity is a powerful tool in maintaining both physical and mental wellbeing. Yet, prior to this initiative, there were no free, accessible, public exercise options in Ōtara. Thanks to the board's leadership and a $15,000 commitment from Total Healthcare, that's changing.

This kaupapa-aligned initiative not only supports seniors' health, but also helps activate the town centre, reduce antisocial behaviour, and boost local business foot traffic. Local doctors in Ōtara can now refer patients directly to these sessions as part of their wellness plans.

This is a proud example of how the board continues to build an age-friendly, inclusive, and connected community, where every resident can thrive, regardless of age or income.

Te tahua pūtea

Funding impact statement

Financial year ending 30 June 2025

$000s	Notes	Actual 2024/2025	Annual Plan 2024/2025*	Annual Plan 2023/2024
Sources of operating funding:				
General rates, UAGCs, rates penalties		22,035	22,035	21,986
Targeted rates		1,643	1,684	1,946
Subsidies and grants for operating purposes		121	121	905
Fees and charges		2,396	2,587	2,430
Local authorities fuel tax, fines, infringement fees and other receipts		381	317	267
Total operating funding		**26,576**	**26,745**	**27,535**
Applications of operating funding:				
Payments to staff and suppliers	1	21,064	21,591	22,117
Finance costs		1,786	1,786	1,072
Internal charges and overheads applied		3,061	3,061	3,684
Other operating funding applications		0	0	0
Total applications of operating funding		**25,912**	**26,439**	**26,873**
Surplus (deficit) of operating funding		**664**	**306**	**662**
Sources of capital funding:				
Subsidies and grants for capital expenditure		0	0	0
Development and financial contributions		0	0	0
Increase (decrease) in debt	2	6,290	5,940	7,355
Gross proceeds from sale of assets		0	0	0
Lump sum contributions		0	0	0
Other dedicated capital funding		0	0	0
Total sources of capital funding		**6,290**	**5,940**	**7,355**
Application of capital funding:				
Capital expenditure:	3			
- to meet additional demand		377	907	394
- to improve the level of service		875	271	893
- to replace existing assets		5,702	5,069	6,730
Increase (decrease) in reserves		0	0	0
Increase (decrease) in investments		0	0	0
Total applications of capital funding		**6,954**	**6,247**	**8,017**
Surplus (deficit) of capital funding		**(664)**	**(306)**	**(662)**
Funding balance		**0**	**0**	**0**

* Same target as the Year 1 of the Long-term Plan 2024-2034

Variance explanation Actual 2024/2025 to Annual Plan 2024/2025

1. We spent less than expected on staff and suppliers because a large part of the full facility maintenance contract costs was included in regional budgets. However, this was partly offset by higher utility bills—especially for water, electricity, and gas—due to rising market prices.
2. Although there were some savings from lower-than-expected payments to staff and suppliers, capital spending was higher than planned, which required an increase in borrowings in this local board. These increases to borrowings have been offset by reductions in other Local Boards and Group of Activities.
3. Capital spending was higher than planned because the upgrade of the East Tāmaki Reserve sports field was delivered ahead of schedule.

▲ ASB Polyfest 2025

▶ Happiness Tuk-Tuk.

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