

Te Poari ā-Rohe o Devonport-Takapuna Te Rīpoata ā-Tau 2024/2025

DEVONPORT-TAKAPUNA LOCAL BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 2024/2025



Volume

2.3



Mihi

E toko ake rā e te iti, whakatata mai rā e te rahi.
Kia mihi koutou ki ngā kupu whakarei
a te hunga kua tīpokotia e te ringa
o te wāhi ngaro.
Rātou, e kaikini tonu nei i ngā mahara i te ao, i te pō.
Ngā oha i mahue mai i tērā whakatupuranga
kia āpitihia e tātou ki ngā tūmanako
o tēnei reanga,
hei mounga waihotanga ki te ira whaimuri i a tātou.
Koinā te tangi a Ngākau Māhaki,
a Wairua Hihiri me Hinengaro Tau.
Oho mai rā tātou ki te whakatairanga
i ngā mahi e ekeina ai te pae tawhiti
ka tō mai ai ki te pae tata.
Tēnei au te noho nei i runga i te puia moe
o Takarunga –
kāinga o te tini tāngata i tōna wā,
puna wai e ora ai ngā iwi.
Kei waho rā ko ngā tai piringa
o Tīkapa Moana me Te Waitematā
Ka rere whakarunga ngā kamo ki te
Waiwharariki o mua,
Takapuna kāinga,
Takapuna tupuna.
I reira ka heke iho ki te mātārae ki Ōperetū,
kia taka ki tua ko Maungaūika
te tū hēteri mai rā i te pūwaha o Tāmaki Makaurau,
Tāmaki herehere waka.
E koutou mā ka ea, kua ea.
Kia ora huihui mai koutou katoa.

Welcome to you all.
Let me greet you with the eloquent words
of those, lost long ago to the unseen
hand of eternity.
Them, for whom we unendingly mourn.
Let us enjoin the legacy they left
to the hopes and aspirations
of this generation
as our gift to those who will follow us.
That is the pledge of the humble heart,
the willing spirit and the inspired mind.
Let us rise together and seek to do what is
necessary to draw distant aspirations
closer to realisation.
Here I sit upon the sleeping cone
of Takarunga –
home of many in its time
spring of life for them all.
Out there are the watery havens
of Tīkapa Moana and Te Waitematā.
My eyes gaze northward to
former Waiwharariki,
now Takapuna community,
Takapuna the progenitor.
Then from there, I glance to the foreland of Ōperetū
beyond which stands Maungaūika
sentinel of Tāmaki Makaurau
and anchorage of many canoes.
It is done.
Greetings to you, one and all.

On the cover: Belle Verde Playground reopened with all ages upgrades

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 Devonport-Takapuna 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 Devonport-Takapuna 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**.

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▼ Raranga weaving class at Te Whare Rose Centre as part of Matariki



He kōrero mai i te heamana

From the chairperson

We are pleased to celebrate the achievements of the 2024/2025 financial year.

Maintaining a healthy natural environment is a high priority. We continue to fund our environmental groups Restoring Takarunga Hauraki and Pupuke Bird Song who have coordinated and supported over 1,200 volunteer hours of work in the last year. New investment into Noughty Wasters in Devonport allowed more than 500 local children learn about reducing waste.

We focused on strengthening our community houses for community resilience in emergencies by investing in roof repairs at Devonport Community House and flood resilience and repair work to Sunnynook Community Centre.

Our two community Activators have been connecting community groups across the area, supporting community food drives, new migrant and senior support groups, the Sunnynook Marathon, community dinners and a Community Wardrobe in Takapuna Library built by The North Shore Men's Shed and supplied by Vinnies Op Shop. The investment into this community development model has received positive feedback and an external evaluation has been commissioned to understand the benefits and guide future investment.

We awarded \$241,000 of contestable grants to local groups delivering a range of benefits including sports, arts, events and community services.

A growing concern is the rise in homelessness, local crime, and anti-social behaviour. In response we invested in North Shore Community Patrols and Neighbourhood Support.

The 2023 Census data confirmed that we have an ethnically diverse and aging population. 18% of residents are over 65 years old, and 29% of our residents identify as Asian. Our investment in the Digital Seniors programme ensures our residents stay connected and investment into our Ethnic Plan supported the Ethnic Leaders Circle, who advise the local board of community concerns.

Finally, we have continued to advocate for funding to alleviate traffic congestion on Lake Road, ensure the necessary programmes and services are available to support those affected by 2023 floods and are continuing investigations to enable the creation of the Takapuna Library and Community Hub. There is more to do and with your help we will continue deliver on the outcomes and initiatives in our local board plan.

Melissa Powell
Chairperson,
Devonport-Takapuna
Local Board



Te Poari ā-Rohe o Devonport-Takapuna

Devonport-Takapuna Local Board



▲ (L to R) Gavin Busch, Terence Harpur (Deputy Chairperson), Melissa Powell (Chairperson), Toni van Tonder (Resigned), Peter Allen, George Wood

Contact us



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By appointment



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Ngā kaupapa me ngā whakapaipai ake

Devonport-Takapuna projects and improvements

Key to current and planned projects

✓
Delivered projects

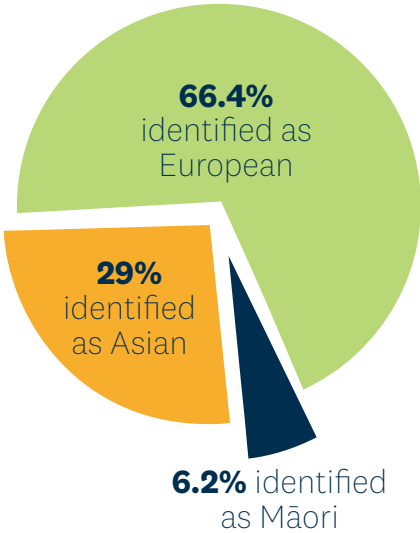
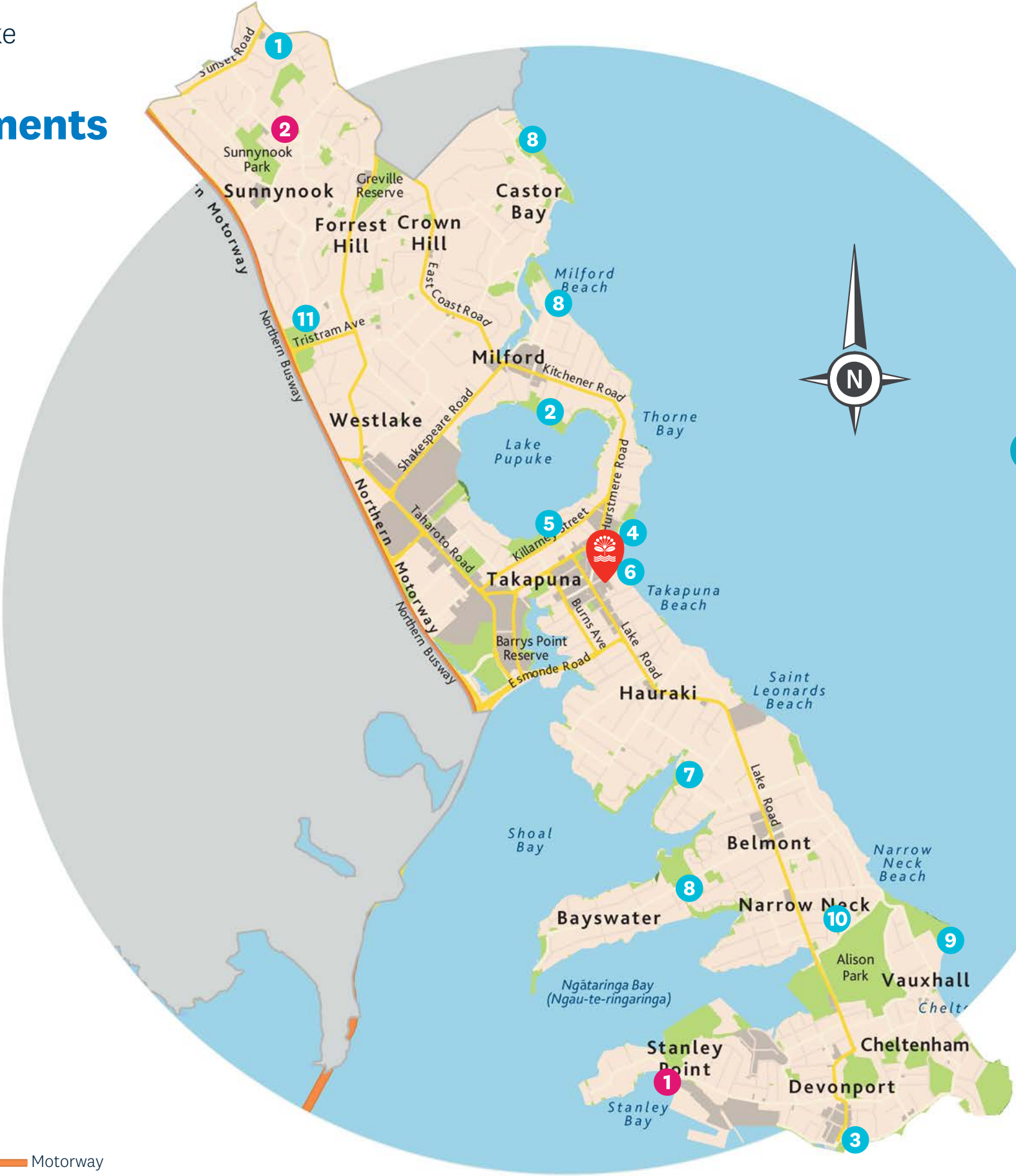
- 1 Belle Verde Reserve - renew park play spaces
- 2 Sylvan Park - renew pathways
- 3 Windsor Reserve - renew band rotunda and seating
- 4 Takapuna Beach - renew path and grass turf by the beach ramp
- 5 Takapuna Pool and Leisure Centre - renew spa pool, pool plant, roof, cladding, hall windows
- 6 Takapuna Beach Reserve - develop playground extension
- 7 Northboro Reserve - renew playground and hoggin path
- 8 Renewal of park furniture and fixtures
- 9 Fort Takapuna Reserve - investigate options to eliminate vehicle access
- 10 Achilles Crescent Reserve - renew playground
- 11 Becroft Reserve - renew toilets and changing rooms

🚶
Current projects

- 1 Stanley Bay Park - renew storage shed/pavilion, walkways and lamp posts
- 2 Sunnynook Park - develop and renew skate facilities

Map legend

- 📍 Local board office
- 🌳 Public open space (Unitary Plan)
- 🛣️ Motorway
- 🛣️ Major road
- 🛣️ Arterial road
- 🛣️ Medium road
- 🛣️ Minor road



Devonport-Takapuna has more than **110** local parks and sports fields



2 libraries, **1** pool and leisure centre, **1** youth centre, **2** community centres and **7** arts and culture facilities



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

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 supported strong, diverse, and vibrant communities through libraries and literacy, arts and culture, parks, sport and recreation, and events delivered through a mix of council services, community group partnerships and volunteers. Our key initiatives included operational funding to organisations supporting the arts such as the North Shore Theatre and Arts Trusts, The Rose Centre Theatre and Community Centre and The Pumphouse Theatre. We also helped to build strong, connected, and resilient communities through initiatives that are identified and align with the objectives of the Devonport-Takapuna Ethnic Plan. Events included ANZAC Day, Takapuna Christmas Festival, Takapuna Beach Summer Days Festival and Vive La France. Altogether, we awarded \$241,000 in discretionary grants to our community enabling a range of choice to access community services and recreation opportunities

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

The number of visits to library facilities	●●●●	Target	Result
	2025	433,000	468,214
	2024	421,388	468,461

Our libraries continued to produce exceptional results four years in a row reflecting consistently high customer satisfaction with library services.

Percentage of time physical library services are accessible to the community¹	●●●●	Target	Result
	2025	100%	100.0%
	2024	New measure	New measure

Number of visits to Pool and Leisure Centres	●●●●	Target	Result
	2025	161,000	178,405
	2024	New measure	New measure

Visitor numbers increased from strong engagement with the community, resulting in improved membership numbers and fitness attendance.

Percentage of time main Pool and Leisure Centre services are accessible to the community¹	●●●●	Target	Result
	2025	95%	99.7%
	2024	New measure	New measure

The centre carried out planned maintenance work this year and less renewals work compared to prior year, which means less disruption and more time available for the community to access facilities.

Percentage of local community facility asset components that are not in poor or very poor condition²	●●●●	Target	Result
	2025	76%	92.9%
	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.

Number of local community events delivered	●●●●	Target	Result
	2025	3	3
	2024	New measure	New measure

The events planned were successfully delivered including Takapuna Christmas Festival, Takapuna Beach Summer Days Festival and Vive La France.

Provide opportunities for communities to lead and deliver their own initiatives

Number of partner organisations supported to sustain their governance capacity and capability	●●●●	Target	Result
	2025	18	25
	2024	New measure	New measure

Number of partner organisations supported to sustain their governance capacity and capability including Younite, Shore Junction - Yes Disability, Milford Senior Citizens Club, Auckland North Community And Development (ANCAD), The Asian Network Incorporated (TANI), community centres and theatres.

Number of partner organisations funded to deliver placemaking activities	●●●●	Target	Result
	2025	14	24
	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 standards³	●●●●	Target	Result
	2025	90%	96.4%
	2024	New measure	New measure

Percentage of local open space asset components that are not in poor or very poor condition²	●●●●	Target	Result
	2025	83%	93.6%
	2024	New measure	New measure

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. These assets will form part of renewals planning.

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.

Local planning and development

Local planning and development includes supporting local town centres and communities to thrive by developing town centre plans and development, supporting Business Improvement Districts, heritage plans and initiatives. Our key initiatives included supporting the Young Enterprise Scheme, and funding for Takapuna Beach, Milford and Devonport Business Associations to facilitate events in their respective areas to encourage visitors to our town centres and local businesses.

Support a strong local economy

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

		Target	Result
2025		100%	100%
2024		100%	100%

Local environmental management

We support healthy ecosystems and sustainability through local board-funded initiatives such as planting, pest control, stream and water quality enhancements, healthy homes, and waste minimisation projects. Our key initiatives included supporting Restoring Takarunga Hauraki, the Pupuke Birdsong Project, the Devonport-Takapuna Ecological and Environmental Volunteer programme, delivery of the Devonport Takapuna Urban Ngahere Strategy and continued investigation into ways of improving water quality in the Wairau catchment.

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

Number of planting events for biodiversity enhancement

The number of planting events exceeded the target due to favourable weather conditions throughout the year.

		Target	Result
2025		3	5
2024		New measure	New measure

Volunteer time undertaking animal and/or plant pest control

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

		Target	Result
2025		10,000	13,980
2024		New measure	New measure

Local governance

Activities in this group support the local board to engage with and represent our communities and make decisions on local activities. This support includes providing strategic advice, leadership of the preparation of local board plans, support in developing local board agreements, 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.

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	11
2024		New measure	New measure



◀ The popular accessible playground at Takapuna Reserve had further extensions



▲ Stanley Bay Park upgrade

Noughty Wasters ▼



Te āhuatanga ā-rohe

Local flavour

Belle Verde Playground reopens

A refreshed playground in Sunnynook now caters for tamariki of all ages, giving whānau in the area more reasons to get outdoors and connect with others in the community.

Belle Verde Reserve playground reopened in mid-2025 after a complete makeover, thanks to \$172,000 worth of local board funding.

A playground celebration and street party on Belle Verde Drive was hosted by North Shore Neighbourhood Support and the local board to mark the reopening and bring residents together.

“This kind of event is the perfect incentive for neighbours to come out, play on the playground and socialise with one another, creating connectedness and resilience within the community,” says North Shore Neighbourhood Support coordinator Selena Wong.

“Around 40 people came to the event. We want people to feel connected to reduce social isolation, and so to have a street party where everyone showed up was a really great way to show communities do care and they want to come and connect.”

The playground boasts new equipment which is more appealing to a wider age range than the previous design, including a balance beam course, climbing module, new swings, a longer slide and a rocker. The addition of a picnic table means that those supervising now have another place to sit and watch from the sidelines.

Feedback from the public helped inform the renewal, with the community keen to see more natural elements like wood rather than plastic, and more challenging activities available for older children. There was also a strong desire for a shade sail which was added to the design by popular demand.

“Families told me they love how there’s way more options for different age groups, and that because the playground is a bit bigger, smaller kids are able to play in different areas from bigger kids, providing enough space for everyone,” says Selena.

“It provides for a lot of intergenerational play, I saw some kids say, ‘I’ve never seen this before, how do you use it?’ and the parents would teach them. It was awesome to also see adults play on the playground.”



▲ Belle Verde Playground reopened with all ages upgrades

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		15,905	15,905	13,533
Targeted rates		798	837	790
Subsidies and grants for operating purposes		19	23	328
Fees and charges		1,532	1,163	1,054
Local authorities fuel tax, fines, infringement fees and other receipts		333	412	501
Total operating funding		18,587	18,340	16,207
Applications of operating funding:				
Payments to staff and suppliers	1	14,283	13,526	13,442
Finance costs		2,879	2,879	610
Internal charges and overheads applied		1,845	1,845	2,161
Other operating funding applications		0	0	0
Total applications of operating funding		19,007	18,250	16,212
Surplus (deficit) of operating funding		(420)	91	(6)
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	7,755	5,362	5,083
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		7,755	5,362	5,083
Application of capital funding:				
Capital expenditure:	3			
- to meet additional demand		93	27	181
- to improve the level of service		608	328	55
- to replace existing assets		6,634	5,097	4,841
Increase (decrease) in reserves		0	0	0
Increase (decrease) in investments		0	0	0
Total applications of capital funding		7,335	5,452	5,077
Surplus (deficit) of capital funding		420	(91)	6
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 more than expected on staff and utilities. This was mainly because of wage increases to support the living wage and rising market prices for utilities such as electricity, gas, and water.
2. We spent more than expected on capital projects and payments to staff and suppliers, which required an increase in borrowings in this local board. These increases have been offset by reductions in other local boards and Group of Activities.
3. We spent more than planned on capital projects. Different capital projects were delivered as a result of adapting to new information and circumstances throughout the year. This was managed within the council budgets as a whole, so the impact on borrowings is mitigated in other local boards and Group of Activities.

The Milford Summer Picnic ►



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