

Inclusive Auckland Framework

Diversity is our Strength.
Together we are Auckland.



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Why Inclusive Auckland?

Auckland is a super-diverse city and is home to people from more than 200 different ethnicities. The scale of the city's ethnic diversity is significant, nationally and internationally.

It is important to note that diversity is not limited to ethnicity; age, gender, sexuality, disability, nationality, religion and culture are all factors that contribute to Auckland's diversity.

Auckland's diversity also includes persistent and growing inequality, often more substantially impacting Māori and Pasifika communities.

Auckland Council has a key role to play in creating a strong, inclusive and equitable Auckland with opportunity for all. Understanding and responding to the needs of our citizens, customers and community is at the heart of what we do.

It is critical that we reflect the city and people we serve at all levels in the organisation. One of our goals is to work towards closely reflecting the make-up of Auckland's working population in our senior leadership team.

Diversity and inclusion go hand-in-hand. The Inclusive Auckland Framework values diversity as our strength and recognises that, together, we are Auckland.

Being inclusive means intentionally addressing issues of access, equity and participation. Achieving this requires a willingness to embrace change, at an individual and system level.

In developing this framework we have considered the many ways in which Auckland Council can demonstrate our commitment to improving diversity and inclusion outcomes for Aucklanders.

The change actions are grouped into four key areas: our people and culture; our systems and processes; strategic leadership for an inclusive Auckland; and diverse and inclusive representation.

Building on the good work underway and delivering change across these four areas will help us achieve our goal of becoming a leader in diversity and inclusion, and realise the priorities set out in the Auckland Plan, Long-term Plan and local board plans.

I invite you to join me in creating a truly inclusive Auckland.

Stephen Town
Chief Executive

Purpose

The Inclusive Auckland framework:



**Values diversity as our strength
Fosters and supports inclusion**



In Auckland



At Auckland Council

Definitions

Diversity

Diversity means the broad range of human difference. Each person has layers of diversity, making his, her or their perspective and lived experience different to others.

These layers of diversity may include ethnicity, social disparity, culture, age, gender identity, sexuality, disability, nationality, religion and lived experience.

Appendix B summarises the drivers of diversity that underpin this framework.



Inclusion

Being inclusive means recognising and valuing our differences and viewing them as strengths.

Being inclusive requires a willingness to be open, learn about and value difference. Being inclusive means intentionally addressing issues of access, equity and participation.

Inclusion means living and working together with acceptance, trust and mutual respect, and creating a shared future based on respect for diversity.

We value inclusion by identifying, addressing and removing barriers in our processes, policies and culture and through creating meaningful opportunities for engagement and participation for Aucklanders.

Diversity and inclusion matter. We all have a part to play in creating a strong, inclusive and equitable Auckland with opportunity for all.

Relationship between the Inclusive Auckland Framework and Auckland Council's commitment to Māori

Consideration of diversity and inclusion in Aotearoa/New Zealand starts with acknowledging Te Tiriti o Waitangi as one of our founding constitutional documents.

Auckland Council is strongly committed to recognising Te Tiriti and to fulfilling our statutory obligations and partnership commitments with Māori in key statutory documents. We recognise the special place of Māori as tangata whenua in Aotearoa and the relationship between Māori and the Crown as Treaty partners.

The council's Māori Responsiveness framework and Te Toa Takitini work programme drive the delivery of our commitments to Māori and work to increase our cultural competency to effectively engage and partner with Māori. The council is also a partner in several co-governance arrangements with iwi and has an important relationship with the Independent Māori Statutory Board.

From our starting point of recognising and honouring our bi-cultural foundation, the Inclusive Auckland framework values diversity as Auckland's strength. Change actions will build on current work to foster and improve inclusion, in the council and in Auckland.

The Inclusive Auckland framework does not duplicate or include actions under our Māori Responsiveness plans, Te Toa Takitini or co-governance arrangements but will work to complement and support these work programmes.



Context

Auckland is home to a richly diverse mix of people and communities, bringing different experiences, knowledge, creativity, talent and innovative solutions to challenging problems and global connections that strengthen our place in the world.

The world is facing testing issues around diversity and inclusion, including polarising debates about international migration and refugee resettlement. New Zealand, and Auckland, has persistent and growing inequality, with widening gaps in all outcome indicators between rich and poor, often impacting Māori and Pasifika communities the most¹.

Auckland is projected to experience the majority of New Zealand's population growth to 2043 (94 percent of working-age growth). The region is home to people from more than 200 different ethnicities and is now considered to be 'super-diverse'. In just over 20 years, Asian, Pacific and Māori peoples will together make up the largest share of Auckland's population. The scale of Auckland's ethnic diversity is significant when considered in the national and international context.

Whilst Auckland has a very different ethnic composition to the rest of New Zealand and its 'super diversity' is projected to increase, diversity is not limited to ethnicity. Age, gender, sexuality, disability, nationality, religion and culture are all factors that contribute to Auckland's rich diversity.



The diversity advantage

Diversity is recognised as an essential and desirable feature of global cities. Research tells us that diverse and cohesive cities attract talent, tourists and entrepreneurs from around the world, adding vitality to the fabric of the city and to the economy.

Many cities are actively thinking and planning how to successfully embrace populations from increasingly different backgrounds to realise the opportunities and advantages that diversity brings.

The challenge Auckland faces is to maximise the benefits by creating an environment which welcomes, celebrates and embraces diverse people, communities and businesses.

The Superdiversity Stocktake² report notes that most of the benefits from superdiversity, such as greater innovation, productivity and investment, will increase New Zealand's financial position. However, most of its challenges involve social impacts. High and rapidly increasing ethnic and cultural diversity can challenge shared values and institutions of a city or community, which can strain a city's social cohesion. Cities have a crucial role to play in managing this. The critical component is how we respond to diversity: how we think, plan and act to make the most of the benefits it brings.

Organisationally, particularly at senior leadership and governance levels, diversity enhances creativity, innovation, and financial performance. Employees who have diverse life experiences bring different perspectives, thought processes and creativity to team-based problem solving, helping teams make better and more innovative business decisions. This diversity of thought and experience, when it is enabled by organisational processes, structures and cultures, is the link between demographic diversity and better organisational performance.

Auckland Council is the largest local government entity in Australasia - one third of New Zealanders live within our boundaries. The council is the largest public sector organisation in Auckland, with decision-making responsibility for assets valued at \$43 billion.

We are also a very significant Auckland employer. Our 170 elected members and more than 100 appointed members make decisions which impact locally, regionally and nationally. We have many opportunities to help create an inclusive Auckland.

Focus on inclusion

In preparing this framework we have reviewed approaches to diversity and inclusion taken by cities and councils internationally, as well as work underway in several NZ government agencies and private sector companies. A bibliography of sources reviewed is provided in Appendix C. The following section summarises the framework's approach.

From diversity to inclusion

Cities around the world have adopted strategies recognising the diversity in their communities and peoples. Although their titles are different (e.g. access and equity strategy, equality strategy, diversity strategy, multi-cultural strategy) they commonly include concepts of equity, access, participation and valuing diversity. These principles also underpin this framework's approach.

Often the practical application of these strategies has focused on recognising and responding to diversity by, for example, celebrating community diversity through festivals and special events, and making efforts to communicate in languages spoken by different community sectors.

Internationally there is a growing understanding that responding to the challenges and opportunities of increasing diversity requires a much stronger and more intentional focus on fostering inclusion.

The concept of inclusion moves well beyond tolerance, to trust and mutual respect, sharing and collaboration. People can live side-by-side or in the same street or neighbourhood but still lead parallel lives with little or no contact with others from different cultural, social, linguistic or ethnic groups.

An inclusive society is characterised by a sense of belonging and wellbeing, trust, participation and engagement in that society by people of diverse backgrounds and perspectives. A diverse community with a high level of trust and social cohesion makes a city a more attractive and enjoyable place for people to live, work and do business.

Interculturalism

The Council of Europe has developed an approach to fostering inclusion known as interculturalism. This multi-faceted approach addresses the recognised limitations of previous strategies and incorporates several important components:

- a human rights and anti-discrimination approach
- developing a 'we' culture based on shared values
- developing culturally competent civic institutions
- real power sharing between communities and civic institutions
- fostering intercultural relationships
- creating shared public spaces.

The Council of Europe recognises that cities are at the frontline of diversity and inclusion, and that cultural changes are often driven by urban populations. Research into the interculturalism approach has identified that it has a positive impact on economic development and social cohesion, without needing a lot of additional investment or public resources.

As an approach, interculturalism includes the important symbolic aspects of valuing diversity and the policy-making and institutional aspects of fostering inclusion. Many of the change actions in this framework align with this approach.

Organisationally, inclusion focuses on creating a culture that empowers people to be respectful and appreciative of difference, encourages collaboration, innovation and creativity, and enables meaningful contribution to the organisation's success.

It also enables us to better connect with and represent our customers, citizens and communities, in Auckland, New Zealand and globally. By doing so, we move past concepts of anti-discrimination to a culture that thrives on the richness of our diverse experiences, perspectives and ideas.

Auckland Council has an important role to play in fostering inclusion, in our workplace and through our political and organisational leadership, strategies, policies, activities, services, and strategic influence. As part of the Auckland Plan refresh process, the council's elected members will receive policy advice on building inclusive, thriving and resilient communities. A strong focus on inclusion is consistent with work underway at the New Zealand Treasury, Department of Internal Affairs, and the Office of Ethnic Communities to better understand what drives and supports social cohesion and inclusion.

The size and influence of Auckland Council makes us well-placed to play a leadership role in creating a more inclusive society for all Aucklanders. This framework recognises diversity as our strength - for Auckland and for Auckland council - and focuses on actions to support, grow and demonstrate our commitment to inclusion.

Developing this framework

Building on good practice

Since 2011, the Auckland Plan's overall goal - to be the world's most liveable city – has been underpinned by the key strategic direction “to create a strong, inclusive and equitable society that ensures opportunity for all Aucklanders”.

Our Long-term Plan, local board plans, and other strategic documents, have commitments that reflect and respond to Aucklanders' diverse needs. In 2016, an initial stocktake identified more than 130 diversity and inclusion activities underway, delivering on these commitments.

We have many pockets of good practice in valuing and respecting diversity and supporting inclusion in different parts of the council. Our challenge is to build on this base to grow into a culturally capable organisation able to lead on diversity and inclusion outcomes for Auckland.

This framework honours our current work, identifies new actions to drive change, and provides a structure to link and build on these, measure progress and celebrate successes.

It is not possible to identify all areas of our current good practice in this document. The next section highlights some key areas and recommends actions to drive organisation-wide change and progress towards our leadership goal.



Approach

This framework and change actions will help Auckland Council become a recognised leader on diversity and inclusion. The framework builds on our current work and recommends additional actions, grouped into four focus areas:

1 Creating a diverse talented workforce and a strong inclusive culture.

2 Our processes, policies, plans and services meet the diverse needs of Aucklanders.

3 Our strategic leadership fosters social inclusion in Auckland.

4 Supporting diverse and inclusive governance – elected and appointed members.

These change actions, in conjunction with the developing good practice in different departments, are designed to help the council:

- become a culturally intelligent and capable organisation, understanding and responding well to the needs of our diverse citizens, customers and community and providing excellent advice to our decision-makers
- make smart, sustainable decisions with Aucklanders, supported by the diversity of thought, lived experience and skills that our diverse and talented staff bring
- take leadership to help ensure a strong, inclusive and equitable Auckland with opportunity for all
- grow ethnically and gender diverse organisational leadership and workforce that closely reflects Auckland's working population
- become known as a great place to work because of our inclusive, safe and welcoming culture
- support and grow diversity among our elected and appointed decision-makers
- improve our staff engagement, trust and confidence, and elected member satisfaction scores.

The next section discusses the four focus areas in more detail.

1. Our people and our culture



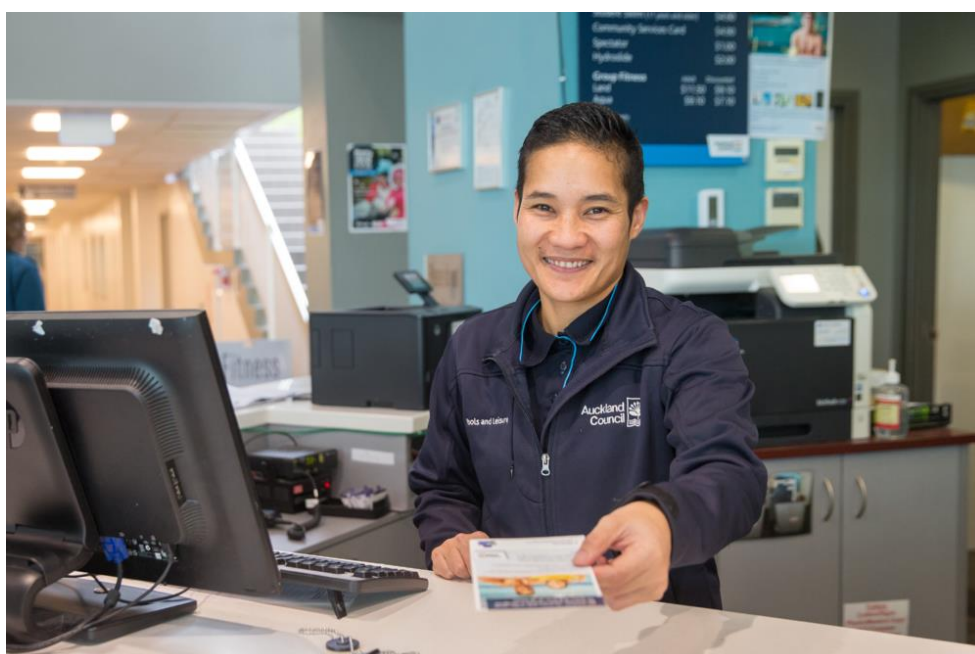
Our people and culture

Creating a diverse talented workforce and strong inclusive organisation

The Auckland Council group is a significant employer, in Auckland and in the New Zealand public sector, with 10,000 staff working across the region. Our workforce is a major factor in our ability to improve the trust and confidence Aucklanders have in us. It is critical to reflect the city and people we serve at all levels in the organisation. One of our key goals is to work towards closely reflecting the make-up of Auckland's working population in our senior leadership team.

We are creating a more effective, responsive and innovative organisation by creating a diverse workforce and putting in place policies and practices that allow us to harness the benefits of this diversity. The research in this area is compelling, showing that diverse organisations can derive a number of potential benefits or diversity dividends, including greater customer satisfaction, successful decision-making, innovative problem-solving, an enhanced ability to reach strategic goals, improved organisational outcomes, employee engagement and a stronger bottom line.^{3,4}

In fact, gender-diverse organisations are 15% more likely to outperform their peers, and ethnically diverse ones 35% more likely.⁵ We also know that when at least one member of a team has traits in common with the end user, the entire team better understands that person. A team with a member who shares a client's ethnicity is 152% likelier than another team to understand that client.⁶ This is critical information for Auckland Council as we serve one of the most ethnically diverse cities in the OECD.



We must take a strategic approach to creating a diverse and inclusive organisation to capitalise on this advantage and meet our strategic goals. The combination of high diversity and high inclusion is the optimal state for organisational performance.⁷

An inclusive organisation is one in which *employees can contribute to the success of the company as their authentic selves, while the organisation respects and leverages their talents and gives them a sense of connectedness.*⁸

Below are some of the key principles integral to achieving an inclusive culture. Organisations which employ these six principles are most effective in building a culture of inclusion in which all employees are responsible and leaders are accountable for embedding diversity and inclusion.

Inclusion goes beyond equality of treatment, although this remains an essential foundation, and encompasses feelings of individual value and belonging. To create this requires an active process of change and integration.⁷

Behaviour of leaders carries significant weight in influencing perceptions about whether an organisation is authentically committed to diversity and whether staffs feel included.⁹

Six principles for an inclusive organisational culture ***(Bersin by Deloitte, 2017)***

- 1. Treat diversity and inclusion as critical vs compliance** - Organisations that approach diversity and inclusion as priorities are much more likely have better business outcomes.
- 2. Move beyond diversity to inclusion** - Organisations that focus on inclusion and the multiple dimensions of diversity have superior performance.
- 3. Prioritise inclusive leadership** - Leaders play a critical role in creation of an inclusive culture.
- 4. Embed diversity and inclusion into all talent practices** - This is critical to creating diversity representation, as well as inclusion.
- 5. Provide diversity and inclusion resources that empower people** - These include all resources that enable people to bring their whole selves to work, e.g. resource networks.
- 6. Drive accountability** - Senior leaders must be accountable, supported by clear metrics and tracking.

Workforce diversity and inclusion



		Indicators
Diversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ How well does our workforce reflect the community it serves? ❖ How well does our leadership reflect the diversity of Auckland? ❖ Do we enable diverse groups to progress within the council? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Overall representation of diversity across Council ✓ Representation of gender and ethnic diversity in senior leadership (ELT/SLT) ✓ Increased proportion of the community from diverse groups applying for roles with Council ✓ Career progression of diverse groups ✓ Pay distribution by gender/ethnicity
Inclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Do diverse groups within our workforce feel a sense of belonging? ❖ Do people within our workforce feel comfortable to bring their 'whole selves' to work? ❖ Have systemic barriers to inclusion and progression been addressed? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Sense of belonging ✓ Perception of being fairly treated as an employee ✓ How comfortable to be authentic or whole self at work ✓ Perception of equity of career progression opportunities ✓ Perception that the council has a strong commitment to diversity and inclusion ✓ Perception that diverse perspectives, skills and experiences are valued and rewarded ✓ How well work life balance is being met ✓ Ability to use flexible working options.

Diverse talent

Auckland Council creates a diverse workforce through its inclusive attraction, recruitment and talent management approaches and by reducing systemic barriers to inclusion.

To enhance diversity within our workforce we will make targeted changes to the way we attract, source, recruit and manage talent. We also need to understand how we enable the progression of people within our workforce to support a diverse talent pipeline.

This requires us to use a diversity and inclusion lens to review our current policies, processes and procedures and begin to embed more inclusive and innovative approaches to recruitment, selection and talent management. We must also address bias, unconscious and conscious, to reduce systemic barriers.

Deliverables:

1. To create inclusive attraction, recruitment and talent management processes that enhances the diversity of our workforce.
2. Build the diversity talent pipeline through targeted initiatives and inclusive talent management practices.
3. Reduce systemic barriers to inclusion, such as conscious and unconscious bias.

Key actions:

1. Review current attraction, recruitment and talent sourcing policy and processes with a diversity and inclusion lens and make changes to achieve best practice in recruitment and talent management for diversity:
 - a) require diverse interview panels
 - b) use inclusive interview techniques
 - c) require diverse long lists (gender and ethnicity).
2. Set diversity goals for senior appointments and for graduate and internship programmes.
3. Provide training in unconscious bias to the recruitment team and hiring managers
4. Identify and use diverse talent sources and implement diversity requirements for exec search firms.
5. Analyse data to understand metrics about entry, selection and career progression in relation to gender and ethnicity.
6. Develop, pilot and implement cultural competency training for leaders and general staff.

Inclusive culture

Auckland Council has an inclusive workplace where all people can feel valued and respected, work flexibly and be part of an organisation that acts as a champion of diversity and inclusion.

Auckland Council is committed to creating an inclusive workplace where all people can succeed and flourish. An inclusive culture is one in which all people feel valued and respected and have access to the same opportunities. One of the main challenges to achieving inclusion is embedding diversity and inclusion principles as policies and practice as well as core values integral to our organisational strategy. We know that a significant component of inclusion is work/life balance and flexible working. It is also essential we consistently champion, internally and externally, key diversity and inclusion messages.

Deliverables:

1. Embed diversity and inclusion principles within employee lifecycle policies and processes.
2. Create the necessary policy and practice changes to increase the uptake and acceptance of flexible working.
3. Empower diverse groups and resource networks within the council.
4. Ensure the council is an effective a champion of diversity and inclusion principles.

Key actions:

1. Review corporate policies with a diversity and inclusion lens to embed diversity and inclusion principles and best practice.
2. Evaluate the implications of a policy change that mandates that all roles offer flexibility.
3. Pilot divisional diversity and inclusion action plans, as part of Business Planning, which will outline how the principles of this framework relate to each division.
4. Complete Rainbow Tick accreditation and Be Accessible accreditation
5. Refresh and strengthen employee resource networks.
6. Empower senior leaders with information and a strong business case so they can be champions of diversity and inclusion.
7. Expand and enhance programme of diversity and inclusion visibility events, such as Pride Parade, Pasifika and Chinese New Year, etc.

Leadership development

Auckland Council has a diverse and inclusive leadership team and leadership talent pipeline.

We recognise that the success of our diversity and inclusion strategy depends on the support of people and senior leaders within the organisations. This requires a two-fold approach: to equip all leaders with the tools of inclusive leadership; and to create more diversity within the council's senior leadership. We will achieve this by developing an inclusive leadership programme for senior leaders and integrating inclusive leadership (which includes unconscious bias) into our current leadership frameworks, developing and implementing targeted programmes to increase diversity among high potential leaders, and creating diversity and inclusion accountabilities for our all our people leaders.

Deliverables:

1. Develop inclusive leadership capability in senior leaders and in all people leaders (via the Leadership Compass).
2. Build the diversity leadership pipeline to ensure more representation of gender and ethnic diversity in senior leadership.
3. Ensure accountability of senior leaders through enhanced diversity and inclusion metrics.
4. Provide thought leadership across the council as a whole and across government sectors by sharing learnings and highlighting best practice.

Key actions:

1. Implement inclusive leadership training for all people leaders through the Leadership Compass.
2. Develop targeted leadership programmes for high potential female and ethnic staff.
3. Strengthen and extend Pacific mentoring programmes led by Moana Pacifica.
4. Implement a diversity and inclusion diagnostic tool and other diversity dashboard metrics that allow us to assess progress and provide accountability measures for leaders.
5. Build our thought leadership capability through engaging with global and local experts, applying these learnings and sharing evidence and case studies.

2. Ensuring our processes, policies, plans, and services meet the diverse needs of Aucklanders



Ensuring our processes, policies, plans and services meet the diverse needs of Aucklanders

We aim to demonstrate that we value diversity and inclusion through creating meaningful opportunities for engagement and participation with Aucklanders, identifying and removing barriers to access in our processes, and being well-informed about who makes up our community.

This means putting a diversity and inclusion lens on our community engagement and participation actions, our advice to design makers, and how we design and deliver services. We have several pockets of good and developing practice across these areas.

These include:

- our Inclusive Communications framework with guidance, tools and standards for implementing accessible communications, communicating with vision impaired people, and people for whom translations may be needed
- developing consistent, high quality, engagement practice across the council, such as a robust performance framework to evaluate engagement practices
- co-design/co-creation work with communities led by the Community Empowerment unit and the Southern Initiative
- the Quality Advice programme which trains report writers in critical thinking, impact assessment, options analysis and providing clear, evidence-based advice.

The recommended actions will build on these areas of good practice to embed a consistent, high quality approach to understanding and responding to the diverse needs of our customers, citizens and community. The recommended changes actions are:

Develop a robust performance framework to evaluate engagement with Auckland's diverse communities

Utilising engagement results from the 2018 Annual Plan to set a baseline, we will develop targets for engagement with all of Auckland's communities. Having a consistent approach to engagement practice will allow us to evaluate our progress in meeting these targets in any financial year. Evaluation will occur against our performance framework, developed and agreed with all departments undertaking engagement.

Make better use of existing research and data to inform service design and delivery decisions

Currently we seek and gather demographic and other information from Aucklanders through consultation and engagement, research, data collection from events and services, focus groups, customer surveys and the People's Panel. This information is held in different parts of the council and is not easily accessible to staff. We are still to consistently use this treasure trove of data to inform our advice to decision-makers or in our service design and delivery decisions. Often, we re-consult, asking the community similar questions many times over, often without checking to see what they may have told us already.

The Citizen Value and Engagement team is preparing a business case with options to address this issue.

As a first step, we will work with the Community Services Integration team to ensure that information relevant to the design of community services is easily available. We will also partner with this team to implement a process for using this information consistently in service design and evaluate its effectiveness.

Establish high quality social and community impact assessments as standard practice for all policy advice

Our written advice to elected members has improved as a result of the Quality Advice work programme and the work led by the Community and Social Policy team. However, one area we need to improve is the quality of our impact assessments. As part of our commitment to diversity and inclusion, we will progressively embed, as standard practice, the inclusion of high quality social and community impact assessments for policy advice.

Beginning with reports to the Environment and Community committee, we will develop the Auckland Council standard for demographic evidence base and social impact assessments. We will agree a progressive roll-out of this approach during the next three years for other reports to decision-makers.

This will ensure our elected members and other decision-makers receive quality advice on how an activity or decision impacts on diverse communities, as well as enable a broad range of community views to better influence decision-making.

This, in turn, will support high quality decisions that better reflect the diverse needs of Auckland and improve elected members' trust, confidence and satisfaction in our advice.

Implement the council's Disability Operational Action Plan

In 2016 Council adopted a Disability Operational Action Plan, developed with input from the Disability Advisory Panel, in 2016. The plan includes internal and external facing actions, including:

- championing universal design and adopting universal access principles for our services and infrastructure
- assessing leisure centres, parks, maunga and cemeteries for accessibility;
- actively seeking to employ disabled people and working with the Blind Foundation to increase library access and usage.

The recommended action increases our focus on delivering on our Disability Operational Action Plan. Implementing and monitoring the agreed actions will help us to ensure we have an accessible workplace for our staff and customers; and to help shape Auckland as an accessible city.



Strategic leadership to foster an inclusive Auckland

Auckland Council is the largest local government entity in Australasia. One third of New Zealanders live within our boundaries. Building on work underway, this focus area proposes leadership actions to ‘make our size work’ in improving on diversity and inclusion outcomes for Auckland.

Governance leadership

The Auckland Plan is a 30-year high level strategy for Auckland, developed and implemented in partnership with central government, the private sector and Aucklanders. First adopted in 2011, the Auckland Plan will be updated and refreshed in 2018. The Auckland Plan sets the overall parameters for all of the council’s work, including other strategic documents, such as the Long-term Plan, local board plans, and regional and local strategies.

The Auckland Plan is being refreshed using a themed approach. One of the themes is ‘belonging’ and feedback will be sought on:

- recognising, valuing and celebrating Auckland’s diversity as a strength;
- inclusive, thriving and resilient communities; and
- equitable opportunity for all to achieve their potential

The Community and Social Policy team is leading the ‘belonging’ workstream for the Auckland Plan refresh, along with work on investing in Aucklanders to create a friendly, inclusive city, focussed on talent and potential.

The updated Auckland Plan will be considered for adoption by the Governing Body in late 2018. The Auckland Plan refresh process is an important strategic opportunity for Elected Members to determine Council’s leadership role in building social cohesion, inclusion, and belonging with Aucklanders.

Organisational leadership

Recently refreshed national strategies from key government agencies, such as those relating to new migrants and refugees, ethnic communities, international students, Pacific peoples, and disabled New Zealanders, have a strong focus on inclusion.

These provide a strategic opportunity for the council to explore working with central government to develop mutually agreed social cohesion/diversity and inclusion goals for Auckland, within the direction set by our current regional and local strategies.

Recommended actions include working with the Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) to:

- investigate the impact on social cohesion of providing integrated local and central government services, through community infrastructure such as libraries and schools
- develop a consistent understanding of, and policy approach to, fostering social cohesion

We also recommend investigating other potential options to work with central government to positively impact on shared diversity and inclusion goals for Auckland.

Leading the diversity and inclusion discussion in Auckland

Celebrating and learning about Auckland's diversity is an essential part of an inclusive Auckland and an inclusive culture in the council. An important component of fostering social cohesion is intercultural dialogue, understanding and relationships.

We will develop avenues for community discussion to enhance social and cultural understanding through:

- holding an Auckland Conversations event on what diversity and inclusion means for Auckland
- utilising the Champions for Change and local and central government sector networks to encourage private and public sector agencies to improve their own diversity and inclusion outcomes
- increasing our knowledge and understanding of Auckland's diverse communities by celebrating cultural events at work, e.g. Lunar New Year, Pride, International Women's day, Pasifika, Matariki, Diwali, Hannukah as learning opportunities
- having a bigger, bolder, council family float in the annual Pride Parade
- looking for opportunities to speak up about the benefits of diversity and inclusion in the media
- facilitating cross-cultural engagement opportunities (e.g. marae and maunga visits for new migrants).

Addressing inequity

Building a more inclusive society means addressing Auckland's growing social and economic inequity. In 2012, the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE)

set an ambitious goal to increase the median real household income 40 per cent by 2025 as part of its vision to grow New Zealand.

MBIE's Pacific Economic Strategy provides clear direction towards supporting Pacific peoples to participate and share in New Zealand's economic success. Sustainable job opportunities, affordable and suitable housing, and more sustainable Pacific-owned businesses are the strategy's key goals.

The Southern Initiative (TSI) and addressing impacts on social and economic equity

A small team of social entrepreneurs within the TSI is fostering real and sustainable change by linking our procurement requirements on infrastructure projects with training and work pathways for people previously not employed or in education or training. This contributes to improved social outcomes and is making a real, measurable difference for the participants. Sharing the learnings from this approach will increase the impact of improved social outcomes through council procurement.

Understanding diverse business communities

Championing enhanced economic outcomes for Aucklanders means better understanding our diverse business communities. The council works with small businesses through the Business Improvement District (BIDs) programme. Businesses are becoming more diverse, as are their customers. Over the next three years we will support BIDs to improve engagement between businesses and their communities.



Supporting diverse and inclusive governance

Reflecting Auckland's diversity

The council has 170 elected members and more than 100 appointed members making significant decisions that impact locally, regionally and nationally. Our elected and appointed members are the face of Auckland Council and are key to demonstrating our commitment to valuing diversity and fostering inclusion.

In the 2016-2019 term, the diversity across our elected members more closely reflects Auckland's diversity than in previous terms but does not fully match the region's demographic profile.

In the lead-up to the 2019 elections, the council's Voter Participation project aims to:

- increase participation, particularly among communities that do not traditionally vote
- promote the opportunity for candidates from across Auckland's different communities to stand for election.

Many factors influence a successful candidacy (including campaign strategies, resourcing and voter attitudes). In partnership with the council's demographic Advisory Panels and several external agencies, the Voter Participation project will focus on voter awareness and encouraging candidates to stand.

In addition to supporting this project, the other recommended actions are:

Diversity and inclusion training for elected members

The council shapes and influences Auckland through planning, policy, service design and delivery decisions across a wide range of activities. Governance that is reflective of and understands the diversity of Auckland's communities enhances decision-making and increases community trust and confidence.

In 2017, diversity and inclusion training will be offered to all elected members as part of their Kura Kāwana learning and development programme to better support them in their knowledge, understanding and engagement with the communities they represent.

Support for the council's demographic Advisory Panels

Auckland Council's demographic Advisory Panels are an important source of knowledge on the diverse interests and issues facing a number of different communities. The panels are supported by liaison councillors from the governing body and senior members of staff as lead officers. Our challenge is to develop ways for the panels to more effectively contribute to organisational and governance decision-making.

Two actions are proposed for this:

- reporting to the panels on the progress of the Inclusive Auckland framework and actions, and seeking their views on key issues as this work progresses
- establishing strategic high level meetings between the panels and the governing body, and the panels and our executive leadership team to review progress on these actions and other matters of importance to the panels.



Appointments to the boards of Council Controlled Organisations (CCOs)

Auckland Council appoints a number of decision-makers to various roles, including board members of council-controlled organisations, hearings commissioners, and other bodies.

The CCO Governance team are currently reviewing the CCO Board appointment policy and process, including policy direction on diversity and inclusion. Councillors will consider a range of options for refinement of current policy settings in July 2017 with the intention of adopting the final policy by September 2017.

We will also work closely with our CCOs to share the learnings from the actions in this framework.



Keeping diversity and inclusion on our radar

Delivering on this work programme will require sustained and effective collaboration across different parts of the council to deliver progress across several areas simultaneously. The head of Diversity and Inclusion has overall responsibility for ensuring implementation of this work programme; and will work closely with the Principal Adviser, Diversity and Inclusion (People and Capability) and other business owners across council.

The council's previous Diversity Steering Group will be reconvened as the Inclusive Auckland Reference Group to champion this framework and role model behaviours to drive change and achieve our goals.

We will revitalise the diversity and inclusion intranet page so that it becomes a strong and vibrant intranet presence, sharing our successes and best practice stories.

Monitoring and reporting framework

- The approach outlined in this framework will be evaluated for its effectiveness through a range of monitoring and reporting processes, including:

Performance Plan quarterly reporting:

- the Engage and Enable Communities sub-group has oversight over the whole work programme
- the Our People, Our Culture actions are also reported through the High Performance Culture sub-group
- Champions for Change – progress towards our workforce composition goals will be reported through this external reporting process, along with several government departments and large commercial organisations
- governing body and local boards - actions needing political level approval will be reported through appropriate committees or local boards
- an annual meeting between the advisory panels, ELT and governing body with reporting on progress on all actions in this framework informing the agenda.

We also recommend participating in the Intercultural Cities benchmarking system (discussed below) which assesses the impact of local government actions on fostering social inclusion in communities.

In 2016, the council submitted entries into the Pay Equity and Diversity Works awards. We will look for opportunities to submit entries into these and other awards in 2017.

Intercultural Cities benchmarking programme

We will investigate joining the Intercultural Cities programme, facilitated by the Council of Europe, as part of our monitoring and reporting programme.

The Intercultural Cities programme is aimed at local authorities and offers international benchmarking and a range of analytical and assessment tools to support and drive intercultural inclusion. Being part of this international programme will reinforce and support the Inclusive Auckland framework approach and provide access to international best practice thinking and networks with other cities on this journey.

The Intercultural Cities Index benchmarks local government policies and practices and their effect on communities against a wide range of indicators including:

- leadership, accountability and budget for diversity and inclusion strategies
- the impact of policies and planning on the accessibility and welcoming environment for all diverse communities
- the locational distribution of different ethnic communities in the city
- the extent of engagement with ethnic media
- taking pro-active leadership to foster social cohesion.

One hundred and fifteen cities inside and outside Europe have joined the Intercultural Cities Network and others have completed the benchmarking index while considering joining. One Australian city (Ballarat) completed the index in 2016 and six others will complete it in 2017.

We propose to provide advice to the Environment and Community committee on the potential benefits of joining the Intercultural Cities Network.



¹ Lisa Marriott and Dalice Sim *Indicators of Inequality for Māori and Pacific People*. Working Papers in Public Finance, Victoria University 2014

² Superdiversity Stocktake – Implications for business, Government and New Zealand
http://www.chenpalmer.com/wp-content/uploads/Superdiversity_Stocktake.pdf

³ <https://hbr.org/2014/06/diversity-is-useless-without-inclusivity>

⁴ <http://www.forbes.com/sites/joshbersin/2015/12/06/why-diversity-and-inclusion-will-be-a-top-priority-for-2016/#2e33f30d4bd4>

⁵ <http://www.mckinsey.com/business-functions/organization/our-insights/why-diversity-matters>

⁶ <https://hbr.org/2013/12/how-diversity-can-drive-innovation>

⁷ Waiter is that inclusion in my soup?
<https://www2.deloitte.com/content/dam/Deloitte/au/Documents/human-capital/deloitte-au-hc-diversity-inclusion-soup-0513.pdf>

⁸ <https://hbr.org/2013/09/great-leaders-who-make-the-mix-work>

⁹ Inclusive Leadership-will a hug do?
<https://www2.deloitte.com/content/dam/Deloitte/au/Documents/human-capital/deloitte-au-hc-diversity-inclusive-leadership-hug-0312.pdf>