



MEDIA RELEASE

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Review finds funding & delivery of community sport in Auckland in need of an overhaul

An independent review into the funding and delivery of community sport in the greater Auckland region has revealed some core issues and the need for urgent change.

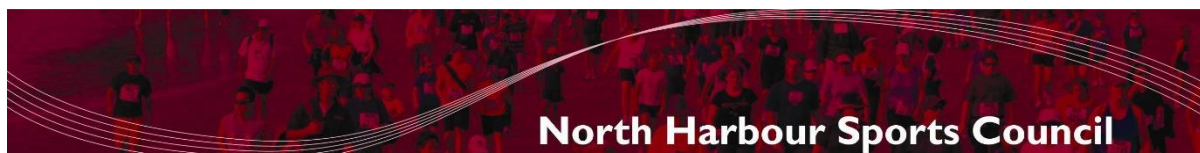
The independent review was commissioned by the North Harbour Sports Council in October 2020. Over four months, independent reviewer Robert Smith interviewed more than 100 people from a cross section of Auckland's community sport organisations about strategy, structure, delivery, funding, operations, systems and partnerships in community sport.

The resulting report recognised areas of effective funding and delivery across Auckland as well as identifying areas for improvement. The key findings included:

- The system is too complex and requires significant change to be fit for purpose.
- Roles and responsibilities of the model lack clarity and definition and include elements of duplication.
- There is a lack of trust and transparency and poor relationships between Active and Regional Sports Trusts (RSTs) and others – a significant hinderance to delivery and impact.
- Strategy and funding is too prescriptive and not sufficiently tailored or adapted to regional and local needs, emerging trends, demographic and behavioural changes.
- KPIs and targets are not sufficiently SMART, monitoring and reporting systems and processes are inadequate – all require significant development to be fit for purpose.

The North Harbour Sports Council acknowledges the findings and recommendations of the report and is committed to working together with all key parties, including Sport NZ, Auckland Council, all the Regional Sports Trusts and other community sport sector organisations to develop a strategy to address the issues moving forward.

Over the past month, the North Harbour Sports Council has shared the report with both Sport NZ and Auckland Council and is encouraged by their willingness to look forward and develop a strategy to work on the issues. The North Harbour Sports Council is committed to working with the key groups to ensure a fit for purpose sporting landscape for our future generations.



The North Harbour Sports Council believe being open and transparent is the best way to address the issues and collectively develop the most appropriate support system for Auckland.

It is the North Harbour Sports Council's opinion that Sport NZ and Auckland Council should prioritise addressing the issues raised in this report and suggest appointing an independent facilitator to bring all key partners together to develop a community-focused roadmap to take sport in Auckland forward.

North Harbour Sports Council Chair Riki Burgess says this is a key moment in the history of community sport in the Auckland region.

"Many of these issues and challenges were known to the sector, this is the first time in some time they have been pulled onto the same page. There will be differing views on the findings of the review. However, there was good engagement across the sector, it was a positive exercise, and the findings and recommendations are independent, prudent and comprehensive. We have known there is room for improvement but the themes within this report identify some critical areas and will hopefully be a catalyst for parties to start working together more effectively. This will benefit community sport participants first and foremost but also those involved in its administration and delivery. North Harbour Sports Council looks forward to ensuring that all community voices are included in shaping the way forward and ensuring the most efficient and effective use of funding to deliver community sport in Auckland."

ENDS

Please email for the full independent review report. For further comments or interviews please contact:

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