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**Auckland Council**

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**Submission on revised annual plan 2020/2021**

re

budgetary provision relating to remedial work for

The Leys Library and Institute

**1.0 Background**

1.1 This submission is supplementary to the submission made to the Waitemata Local Board and to Council on 22 March 2020[[1]](#footnote-1) on the first iteration of the annual plan.

1.2 The St Mary’s Bay Association Inc. recognises the financial constraints on Auckland Council, which have led to the revised budget being put out for consultation.

1.3 We appreciate that decisions have yet to be made as to the nature and timing of remedial work on the heritage buildings known as the Leys Library and Institute.

1.4 The remedial work is unlikely to be started within the term of the annual plan and potentially for some time after that. It is imperative that the buildings be kept secure and be well maintained until such time as the remedial work can be undertaken.

1.5 We believe that we speak for the wider community in asking for an appropriate budget be put in place for protection of the buildings pending start of remedial work.

**2.0     What we are asking Council to do**

2.1 Allocate a budget for appropriate security, regular inspections, and necessary maintenance throughout the 2020/2021 year.

2.2 Endorse in principle the retention of the buildings as community assets, pending a decision being made on the remedial work.

2.3 Allocate an appropriate budget to allow the planning work that will be needed to give effect to the decision on remedial work to be undertaken as soon as the decision is made.

David Abbott

Chair

The St Mary’s Bay Association Inc.

19 June 2020

**ATTACHMENT A**



PO Box 47376, Auckland 1144. Website: www.stmarysbayassociation.nz

22 March 2020

St Mary’s Bay Association submission to:

Waitemata Local Board 3-year plan

Auckland Council annual plan and budget

Subject: Future of the Leys Institute and Gymnasium

In response to online survey:

Question 4: Waitemata Local Board 3-year plan.

The St May’s Bay Association Inc calls on the Waitemata Local Board to endorse strengthening of the Leys Institute and Gymnasium and return this building to its original use, as a library and general community facility. The board states that one of its roles is “caring for the environment and preserving heritage”. The association requests that a statement regarding the board’s position on the Leys Institute be included in the 3-year plan for 2020-2022.

While the board has indicated its support for strengthening of the Leys Institute buildings, it does not have access to sufficient funding to carry out strengthening and must rely on Auckland Council for this. However, writing this into the local board plan will show the community that the WLB has a strong desire that these historic buildings be strengthened and returned to use as much loved community facilities over the past 115 years.

The community’s desire to preserve these buildings is underscored by the staging of a protest of more than 120 people outside the Leys Institute on February 26 and the formation of a Friends of the Leys Institute group.

Question 5: Other feedback

The Leys Institute buildings were gifted to the council decades ago, with funds attached for the maintenance of the buildings. These funds have been available to council for many years and now is the time to use those resources for the seismic strengthen of the library and the gymnasium. These heritage building are listed Category 1 by Heritage New Zealand and Category A by the Auckland Council.

A conservation plan was carried out in 2000, and there have been multiple reports and recommendations on the state of the buildings, the most recent in 2017.

The St Mary’s Bay Association Inc calls on Auckland Council to allocate a budget for seismic strengthening of the Leys Institute and Gymnasium so these historic community facilities at the heart of our neighbourhood can be returned to the community.

The association, on behalf of the community, stresses that they should not be:

* Demolished
* Used for other than their intended purpose, in particular, commercial purposes
* Be lost to the St Mary’s Bay community due to any review by the Waitemata Local Board of community facilities in west Waitemata.

David Abbott

Chair

St Mary’s Bay Association Inc

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1. Refer Attachment A. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)