

Report 03.360
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Committee Policy, Finance and Strategy Committee
Author John Allard Corporate Policy Manager

Finalisation of LTCCP and Adoption of Policies

1. Purpose

The Council has been through a long process in developing its 2003-2013 Long-Term Council Community Plan (LTCCP) (incorporating the 2003/04 Annual Plan). It has also developed a number of policies required by the Local Government Act 2002. It must now formally adopt that plan and the policies.

2. Background

The new Act requires a Council to adopt its LTCCP prior to the start of the financial year to which it relates. Hence, the plan needs to be adopted at this meeting. Unfortunately, owing to a quirk in the legislation, the rates cannot be made until 1 July 2003. Therefore, the meeting on that date is required for that purpose.

The process to prepare the LTCCP commenced over a year ago. It included some stages that were new and potentially confusing – particularly relating to community outcomes which we had to identify even if they were not all directly related to the work of the Council. You also had a new opportunity to consider if there were additional tasks you believed you needed to take on.

In November 2002 you indicated the preferred direction for the Council for the ten years, and instructed officers to produce the detailed business plans accordingly. Having reviewed those plans and the “numbers” in February 2003, you issued your proposed plan (and a range of policies required by the Act) in April. In May you received 345 submissions and, earlier this month, heard thirty-nine submitters. As a result, the plan has been adjusted. On 16 June you adopted your budget and the associated rates (confirmed in Mr Schollum’s memorandum of 19 June 2003 at 3.8%) and the water levy. The last leg of this journey is the adoption of the associated words.

3. **Comment**

The next LTCCP will be adopted in three years' time, in 2006 (though an amendment can be made, through due process, at any time). With experience, that plan will be an enhancement on what is currently being adopted. I am personally optimistic that it will reflect stronger co-operation between the various authorities – in both central and local government.

Over the next three years there will be the opportunity for those reviews, already being sought by some of you, to look hard at what we do and why.

4. **Changes from the Proposed Plan and Policies**

Changes to the plan from what was proposed in April are of three main types:

- Changes in content;
- Changes to wording in the plan;
- Refinement of the policies.

In terms of content, three new projects have been added: to fund further investigation of the irrigation proposal in the Wairarapa to support the sustainable energy initiative on which you received so many supportive submissions and to fund investigations into the development of a coastal trail on the South West Coast. There has also been a rescheduling of the Hutt River flood protection works because of the Strand Park land purchase delays. Projected interest rates have also changed.

Wording in the plan reflects these changes. There has also been some work to clarify certain of the Take 10 targets and add baselines, where possible, in response to submissions. Refinements in this area continue to be “work-in-progress” as we wrestle with the need, on the one hand, to be clear and write targets that have wide appeal and, on the other, the desire to be scientifically accurate.

Refinements have been made to the policies to improve the wording. Again, some of these changes are in response to submissions – notably Mr M G Taylor who was very diligent in studying the policies and giving us an outside perspective. No substantive changes have been made to the Revenue and Financing (Funding) Policy. While you received strong (and contrasting) submissions on the flood protection and transport activities from three city councils, there have been no indications that the Council, as a whole, seeks change.

Mr Schollum has reported separately (Report 03.349) on a significant change made to the Council's Treasury Management Policy.

5. Recommendation

That the Policy, Finance & Strategy Committee recommends to Council that it:

- 1) Adopts the Greater Wellington Regional Council ten-year plan 2003-2013, incorporating the 2003-2004 Annual Plan (subject only to minor editorial corrections) (as attached);*
- 2) Adopts the following policies:*
 - Policy on Significance;*
 - Policy on Partnerships with the Private Sector;*
 - Rates Remission and Postponement Policies;*
 - Policy on development contributions or financial contributions*
 - Treasury Management Policy;*
 - Revenue and Financing Policy;*

(all as attached).

Report prepared by:

Report approved by:

John Allard
Corporate Policy Manager

Howard Stone
General Manager

Separate Attachment: Council's ten-year plan 2003-2013 incorporating the 2003-2004 Annual Plan