



Report 11.28
Date 31 January 2011
File SP/05/01/01

Committee Council
Author Amy Helm

Programme for Development of the Long Term Plan 2012-2022

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to outline and agree the programme and approach for the development of the 2012-2022 Long Term Plan (formerly Long Term Council Community Plan).

2. Significance of the decision

The matters for decision in this report **do not** in themselves trigger the significance policy of the Council or otherwise trigger section 76(3)(b) of the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA). The development of the 2012-2022 Long Term Plan itself will, however, be of significance and will follow the special consultative procedure set out in the LGA.

3. Background

Greater Wellington is required to produce a Long Term Plan every three years. The next plan must be adopted by 30 June 2012, covering the period 2012-2022.

3.1 Recent amendments to the Local Government Act 2002

Amendments to the Local Government Act 2002 in November 2010 made a number of changes relevant to the Long Term Plan, including:

- **definition of community outcomes** – The definition of community outcomes was changed to focus on council outcomes, rather than priorities for the region as identified by the community and partner organisations. Community outcomes are now defined as:

“the outcomes that a local authority aims to achieve in order to promote the social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of its district or region, in the present and for the future”.

- **community outcomes process** – There is no longer a requirement to run a separate consultation process with the community and partner organisations every six years.
- **mandatory performance measures** – the Secretary for Local Government is now required to make regulations specifying performance measures for certain groups of activities. For Greater Wellington this is water supply and flood protection and control works. We will need to set performance targets in relation to each mandatory measure and report against these measures and targets in our annual report. These regulations are likely to come into effect in 2015.
- **financial strategy** – the LTP must now include a financial strategy that, among other things, sets quantified limits on rates, rates increases and borrowing which must be reported against in the new pre-election report.

3.2 Guidance from Audit New Zealand and Office of the Auditor General

Our *10-Year Plan 2009-19* was judged as sound by Audit New Zealand in 2009, although areas for improvement were noted. Since then the Office of the Auditor General has issued additional guidance on performance management which has in effect “raised the bar”.

Experience since 2009 in terms of the 2009/10 Annual Report has shown considerable potential to improve the linkages between community outcomes, activities and performance measures, to reduce the number of monitoring and reporting layers and to improve alignment with Greater Wellington’s strategy framework. We are also looking to integrate the Genuine Progress Index into the framework for monitoring progress towards community outcomes.

3.3 Regional collaboration

Officers have recently re-established a regional group of officers working on LTPs. A number of opportunities to improve collaboration have been discussed including:

- developing a common set of planning assumptions
- keeping each other informed of planned consultation events and cross-promotion
- consistent use of the Genuine Progress Index
- standardisation of community outcomes categories based on regional outcomes.

This group will continue to meet regularly through to mid-2012.

4. Overall Approach

Greater Wellington clearly has to comply with the legislative requirements set out in the LGA, and be mindful of the advice of Audit New Zealand. However, there is considerable scope to shape the LTP in a way that suits our needs. We are putting particular emphasis on understanding and responding to the needs of different audiences for the LTP. This will include ensuring that the document provides a clear summary of our strategic approach and the proposed activities for the community, and as well providing an enduring reference point for councillors and staff within our organisation.

Our objectives include:

- to tell a compelling story about how Greater Wellington will add value to the region over the next 10 years
- to emphasise Greater Wellington's leadership role in the region
- to achieve greater alignment between the LTP and Greater Wellington's strategic and operational plans
- to encourage a wider section of the community to participate in the planning process
- to develop a more integrated and useful performance management framework that avoids duplication.

5. Programme for development of the 2012-2022 Long Term Plan

The development of the LTP is a significant exercise that spans the next 18 months. The focus for the first half of this year will be setting the overall direction, community outcomes and priorities. The second half of the year will focus on the preparation of the document itself. Next year will involve the formal consultation processes, concluding with adoption in June 2012.

The programme provides for early involvement of councillors, through a series of workshops between March and August 2011. These will establish the direction under which officers will then develop a draft of the LTP.

The following workshops are planned:

Workshop 1 – Community Outcomes – March 2011

This workshop will consider Greater Wellington's role in enhancing community wellbeing and the specific outcomes Greater Wellington aims to achieve looking to 2022 and beyond.

Workshop 2 – Strategic Direction – July 2011

This workshop will focus on how Greater Wellington will work towards its outcomes. Specifically:

- our key activity areas

- priority areas of focus in the short term (2012-15).

Workshop 3 – Key Projects – August 2011

This workshop will focus on key projects for 2012-15 and their funding.

Key milestones in the development of the 2012-22 LTP include:

March 2011	Councillor workshop on community outcomes
July 2011	Councillor workshop on strategic direction
August 2011	Councillor workshop on key projects 2012-15
December 2011	First draft of LTP completed
March 2012	Council approves proposed LTP
April 2012	Formal consultation period
May 2012	Hearing
June 2012	Council adopts LTP

6. Community Outcomes

As outlined above, there have been changes to the definition of community outcomes and the process to develop them.

Greater Wellington’s current community outcomes fall under the following headings:

- healthy environment
- quality lifestyle
- sense of place
- prosperous community
- prepared community
- connected community
- entrepreneurial and innovative region
- essential services
- healthy community
- strong and tolerant community.

The councillor workshop in March 2011 will focus on the identification of revised community outcomes. The recommended approach is to retain the existing community outcome headings and simply develop more detailed outcomes that Greater Wellington will deliver under each of these. This has the significant advantage of maintaining the current alignment between Greater Wellington’s community outcomes and the Wellington Regional Strategy and some of the Territorial Authorities LTPs, and ensures that the Genuine Progress Index is aligned and can be incorporating into our overall performance management framework.

It is also necessary to determine the process for consulting on the revised community outcomes. As there is no longer a requirement to run a separate consultation process with the community and partner organisations, the following options have been identified for this process:

Option 1 – Consult on community outcomes as part of the formal consultation on the proposed LTP in April 2012.

Option 2 – Seek early feedback from the community on draft community outcomes in May/June 2011. Proposed community outcomes would be published on our website and in community newspapers for comment. Key stakeholders would be advised and social media used to encourage the community to provide feedback. There would be no formal hearings.

Option 1 is the preferred option. It is difficult to engage the regional community on high level community outcome statements. In the context of the proposed LTP the community will have details of the priorities, services and projects Greater Wellington intends to deliver under each of them. This will enable the community to fully understand the implications of the proposed community outcomes in terms of what they will get and what they will cost.

It is also important to note that Greater Wellington has run a number of substantial community consultation processes over the last 18 months on a range of issues such as transport, parks and natural resources. The information we have gathered from these consultation exercises can be used to inform the development of the revised community outcomes and the draft LTP. There is also a risk of consultation fatigue amongst the community from the seemingly endless rounds of consultation on inter-related issues. This has certainly been a consistent message from some sections of the community.

7. Recommendations

That the Council:

1. ***Receives the report.***
2. ***Notes the content of the report.***
3. ***Agrees to process for preparing the LTP, as set out in the report.***
4. ***Agrees to consult on community outcomes as part of the formal consultation on the proposed Long Term Plan 2012-22 in April 2012 (Option 1).***

Report prepared by:

Report approved by:

Report approved by:

Amy Helm
Statutory Planner

Luke Troy
Manager, Corporate Planning

Jane Davis
General Manager, Strategy
and Community Engagement