

Report 15.295  
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Committee Council  
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## Adoption of the 10 Year Plan 2015-25

### 1. Purpose

To adopt the 10 Year Plan 2015-25, incorporating the Annual Plan 2015/16.

### 2. Background

The Local Government Act 2002 (LGA) requires the Council to adopt a long term plan before July 2015, covering a period of at least 10 years.

The purpose of the long-term plan, as defined by section 93(6) of the LGA is to:

- (a) *describe the activities of the local authority; and*
- (b) *describe the community outcomes of the local authority's district or region; and*
- (c) *provide integrated decision-making and co-ordination of the resources of the local authority; and*
- (d) *provide a long-term focus for the decisions and activities of the local authority; and*
- (e) *provide a basis for accountability of the local authority to the community.*

Under s.102 of the LGA GWRC must also adopt the following funding and financial policies:

- A revenue and financing policy
- A liability management policy
- An investment policy
- A policy on development contributions or financial contributions

- A policy on the remission and postponement of rates on Māori freehold land

GWRC may also adopt:

- A rates remission policy
- A rates postponement policy

Councillors have been through a comprehensive process to develop the 10 Year Plan 2015-25. This has included:

- reviewing community outcomes
- reviewing existing activities against agreed criteria and considering options for governance, funding and delivery
- considering new projects, enhancements to programmes and potential savings and prioritising these
- developing the Infrastructure Strategy principles, assumptions and issues
- reviewing the financial context and Financial Strategy
- reviewing the Revenue and Financing Policy and other LGA s.102 policies
- developing a Significance and Engagement Policy
- considering options for the development of the Shape Your Region consultation document and engagement process
- considering budgets assumptions and scenarios
- reviewing the structure and content of the 10 Year Plan
- considering early engagement feedback on issues, priorities and willingness to pay
- considering public feedback and submissions on the Shape Your Region consultation document and supporting information
- considering the format and design of the 10 Year Plan.

On 25 February 2015, Council approved the Shape Your Region consultation document and the supporting information. An extensive public engagement process was undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the LGA. This resulted in a total of 876 submissions being received. The Long Term Plan 2015-2025 Hearing Committee (Hearing Committee) heard 54 oral submissions on 19 and 20 May 2015 and reviewed and considered the written submissions and additional feedback received. The Hearing Committee also

heard two submissions on the Council's draft funding and financial policies as part of the concurrent consultation held on those policies.

The Hearing Committee recommended (**Report 15.218**) changes to the 10 Year Plan to allocate funding for the retention of the Capital Connection to match the funding provided by Horizons Regional Council at \$0.55m over the next 5 years. In addition it recommended that the Council adopt the Revenue and Financing Policy and adopt the Rates Remission and Postponement policies.

The Hearing Committee also recommended to Council a number of other issues that did not require amendments to the 10 Year Plan.

The recommendations of the Hearing Committee were agreed by Council at its meeting of 16 June 2015. At this meeting Council also approved the proposed rates increase of 9.8% and the bulk water levy increase of 5% for 2015/16 (**Report 15.219**).

### 3. Comment

The final 10 Year Plan 2015-2025 is provided in **Attachment 1**. It includes the Financial Strategy and the Infrastructure Strategy and reflects the recommendations of the Hearing Committee and the budget agreed by Council on 16 June 2015. A number of other minor changes have been made to correct errors, update information, improve consistency and to explain changes.

The funding and financial policies for the 10 Year Plan 2015-2025 are provided in **Attachment 2**. These will be published in a separate document. A number of minor changes have been made to correct errors, update information and improve consistency. The policies document includes some policies required under s.102 of the LGA (quoted above) that have already been adopted by Council. This includes the Significance and Engagement Policy which was adopted by Council in November 2014 (**Report 14.557**), and the Treasury Management Policy, including the investment policy and liability management policy, adopted in June 2014 and subsequently amended in February 2015 (**Report 15.53**).

Audit NZ has audited the 10 Year Plan 2015-2025. Their opinion will be tabled at the meeting. Audit NZ has issued a Management Report which outlines in more detail any issues arising, as well as officers' responses to those issues (**Attachment 3**). The auditors will be present at the meeting to answer any questions.

### 4. Communication

A media release will be issued once the 10 Year Plan 2015-2025 is adopted, followed by an 'Our Region' article outlining the direction of the 10 Year Plan and the outcomes of the engagement process.

The 10 Year Plan 2015-2025 will be published and made available on the GWRC website.

Under s.93 of the LGA, Council is required to send copies of the Plan to the Department of Internal Affairs, Office of the Auditor General and Parliamentary Library. Copies will be provided to these organisations and to all city and district councils in the region.

All submitters who made submissions on the Shape Your Region consultation and other concurrent consultations will receive a response outlining the Council decisions and providing further comment where appropriate. Responses will also be e-mailed to all those who provided feedback online.

## **5. The decision-making process and significance**

The matters requiring decision in this report have been considered by officers against the requirements of Part 6 of the LGA.

### **5.1 Significance of the decision**

Officers have considered the significance of the matter, taking into account the Council's significance and engagement policy and decision-making guidelines. Officers recommend that the matter be considered to have high significance.

Officers advise that a decision-making process is explicitly prescribed for this decision by the special consultative process under s. 83 of the LGA.

## **6. Engagement**

The consultation and engagement on the development of the 10 Year Plan was designed taking into account the Greater Wellington Regional Council Significance and Engagement Policy and requirements in the LGA.

## **7. Recommendations**

*That the Council:*

- 1. **Receives** the report.*
- 2. **Notes** the content of the report.*
- 3. **Adopts** the following funding and financial policies:*
  - (a) Revenue and Financing Policy*
  - (b) Rates Remission and Postponement Policies, including policies on the remission and postponement of rates on Māori freehold land.*
- 4. **Adopts** the 10 Year Plan 2015-25 (including the Financial Strategy, Infrastructure Strategy, and auditor's report), incorporating the Annual Plan 2015/16.*

5. ***Delegates*** to the Chair the ability to make minor editorial changes to the policies and 10 Year Plan prior to publication to correct errors and improve public understanding.
6. ***Authorises*** the Chief Financial Officer to enter into any debt facilities , or borrowing that are required to implement the Annual Plan for the 2015/16 year that are in accordance with the Council's Treasury Management Policy.
7. ***Directs*** the Chief Executive to send copies of the 10 Year Plan to the relevant parties required under the LGA.

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Chief Executive

**Attachment 1:** Greater Wellington Regional Council 10 Year Plan 2015-2025 (enclosed separately)

**Attachment 2:** Greater Wellington Regional Council Policies for the 10 Year Plan 2015-2025 (enclosed separately)

**Attachment 3:** Audit NZ Management Report on the 10 Year Plan 2015-2025