



Report 07.380
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File CFO/07/06/14

Committee Council
Authors David Benham, Chief Executive Officer

Adoption of the 2007/08 Annual Plan

1. Purpose

To present the final 2007/08 Annual Plan, for adoption by Council. This provides a formal and public statement of the Council's intentions in relation to matters covered in the Plan.

2. Significance of the decision

The content of this report is the result of the Council's consultation with the public which took the form of submissions being made on the proposed 2007/08 Annual Plan. The changes made to the Proposed Plan, outlined in Report 07.337 (6 June 2007) and this report trigger section 76 (3)(b) of the Local Government Act 2002 as well as the Council's own policy on significance.

The formal submission process undertaken by Council complied with the decision-making and special consultative procedures set out in sections 76-79 and 83-85 of the Local Government Act 2002. Reports 07.306 and 07.312 outlined the submission process and analysed the submissions that the Council received.

3. Background

The Local Government Act 2002 requires the Council to adopt its Annual Plan prior to the commencement of the financial year to which it relates.

As Councillors will recall, the process of preparing the 2007/08 Annual Plan started late last year with a series of Council workshops on a range of Greater Wellington's specific activity areas and the preparation of business plans by each of the departmental managers within the Council. The business plans were reviewed by Councillors during January 2007 and the Proposed 2007/08 Annual Plan was prepared.

The Proposed Annual Plan, excluding the Economic Development Agency (EDA) rate, contained a rate increase of 6.4%, with a 3.0% increase in the bulk water levy. When the EDA rate of 6.5% was included, the overall rate increase was 12.9%. The Proposed Plan was approved for public consultation by Council on 13 March. The consultation period ran from 5 April to 7 May, although submissions were received up to 18 May. The Planning and Monitoring Sub-Committee heard oral submissions and considered all submissions on 23 and 24 May.

Council received a report at its meeting on 12 June 2007 that outlined changes to be made to the proposed Annual Plan as a result of the following:

- The public consultation process;
- New information and changed assumptions; and
- Re-budgets of 2006/07 expenditure.

At this meeting, Council approved the re-budgeting and other adjustments, and noted their rating impacts. Council then formally approved the level of regional rates and bulk water levy for the 2007/08 year.

4. Comment

The final 2007/08 Annual Plan is attached to this report (**Attachment 1**). A summary document has not been prepared. The summary of the proposed document was sent to all households in the region in order to receive public comment. As the circulation of the final document is more limited, it was deemed not necessary to produce another summary document. All those that submitted to the proposed Annual Plan will receive detailed responses to their submissions.

In addition to the Annual Plan budgetary amendments detailed in Report 07.337 (6 June 2007), there have been some wording changes from the proposed document, mainly in the transport area to reflect the updated work programmes. The transport section in the *Message from the Chairman* has also been updated.

An additional introductory section in the Annual Plan sets out the budgetary amendments approved by Council on 12 June 2007.

5. Communication

There was a media release following the 12 June 2007 meeting approving the level of rates and levies. However, another will be prepared announcing Council's formal adoption of its Annual Plan.

6. Recommendations

That Council:

- 1) *Receives the report;*
- 2) *Notes its content;*
- 3) *Approves the Greater Wellington Regional Council's 2007/08 Annual Plan.*
- 4) *Adopts the Greater Wellington Regional Council's final 2007/08 Annual Plan.*

Report prepared by:

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Chief Executive

Attachment 1: Greater Wellington Regional Council's 2007/08 Annual Plan