



Report 13.671
Date 18 June 2013
File SP/07/01/01

Committee Council
Author Finola Dunn, Statutory Planner

Adoption of the GWRC Annual Plan 2013/14

1. Purpose

To adopt the Greater Wellington Regional Council Annual Plan 2013/14.

2. The decision-making process and significance

This decision is of high significance within the meaning of the Local Government Act 2002, and has followed the process specifically outlined in the Local Government Act 2002, including the use of the special consultative procedure.

3. Community views and preferences

Officers have considered the need to take account of the community's views and preferences in relation to these matters. The Local Government Act 2002 requires the use of the special consultative procedure. This report details that consultation process.

4. Background

The Local Government Act 2002 requires the Council to prepare and adopt an Annual Plan for each financial year. The Annual Plan must be adopted before the commencement of the year to which it relates.

The purpose of the Annual Plan, as defined by section 95(5) of the Local Government Act 2002 is to:

(a) contain the proposed annual budget and funding impact statement for the year to which the annual plan relates; and

(b) identify any variation from the financial statements and funding impact statement included in the local authority's long-term plan in respect of the year; and

(c) support the long-term plan in providing integrated decision-making and co-ordination of the resources of the local authority; and

(d) contribute to the accountability of the local authority to the community; and

(e) extend opportunities for participation by the public in decision-making processes relating to the costs and funding of activities to be undertaken by the local authority.

Councillors have been through a comprehensive process to develop the Annual Plan. This has included: reviewing all existing activities and levels of service; considering issues and options; reviewing the financial context; considering proposed service improvements and savings; considering draft budgets; reviewing the structure and content of the Annual Plan; and considering public submissions on the Annual Plan.

On 26 February 2013, Council approved the draft Annual Plan 2013/14 with a rates income increase of 2.6% (as compared to 9.4% as set out for Year 2 of the Long Term Plan) and a 3% increase in the bulk water levy (**Report 13.46**).

Submissions were then invited on the draft Annual Plan. A total of 41 submissions were received. The Annual Plan 2013/14 Hearing Committee heard 18 oral submissions and considered all submissions on 28 May 2013.

The Annual Plan 2013/14 Hearing Committee reviewed and considered all the written submissions, the matters raised by oral submissions, and the additional information and consultation responses provided. Consideration was given to each separate topic identified in the summary of submissions, along with officers' recommendations.

The Annual Plan 2013/14 Hearing Committee concluded (**Report 13.661**) that:

- One minor change be made to the draft Annual Plan to include 'at least' into the emergency management performance measure '% of households with emergency food and water to last *at least* three days'.
- That further consideration is needed of programming of additional water supply sources, particularly with regards to the option of a Whakatiki storage lake.
- The annual report on GWRC's Biodiversity Strategy should be made publically available on the GWRC website.
- GWRC should participate in Sport Wellington's Wellington Regional Recreation Initiatives Group, and ensure that consideration is given to implementation of the recommendations of the research project on the cost of physical inactivity.

- GWRC should further progress the offer made by the Animal Health Board to work in partnership with GWRC and DOC to move toward active pest management of the entire Wellington region.

Council approved the rate income increase of 2.6% and the bulk water levy increase of 3% for 2013/14 on 12 June (**Report 13.645**). Council also approved:

- the re-budgeted capital and operating expenditure
- the revenue from the planned logging at Stratton St pine plantation being reinvested into Belmont Regional Park.

5. Comment

The Annual Plan 2013/14 is in **Attachment 1 (enclosed separately)**. It incorporates the budget agreed by Council on 12 June 2013 and the recommendations of the Annual Plan 2013/14 Hearing Committee. A number of other minor changes have been made to correct errors, update information, improve consistency, and to provide further explanation of changes. The Chair's Message and Emerging Trends section have also been updated.

Report 13.46 (February 2013) referred to the amendments made to section 10 of the Local Government Act 2002 and specifically the implications of the narrowed purpose of local government from a very broad enabling role to a more specific role that focuses on the provision of infrastructure, local public services and regulatory functions. Since that time officers have reviewed the range of activities carried out by the organisation to ensure they remain compliant with the Act. This has not identified any areas of concern for existing core activities. However the area of investment activities was identified as an area that required further consideration. Officers have now instigated a review of our commercial and investment activities, and this review is being led by the Chief Financial Officer. Council will be informed of the results of the review at a future date.

6. Communication

Following Council adoption of the Annual Plan a media statement will be released.

A summary document has not been prepared. The summary of the draft Annual Plan was made available in libraries, rail stations and local government offices in the region as part of the public consultation process. There is no requirement to prepare a summary of the final plan.

All submitters who made submissions on the draft Annual Plan will, subsequent to this meeting, receive a response outlining the decision of the Council and the key changes.

7. Recommendations

That the Council:

- 1) **Receives** the report.
- 2) **Notes** its content.
- 3) **Agrees** that the matters in the report require the Council to make a decision with a high degree of significance.
- 4) **Adopts** the Annual Plan 2013/14 (Attachment 1), subject to any changes agreed at the meeting.
- 5) **Delegates** to the Chair the ability to make minor editorial changes prior to publication to correct errors and improve public understanding.
- 6) **Authorises** the Chief Financial Officer to enter into any new debt facilities that are required to implement the Annual Plan for the 2013/14 year that are in accordance with the Council's Treasury Management Policy.

Report prepared by:

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Attachment 1: Greater Wellington Regional Council's Annual Plan 2013/14 (enclosed separately)