



Welcome to our annual plan for 2007/08.

Wellington is in great shape – in the latest survey of New Zealand's largest cities we once again came out top, with 93% of residents rating their quality of life as good or very good.

This plan is about building on the city's strengths, and on the vision set out last year in our 2006–16 long-term plan: a vision of Wellington as a thriving, internationally competitive city.

In the coming year we'll be working hard to increase the role events play in the life of the city, upgrade and improve parks, town centres and sport/recreation facilities, and boost our support for grass-roots organisations and communities.

We received more than 900 submissions on our draft annual plan. We've listened to your views and altered our plans accordingly. Thanks to all of you who took the time to have a say about the future of your city.

We can all look forward to another fantastic year of progress.

KERRY PRENDERGAST MAYOR

Facing the challenges of a growing city.

The Wellington City Council is responsible for a huge range of services – protecting the environment, looking after the transport network and water supplies and other key infrastructure, providing libraries and recreation facilities, running events to keep the city lively and much, much more.

In managing the city's resources to deliver these services, we have to meet community expectations, respond to inflationary pressures, meet the challenges of a growing city, and ensure that today's actions don't burden future generations. In other words, we have to take a long-term view.

The Council's programme for 2007/08 is aimed at meeting these challenges. It includes initiatives that will meet immediate needs, such as helping community groups that are facing rising costs. It also includes projects that will enhance the city in the long-term, such as development of parks and other facilities. On two major projects – New Zealand Memorial Park and the \$220 million upgrade of our housing portfolio – we have formed funding partnerships with central government.

Through efficient management and careful prioritisation, the Council has contained rates growth within acceptable parameters for 2007/08. As the city grows, we will continue to work hard to strike an appropriate balance between service provision and control of costs.

The 2007/08 programme aims to enhance the wellbeing of Wellingtonians, and to deliver on the Council's goal of ensuring Wellington is a world-class, internationally competitive city. Through our actions today, we can ensure the future is bright.

GARRY POOLE CHIEF EXECUTIVE