

Policy Work Programme

Tass Larsen
Programme Manager, Policy
tass.larsen@wcc.govt.nz

Policy and Planning Team

Areas of Responsibility:

- The provision of policy advice, and coordination and management of the Council's Policy Programme
- The ongoing review of the District Plan, current plan changes and District Plan appeals
- The Council's climate change programme

Policy Team

- Director: Teena Pennington
- Manager: Andrew Stitt
- 8 advisors – including 2 who largely focus on the climate change action plan
- Andrew also manages the district plan team

Council policy programme

- 3-year work programme based on the LTP
- Adopted 2009, reviewed post-election
- Policy programme then used to develop SPC forward programme
- We are in final 6 months of 2009-12 programme
- 2012-15 programme development underway – workshop with councillors in May
- Programme delivered by whole organisation
 - policy team coordinates

Development of programme

- Non-discretionary work:
 - Reviews of existing policy required by legislation eg Bylaws must be review every 10 years, District plan review etc
 - New Legislation – eg changes to local government act, resource management act
 - Existing commitments – eg regional waste minimisation plan has an agreed work programme
 - Reaction to other agencies – eg major NZTA transport projects, productivity commission etc

Development of programme cont.

- Discretionary:
 - Areas identified by Councillors
 - Delivering 2040 – identified gaps
 - Other areas identified by officers where policies are out of date, or could be improved etc
- Process just beginning
 - Stock take of existing policies, strategies, bylaws
 - Projects identified as priorities in LTP
 - Ongoing work on implications of 2040

Process for input into policy

- Different policies reviewed / developed using different processes
 - Will depend on the degree of change from existing policy, relative importance, legislative requirements, etc
- Council decision making can typically be:
 - 3 steps: scoping + consultation draft + final
 - 2 steps: scoping + final; or consultation draft + final
 - 1 step: proposed policy
- Early input most effective