Enabling the well-being of Wellington and its residents is our responsibility.

Our role
Under the Local Government Act 2002, the Council’s purposes are to:
• promote the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of the people of Wellington, now and into the future.
• enable democratic local decision-making and action by, and on behalf of, the people of Wellington.
We also have other responsibilities through the Act, including providing services such as water, wastewater and other sanitary works.
The Local Government Act 2002 gives the Council a general right to take actions that are wholly or principally for the benefit of Wellington City. That Act and others give us a wide range of other powers including gathering rates and setting bylaws.
Further legislation makes us responsible for civil defence and emergency management, public health and safety and waste minimisation. We also regulate building, land use, food and liquor sales, gambling, animal control, and a range of other activities.
Councils are responsible not only for basic infrastructure, but also for helping the community achieve its aspirations for the city and its residents.
Such aspirations may include social cohesion, inclusiveness, prosperity, management of resources and public safety.
Factors such as community and individual well-being and containment of costs all help shape the long term direction of the city. It is left to the Council, working with the people of Wellington, to determine whether well-being is served by Council action, and if so, what type of action the Council should take.
To enhance the well-being of Wellingtonians, we provide services (such as parks and roads), regulate activities (such as building and liquor licensing), or act as an advocate or partner working with others in the city’s interests.

Our vision
We aim for Wellington to be a vibrant, internationally competitive, and affordable city.
In our 2009-2019 Long-Term Plan, we outlined 13 outcomes that reflect our 10-year aspirations for the city. The outcomes are more liveable, stronger sense of place, more compact, more eventful, more inclusive, more actively engaged, better connected, more sustainable, safer, healthier, more prosperous, more competitive, and more entrepreneurial/innovative.
Our activities contribute to one or more of those outcomes and they act as signposts to achieving the city’s vision.
The outcomes guide our seven strategic areas of focus. These areas are presented as separate chapters within this report. The seven strategic areas are:
• Governance – building trust and confidence in decision-making
• Environment – protecting and enhancing Wellington’s environment
• Economic Development – Supporting growth to enhance quality of life
• Cultural Well-being – reflecting and helping shape Wellington’s unique cultural identity
• Social and Recreation – sustaining safe, resilient, and healthy communities
• Urban Development – preserving Wellington as a compact, vibrant, and attractive city
• Transport – connecting people and places.
There are multiple interdependencies between these strategic areas.
In developing the strategies we considered a wide range of issues such as population growth and diversity, demands on infrastructure networks and retaining the city’s vibrant character, as well as other issues.
We are also specific in our interpretation of our outcomes for each strategy. For instance, our outcome to be safer relates to road safety in transport and to food regulations or safe city initiatives in our social and recreation area. This integrated approach provides us with clarity of purpose.

Explaining our work
We aim to keep residents informed and make ourselves accountable.
In 2009, the Council adopted our long-term plan for the period 2009 – 2019 which outlined the services we planned to deliver for the city for that period. In June 2010 we adopted an annual plan that outlined the work we would do as part of the second year of that plan. This annual report explains how we’ve delivered that plan.
Our comprehensive reporting reflects the fact that we do a lot. We have structured this report so that information is easy to find, on an activity of interest. For each activity we explain what we did, how we performed, what it cost and how we performed against budget.