
REPORT 2
(1215/52/IM)

DRAFT 2011/ 12 POLICY PROGRAMME

1. Purpose of Report

This paper presents a draft 2011/12 policy programme for Committee agreement.

2. Executive Summary

The policy programme agreed by SPC in late 2009 represented a whole-of-organisation response to the strategic priorities identified in the Long Term Council Community Plan (LTCCP). At the time of its agreement it was recommended that it be reviewed following the local government elections.

The updated policy programme presented in this report does not recommend wholesale changes but rather is focussed on positioning and preparing Council for the new Long Term Plan (LTP). The updated programme reflects a combination of remaining work on the current policy programme, responses to city opportunities and challenges emerging from the early work of the Wellington 2040 project and opportunities to build upon regional collaboration and shared services opportunities.

The draft policy programme is presented in two parts:

Appendix One – The Current Policy Programme

The current policy programme, reflecting remaining work agreed in 2009 (highlighted in red) alongside additional work added since then as a result of Committee agreement or organisational requirement. This work programme represents a significant proportion of current officer capacity, and

Appendix Two – Councillor Priorities

Items identified as priorities at the Councillor Planning Session held in December 2010. If the Committee agrees, these priorities will be added to the SPC forward programme, noting that there would be consequent deferrals and/or deletions of existing work required.

If agreed by Committee, policy work will be scheduled on the SPC forward programme for Councillor consideration and decision.

3. Recommendations

Officers recommend that the Committee:

1. *Receive the information.*
2. *Note that the Strategy and Policy Committee agreed the 2010/11 Policy Programme in November 2009, with a recommendation that it be reviewed following the local government elections in October 2010.*
3. *Note that a draft 2011/12 policy programme is now presented in two parts:*
 - (a) *Appendix One – reflecting remaining work agreed in 2009 (highlighted in red), along with additions to reflect SPC and Council decisions and organisational priorities since that time, and*
 - (b) *Appendix Two – political priorities identified at the Councillor Planning workshop in December 2010.*
4. *Note that the current policy programme reflects a significant proportion of available officer capacity and that any additional items agreed from Appendix Two will have consequent implications for the deferral and/or deletion of existing items.*
5. *Agree the draft policy programme, attached at Appendix One, be scheduled on the Strategy and Policy Committee forward programme.*
6. *Agree to include priority items from Appendix Two on the draft Policy Programme, noting that officers will report back on a case-by-case basis on the timing, resourcing or other consequent impacts of the inclusion of specific items.*
7. *Agree to review the 2011/12 Policy Programme after the adoption of the 2012-22 Long Term Plan.*

4. Background

The current policy programme agreed by SPC in late 2009 represents a whole-of-organisation response to the strategic priorities identified in the LTCCP. While not envisaged as comprising the full forward programme for SPC (some capacity was retained for other anticipated work – such as submissions to central government on matters of Council interest, political requests agreed by a

majority of Councillors, responsive work to opportunities or threats) it does represent a significant proportion of officer capacity, provides for certainty of delivery of key policy projects and gives the new Council an assurance that key challenges the city faces will be addressed and opportunities realised.

2010/11 Policy Programme – work achieved

The 2010/11 Policy Programme was agreed by SPC in late 2009 and since that time much of the scheduled work has been presented to SPC. Key work achieved to date has included decisions or agreement on:

- The Gaming Venues Policy 2010 – to target particular areas of concern throughout the city.
- A review of the Liquor Control Bylaw – to consider extensions to the control zone.
- A review of Council's Built Heritage Policy – to now include built and non built heritage and trees.
- Governance arrangements for Wellington City venues – to establish a new CCTO to manage the merged operations of the St James' Theatre Charitable Trust and the Wellington Convention Centre.
- Council's Social Housing Service Policy – required as part of the funding deed signed with the Crown.
- Further operational work to give effect to Council's Parking Policy - guiding the allocation and prioritisation of Council's parking resource.
- Speed Limit reductions in various parts of the city – including undertaking and considering the results of consultation with communities.
- Council's Climate Change Action Plan – a range of initiatives from new and existing funding to position the city to address the impacts of climate change.
- The Community Facilities Policy – to guide investment priorities for Council facilities, including pools and libraries.
- District Plan Changes 72 & 73 – guiding development in suburban centres and residential areas.
- Heritage Plan Change – District Plan Change 75.

As well as these completed projects, further extensive work has been undertaken by SPC to advance, amongst other things:

- Wellington 2040 – City Strategy Project,
- the Road Encroachment and Sale Policy,
- Regional Governance and the funding of Regional Amenities,
- Thorndon Heritage Plan Change
- waste management planning, including recycling initiatives, and
- water efficiency and conservation planning.

At the time of its agreement in late 2009, it was always envisaged that the Policy Programme would be a 'living' document, capable of responding to the dynamic nature of a changing city and that as such it would require regular review to

ensure it continued to reflect strategic, organisational and political priorities. At the time of its agreement, SPC recommended that the policy programme be re-presented for committee agreement following the local government elections.

5. Discussion

5.1 2011/12 Policy Programme

The proposed policy programme represents a clear statement of the key issues on which decisions are required to be made by Council. It would give long term certainty and strategic focus to the SPC Forward Programme, provide certainty and transparency on the key work that will be delivered through 2011/12 and enable efficient resource allocation over the next two years. It represents a strategic and focussed way of considering the key issues that the city faces.

Policy work included in the draft policy programme is considered a priority on the basis that it is:

- required to deliver on the priorities of the 2009-19 LTCCP
- a response to central government legislation or regulation
- a response to agreed decisions of SPC or Council
- identified as an organisational or regional commitment or priority.

In particular the work included on the policy programme is focussed on:

- ensuring that Wellington remains an affordable internationally competitive city, with its competitive advantages identified and maximised
- the key challenges identified in each of the seven strategy areas
- work required to ensure that the Council starts early thinking and preparations for the 2012-22 LTP process and work identified from the early findings of the Wellington 2040 project.

A draft 2011/12 policy programme is attached at Appendix One, set out by strategy area. Remaining work from the agreed 2009 Policy Programme is highlighted in red. Additional items have been added since then to reflect subsequent SPC decisions, central government legislation or organisational requirements. Much of the work is currently underway or has resources allocated for the work to be undertaken over the next two years.

The programmes and projects included at Appendix One represent a significant work programme through 2011/12 – almost at the limits of available officer capacity. As with previous triennia some limited capacity is retained to undertake essential, immediate or important work – for example, to advise SPC on pending Government legislation or on opportunities or threats that may arise for the city. In our experience, the retention of this limited capacity is essential and allows SPC to be flexible and respond to the city's changing needs. However, it does mean that the agreement by SPC to further work on any of the

suggested priorities identified at Appendix Two would have implications for deferral or removal of items from the forward programme.

The work has also been allocated across the new political portfolios, agreed by Council on 11 November 2010. Significant, critical or complex cross-portfolio work is allocated to the Mayor to lead. In cases where work potentially covers more than one portfolio, an assessment has been made to identify the 'leading' role and the work has been allocated to that portfolio.

The Policy Programme includes work through to mid 2012. At that time it will be appropriate to once again review the programme to take account of the new priorities, opportunities and challenges of the 2012-22 LTP.

5.2 Other Briefings and Workshops

In addition to the key policy issues identified at the Councillor planning workshop in December 2010, Councillors have also signalled other priorities and projects that they seek to be involved in, and informed of, through workshops, briefings and the regular circulation of information. Key items include:

- **Emergency Management and Preparedness** – This briefing would include information on such items as the role of WEMO, the city's infrastructural preparedness, earthquake-prone buildings and lifelines, amongst other things. The identification of these issues follows from the pre Christmas briefing which did not cover these critical elements. Councillors believe there is currently high consciousness of the need for disaster preparedness (eg Canterbury, Queensland) and importance of engagement with community while highly motivated. (A briefing on this subject was held in February 2011).
- **The Economy** – A full briefing on Council's role in the development of the city economy including identified opportunities and threats (including organisations under threat), the Wellington Regional Strategy and the quality of our engagement. The request for a briefing reflects the desire expressed at the planning session for the Council to do what it can to improve the economy. The briefing would serve to focus thinking on the issue.
- **Transport** – Prior to any decisions being made at SPC, a workshop(s) is required to facilitate the development of a position on a revised interim transport strategy (LTP timing is felt to be too late). The timing is driven by a need to engage with the Roads of National Significance (RONS) initiative which could significantly shape our strategy depending on what the RONS looks like. Also significant Public Transport work and investigation is occurring through 2011.

The focus of the 2011/12 Policy Programme is on decisions required to be made by SPC and thus these additional items have not been included for the purposes of this paper.

5.3 Consultation and Engagement

There are no direct consultation or engagement implications from this report. Individual items of work will be consulted upon as a core element of their development.

5.4 Financial Considerations

There are no direct financial implications from this report. The financial implications of individual items of work will be considered as part of their development and agreed as part of annual planning processes.

5.5 Climate Change Impacts and Considerations

There are no direct climate change implications from this report. Climate Change implications will be considered as part of the development of individual items of work.

5.6 Long-Term Council Community Plan Considerations

The Long Term Plan implications of individual items of work will be considered as part of their development.

6. Conclusion

This report seeks Committee agreement to the draft 2011/12 Policy Programme. If agreed, the work will be scheduled on the SPC forward programme and presented to the committee for consideration and decision through 2011/12.

Contact Officer: *John McGrath, Manager, Policy and Planning.*

Appendices

1. Draft 2011/12 Policy Programme by Strategy Area
2. Councillor Priorities identified at the December 2010 Planning Session

Supporting Information

1) Strategic Fit / Strategic Outcome

The 2011/12 Policy Programme recommends policy work essential to deliver on the priorities of the 2009-19 LTCCP, work to respond to city opportunities and threats and early work arising from the Wellington 2040 project.

2) LTCCP/Annual Plan reference and long term financial impact

The annual plan / /LTP implications of individual items of work will be considered as part of the usual planning processes.

3) Treaty of Waitangi considerations

The Treaty of Waitangi implications of individual items of work will be considered as part of the development of that work.

4) Decision-Making

In itself, this report does not constitute a significant decision. Individual items of work on the policy programme may be significant in nature.

5) Consultation

a) General Consultation

Consultation will be undertaken on individual items of work on the policy programme as required.

b) Consultation with Maori

Consultation with Maori will be undertaken on individual items of work on the policy programme as required.

6) Legal Implications

There are no legal implications arising directly from this report. The legal implications of individual items of work will be considered as part of the development of that work.

7) Consistency with existing policy

This report sets out the decisions on future policy that this Council will have to make.