

Our role and direction

Who we are

The Wellington City Council is made up of 15 elected representatives – the mayor and 14 councillors. It's their job to make bylaws, set the city's overall strategic direction, and approve budgets, policies and plans aimed at achieving that direction. Part of their role is to listen and take the pulse of the community before making decisions. They are supported in their governance role by two community boards.

The elected representatives are supported by the Council's chief executive and 1400+ staff, who provide advice, implement Council decisions, and look after the city's day-to-day operations.

Our aims

In June 2011, the Council adopted an annual plan for the period 1 July 2011 – 30 June 2012. This outlined the services we planned to deliver for that year. This annual report explains how we've delivered on that plan.

The annual plan contained 13 long term outcomes for the city, structured around seven areas. The chapters in this report highlight progress towards those outcomes.

The seven chapters are:

- Governance – delivering trust and confidence in decision-making.
- Environment – protecting and enhancing Wellington's environment.
- Economic Development – promoting the city's competitive advantages to enhance quality of life.
- Cultural Wellbeing – 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 now and into the future.
- Transport – delivering an efficient and safe transport system that connects people and places.

Our vision for Wellington was renewed during the year. *Wellington 2040: Smart Capital* sets in place four outcomes for the city's future: an eco-city; people centred; connected; and dynamic at its core. These provide the basis for our long term plan that was adopted at the end of the financial year. While our progress towards that plan will be outlined in next year's annual report, we have taken the opportunity to include here steps we have committed to that support that vision.

Explaining our work

In this report you'll be able to find information about the state of the city – everything from the transport network to the state of the environment to the strength of Wellington's communities.

For each activity we explain:

- *What we do*: an outline of the scope of our work under the activity.
- *Contribution*: how our activities contribute towards our stated outcomes.
- *Key projects*: a description of milestones and activities performed during the year.
- *What it cost*: a summary financial table for that activity.
- *How we performed*: an outline of results against targets. We place these in the context of past results and next year's targets where appropriate

The performance information is drawn from a wide variety of sources, including annual surveys of Wellington residents. The Residents' Monitoring Surveys are conducted independently. The sample of 600 residents, aged over 15, is representative of the Wellington population in terms of ward, age and gender. The maximum standard margin of error is +/-3.99%.

Our measures, financial results and commentary are independently scrutinised by Audit New Zealand.