

# LISTENING TO YOUR VIEWS

In developing our long-term plan for the city, we have taken into account the views of wellington residents.

## DRAFT LONG-TERM PLAN

This plan sets out the long-term direction for the Council and Wellington, a direction guided by the aspirations of the community.

For six months during 2005, we engaged with residents and organisations working in the city to form a collective view on what the future should hold for Wellington. This resulted in a set of 'community outcomes' – or aspirations for the city. These were agreed by a public review panel in September 2005 and were the basis of our planning.

In April 2006, we published a draft version of this plan and asked for feedback. It outlined:

- what we wanted to achieve for Wellington over the medium to long term
- what role we would play and what we would deliver
- how our activities would be funded
- how we would measure our performance.

The draft plan was sent to community groups and all other residents who requested it. It was also available in libraries and service centres and on our website. A summary of the draft plan document was widely distributed and key elements were also highlighted in our *Absolutely Positively Wellington* newspaper, which was sent to all households.

We encouraged awareness of the draft plan through media releases and advertisements. Information on the draft plan and how to provide

feedback was also highlighted on six radio stations, in our Rates News and in the 'Our Wellington' page of the Dominion Post.

We held 16 public meetings at which a video of the draft plan was shown and residents were able to ask questions. The video was also made available to community groups.

## YOUR FEEDBACK

We consulted on the draft plan for one month from 12 April to 12 May. We received feedback in the following ways:

- 1,368 written submissions were made
- 100 submitters spoke in support of their submission to a panel of Councillors
- We asked about key issues in a survey of 350 respondents in May.

The number of submissions was one of our highest ever showing the high level of public interest in our activities.

The majority of community feedback focused on new initiatives, individual projects or proposed changes to levels of service. A smaller number commented on our strategies and three year priorities. Councillors considered all the feedback before making decisions.

All those that made a written submission are provided feedback from the Council regarding the main points raised in their submission.

## CONSIDERING YOUR VIEWS

Our Strategy and Policy Committee, which is made up of elected Councillors and the Mayor, considered your feedback during June. It provided recommendations to the Council, which made its final decisions in late June.

The feedback we received influenced Councillors' decisions. The programme outlined in this document is not the same as the one outlined in the draft plan.

Key changes include:

- We have agreed to build a 12 court indoor community sports facility, instead of the 8 court option proposed in the draft plan. The increase in the number of courts allows greater use and enables a larger number of other sports to use the facility. The 12 court facility would also help secure regional, national and international sports tournaments.
- We have decided not to increase the proportion of residential sewerage and water rates paid through a fixed charge as outlined in the draft plan
- We have agreed to provide additional funding support to the Citizens Advice Bureaux for their accommodation needs
- We have decided not to proceed with the introduction of a charge for car parking in the lot adjacent to Freyberg pool as outlined in the draft plan
- We have agreed to provide funding support to the New Zealand Academy of Sport – Central for their talent development programme. The programme focuses on teenage athletes who have displayed the potential to become our future sports champions
- We have agreed to provide additional funding for the development of the Wellington Regional Strategy
- We have agreed to retain the current operating season for the Thorndon and Khandallah pools
- We have also included additional performance measures in areas where they were under development at the time the draft was agreed.

A number of submitters made suggestions for changes or improvements in Council services. Some of these have been placed on the forward programme for future consideration by Councillors, others will be considered by Council staff as part of their day-to-day delivery of these services.

