

Welcome

This Annual Report is a snapshot of Wellington City Council activities during 2005/06.

It's our way of making ourselves accountable to you – the people of Wellington.

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION

From the Mayor

From the Chief Executive

Building Our Creative Capital

Awards

Our Activities at a Glance

Financial Overview

KEY ACHIEVEMENT AREAS

Introduction

Built Environment

Community, Health and Safety

Culture and Arts

City Economy

Natural Environment

Resources and Waste

Recreation and Leisure

Transport

Governance and Citizen Information

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Statement of Compliance and Responsibility

Statement of Financial Performance

Statement of Movements in Equity

Statement of Financial Position

Statement of Cash Flows

Statement of Accounting Policies

Notes Forming Part of the Financial Statements

Audit Report

GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governance

Management and Staff

Our Environmental Impact

APPENDICES

Report on Council Controlled Organisations

Council Directory

FROM THE MAYOR

Setting the foundation for more great years to follow

The 2005/06 year has been one of strong progress as we build towards our goal of positioning Wellington as an internationally-competitive city.

For me, there have been many highlights. To name just a few:

- We became the first capital city in the world to achieve World Health Organisation 'Safe Community' status.
- The redeveloped Glover Park and the new Waitangi Park highlighted our commitment to provide well-designed, safe, enjoyable venues where people can relax in the inner city.
- The award-winning, highly-popular Karori Library was one of many examples of our commitment to providing high-quality community facilities and public areas throughout the suburbs.
- We signed a Sister City partnership with Beijing, one of the world's most important cities.
- The New Zealand International Arts Festival was among the most successful ever, with record ticket sales.
- Throughout the year, Wellingtonians showed huge enthusiasm for getting involved in the full range of events on offer – from the sinking of the F69 to the King Kong Australasian premiere and the exhilarating Vodafone X-Air games.
- Len Lye's Water Whirler kinetic sculpture became the latest addition to the city's fabulous waterfront, while Bill Culbert's piece SkyBlues illuminates Post Office Square.

There are so many more examples I could give. All of them highlight how much can be achieved when we work with others for the good of the city.

Building on Wellington's strengths

The year was also one of transition. In mid-2006, we committed to a long-term plan that builds on the city's existing strengths and provides a blueprint for future growth and development.

A key aspect of our approach is striking the right balance. We want to allow growth while also preserving the city's heritage and natural environment.

We want to encourage economic development by making the city even more attractive as a place to work, visit, and invest in. And we want to capture the benefits of this development to enhance residents' overall quality of life.

The evidence shows that we're doing well so far. In our regular surveys, almost all Wellington residents rate their quality of life as good or very good, and almost all say the city is a great place to live.

I don't pretend the Council can claim all of the credit for this success. But we can claim to have contributed our share. From infrastructure, such as roads, stormwater, sports fields, swimming pools, libraries and other community assets right through to economic development and tourism initiatives - our work adds to this wonderful city.

My thanks go to the councillors, managers and staff, and to the many other people throughout the city whose efforts make Wellington such a fantastic place to live. I look forward to continuing to work with you in the future.

KERRY PRENDERGAST

MAYOR

FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Delivering today for a secure future

The year has been a busy one, and one to celebrate.

It's been a year of major events that have enlivened the city and brought the community together – from the Lions Tour back in July 2005 to the inaugural World of WearableArt Awards to the Volvo Ocean Yacht race to the NZ International Arts Festival.

It's also been a year of progress for the city's infrastructure, with the upgrading of facilities in several suburbs to the completion of new city parks, and continued investment in stormwater, sewer, water and transport networks. Some of these projects have involved some challenges, but all will deliver long-term benefits to the city.

There are many other achievements referred to throughout this report. All reflect the effort and commitment of Council staff working in partnership with residents and organisations in the city.

The work of our staff has been widely recognised. Several Council initiatives have won national awards throughout the year (see page XX).

But, more importantly, public satisfaction levels with our services are increasing. In our latest resident survey, 75 percent of respondents rated our performance as good or very good – a 13 percent improvement from the previous year.

A new structure reflects our commitment to high-quality service

In June 2006, the Council adopted its long-term council community plan – a document that sets out a vision for the city over the next 10 years. The plan builds on the successes of recent years and addresses the challenges that are likely to face the city in future. It was adopted following a consultation process that inspired high levels of public input.

In setting our direction, we reflected on our performance to date and considered the linkages between different aspects of our work. The establishment of a new internal management board structure supported that approach. The structure makes it easier to examine every issue facing the city from all perspectives before we make operational decisions or give advice to the elected Council.

We take our commitment to residents seriously.

As always, we are committed to the careful management of the city's assets and finances. This is reflected in our year-end position – a \$5.2 million surplus compared to a budgeted deficit of \$3.9 million.

We also take pride in making ourselves accountable to the people of Wellington. This report continues that commitment by providing readers with clear, comprehensive information about our operations.

I look forward to working with councillors, staff and strategic partners to make 2006/07 another successful year for the city.

GARRY POOLE

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

TOWARDS AN EVEN BRIGHTER FUTURE

WHO WE ARE

Wellington City Council is a complex organisation providing hundreds of services to benefit the city.

The Council is made up of 15 elected representatives – the Mayor and 14 councillors – who make bylaws, policies and set the city's overall strategic direction.

The chief executive and 1,450+ staff provide advice, implement Council decisions and look after the city's day-to-day operations.

It's our job to promote the wellbeing of Wellington and its residents. We do this by providing services in many areas.

We're responsible for protecting and enhancing the city's environment, urban planning, operating an efficient transport network, providing water supply, looking after parks and reserves, and for activities that make the city vibrant, strengthen communities, and benefit the economy.

OUR DIRECTION

We aim to help Wellington reach its potential as a truly world-class city.

During 2005/06, we asked for the views of Wellington residents on the future of the city. The feedback we received helped us to set a new direction, which will guide our work over the next decade.

Under this direction, we're aiming to:

- deliver a high-quality urban environment
- provide a safe, efficient transport network
- encourage the development of an internationally-competitive regional economy
- protect and enhance the natural environment
- foster the city's unique identity
- build strong, safe, healthy communities, and
- deliver confidence in city decision-making.

These aspirations build on the *Creative Wellington – Innovation Capital* vision which has guided our work since 2003. You'll find detailed information about our future plans in our long-term plan, published in July 2006.

EXPLAINING OUR WORK

We make ourselves accountable to the people of Wellington.

In July 2005, we published an Annual Plan explaining the services we planned to deliver for the year, the costs, how we expected to pay, and how we'd measure our performance. This Annual Report explains how we've delivered on that plan.

As always, we've gone to great lengths to make sure our work is fully and clearly explained. We're a large organisation and we have a responsibility to fully inform ratepayers about all of our work – so this is a large document. But we've structured it with the aim of making information easy to find.

Over the next few pages, we provide a snapshot of the year – for the city and the Council.

In the Key Achievement Areas section you'll find more detailed information about the services we provide and the contribution they make to the city. And in the Financial Information section you'll find information about the state of the city's and Council group's finances.

This year, we've enhanced our reporting in several ways.

This Annual Report reflects our performance for the past year. However, we're mindful of the fact that all of the work we did has implications for 2006/07 and future years. When we're setting our direction, we think many years ahead.

Our annual reports also reflect this long-term view. Throughout this report, you'll find references to the challenges likely to face the city over the next decade. That way, you can make an informed judgment about how our work during 2005/06 helped us to prepare for or address those challenges.

We've also introduced several other improvements in this report:

- The Governance and Management section has been restructured and enhanced to provide a clear, 'real world' explanation of how we go about setting the city's direction, listening to community views, and making decisions.
- We have introduced information about the direct impact of Council activities on the environment. This information reflects our commitment to sustainability and efficient use of resources in our own operations. It follows a review of our monitoring information.

We have a strong track record at providing informative, accessible annual reports. This document continues and builds on that tradition.

SNAPSHOT OF A GROWING CITY

	Wellington City Now	Wellington City Then	Did you know?
Population	Wellington city has an estimated population of 183,500. Wellington city makes up 40.7% of the region's total population.	In 2001, our city had a population of 167,187. Wellington city made up 39.1% of the region's total population.	Our population is expected to increase to 201,100 people by 2021.
Population density	Wellington city has an estimated 632.8 people per square kilometre.	In 2001, our city had an estimated 576.5 people per square kilometre.	Wellington city residents have access to 34.7 square kilometres of Town Belt, park and reserve land.
Employment	Employment continues to grow, with 129,680 people being employed in Wellington city in 2005.	In 2001, 108,910 people were employed in Wellington city.	The property and business services industry employees more Wellingtonians than any other industry (approximately 21%).
Average earnings	Wellington city employees earn an average of \$26.87 per hour (March quarter 2006)	In 2004, the average employee earned \$24.97 per hour (March quarter 2004).	Wellington city employees have the highest average hourly earnings of all major cities in New Zealand.
Travel to central Wellington	39% of people who travel into central Wellington on a weekday use public transport, 29% use a car and 11% walk.	In 2001, 27% of people used public transport, 48% drove and 14% walked.	Wellington city has the largest proportion of residents who use public transport of all major cities in New Zealand.
Average sale price for dwellings	In Wellington, the average home now costs \$353,800 (March quarter 2006).	In 2004, the average home cost \$290,400 (March quarter 2004).	Wellington city average home prices are the second most expensive in New Zealand, behind Auckland.

AWARDS

ORIENTAL BAY

Our innovate enhancement of Oriental Bay beach and foreshore was recognised with a New Zealand Institute of Architects Resene Supreme Award for Architecture – the institute's highest award, reserved for truly exceptional projects.

The NZIA judges commented that the project added significantly to Wellingtonians' and visitors' experience of the area and was "a great deal more than an enhancement".

The project also won a gold award at the Association of Consulting Engineers' Innovate NZ awards, which recognise excellence in engineering. Oriental Bay redevelopment has won several other architecture and urban design awards.

SAFE CITY

Wellington is the world's first capital city to be recognised as a World Health Organisation Safe Community.

The designation, awarded in April 2006 by the Safe Communities Foundation (the World Health Organisation's certifying agency in New Zealand) recognises more than five years of work on crime reduction, traffic injury prevention and other safety initiatives which have contributed to a significant drop in the rates of crime. Wellington's Safe City programme is a partnership between the Council, Police, ACC, and Capital and Coast Health.

PROTECTING HERITAGE BUILDINGS

In April 2006, the New Zealand Planning Institute awarded us its Nancy Northcroft Planning Practice Award for 2006 for our Residential Character Study of Newtown, Berhampore and Mount Cook. The study has led to proposals for district plan changes to protect the character of homes in the three suburbs built before 1930.

The institute praised our "leading edge" approach, which combined detailed analysis and in-depth consultation to balance seemingly contradictory goals: protecting streetscape character, encouraging infill development and enabling private property development.

LIBRARY INFORMATION

Any questions, an online reference service we provide in conjunction with other NZ libraries, scooped the Society of Local Government Managers (SOLGM) New Zealand Post Management Excellence Award, and the 3M Award for excellence in Innovation in Libraries.

It was also a finalist in the Telecommunications Users Association of New Zealand Local and Central Government Services Awards 2005.

KARORI LIBRARY

Our new Karori Library won a design award in the community and cultural category at the 2006 NZIA Resene New Zealand Awards for Architecture.

The judges commented that the architects had overcome some difficult siting constraints to achieve a design that creates a new town square and street identity, and an interior with "elegant detailing" and tempered light that gives "luminous warmth to the reading environment".

SCULPTURE DUO

In a joint entry, Len Lye's Water Whirler and Bill Culbert's SkyBlues sculptures together won Wellington City Council the Supreme Award at Creative New Zealand's 2006 Creative Places Awards, which recognise local government investment in the arts.

"The works demonstrate excellence, are a strong response to their environment and reflect Wellington City Council's long-term investment in public art," the award judges said.

NZ'S BEST ANNUAL REPORT

Wellington City Council's 2004/05 Annual Report won the Supreme Award in the New Zealand Institute of Chartered Accountants' Annual Report Awards. The Council won top prize against strong competition from some of New Zealand's top companies, corporations and Crown entities. As well, the 2005 Annual Report won the Local Government category.

The award judges said the Council's Annual report showed clearly what needed to be achieved and how that was achieved. "Even though a large document, the report was user friendly. Each of the sections made sense on their own recognising the wide and varied audience that have distinct interests in parts of the Council's operations."

INNOVATION AWARD FOR QUARRY

Our Kiwi Point Quarry situated in Ngauranga Gorge won a BearingPoint Innovation Award for Local Government for its work on assessing the landscaping effects for proposed work on the south face of the quarry.

This project assessed the landscaping and visual effects of the quarry's expansion plans using graphical communication and 3D modelling to enable better decision-making and effective communication of the impacts to key stakeholders.

GREENHOUSE COMMITMENT RECOGNISED

A recent move by Wellington City Council to agree to a greenhouse gas-reduction goal has been recognised with an award by the International Council of Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI).

The Council agreed as part of the Communities for Climate Protection Programme (CCP) to establish a benchmark of greenhouse gas emissions, by 2010, that is equivalent to 2003 levels. By 2020, the Council wants to reduce its emissions by 20% from 2003 levels.

"Communities for Climate Protection councils like Wellington City Council have truly embraced the principle of 'think global, act local' and are demonstrating that they can make a tangible difference in the area of climate change," said New Zealand ICLEI Chief Executive Wayne Wescott.

INTERNATIONAL AWARD FOR WEBSITE

Our website, www.Wellington.govt.nz has been judged one of the world's leading government websites in an international internet marketing competition. The Council won an "outstanding Website Award" in the government section of the Web Marketing Association's 2005 WebAward Competition.

The Boston-based competition received more than 2,100 entries from 33 countries. Websites were judged on innovation, content, technology, interactivity, navigation and ease of use.

Our Activities at a Glance

BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Our built environment work includes enhancing the waterfront, developing urban parks and squares, looking after heritage sites, enhancing city and suburban centres, assessing and issuing building and resource consents, ensuring earthquake-prone buildings are upgraded, and planning for the city's future growth and development.

Through this work, we aim to preserve the city's special character and make sure developments are in harmony with their surroundings and enhance residents' quality of life.

HIGHLIGHTS

- We carried out upgrades of the **Karori** Town Centre, central **Tawa**, **Seatoun** Village, and Riddiford Street in **Newtown**.
- We redeveloped **Glover Park** and made plans for development of Courtenay Park.
- Two major new artworks were unveiled: **Water Whirler** (on the waterfront) and **SkyBlues** (at Post Office Square).
- We proposed several district plan changes to protect **heritage buildings**.
- **Waitangi Park** opened in February, and hosted a series of free concerts during the NZ International Arts Festival. More than 250,000 people visiting during the festival. Progress was made on developments in other parts of the waterfront.
- We managed resource consent hearings for Meridian Energy's proposed **wind farm** at Makara. We also received more than 1,000 other resource consent applications.
- We completed a major study of our **District Plan** and started a review of planning controls covering the central area of the city.

LOOKING AHEAD

Further work is needed to protect heritage buildings, improve overall building design standards, and manage development for the benefit of the city.

Our long-term strategy is to encourage development along a Johnsonville-city-Newtown-Kilbirnie 'growth spine'. This approach will preserve Wellington's compact nature, avoid urban sprawl, and protect the environment by encouraging people to live close to their work or public transport.

COMMUNITY, HEALTH AND SAFETY

Our community, health and safety work includes: providing homes for people whose needs are not met by state housing or the private housing market; helping the homeless to meet housing and health needs; providing community centres and halls; promoting access to information and communications technology; providing grants; and supporting community groups.

Our work also includes city safety work such as monitoring key areas with city safety officers and closed-circuit cameras, and banning liquor consumption in public places in the central city.

In addition, we protect public health by providing toilets and cemeteries, by licensing food and liquor outlets, animal control, and regulating other public health risks, and by preparing the city to deal with emergencies such as earthquakes.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Our city safety work in partnership with Police and other agencies was recognised when Wellington became the first capital city in the world to achieve World Health Organisation **Safe Community** status.
- We provided grants to more than 40 **community projects**, ranging from repainting Makara Hall to supporting kids' theatre. We also supported 20 community festivals.
- We continued to implement our Mobility Parking Policy, which aims to extend the number of **mobility parks** in the CBD from 23 to 60 within three years.
- We continued to support the Downtown Community Ministry's **Project Margin**, which employs outreach workers to assist long-term homeless people.

LOOKING AHEAD

Wellington already offers residents a high quality of life. The challenge in coming years is to maintain this strength, and to sustain our strong sense of community as the city becomes more diverse.

This will mean implementing our new Social and Recreation Strategy, which aims to encourage high levels of involvement and participation in community activities, and provide facilities, opportunities and events that bring people together. It will also mean taking steps to promote healthy lifestyles, and taking action to help those in need.

CULTURE AND ARTS

We support Wellington's vibrant arts scene by funding the popular City Art Gallery and museums, providing the Toi Poneke - Wellington Arts Centre, supporting the NZ International Arts Festival, the NZ Symphony Orchestra and the Westpac Saint James Theatre.

We also provide cultural grants, support arts and culture organisations, fund or provide new artworks in public areas, and support community events and festivals which are attended by thousands of people each year.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The NZ International **Arts Festival** had one of its most successful years ever, with ticket sales for festival events at record levels.
- More than 700,000 people visited an exhibition or event or took part in educational programmes presented by the Wellington Museums Trust. This included more than 230,000 visitors to the **City Art Gallery**.
- A new extension to the Wellington **Cable Car Museum** opened in December.
- **Toi Poneke** – the Wellington Arts Centre celebrated its first full year of operation.
- More than 200,000 people attended free **festivals and events** at Civic Square.

LOOKING AHEAD

The major challenges for Wellington are to maintain and enhance our reputation as New Zealand's arts and culture capital, and to further develop our sense of shared identity.

In the coming year we'll be expanding Te Ara o Nga Tupuna (the Maori Heritage Trail), providing a permanent home for a National Portrait and Photographic gallery, and extending exhibition space in the City Gallery.

CITY ECONOMY

We work to attract major events such as the Montana World of WearableArt Awards, which bring visitors to the region and contribute to the city's buzz. We also fund tourism promotions, support visitor attractions such as Te Papa and conference venues such as the Wellington Convention Centre.

To support businesses we: provide free weekend parking in the city; fund business development and incubator programmes through Positively Wellington Business; fund programmes to attract businesses, investors and skilled migrants to the region; provide grants for community projects with economic benefits for the city; and market the city as *Creative Wellington — Innovation Capital*.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Almost 30,000 people attended the **World of WearableArt Awards**, held in Wellington for the first time. We also helped to bring dozens of other high-profile concerts and events to the region.
- Nine councils came together to complete a **Wellington Regional Strategy** for long-term sustainable economic development.
- We formed a Sister City relationship with **Beijing**.
- **Tourism** and **retail sales** increased despite a nationwide economic slowdown.

LOOKING AHEAD

Future prosperity will depend on our ability to cement our reputation as a centre of creativity and innovation, and on the ability of the wider Wellington region to attract business and investment. We'll be giving priority to both of these areas.

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

It's our job to look after the city's 34.7 square kilometres of Town Belt, park and reserve land, as well as the city's beaches and coastline, and botanical gardens. This includes maintaining a network of walkways to keep park and reserve areas accessible, controlling pests and weeds, removing hazardous trees, and enhancing open space areas with native or exotic plants.

We also fund the Zoo and the Karori Wildlife Sanctuary, and we are working to develop other world-class nature-based visitor attractions. We provide grants for environmental initiatives, and work with volunteers and other organisations to enhance the city's environment.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Volunteers involved in the restoration of the **Kaiwharawhara Stream** were recognised for their efforts with two awards.
- We removed potentially hazardous pine trees from several sites and planted a further 5,000 **northern rata** on Tinakori Hill.
- 70 tuatara were transferred from Stephens Island to the **Karori Wildlife Sanctuary** – the first transfer of tuatara onto the mainland for over 200 years. In addition, 30 Maud Island frogs were released into the Sanctuary – the first release ever on mainland New Zealand.
- We provided 17,000 eco-sourced **native plants** for over 38 community and school planting projects in city reserve areas, and we planted more than 50,000 eco-sourced native plants on 40 sites throughout the city.
- We finalised plans for the upgrade of **Cog Park**.
- We completed the final section of the 12km **Skyline Walkway** through Otari farms.

- The Wellington section of the national **Te Araroa Walkway** was finalised and identified with signage.

LOOKING AHEAD

Wellington's record at preserving and enhancing its natural environment is good, though some challenges remain. One high priority for coming years is to improve protection of the city's streams and waterways. We also aim to further develop our partnerships with community organisations involved in environmental protection.

RESOURCES AND WASTE

Our resources and waste work protects the environment and public safety, and provides the world-class infrastructure the city needs to sustain a strong economy and high quality of life.

This work includes: providing the city's water supply; safely disposing of sewage, stormwater and solid waste; collecting rubbish and recycling; looking after closed landfills; running the Kiwi Point Quarry; and promoting efficient use of resources such as water and energy.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The **Northern Landfill** reached capacity and was closed.
- We trialled a **Kai into Compost** scheme, collecting more than 200 tonnes of food scraps from restaurants and other businesses for composting.
- Over the last three years, the amount of **kerbside recycling** collected has increased by 8.6 percent. Compared to 2004/05 we now collect an additional 943 tonnes a year.
- We worked with the Greater Wellington Regional Council on promoting **water conservation** to the public through media releases and targeted advertising.
- The central city stormwater upgrade started operation, and significant **flood protection/stormwater** work was carried out in Miramar, Roseneath and Te Aro,
- New **water mains** were installed in Newtown, Miramar and Seatoun, and progress was made on a new 3.5 megalitre water reservoir in Mornington.

LOOKING AHEAD

We need to make more efficient use of resources such as water and energy to reduce the risk of supplies running out and – in the case of energy – to reduce our contribution to climate change. We also need to reduce the amount of waste we produce.

By encouraging more efficient use of resources, it's anticipated that we'll be able to limit any added costs to ratepayers that would otherwise arise from having to construct additional infrastructure assets.

RECREATION AND LEISURE

We are Wellington's biggest provider of recreation facilities. Our recreation and leisure work includes: providing playgrounds, swimming pools, recreation centres, sports fields and marinas; providing libraries; providing social and recreational grants, and supporting community groups; running recreation programmes; and reducing the costs of using sport and recreation facilities for people who have community services cards.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The new **Karori Library** opened and became an instant hit with residents.
- Progress was made on redevelopments of **Karori Park** and **Newtown Park**.
- More than 1.25 million people used Council **swimming pools**.
- Work started on a major extension to the **Wellington Regional Aquatic Centre**.
- We opened a new community recreation facility in **Tawa**.
- We supported the Sink F69 Trust provide a major **dive attraction** off the South Coast.
- We delivered a diverse year-round calendar of **events**, including the Michael Campbell Homecoming Parade, the Diwali festival of lights and the Meridian Energy Summer City programme.

LOOKING AHEAD

Wellington has high-quality sports and recreation facilities. Many are in the process of being upgraded. One of our priorities in coming years will be to construct the new \$40 million community indoor sports centre. We're also giving priority to encouraging participation in sport and recreation, particularly for young people.

TRANSPORT

Our transport work includes looking after 670km of streets and roads, as well as footpaths, bridges, tunnels, retaining walls, cycle lanes, signs, traffic signals, and roadside reserve areas. We manage this network to keep traffic flowing smoothly, and we're planning ahead and working with other agencies to ensure the transport network meets the future needs of the city and wider Wellington region.

We also support public transport through bus priority measures such as bus lanes and letting buses go first at traffic lights, as well as by providing the Lambton Interchange and a network of bus shelters.

We provide car parking (on-street and off-street) in the city centre, and regulate parking in inner-city residential areas. And we're working suburb by suburb to improve road safety through education, enforcement, and measures to slow traffic and protect pedestrians.

HIGHLIGHTS

- We continued our **bus priority programme** with new lanes on Kent Terrace.
- As part of the **SaferRoads** project, we completed safety-related works in Wilton, Wadestown, Northland and Thorndon. We also started work on a range of traffic calming measures in Karori.
- We reduced **speed limits** in Lambton Quay and Willis Street.
- Significant progress was made on the **Inner City Bypass**.
- We made progress on two road projects in the **northern area** of the city as part of the Northern Growth Framework.

LOOKING AHEAD

Though most residents regard the city as easy to get around, further work is needed to reduce traffic congestion. We'll be giving high priority to encouraging greater use of public transport and other alternatives to private cars.

GOVERNANCE AND CITIZEN INFORMATION

Our governance work includes all of the activities that make us accountable to the people of Wellington: running local elections; holding meetings of the Council and its committees, and of community boards; producing annual plans and reports, along with policies and strategies to guide our work; and seeking feedback on our proposals from members of the public, Maori and stakeholder groups.

It also includes informing residents about our activities and services, through our call centre and service centre, providing historical information through the City Archives, and working with mana whenua to ensure they have a say in the development of the city.

HIGHLIGHTS

- We worked alongside iwi, developers and the Historic Places Trust to find a way to preserve intact remains of a **historic pa site** in central Wellington.

- **City Archives** experienced the greatest number of external customers since opening in 1996.
- We started a review of Council's **representation arrangements**, including a review of community boards, to be completed in time for the 2007 election.
- We held over 100 meetings and briefings of the Council, its Committees and Subcommittees. The vast majority of these were **open to the public** though some agenda items are confidential or private in nature and the public are excluded from those parts of the meeting.
- We reviewed our **strategic direction** and adopted new strategies on urban development, transport, economic development, environment, cultural wellbeing, social and recreation, and governance.
- We adopted a **long-term plan** for our activities over the next decade.

LOOKING AHEAD

We're aiming to increase levels of participation in city decision-making. This will involve taking steps to build public confidence in our consultation and decision-making processes, and increasing opportunities to take part.

Initiatives that we're considering include setting up community panels to give feedback on issues facing the city and making greater use of online tools such as e-petitions.