
REPORT 3
(1215/52/IM)

DRAFT POSITIVE AGEING POLICY

1. Purpose of Report

This report seeks Committee agreement on a draft Positive Ageing Policy (the policy) that would then go out for public consultation.

2. Executive Summary

In October 2011 the Committee agreed to review its Older Persons Policy (2005), and what factors would be considered in a revised policy. A draft *Positive Ageing Policy* is presented (Appendix 1) that is designed to provide a framework for Council to consider the impacts of an ageing population across all its activities.

What is being promoted is the need for a policy response that will remain current as the Council implements its strategic objectives. This approach would ensure that the Council addresses and responds to the practical issues facing older persons when developing, prioritising and implementing activities.

The focus of the Policy is to ensure older people remain engaged with the wider community and contribute to its vitality while at the same time, recognising the need to support older persons as their needs change over time. It is also a policy that addresses the needs of the boomer generation entering retirement age with the view to position the city as one where it is more appealing for older persons to remain, stimulated by the variety of social interactions provided, in neighbourhoods that embrace diversity.

This policy consists of principles, objectives, roles of the Council and a monitoring process. It is also aligned to the Government's Positive Ageing Strategy and related Council plans and policies. The four strategic areas in *Toward Wellington 2040: Smart Capital* have been adapted for the policy objectives .

A monitoring system for the policy and its implementation is also provided. This consists of using international practice for determining "age friendly" cities and measures for Council's reporting processes.

The draft policy has been developed in consultation with a reference group that included representation from the advocacy, social, health, volunteer, leisure, cultural and accessibility sectors. A final policy will be presented to the Committee in July following a public consultation period.

3. Recommendations

Officers recommend that the Strategy and Policy Committee:

- 1. Receive the information.*
- 2. Note that the draft Positive Ageing Policy has been developed in consultation with interested parties and community organisations involved in older persons' activities.*
- 3. Note that the Positive Ageing Policy provides a framework for the Council to consider the impacts of an ageing population across its planning, policy and service delivery activities.*
- 4. Note the timelines for consultation and a final Positive Ageing Policy to Council per Section 6 of this report.*
- 5. Agree to the draft Positive Ageing Policy attached as Appendix 1 to go out for public consultation*
- 6. Agree to delegate to the Chief Executive Officer and the Social Portfolio leader, the authority to amend the draft Positive Ageing Policy to include any amendments agreed by the Committee and any associated minor consequential edits.*

4. Background

The Wellington City Council Older Persons Policy was adopted in April 2005. The current policy is limited by the fact that many of the actions have been delivered, parts have become standard operational procedures or older person's activities have been incorporated into subsequent plans. It also does not fully reflect current government priority areas in their Ageing Strategy (employment, changing attitudes and protecting rights) or recent work on the economic value associated with this growing population group.

On 20 October 2011 the Committee was presented with a scoping paper that outlined older person's issues, what Council already does in addressing such issues, stakeholder views and options for a Council policy response. It agreed to review the current policy in light of the impacts of the ageing population for the city and the Wellington 2040 work.

Parameters for a revised policy were the inclusion of principles, links to related Council plans and policies, and alignment with the seven strategic work areas of the Council. A change of name to Positive Ageing was also agreed.

On the basis of what the Committee had agreed, a draft policy (attached as *Appendix 1*) is presented for agreement and subsequent public consultation. This policy is a departure from the current action plan based one and provides a more enduring framework for action. Input into the revised policy has been sought from an external reference group consisting of representation from social services, health, volunteers and advocacy groups.

5. Discussion

5.1 Policy Approach

The draft *Positive Ageing Policy* is designed to provide a framework for the Council to consider and plan for the impacts of an ageing population across all of its activities. This framework consists of four elements:

- (1) alignment with Government's strategy and related Council plans and policies. These include the national Positive Ageing Strategy, Council's Long Term Plan, Accessible Wellington Action Plan and Towards Wellington 2040: Smart Capital
- (2) principles to help guide the Council's decision-making
- (3) objectives adapted from Towards Wellington 2040: Smart Capital and the roles of Council within the seven strategic work areas
- (4) a measurement and monitoring framework.

This policy approach allows the Council business units to consider and respond to older persons' interests as part of their regular planning cycles. Thus the focus is on those areas where Council has some influence or can take a leadership role. The policy also requires accountability through the measurement and monitoring processes within Council.

5.2 Policy Principles

The principles in the draft policy are designed to incorporate the concepts of Council working in partnership with Government and community interests, focussing on areas where the Council can achieve the greatest impact, and better understanding the needs of an ageing population.

5.3 Objectives and Council Roles

The four strategic areas in Towards Wellington 2040: Smart Capital have been adapted to reflect a focus on positive ageing objectives.

These are:

1. **People Centred City** – an open and welcoming city, with healthy and safe suburban communities
2. **Connected City** - there is effective and efficient infrastructure
3. **Eco-City** – the urban environment reflects our needs and values
4. **Dynamic Central City** – the central city accommodates the changing demands of an ageing population

The Policy outlines the role the Council can play within each of the four objectives. These roles have been drawn from the existing policy, stakeholder expectations of Council as expressed at workshops, and the Long Term Plan. Each of these activity areas is assigned to one of the seven strategic work areas: Governance, Economic Development, Cultural Wellbeing, Social and Recreational, Transport, Urban Design or Environment.

5.4 Measurement and Monitoring

A framework for measuring and monitoring of the policy objectives and Council activities is included in the policy. This includes a self assessment exercise using the World Health Organisation's *Age Friendly City* checklist that can also be used for planning and prioritisation purposes.

Where the Council has age related statistics or targeted services for older person, the Annual Report can include such measures. This measuring process can be supplemented with analysis using census data for factors such as the retention of older persons in the city, employment levels, residential status and income levels.

5.5 Consultation and Engagement

Two workshops with a stakeholder reference group have been conducted in developing this policy. A draft policy was also circulated to a wider group to help ensure that all older persons' needs were reflected in some way in the policy.

5.6 Financial Considerations

There are no additional budget implications arising from the implementation of this policy. Activities are considered in a "business as usual" manner and any project initiatives would be reviewed as part of normal Council planning processes.

5.7 Climate Change Impacts and Considerations

There are no direct climate change impacts. Involvement of older persons in sustainable energy and related environmental projects is promoted in the policy.

5.8 Long-Term Council Community Plan Considerations

The Long Term Plan and other strategic documents like Towards Wellington 2040: Smart Capital already consider the impacts of the ageing population. This draft policy is part of an implementation response by Council to such documents.

6. Timelines

The following timeline are proposed which include public consultation and presentation of a final policy document:

- Draft Policy to Strategy and Policy Committee 16 February 2012
- Draft Policy out for public consultation March 2012
- Hearings on Draft Policy May 2012
- Report back to SPC submissions and final policy July 2012

7. Conclusion

The impacts of an ageing population for the city are well understood. This draft policy provides a framework for Council to consider and respond to such impacts as part of its planning practices.

It is recommended that the Committee agree to the draft policy that has been developed with input from interested parties. Further public feedback will be provided through a public consultation process. A final policy would be presented in July 2012.

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Supporting Information

1) Strategic Fit / Strategic Outcome

The policy supports Council's Long Terms Plan and Towards Wellington 2040: Smart Capital vision in acknowledging the need to respond to a changing environment, particularly the impacts of an ageing population. Agreement to the policy will contribute to Council meeting the outcomes across the seven strategic work areas.

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

The policy puts an ageing population focus across the seven strategic work areas in the LTP. The implementation of the policy is expected to be delivered within existing budgets.

3) Treaty of Waitangi considerations

There are no Treaty implications. The draft policy has been reviewed by Council's Manager, Treaty Relations.

4) Decision-Making

This is not a significant decision. The draft policy provides for a considered business as usual approach and reflects the views of those with an interest in this matter.

5) Consultation

a) General Consultation

A reference group involving representation from older persons advocacy groups, health sector, social services sector, volunteer services, AAG and service groups was established to inform and help develop this policy. A public consultation process would follow Committee agreement to the draft policy.

b) Consultation with Maori

There has been no direct consultation with Mana whenua in the development of this draft policy.

6) Legal Implications

No legal issues have been raised.

7) Consistency with existing policy

The draft policy is aligned with related Council policies and plans, including the Accessible Wellington Action Plan.