
LONG-TERM COUNCIL COMMUNITY PLAN 2009-19: PROMINENT ISSUES AND ADDITIONAL FUNDING REQUESTS

1. Purpose of Report

This report provides for decisions to be made on:

- the savings and new funding proposals included in the draft long-term council community plan
- prominent issues and new funding requests raised during consultation.¹

This report also notes funding requirements that have been considered by the Strategy and Policy Committee during the consultation period.

2. Recommendations

That the Strategy and Policy Committee:

1. *Receive the information.*
2. *Agree the savings proposals (as contained in the draft plan and outlined in appendix 1) be included in the 2009-19 long-term council community plan.*
3. *Agree the new funding requirements that were highlighted in the draft plan (and outlined in appendix 2) be included in the 2009-19 long-term council community plan.*
4. *Note the items in appendix 3 were considered by the Strategy and Policy Committee since the adoption of the draft plan and these have been included in the financial statements provided in report 7.*
5. *Note the response to other prominent matters raised during the consultation period as outlined in appendix 4.*
6. *Agree to include the following funding additions in the 2009-19 long-term council community plan:*

¹ Only the proposed changes to levels of service that received significant levels of community comment or where material new information was presented are included in this report. Proposals that received general comments are covered in the consultation report and no budgetary change is recommended from that contained in the draft plan. This includes for instance funding for earthquake strengthening, continuation of the anti graffiti flying squad, and consenting processes.

- a) *International Festival of the Arts: addition of \$200,000 opex per year (for the next three years) to maintain operations of the festival at current levels as detailed in appendix (a).*
 - b) *Creative Capital Trust: addition of \$75,000 opex in 2009/10 to meet the objectives outlined in appendix (b).*
 - c) *Provision of outdoor community space in Churton Park: addition of \$812,500 capex in 2010/11 to for community facilities as detailed in appendix (c)*
 - d) *Maori engagement: addition of \$50,000 opex per year to strengthen engagement with Maori and grow Maori cultural festivals as detailed in appendix (d).*
 - e) *Growth spine - Adelaide Road Centre: provision for the acquisition of land, planning and design work for the Adelaide Road Centre as outlined in appendix (e).*
 - f) *Marine Education Centre: addition of \$450,000 opex for 2009/10 to fund feasibility as detailed in appendix (f).*
 - g) *Positively Wellington Tourism: additional funding for the next three years to continue to grow Australian visitor numbers with conditions as detailed in appendix (g).*
 - h) *Wet Hostel: addition of \$250,000 opex for 2009/10 as a contribution towards the establishment of a wet hostel in Wellington as detailed in appendix (h).*
7. *Agree that Council provide Premises Management Trust with a letter of comfort in regard to lease arrangements as detailed in appendix (i).*
 8. *Note that the government's healthy homes initiative will be supported through a targeted rate offered by the Wellington Regional Council as detailed in appendix (j).*
 9. *Decline the new funding requests as detailed in appendices (k) to (q).*

3. Discussion

The development of the long-term council community plan has been guided by a set of principles that aim to balance continued investment in the city while containing rates increases.

In this economic environment, the overall approach - adopted through a series of workshops, tested through early engagement, and then consulted on with the community - is to sustain the city's points of difference, maintain the breadth of services that are provided, and deliver an affordable budget through the identification of savings.

The proposed savings were identified following development of the city's strategic direction and priorities; an assessment of Council outcomes; and a review of each activity².

This work resulted in:

- new funding requirements aligned to strategic priority areas
- efficiencies, service level reductions, and re-phasing of some capital works in areas where it would not unduly impact on the outcomes that are being sought

A summary these are provided in the schedules 1- 3 attached to this report.

New funding bids

The Council received 503 submissions during the consultation period. While most submissions commented on matters contained in the draft long-term council community plan, a number of new bids were received. This report provides for the consideration of those, and other funding requirements that have arisen during the consultation period these are attached in the appendices (a) – (q).

4. Conclusion

This report provides for consideration of the new funding requirements and savings included in the draft long-term council community plan, prominent issues, and new funding requests that were raised during, and part of the consultation process.

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² This work was driven out of the guiding principles that aimed to maintain non-priority areas at 08/09 levels except where: (a) the Council was exceeding its performance standard and reduced spending wouldn't unduly impact on the outcomes that are sought or public health and safety; or (b) where a project had been started. The principles also took account of the established discipline that new borrowings would be capped at \$20 million per annum. And that the Council should focus on demand side management options and seek to leverage external funding to ensure the city is resilient in the face of changes in the wider environment.