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**Report 02.727**

14 November 2002

File: SP 01/02/01

Report to Policy, Finance and Strategy Committee  
from John Allard Corporate Policy Manager

## **Strategic Direction for 10-Year Plan**

### **1. Purpose**

For the Council to request the General Manager to prepare draft business plans in accordance with the strategic direction signalled in this paper as the basis for the 2003/13 ten-year plan and 2003/04 annual plan. Those plans will then be subject to Council review in February/March 2003 prior to the release of the proposed 10-year plan and annual plan.

### **2. Background**

The development of the 10-year plan to date has taken a top-down approach based on trying to understand what priorities and outcomes are important to the community. On 31 October 2002 the Council confirmed interim regional community outcomes as the basis for the 10-year plan and indicated that in the plan, Greater Wellington – the Regional Council’s activities should be broadly described under the “Take 10” headings of biodiversity, water, air, energy, land, access/transport, waste, recreation & parks, safety/hazards and community (Report 02.668).

The next step in development of the 10-year plan is for officers to prepare draft business plans for each of the Council’s functional areas. This bottom-up planning and costing will give the Council detailed information to enable it to take decisions in February/March 2003.

In order for officers to have the time to prepare these business plans, Councillors need to now confirm the strategic direction and the areas for review that they have noted through workshops.

### 3. **Comment**

Officers need guidance from the Council on the overall direction for the 10-year plan. We are looking at this stage for the broad parameters. There will be later opportunities to scrutinise expenditure on particular projects. We recognise that a balance is required between moving forward on sustainability and the impact of our charges on the community. We must also continue to deliver our core programmes that meet statutory requirements and the expectations of the community.

### 4. **Indicative Strategic Direction**

The Council has previously resolved that the sustainability of the region should be the focus of the 10-year plan. To support this direction Councillors have indicated that priority should be given to:

- public information and programmes encouraging behavioural change
- and
- working in partnership with other organisations, so that more can be achieved collectively

whilst maintaining the existing programmes and functions that make up the large majority of the activity and expenditure of the Council.

### 5. **Particular Areas for Officers to Review**

Councillors have commented on some particular issues or projects that they would like officers to review. A list of these is appended as **Attachment One**.

Councillors have also indicated that they would like officers to review the extent that it is possible to reduce estimated total expenditure levels, whilst maintaining, where possible, current commitments. In this respect, Councillors have noted that they are comfortable with the status quo in terms of investment in plantation forestry and would not support the injection of \$500,000 from rates that had previously been considered.

Councillors have also flagged that it is important that the 10-year plan consultation document is sufficiently attractive to encourage readership and that adequate funding should be provided.

## 6. Timeline

As you will be aware, several months are required for officers to prepare robust fully costed business plans. Councillors will have the opportunity to review the business plans during February/March 2003. Council will then need to approve a proposed guideline for rates and the water levy during March 2003.

During this period Council will also review and adopt other related policy documents eg funding policy and treasury management policy.

A timeline of the 10-year plan process is appended as **Attachment Two**.

## 7. Recommendations

*That the Committee recommends to Council that it:*

1. **endorses** sustainability of the region as the focus of the 10-year plan and to support this direction priority should be given to:
  - a) public information and programmes encouraging behavioural change; and
  - b) working in partnership with other organisations, so that more can be achieved collectively; whilst maintaining our core activities.
2. **indicates** that officers should review the total proposed programme in the light of the above priorities and in particular should look at those projects and issues as listed in **Attachment One**.
3. **indicates** that officers should at the next half yearly review consider the adequacy of the funding for producing the proposed ten-year plan documents for public consultation.

Report prepared by:

Report approved by:

JOHN ALLARD  
Corporate Policy Manager

HOWARD STONE  
General Manager

### **Attachments:**

- 1- **Particular Areas For Officers To Review**
- 2- **10 Year Plan Development Process**