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Committee Policy, Finance and Strategy
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Towards a Sustainable Region - the Proposed 2003/2013 Long-term Council Community Plan (incorporating the 2003/04 Annual Plan)

1. Purpose

To seek approval of the proposed Long-term Council Community Plan (LTCCP) 2003-2013 (incorporating the 2003/04 Annual Plan) for consultation.

2. Background

Councillors are aware of the many months of gestation to produce the first LTCCP under the Local Government Act 2002. At its meeting on 4 March 2003 the Council approved the projected rates and levies to be included in the proposed LTCCP. The Council also approved the various underpinning divisional business plans.

The Committee is now being asked to approve the actual documents which will constitute the proposed LTCCP for consultation (Refer to accompanying documents). These documents will need to be printed and distributed to start the public consultation on 16 April 2003, with the consultation phase closing on 19 May 2003.

Submission hearings are scheduled to be held in early June 2003 to allow the plan to be adopted by Council at the end of that month.

3. Comment

This is the first LTCCP that the Council has produced. We are in a small minority of councils that have chosen to produce an LTCCP this year (a decision we still support despite the pressures of the last few months!). It will no doubt have many imperfections. Nevertheless, we believe that we can be proud of the developments introduced.

Key new features include:

- Fulfilling the spirit of the legislation with its emphasis on thinking about community well-being and its four dimensions (economic, environmental, social, cultural) by considering what we do within the Take 10 Quality for Life matrix in order to contribute towards sustainability.
- Meeting the legal requirement for a “summary of the information” being “distributed as widely as reasonably practicable as a basis for general consultation”, by producing the summary also as the first section of the formal plan.
- Pushing the boundaries of how performance information is compiled by moving more towards outcome reporting, rather than focusing primarily on outputs.
- Achieving a fine-tuning of the direction for a sustainable future within a 3.6% increase in Regional rates and a 2.5% increase in overall community charges for 2003/04.
- Developing a new suite of Council policies across a diverse range of areas.

Unfortunately the documentation available to you at this meeting is not in a final polished form. We apologise for this, but Councillors are aware of the extraordinarily tight timeframe to which we have been working with the Act only receiving the Royal Assent on 24 December 2002.

In complying with the legislation we have included a range of policies in a supplementary document. These policies are also subject to public consultation. While some of these policies represent enhancements of previous requirements and are quite robust (e.g. our Treasury Management Policy) others are far less so and the whole of Local Government is working out what they should contain.

We anticipate revisiting these policies over the next few months during the public consultation period, so that the final versions incorporate best practice which emerges across the local government sector.

To enable officers to complete the LTCCP documentation we would appreciate receiving any changes of an editorial nature, no later than the end of business on 19 March. This will allow us to meet our production deadlines and enable us to have the document available on time for public consultation.

4. Communications

The Council Secretary has a programme to ensure that we carry out our statutory communications as part of a special consultative process.

The publication of the plan and its distribution to all households will be accompanied by use of our radio advertising. We will also be using other media to highlight what the plan is really about – moving the Region forward in a sustainable direction.

5. Recommendations

That the Committee recommend to Council that it:

- i) Receive the report and note its contents.*
- ii) Approve the documents “Towards a Sustainable Region, Proposed Ten year plan 2003-2013, incorporating the 2003/04 Annual Plan” for public consultation, subject to minor editorial changes.*
- iii) Agree that any editorial changes be approved by the Chairperson, on the advice of the Corporate Policy Manager and the Chief Financial Officer.*

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Accompanying Documents:

Towards a Sustainable Region - Strategic Overview
Towards a Sustainable Region – Detailed Information
Towards a Sustainable Region – Policy Supplement

Together comprising the Greater Wellington Regional Council’s proposed Long-term Council Community Plan 2003-2013, incorporating the 2003/04 Annual Plan