



**Report** 04.135  
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**Committee** Policy, Finance and Strategy  
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## Proposed Annual Plan 2004/05

### 1. Purpose

To seek approval of the proposed 2004/05 Annual Plan and associated information, for consultation.

### 2. Background

Councillors are aware of the process carried out over the last few months to produce our first annual plan under the Local Government Act 2002. At its meeting on 4 March 2004 the Council approved the projected rates and levies to be included in the proposed annual plan. The Council also approved the various underpinning divisional business plans.

The Committee is now being asked to approve the actual document which will contain the annual plan for consultation (see accompanying document). This document will need to be printed and distributed to start the public consultation on 16 April 2004, with the consultation phase closing on 17 May 2004.

Submission hearings are scheduled to be held in early June 2004 to allow the plan to be adopted by Council at the end of that month.

### 3. Comment

This is the first annual plan that the Council has produced under the new legislation.

We are in a small minority of councils that chose to produce an LTCCP last year so, similarly, only a few councils are producing an annual plan now, with the remainder working on their initial LTCCP.

We have worked through with Audit what the document should look like and have determined that it needs to contain both a “Statement of Proposal” and the annual plan itself – hence the somewhat unwieldy title. A statement of proposal under the Act is required whenever the special consultative process is used. In this case, the Act specifies the content for the statement of proposal relating to an annual plan that is actually wider than the annual plan itself!

Notwithstanding the focus of the document is on comparing the 2004/05 annual plan figures to those contained in the LTCCP for the 2004/05 year, we also believe that it is wise to maintain awareness of the longer-term financial projections. Hence, the document also contains supplementary information, “refreshed” financial projections for the years 2005/06 to 2012/13

To enable officers to complete the document, we would appreciate receiving any changes of an editorial nature no later than the end of business on Friday 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 will be accompanied by the distribution of a summary of its main points as a special edition of *Elements*. We are also preparing the material asked for by Councillors to support any presentations you may make.

As the annual plan in a non-LTCCP year is intended to be an update by exception, we are deliberately undertaking the consultation in a lower key manner than we did for the LTCCP in 2003.

#### **5. Recommendations**

*That the Committee recommend to Council that it:*

- 1) Receive the report and note its contents.*
- 2) Approve the document “Towards a Sustainable Region - Greater Wellington Regional Council’s Statement of Proposal incorporating the 2004-2005 Annual Plan” for public consultation, subject to minor editorial changes.*
- 3) Agree that any editorial changes be approved by the Chairperson, on the advice of the Corporate Policy Manager and the Chief Financial Officer.*

Report prepared by:

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**Greg Schollum**  
Chief Financial Officer

#### **Accompanying Document:**

**Towards a Sustainable Region - Greater Wellington Regional Council’s Statement of Proposal incorporating the 2004-2005 Annual Plan**