

Report 16.285
Date 15 June 2016
File CCAB-8-656

Committee Council
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Adoption of the Annual Plan 2016/17

1. Purpose

To adopt the Annual Plan 2016/17.

2. Background

The Local Government Act 2002 (LGA) requires the Council to prepare and adopt an annual plan each financial year.

The annual plan, is defined by section 95(5) and (6) of the LGA and requires that Council present a full account of changes from the long term plan for the year in which the annual plan is being developed and include all relevant financial and funding impact statements for the year in which the Annual Plan is being prepared. The Act also states, that clear reference needs to be made to the relevant parts of the long term plan.

3. The Process

On 24 February 2016 Council approved the consultation document and supporting information for the Annual Plan 2016/17.

In line with the LGA requirement to consult on only those changes that were significant or material shifts from the 10 Year Plan 2015-25, Council applied the Significance and Engagement Policy and applied a set of criteria to each change in order to establish whether the change met the significance or material threshold. The consultation document was limited to those changes that met one or more of the significance or materiality criteria.

Those changes that met the criteria were then consulted on during the period 16 March 2016 to 18 April 2016. Public notices were placed in regional newspapers. Hard copies of the consultation document were made available in various public locations, including libraries and rail stations, and on-line access to the consultation document and supporting information was made available through the GWRC website. Submissions were received through the online

submission form and in hard copy. Submitters were also given the option to present their submission at the hearing on the Annual Plan proposals.

In total, 179 written submissions were received and 20 submitters spoke to their submissions. The Hearing Committee considered all submissions on 25 May 2016 and presented its recommendations to Council on 15 June 2016 (Report 16.254). The Council resolved:

1. That a budget of up to \$80,000 be included for a GWRC contribution to a jumping platform at Paremata to be constructed by Porirua City Council, dependent on an equal contribution from NZTA, GWRC satisfaction as to the design and location of the platform, and Porirua City Council consultation with the Police.
2. That an additional \$13,000 be budgeted for environment enhancement work on the Otaki River by Friends of the Otaki River.
3. To initiate a review of the fares and ticketing components of the Wellington Regional Public Transport Plan, and the related aspects of the Long-Term Plan, as part of the 2017/18 annual plan process.

The Council noted that it had agreed in its 2015–2025 10 Year Plan to include an allowance for free transfers and off-peak discounts from 2017/18 and agrees to consider, as part of the review, free transfers and off-peak discounts from 2017/18.

On 15 June 2016 Council also considered and approved the financial information to be included in the 2016/17 Annual Plan, which provides for a rates increase of 7.9% and the bulk water levy increase of 5.4% (Report 16.250).

4. Communication

A media release will be issued once the Plan is adopted, followed by an ‘Our Region’ article outlining the direction of the Annual Plan and the outcomes of the Shape Your Region consultation. Upon adoption, the Annual Plan 2016/17 will be designed and printed, and then made publicly available.

All submitters who made submissions on the Shape Your Region consultation will now receive a response outlining the decisions of the Council. An emailed response will also be sent to all those who provided feedback online.

5. The decision-making process and significance

The matters requiring decision in this report have been considered by officers against the requirements of Part 6 of the LGA.

5.1 Significance of the decision

The subject matter of this report concludes a decision-making process on a matter that has been assessed to be of medium significance within the meaning of the LGA.

In accordance with section 95 of the LGA, as the proposed annual plan contained material differences from the content of the long-term plan for the

year to which this annual plan relates, the Council was required to consult on the proposed annual plan in a manner that gave effect to the requirements of section 82 before adopting an annual plan.

5.2 Engagement

In accordance with the Significance and Engagement Policy, officers determined that the appropriate level of engagement is ‘consulting’. Further detail on consultation and engagement processes and results undertaken are contained in Report 16.217.

6. Recommendations

That the Council:

1. *Receives the report.*
2. *Notes the content of the report.*
3. *Adopts the Annual Plan 2016/17.*
4. *Delegates to the Chair the ability to make minor editorial changes prior to publication to correct errors and improve public understanding.*
5. *Authorises the GM Corporate Services/CFO to enter into any debt facilities, or raise any debt that is required to implement the Annual Plan for the 2016/17 year that are in accordance with the Council’s Treasury Management Policy.*

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Attachment 1 – Annual Plan 2016/17 (circulated separately)