

**REPORT 6**  
(1215/52/IM)

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## **2008/09 DRAFT ANNUAL PLAN: REPORT ON PROMINENT ISSUES AND NEW FUNDING REQUESTS RAISED DURING CONSULTATION**

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### **1. Purpose of Report**

This report provides for consideration of the major matters and funding requests raised during consultation on the 2008/09 Draft Annual Plan (DAP).

### **2. Recommendations**

That the Committee recommend to Council that it:

1. *Receive the information.*
2. *Note that no major issues were raised concerning new initiatives during the consultation period and agree the initiatives - as outlined in the draft plan – for inclusion in the 2008/09 Annual Plan<sup>1</sup>.*
3. *Agree to include the following funding additions in the 2008/09 Annual Plan:*
  - a) *Eco-design advisor: addition of \$70K of opex for 2008/09 and 2009/10 to continue the eco-design advisor service as detailed in appendix 1.*
  - b) *City planning unit legal budget: addition of \$330K of opex budget for 2008/09 to fund a predicted increase in legal expenditure as detailed in appendix 2.*
  - c) *Local area planning legal budget: addition of \$100K of opex for 2008/09 to fund a predicted increase in legal expenditure as detailed in appendix 3.*
  - d) *Resource consent applications - adjoining neighbourhood letter proposal: addition of \$60K per annum for 10 years to fund the continuation of this project as detailed in appendix 4.*

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<sup>1</sup> Changes to fees and charges are recommended. Please see the *2008/09 Draft Annual Plan: Report of the Funding and Activity Review Working Party* report on this agenda.

4. *Note that \$200k was agreed by the Strategy and Policy Committee on 12 June to fund planning and feasibility work for the provision of broadband in Wellington.*
5. *Decline the new funding requests (identified during the 2008/09 Draft Annual Plan consultation period) as detailed in appendices 5 to 31.*
6. *Agree the criteria for the Sustainable Building Grants initiative as outlined in section 3.3 of this report.<sup>2</sup>*

### **3. Discussion**

The 2008/09 annual plan comprises the third and final year of the 2006-16 Long-term Plan. The draft plan was developed in a business-as-usual context with tight budgetary parameters, and an appreciation that significant shifts to levels of service are more appropriately considered as part of the forthcoming long-term planning process. Funding bids raised during the consultation process have been considered in this context.

The four funding changes that officers are recommending for inclusion in the 2008/09 Annual Plan are urgent and either designed to mitigate risk, or extend trial programmes where the returns are pronounced and evident.

#### **3.1 Proposed business as usual operational budget updates**

Some matters have been raised since the adoption of the 2008/09 Draft Annual Plan for consultation that will impact on the funding requirements for operational projects. These include:

a) *Eco-design advisor (appendix 1)*

The proposal is for an additional \$70K of opex for 2008/09 and 2009/10 to continue the eco-design advisor (EDA) service. The EDA is an advisory role providing free, customised advice on sustainability matters to homeowners, designers, builders and other community members. An EDA was recruited in December 2007 on a one-year short term contract. This proposal seeks to continue this service for an additional two years.

b) *City planning unit legal budget (appendix 2)*

The proposal is for an additional \$330K of opex for 2008/09 in addition to existing legal budget of \$150k and officer time (which would be funded within existing resources).

The proposal seeks to address a predicted increase in legal expenditure necessary to defend the Council's position on proposed plan changes and

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<sup>2</sup> At the adoption of the 2008/09 Draft Annual Plan officers agreed to develop criteria to assess applications to the Sustainable Building Grants programme. The criteria are detailed 3.3 of this report.

variations for 2008/09. This expenditure relates to Council's statutory functions under the Resource Management Act, in proposing plan changes and variations to the District Plan. Submitters on these plan changes have the statutory right to appeal the decision of Council to the Environment Court.

*c) Local area planning legal budget (appendix 3)*

The proposal is for an additional \$100k for 2008/09 in addition to existing legal budget of \$150k and officer time (which would be funded within existing resources).

The proposal is for additional legal budget in order to fund increased legal costs associated with defending the Council's statutory decision making obligations under the Resource Management Act on resource consent applications. This is primarily related to appeals to both the Environment Court and judicial reviews applications to the High Court.

*d) Resource consent applications: adjoining neighbourhood letter proposal (appendix 4)*

Additional funding is recommended to implement costs associated with formalising and fully implementing the current "trial" process of sending letters to neighbours of adjoining landowners that have applied for resource consents on residentially zoned sites.

The service has been well received by the community and officers are recommending an additional \$60k per annum (for 10 years) to make the adjoining neighbourhood letter programme a permanent service.

### **3.2 Requests for new funding**

The Council received 438 submissions during the 2008/09 Draft Annual Plan consultation period. While most submissions commented on new initiatives, many others commented on Council's business as usual projects and programmes, as well as variations to the long term plan and requests relating to relatively specific or operational type matters.

All submissions are provided to business unit managers who review the information and consider any specific requests against existing work programmes. In all cases a response will be provided to submitters.

The Council also received a number of new funding requests during the consultation period. This report provides for the consideration of those. The funding requests, including officers' comments and recommendations, are detailed in the attached appendices.

Appendix 5	Ian Galloway Park artificial sports field hub
Appendix 6	Seatoun Park pavilion refurbishment
Appendix 7	Cobham Drive foreshore area enhancement
Appendix 8	Remuneration for Moa Point Wastewater Community Liaison

	Group members
Appendix 9	Additional swimming pool for Wellington
Appendix 10	Support for Crossways community house
Appendix 11	Enclosure to remedy Moa Point odour problems
Appendix 12	New toilet facilities at Tarakena Bay
Appendix 13	Upgrade of Kelburn Parade
Appendix 14	Land purchase in Churton Park
Appendix 15	Additional funding for Newtown Festival
Appendix 16	Newtown facilities upgrade
Appendix 17	Public walkway construction at Worser Bay Boating Club
Appendix 18	Wellington Circus Trust relocation funding
Appendix 19	Film School relocation and fit-out funding
Appendix 20	Island Bay and Princess Bay sand dune restoration project
Appendix 21	Healthy Homes project and for household water efficiency initiative
Appendix 22	Wellington Rugby League require support to find clubrooms and a dedicated ground
Appendix 23	Additional remuneration for Karori Community Centre staff
Appendix 24	Video conferencing facilities funding (20/20 Trust)
Appendix 25	Youth Centre/School of Rock
Appendix 26	Fluoride removal from water supply
Appendix 27	Land purchase on Wilton Road
Appendix 28	Koura – restoration of shipwrights building and slipway
Appendix 29	Khandallah Town Hall redevelopment
Appendix 30	Capital Football – request for more sports grounds
Appendix 31	Botanic Gardens – nursery upgrade

### **3.3 Sustainable buildings grants criteria**

The promotion of sustainable buildings through the offsetting of building consent fees was presented as a new initiative in the 2008/09 Draft Annual Plan. As part of the deliberations in March officers were directed to develop the sustainable buildings grants criteria. The criteria are detailed below.

Grant funding will only apply to stand-alone sustainable energy technology for residential buildings. Building consent customers installing the following types of technologies to new and retrofitted homes are eligible for the Environmentally Sustainable Design (ESD) rebate:

- solar water heating
- water heat pump systems
- solar photo-voltaic (PV) systems
- micro wind turbines
- mini-hydro systems
- wood pellet stoves with hot-water “wet back”.

Some of the technologies above will only be eligible if they meet basic efficiency ratings and/or industry standards. For example, only solar hot water heating systems meeting the Australian and New Zealand standards for performance

and design and construction will receive the grants. Officers are still finalising the details regarding the standards and performance criteria.

The Sustainable Building Grants are only available for individual residential dwellings: new homes or renovations of existing homes (based on a standard minor works consent of \$300, approximately 100 separate grants can be offered to customers per annum). Only customers requiring a building consent are eligible for the grant. The ESD rebate will not apply to commercial building consents or non-profit organisations.

The rebate scheme is restricted to one rebate per property per year up to a maximum of \$300.

Table 1 below outlines the eligibility criteria for ESD rebates of building consent customers.

<b>Table 1. Type of property or type of customer</b>	<b>Eligibility</b>
Stand-alone residential dwelling	Yes
Semi-detached unit	Yes
Individual townhouse unit	Yes
Individual apartment unit	Yes
Apartment, townhouse or housing development involving more than one residential dwelling	Yes*
Commercial development of any description	No
Non-profit organisation**	No

\* Maximum of ten consent grants eligible for any one multi-unit residential development.

\*\* Registered non-profit organisations are eligible for rebate funding for this type of activity under the general rebates pools.

#### **4. Conclusion**

Having received submissions on the DAP and deliberated on the issues that were raised, the committee is now asked to recommend to Council any new funding.

Contact Officer: *Baz Kaufman – Senior Corporate Planner.*

## **Supporting Information**

**1) Strategic Fit / Strategic Outcome**

*The recommendations contained in this report support Council's overall strategic direction as outlined in the 2006-16 long-term plan.*

**2) LTCCP/Annual Plan reference and long term financial impact**

*N/A*

**3) Treaty of Waitangi considerations**

*There are no Treaty of Waitangi considerations.*

**4) Decision-Making**

*This is not a significant decision.*

**5) Consultation**

**a) General Consultation**

*The Special Consultative Procedure was used to consult on the 2008/09 Draft Annual Plan.*

**b) Consultation with Maori**

*As above.*

**6) Legal Implications**

*Council's lawyers have been consulted during the development of the 2008/09 Annual Plan.*

**7) Consistency with existing policy**

*N/A*