

“Our aim is for Wellington to be an affordable, vibrant and internationally competitive city”.

Our Role

Our job is to look after Wellington, now and into the future.

Under the Local Government Act, we have two key roles. 1. To promote the well-being of Wellington and its people. 2. To facilitate democratic local decision-making.

The Wellington City Council is made up of 15 elected representatives – the mayor and 14 councillors. It’s their job to make bylaws, set the city’s overall strategic direction, and approve budgets, policies and plans aimed at achieving that direction. A key part of their role is to listen and take the pulse of the community before making decisions.

The mayor and councillors are supported in their role by the Tawa and Makara/Ohariu community boards.

The elected representatives are assisted by the Council’s chief executive and 1,450+ staff, who provide advice, implement Council decisions, and look after the city’s day to day operations.

We plan in three year cycles.

The Local Government Act requires us to plan in three-year cycles. Every three years, we consult the community on a draft long-term plan. This sets out our intentions for the decade ahead – what we’ll do, how we’ll do it, how much we’ll spend, who will pay, the levels of service we’ll provide, and how we’ll measure the quality and effectiveness of our work. Our last long-term plan was in 2009; our next will be in 2012.

In-between these long-term plans, we take a fresh look each year at our work programme and consider whether any changes are needed. Change may be needed due to revisions to our budgets or new projects to help deal with issues or challenges facing the city. We publish a draft annual plan and listen to your feedback before publishing an annual plan (this document).

And prepare our plans in line with community aspirations.

Our long-term plan is guided by 13 long-term goals (or “outcomes”). They are that Wellington will become more liveable, develop a stronger sense of place, and become more compact, eventful, inclusive, actively engaged, sustainable, safer, healthier, better connected, prosperous, competitive, and entrepreneurial/innovative.

The projects we fund and our ongoing work programme – explained in the *2010/11 Activity Programme* section of this plan – aim to fulfil these community expectations.

We’ll make ourselves accountable by reporting on how we do for the year.

Every year, we also publish an annual report. This sets out how we performed against the long-term plan or annual plan for the year. Did we do all we said we’d do? Did we meet our budgets? Did we do as good a job as we should have? Did we contribute to improvements in the overall well-being of Wellington and its residents? The report is made available on our website and through libraries and service centres, and a summary is sent to all Wellington households.