

Our work at a glance

We group our work into seven strategic areas. These strategies provide coherence in our work and ensure we retain a clear sense of what we want to achieve.

Governance

Our governance work includes running local elections, holding meetings of the Council and its committees, producing policies and strategies to guide our work, seeking feedback on our proposals from members of the public, producing annual plans and annual reports to make ourselves accountable to residents, engaging with Maori and stakeholder groups, and providing information about our services and activities.

Challenges

The key challenges we face are to increase participation levels and build trust and confidence in civic decision-making.

10-year approach

- Build public trust and confidence in the decisions we make and the services we offer.
- Raise awareness of the reasons for our decisions and in particular our need to balance limited resources across all services.
- Develop new ways to engage – ones that better meet residents' needs.

Three-year priorities

- Enhance our partnerships with mana whenua.

- Use online tools to make it more convenient for people to comment on Council proposals.
- Strengthen our partnerships with the government sector and the wider region so we can influence decisions that affect Wellington residents.

Environment

We look after the city's 34+ square kilometres of reserve land, as well as beaches, coastline, and botanical gardens. We fund the Zoo and the Karori Sanctuary.

We also: provide water supply, stormwater and sewage disposal; provide recycling and waste disposal services; offer grants for environmental initiatives; run the Kiwi Point Quarry; and promote energy efficiency and sustainability. The environment is by far our biggest area of spending.

Challenges

Though Wellington enjoys a stunning natural environment, we also face some significant challenges. Like other cities, we need to find ways of becoming more sustainable – to address broad issues such as climate change – by producing fewer greenhouse gas emissions, dumping less waste, using resources such as water and energy more efficiently, and protecting biodiversity and ecosystems.

10-year approach

- Protect sensitive natural areas and resources.
- Reduce the city's greenhouse gas emissions, reduce resource use, and convert to renewable energy.
- Minimise the impact of resource use, including development, on landscapes and ecosystems.
- Dispose of waste in ways that protect the environment, and encourage recycling.
- Provide high-quality, accessible green spaces for people to enjoy.

Three-year priorities

- Manage demand for potable water and develop a region-wide water management plan.
- Take steps to reduce the Council's – and the city's – greenhouse gas emissions.
- Encourage people and businesses to reduce the amount of waste they produce.
- Develop a strategic framework for managing the city's parks and reserves.

We will support the Karori Sanctuary's development of Zealandia – the Sanctuary's interactive visitor centre, and work with the Marine Education Trust on a feasibility study for the Marine Education centre proposed to be built near Lyall Bay.



Economic development

We work to attract major events such as the World of WearableArt Awards and the International Sevens. We also fund tourism promotions, and support attractions such as Te Papa and conference venues such as the Wellington Convention Centre.

To support businesses, we advocate for the city's interests to central and regional government. We maintain links with other markets through sister city relations. Our initiatives complement the regional economic development programme provided by the regional development agency Grow Wellington.

Challenges

Key economic development challenges are to respond to the global economic slowdown while continuing to make the city more internationally competitive, foster innovation and entrepreneurship, and lift Wellington's productivity and contribution to the economy.

10-year approach

- Support high-quality events that promote tourism and a vibrant retail sector.
- Celebrate creativity and innovation in the business sector.
- Improve the city's connections to the rest of the world.
- Support downtown Wellington as the centre of the region's retail and service economy.

Three-year priorities

- Improve Wellington's connection to the world by promoting the development of the city's broadband services and by attracting long-haul airline services from Asia.
- Enhance Wellington's place as a vibrant, eventful city by offering a wide range of high quality events, and focusing on events that enhance economic prosperity and our status as New Zealand's arts and culture capital.

- Maintain the inner city as a great place to stage events. Leverage tourism and marketing opportunities from hosting pool games and quarterfinals at the 2011 Rugby World Cup.

We're funding the redevelopment of the Carter Observatory into a visitor attraction, increasing our annual funding for Te Papa, in recognition of its significance as a visitor attraction and contribution to Wellington's economy and cultural life.

Cultural well-being

We fund the city's popular art galleries and museums, operate Toi Poneke – the Wellington Arts Centre, and support the NZ International Arts Festival, and other institutions. We also provide cultural grants, support community events and festivals, and run the City Archives.

Challenges

Wellington's arts and culture scene is thriving. Our key goals are: to maintain this strength, in particular by ensuring the city provides a supportive environment for arts and entertainment; and to ensure that all Wellingtonians can participate in the city's cultural life.

10-year approach

- Provide a supportive environment in which arts and cultural activities can flourish.
- Build the city's status as New Zealand's arts and cultural capital and 'events capital'.
- Provide a welcoming environment for the city's diverse population.
- Foster and celebrate Wellington's 'sense of place' – the combination of landscape, buildings, public art, capital city status and other features that give the city a unique look and feel.

Three-year priorities

- Provide a wide range of culture-based events that celebrate Wellington's diverse communities, entertain, and bring people together.

- Complete our extension of the City Gallery.
- Recognise the special place of mana whenua in the city's culture and arts, for example through Te Matau a Maui – the Hook of Maui and Receding Waters, a dramatic new sculpture at the entrance to the central city, and through construction of a wharewaka on the waterfront.
- Provide an arts resources 'hub' at Toi Poneke – the Wellington Arts Centre to allow artists and entertainers to share resources.

We will also provide additional funding support to the Wellington Museum's Trust and the NZ International Festival of the Arts so they retain their high quality programmes and exhibitions in this economic climate where external sponsorship is more difficult to obtain.

We are supporting the Creative Capital Trust with additional funding to deliver the Fringe Festival and the Cuba Street Carnival.

We're providing additional funding to Te Papa in recognition of its significance as a visitor attraction, and the contribution it makes to Wellington's economy and cultural life. We're also providing additional funding to the Carter Observatory to redevelop it into a visitor attraction.



Social and recreation

We provide homes for people whose needs are not met by state housing or the private housing market, fund projects to help homeless people, support community organisations, and provide community centres and halls.

We also work to protect public health and safety through projects such as monitoring the city centre, banning liquor consumption in public in parts of the city, licensing food and liquor outlets, animal control, regulating other public health risks, providing toilets and cemeteries, and preparing the city to deal with emergencies such as earthquakes.

Our recreation work includes: providing libraries, playgrounds, swimming pools, recreation centres, sports fields and marinas; running recreation programmes; and reducing the costs of using sport and recreation facilities for people eligible for our Leisure Card subsidy scheme.

Challenges

Key challenges include:

- providing for a population that is growing, ageing, becoming more diverse, and expecting more of Council services
- maintaining existing strengths such as safety, strong communities, open and tolerant attitudes, and high quality of life.

10-year approach

- Promote strong, safe, healthy communities by ensuring that infrastructure is in place to meet residents' and community needs.
- Play a facilitation role to support other organisations that can meet community needs, and provide services only when those needs remain unmet.

Three-year priorities

- Promote participation in recreation activities to ensure that facilities are used by the whole community.
- Facilitate tolerance and inclusiveness.
- Encourage community groups to share responsibility for delivering programmes and services.
- Increase our role as advocates for resident and community needs.

Actions towards these include making progress on an upgrade of our social housing stock in line with our \$220 million partnership with the government, and improve community access to sports in all weather through the introduction of synthetic sports field, construction of an Indoor Community Sports Centre at Cobham Drive, look to establish a wet hostel in Wellington, and improve outdoor community facilities in Churton Park. We will also review the appropriate mix of library and other community services across the city, and we will review our swimming pools network.

For more information on our work in these areas, see the 'our work in detail' chapter.

It outlines the work we do, key projects and programmes that will be delivered over the next three years, why the work is important, how the work contributes towards the community outcomes, and how we will measure our performance. It also includes information on how we manage our assets – such as libraries and swimming pools – and how services are paid for (through rates, a targeted rate or through fees), and also what it costs to deliver these services.



Urban development

Our urban development work includes enhancing the waterfront and city and suburban centres, developing public spaces such as urban parks and squares, looking after heritage sites, assessing and issuing building and resource consents, ensuring earthquake-prone buildings are strengthened, and planning for the city's future development.

Challenges

The significant growth expected in Wellington over the next 20 years creates some challenges. We're aiming to respond to those challenges in ways that are sustainable and preserve the city's special character. A key priority is to improve land use and transport by focusing development in key centres or 'hubs'.

10-year goals

- Maintain the city's 'compactness'.
- Focus development along a 'growth spine' running from Johnsonville through the city centre to Newtown and Kilbirnie, to ensure that growth occurs where the benefits are greatest and the harm least.
- Allow intensive development of some areas while protecting others from development.
- Better integrate land use and transport.
- Improve the quality of urban design.
- Foster and celebrate Wellington's 'sense of place' – the combination of landscape, buildings, public art, capital city status and other features that give the city a unique look and feel.

Three-year priorities

- Advance planning for development along the 'growth spine', focusing on the Adelaide Road precinct and Kilbirnie.
- Add a processional route – a tree-lined street – along Taranaki Street to the new Memorial Park around the Cenotaph.
- Ensure our planning processes conform with any amendments to the Resource Management Act.

In addition, we'll part-fund the construction of Memorial Park at the cenotaph in Mt Cook, upgrade Midland Park, and prepare plans for a new inner city park.

Transport

We look after 670km of streets and roads, as well as footpaths, cycle lanes, traffic signals, car parks and so on.

We also: support public transport through bus priority measures such as bus lanes, letting buses go first at traffic lights, and providing bus shelters; work suburb by suburb to improve traffic safety; and plan to ensure the city's transport network meets future needs.

Challenges

Our transport system is generally performing well – Wellington's streets are safe by national standards, we're relatively high users of public transport, and most residents believe the city is easy to get around. However, we do face challenges such as ensuring the transport network can keep up with growing demand, and reducing harmful environmental effects such as noise, water and air pollution.

10-year goals

- Provide a safe, efficient transport network.
- Encourage a transition towards public transport and other alternatives to private cars by providing infrastructure that supports buses, cycling, walking and other forms of transport.

Three-year priorities

- Continue to implement bus priority measures.
- Encourage alternatives to private cars, such as walking and cycling.
- Improve public transport connections, including a proposal to restore the Golden Mile through Manners Mall and extending the lower section of Cuba Street into a pedestrian zone. This work will involve further public consultation.

In the next three years, we'll also work with other agencies to implement planned changes to the Ngauranga-to-Airport transport corridor.

