

OUR ROLE

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 elected representatives are supported 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 aim to manage the city in line with community aspirations.

After public consultation during 2005 and 2006, we set 13 long-term goals (or "outcomes") for Wellington – that the city 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, entrepreneurial and innovative.

The projects we fund – both the new projects explained over the next few pages and our ongoing work programme explained in the 'Our activities in detail' section of this report – aim to fulfil these community expectations.

This draft annual plan is part of a longer-term process of planning and asking for community views.

The Local Government Act requires us to plan in three-year cycles. Every three years, we publish a long-term plan setting 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 2006; our next will be in 2009.

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

Last year, just under 1,000 Wellingtonians made their views heard on our draft annual plan.

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.

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