



Report 08.420
Date 22 June 2007
File CFO/07/06/15

Committee Council
Authors David Benham, Chief Executive Officer

2008/09 Annual Plan

1. Purpose

To present the final 2008/09 Annual Plan, for adoption by Council. This provides a formal and public statement of the Council's intentions in relation to matters covered in the Plan.

2. Significance of the decision

The content of this report is the result of the Council's consultation with the public which took the form of submissions being made on the proposed 2008/09 Annual Plan. The changes made to the Proposed Plan, outlined in Report 08.366 (10 June 2008) and this report trigger section 76 (3)(b) of the Local Government Act 2002, as well as the Council's own policy on significance.

The formal submission process undertaken by Council complied with the decision-making and special consultative procedures set out in sections 76-79 and 83-85 of the Local Government Act 2002. Reports 08.325 and 08.326 outlined the submission process and summarised the submissions that the Council received.

It should be noted that the 2008/09 Annual Plan records Greater Wellington's intentions in relation to the matters covered by the Plan. It does not constitute a decision to act on any specific matter included within the Plan (s 96 of the Local Government Act 2002).

3. Background

The Local Government Act 2002 requires the Council to adopt its Annual Plan prior to the commencement of the financial year to which it relates.

In December 2007, Councillors received draft divisional business plans which they reviewed in January 2008.

The Proposed Annual Plan contained a district wide rate increase of 6.87% and a regional rate increase of 6.77%, with a nil increase in the bulk water levy. The Proposed Plan was approved for public consultation by Council on 19 March 2008. The consultation period ran from 3 April to 5 May, although late submissions were received. A total of 125 submissions were received.

The Annual Plan Hearings Committee heard 32 submissions and considered all submissions on 21 and 22 May 2008.

Council received a report at its meeting on 10 June 2008 (Report 08.366) that outlined changes to be made to the proposed Annual Plan as a result of the following:

- The public consultation process;
- New information and changed assumptions; and
- Re-budgets of 2006/07 expenditure.

At this meeting, Council approved the re-budgeting and other adjustments, and noted their rating impacts. Council then formally approved an increase in district wide rates of 8.96% and an increase in regional rates of 8.87% for the 2008/09 year. It also approved a nil increase in the bulk water levy for 2008/09

4. Comment

The final 2008/09 Annual Plan is attached to this report (**Attachment 1**). As last year, a summary document has not been prepared. The summary of the proposed document was sent to all households in the region in order to receive public comment. As the circulation of the final document is more limited, it was deemed not necessary to produce another summary document. All those that submitted to the Proposed Annual Plan will receive detailed responses to their submissions.

In addition to the Annual Plan budgetary amendments detailed in Report 08.366 (10 June 2008), there have been some wording changes from the proposed document, mainly to reflect the changing financial information.

An additional introductory section in the Annual Plan sets out the budgetary amendments approved by Council on 10 June 2008.

The consultation on the Proposed 2008/09 Annual Plan also included consultation on a proposed change to the administrative charges for processing and monitoring resource consents (s.36 of the Resource Management Act 1991). The proposal was to increase the hourly charge out rate from \$85 to \$100 (excluding GST). Submissions were received both supporting and opposing the increase. The Annual Plan Hearings Committee did not make any recommendation to amend the proposal.

5. Communication

There was a media release following the 10 June 2008 meeting approving the level of rates and levies. However, another will be prepared announcing Council's formal adoption of its Annual Plan.

6. Recommendations

That Council:

- 1) ***Receives*** the report;
- 2) ***Notes*** its content;
- 3) ***Approves*** an amendment to the Resource Management Charging Policy 2007 to increase the hourly charge out rate for processing and monitoring resource consents to \$100 (excluding GST) with effect from 1 July 2008.
- 4) ***Approves*** the Greater Wellington Regional Council's 2008/09 Annual Plan.
- 5) ***Adopts*** the Greater Wellington Regional Council's final 2008/09 Annual Plan.

Report prepared by:

David Benham
Chief Executive

Attachment 1: Greater Wellington Regional Council's 2008/09 Annual Plan