



**Local Government New Zealand**

*te pūtahi matakōkiri*

## **Long Term Council Community Plans - Q & A fact sheet**

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### **Why are councils preparing Long Term Council Community Plans (LTCCPs)?**

The Local Government Act 2002 requires local authorities to produce a LTCCP. Specifically, every three years starting in 2006, each council in New Zealand is required to produce a plan for its community - the Long Term Council Community Plan.

### **What is a Long Term Council Community Plan?**

The LTCCP will describe the activities of the council and provide a long term focus for its decision-making. The LTCCP will discuss the first three years in detail and outline the following seven years.

The LTCCP includes:

- a statement of the community's long term goals and priorities (community outcomes)
- information about the activities provided by the council including the level of service the community can expect and their contribution towards each of the community outcomes
- a long term financial strategy explaining what the council's programme will cost over the next 10 years and how it will be paid for
- key performance targets so that citizens will know whether or not the plan has been achieved.

### **What are community outcomes?**

Community outcomes are the desired state of affairs each community has identified as important to them. These could be anything from clean water to more parks. The council and other organisations in the community will use these outcome statements to develop their planning and activities.

### **What opportunities are there for people to become involved with the LTCCP process?**

The LTCCP provides an opportunity for the public to participate in local decision-making and to influence the current direction and decisions of their council and ultimately, the future of their community.

Every resident, young and old, has the opportunity to contribute to their LTCCP. Under the Local Government Act 2002, councils are required by law to consult with their communities and other interested parties on proposed activities in their region and take their feedback into account.

### **What is different about this plan from other plans councils have prepared?**

The requirement for councils to produce a Long Term Council Community Plan is intended to focus local authorities on promoting the wellbeing of their communities, including social, economic, environmental and cultural wellbeing.

The plan will provide flexibility for councils to work cooperatively and collaboratively with other public and private organisations to advance community goals and meet the needs of their communities. Councils are required to consult widely and listen to community views.

Long Term Council Community Plans are different from the way councils used to present information. Councils will now look at all proposals and plans over a ten year period. This way you can clearly see:

- what the issues facing your local council are
- how the council plans to resolve those issues
- how much the council plans to spend over the next ten years and in which areas.

### **Is this just another layer of planning bureaucracy?**

The LTCCP is a commitment from your Council to consult widely on all policies and actions that impact upon the wellbeing of your district and its people, socially, economically, environmentally and culturally.

The council will report to the community at least every three years on whether or not the community outcomes are being achieved.

### **When will my council have a LTCCP?**

Contact your local council. LTCCPs must be adopted by July 2006.

### **How often are the LTCCPs reviewed?**

Councils are required to monitor and report on the achievements of the plan at least once every three years.

Councils must also say how they will monitor the outcomes in the LTCCP and report on the progress of monitoring in their annual plans.

### **When will the Community Plan be reviewed?**

The Community Plan will be adopted in 2006, and then reviewed once every 3 years.

### **How can I participate?**

You can make sure your Mayor and councillors hear your views by making a submission to the council on its Draft LTCCP. To participate you can:

- Talk or write to council staff expressing interest in contributing to your LTCCP
- Talk or write to a local councillor and explain your views to them
- Check your council's website for up to date information about consultation in your area.