

GOOD GOVERNANCE AND STRATEGIC ALLIANCES

The Local Government Act 2002 provides the framework within which all local authorities must operate. Rather than telling councils what they must do, the Act provides guidelines about how we should operate.

Central to the Act are a number of principles about good governance. These principles encourage councils to make decisions openly, in consultation with their communities. The Act also requires Councils to work collaboratively with other agencies to achieve community outcomes and make better use of resources. This means that Council's relationships with central government, other district and regional councils, the private sector and community and voluntary organisations take on more importance.

Good governance and strategic alliances are a key component of sustainable development. Councils and other agencies are challenged to think beyond their traditional boundaries and take an integrated approach to achieving what the community identifies as being important for its future.

KEY ACTIVITIES

- Governance
- Community Planning
- Strategic Planning



GOVERNANCE

WHAT WE DO

Governance covers the work of Council, Council committees and sub-committees, and the Turangi Tongariro Community Board.

Councillors and Community Board members are responsible for setting Council's directions on behalf of the people of Taupo District. They are also responsible for monitoring progress to achieve these directions, providing local leadership, communicating and consulting with the public, building relationships for the benefit of the district and advocating on behalf of the community.

HOW WE CONTRIBUTE TO COMMUNITY OUTCOMES

- Making well considered decisions on behalf of the community
- Consulting with key stakeholders and the community as required
- Ensuring policies are consistent with community outcomes
- Ensuring that the needs of the community are voiced in appropriate forums outside the district
- By progressively identifying and entering into Memorandum of Understanding with strategic partners

DURING THE 2005/06 YEAR WE ACHIEVED:

- The successful completion of the Representation Review as required under the Local Electoral Act 2001 without the need for referral to the Local Government Commission
- Progress on the Water Resources Project, with significant work being put into an erosion study and a flood hazard study. Both of these documents are expected to be finalised before the end of the 2006 calendar year.



SERVICE PERFORMANCE RESULTS:

TARGET	Percentage of residents satisfied with Council’s performance is equal to or higher than the average for peer local authorities across all standard community survey questions.
NOT ACHIEVED	<p>Overall, satisfaction with Council’s performance for the delivery of services and facilities compared favourably with peer local authorities.</p> <p>Satisfaction was higher than Council’s peer group for roads, recycling, public toilets, landfills and transfer stations, and wastewater.</p> <p>Satisfaction was on a par with Council’s peer group for litter control, water supply, rubbish collection, AC Baths, reserves and street gardens, sports grounds, Taupo Museum and district libraries.</p> <p>The percent of residents not very satisfied was higher than the peer group average for stormwater drainage and council parks.</p>

TARGET	Significant decisions ² made comply with the requirements of the Local Government Act 2002.
ACHIEVED	Target met

(Footnotes)

² Refer to Council’s policy on significance.



COMMUNITY PLANNING

WHAT WE DO

Community planning covers:

- Identifying community outcomes that meet community and statutory requirements
- Building relationships with government departments and other external agencies to encourage coordinated/collaborative approaches to achieving community outcomes
- Developing and overseeing monitoring and other data gathering activities that provide Council with information about how well community outcomes are being achieved and indicate trends and emerging issues
- Reporting on progress with achieving community outcomes
- Acting as an advocate for the community and representing the views of the district at regional and national levels

HOW WE CONTRIBUTE TO COMMUNITY OUTCOMES

- Community outcomes will be identified and up-dated to meet changing circumstances
- The community and Council will know whether outcomes are being achieved
- As community advocate, Council will be able to influence the involvement of other agencies in achieving community outcomes

DURING THE 2005/06 YEAR WE ACHIEVED:

- The release of our first community outcomes monitoring report for the District titled *The Top Twenty Report*
- Attendance at meetings and active participation in collaborative approaches in both the Waikato and Bay of Plenty to progress and monitor community outcomes

THE IDENTIFICATION OF COMMUNITY OUTCOMES WILL HAVE A SIGNIFICANT POSITIVE IMPACT ON THE WELL-BEING OF THE COMMUNITY THROUGH:

- Providing a common set of ideals that the community wishes to work toward. Good progress has been made with developing relationships with other stakeholders who have an impact on the well-being of Taupo District. Many of these stakeholders have also begun considering how they will contribute toward achieving the community outcomes

SERVICE PERFORMANCE RESULTS:

TARGET	80% of residents surveyed agree with the long term vision for the district.
NOT ACHIEVED	79% of residents and non-resident ratepayers 'strongly agree' or 'agree' with the Council's direction for the Taupo District for the next 10 years, while 9% 'disagree' or 'strongly disagree'. 11% neither agree nor disagree and 1% were unable to comment.

TARGET	75% of key stakeholders incorporate responses to the community outcomes in their long term planning documents.
ACHIEVED IN PART	<p>Taupo District Council was involved in three major community outcomes processes: Choosing Futures Waikato; Community Outcomes Bay of Plenty (CO BOP) and the local process Our People, Our Future.</p> <p>23 out of 33 key stakeholders (70%) identified through these community outcomes processes have outlined the need to establish strategic relationships, partnerships and relationships in their long-term planning documents. Though not specifically related to the Taupo District Community Outcomes, emphasis in their documents has been placed on working together with other agencies to achieve community well-being.</p> <p>Over time it is expected that more stakeholders will include responses based around community well-being, community outcomes and collaboration with others.</p>



STRATEGIC PLANNING

WHAT WE DO

The Local Government Act 2002 requires local authorities to have in place various policies and plans that relate to what we do as an organisation and how we will undertake this work. All Council's must have in place an LTCCP and these plans must be updated at least every three years. In the intervening years we prepare an Annual Plan. Both the LTCCP and the Annual Plan must be adopted in full consultation with the community.

Other activities covered by strategic planning include preparation of:

- Annual reports
- Financial and funding policies
- Policies to assist Council with decision making (e.g. significance policy)

HOW WE CONTRIBUTE TO COMMUNITY OUTCOMES

- The community will have information on the activities that Council is planning to undertake to contribute to the community outcomes
- The community will be able to see the cost of undertaking these activities

DURING THE 2005/06 YEAR WE ACHIEVED:

- Development of our Council's response to the community outcomes identified in 2004/05³
- The holding of an Expo in August 2005, attended by over 1,100 people, which set the scene for the 2006 - 2016 LTCCP and provided the community with the opportunity for input
- Preparation of the 2006 - 2016 LTCCP in accordance with legislative requirements

THE ACTIVITIES PROPOSED IN THE 2006 - 2016 LTCCP WILL HAVE A SIGNIFICANT POSITIVE IMPACT ON THE WELL-BEING OF THE COMMUNITY THROUGH:

- Delivering services, programmes and facilities aimed at achieving community outcomes

SERVICE PERFORMANCE RESULTS:

TARGET	Plans and policies adopted in accordance with statutory requirements.
ACHIEVED	Target met

(Footnotes)

³ See pages 37 to 46 of the 2006 - 2016 LTCCP.

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FINANCIAL RESULTS

COST OF SERVICE STATEMENT:

	2006 Actual \$000	2006 Budget \$000	2005 Actual \$000
OPERATING INCOME			
Other Income	1	43	510
Total Income	1	43	510
OPERATING EXPENDITURE			
Governance	3,755	3,765	3,419
Community Planning	2,192	1,203	1,297
Strategic Planning	475	566	384
Total Expenditure	6,422	5,534	5,100
NET COST (SURPLUS) OF OPERATIONS	6,421	5,491	4,590
Funded By:			
General Rates	5,496	5,447	5,397
Loans Repaid	0	(4)	0
Transfers from Reserves	0	4	0
General Funds	925	0	(807)
Opening Balance	0	44	0
Total Funded	6,421	5,491	4,590
CAPITAL EXPENDITURE	92	150	4
Funded by:			
General Funds	10	0	0
Loans Raised		50	0
Transfers from Reserves	82	100	4
Total Funded	92	150	4

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE:

DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT	REASON FOR ACQUISITION	PROJECT STATUS (REFER KEY)	ACTUAL \$000'S	BUDGET \$000'S	NOTES
Various Projects less than \$70,000 Budget	Various	s	92	150	
			92	150	

Key

- ✓ Achieved
- s Slippage (minor) into future years – small carryover with completion expected by 31 August 2006
- m Deliberate move into future years
- * Not achieved – major slippage (project will not be complete by 31 August 2006) or project has been dropped

OTHER

INTRODUCTION

A small number of Council activities fall outside of the strategic themes. These activities are reported here.

FORESTRY

DURING THE 2005/06 YEAR WE ACHIEVED:

- Replanting of the Rangitaiki Forest on land clearfelled of pinus radiata in prior years

THE FORESTRY ACTIVITY HAS HAD A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON THE WELL-BEING OF THE COMMUNITY THROUGH:

- The creation of significant future economic benefits to the Taupo district

CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

DURING THE 2005/06 YEAR WE ACHIEVED:

- Identification of the preferred option for relocation of the main Council Office Building. This has been identified as a purpose built Administration Building on a 'greenfield's site' within 2.5 km of the Taupo CBD. Although this project has now been moved out past the 10 year horizon of the 2006-16 long-term council community plan, the next phase of this project is the identification and acquisition of such a suitable site and work on this will continue to progress

In the interim, to resolve the current office accommodation problems, Council has rented the first floor of the 'Gillespie Plaza' in the Taupo CBD. This will house most of the Council's Environmental Services Division which will in turn free up some space at the Lake Terrace offices to alleviate the accommodation shortfall problems

- Commencement of the preparation of the Human Resources Strategy. Elements of the strategy now developed include the Remuneration and Reward Policy, Job Evaluation and the Performance Development System. The over-arching strategy is yet to be finalised and will be completed during the 2006/07 year

WE HAD ALSO INTENDED TO ACHIEVE:

- Investigation of development options for a new service delivery centre at Turangi. This has been deferred

OTHER FINANCIAL RESULTS

COST OF SERVICE STATEMENT:

	2006 Actual \$000	2006 Budget \$000	2005 Actual \$000
OPERATING INCOME			
Targeted Rates	129	130	39
Other Income	848	850	802
Total Income	977	980	841
OPERATING EXPENDITURE			
Forestry	3	33	16
Property Management	912	903	924
Motor Camps	220	112	191
Taupo Town Centre Management	89	95	0
Others	784	466	553
Total Expenditure	2,008	1,609	1,684
NET COST (SURPLUS) OF OPERATIONS	1,031	629	843
Funded By:			
General Rates	582	577	(45)
Loan Repayments	(2,194)	(441)	0
Transfers from Reserves	2,194	441	0
General Funds	449	0	888
Opening Balance	0	52	0
Total Funded	1,031	629	843
CAPITAL EXPENDITURE	428	1,792	2,689
Funded by:			
Loans Raised	56	1,200	809
Transfers from Reserves	284	592	165
General Funds	88	0	1,715
Total Funded	428	1,792	2,689

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE:

DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT	REASON FOR AQUISITION	PROJECT STATUS (REFER KEY)	ACTUAL \$000'S	BUDGET \$000'S	NOTES
Lake Terrace New Council Building Relocation	Capacity requirement	m	0	1,000	1
Forestry Afforestation	Council investment / future revenue	s	171	313	
Computer Services Network Development	Upgrades / Software / Hardware	✓	144	150	
Various Projects less than \$70,000 Budget		s	113	329	
			428	1,792	

Key

- ✓ Achieved
- s Slippage (minor) into future years – small carryover with completion expected by 31 August 2006
- m Deliberate move into future years
- * Not achieved – major slippage (project will not be complete by 31 August 2006) or project has been dropped

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE – VARIANCES BETWEEN ACTUAL AND BUDGET:

1. The proposed new office complex (TORO) to replace the Lake Terrace main office has been moved outside the 10 year horizon during Council's LTCCP process. Council has resolved that this capital fund be carried forward to the 2006/07 financial year to provide for the Gillespie Plaza office 'fit out' as well as for any other alterations needed at the Lake Terrace offices to accommodate staff relocating there.

