

Activity Planning -2012-2022 Ten Year Plan Community Leadership - District Leadership

The main matter that the Council is being asked to consider is....

- Maintaining existing levels of service, with a focus on efficiencies, for the District Leadership activity.

1. Council direction

The direction provided to staff by the Council in December 2010 was to:

- Retain existing levels of service
- Promote a strong advocacy role
- Strengthen significant stakeholder relationships
- Consider the implementation of co-management regimes

2. What the activity does

The District Leadership activity supports elected members in their governance roles. The activity supports elected member involvement in national and regional forums, and administers the formal meeting process and policy making decisions.

This activity is responsible for facilitating the electoral process for the triennial local authority elections, polls and referenda, and representation reviews.

It supports the determination of terms of reference and delegations for community boards, committees, council organisations and other decision making bodies. The activity also provides support for elected member involvement in community ceremonies, such as citizenship ceremonies.

3. What the legislations says

The legislative framework in which leadership activities and local authority elections and polls are conducted is established through a number of key Acts and Regulations. These being:

- Local Government Act 2002;
- Local Government Amendment Act 2010;
- Local Electoral Act 2001 and amendments;
- Local Electoral Regulations 2001 and amendments;
- New Zealand Public Health and Disability Act 2000;
- Local Government Official Information & Meetings Act 1987;
- Local Authorities (Members' Interests) Act 1968.

The Local Government Act 2002 spells out local government's purpose, its general powers, its specific bylaw-making powers, and the principles and processes that councils must abide by when making decisions.

The Local Electoral Act and Regulations provides for the electoral systems and representative review processes which enable our communities to select the leaders they want to represent them and their interests throughout this democratic decision-making process.

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4. Proposed activity objective

The proposed activity objective for the District Leadership activity is:

To govern the overall direction of the Council on behalf of the District's communities.

NB: This objective is the same as the 2009-2019 Ten Year Plan.

5. How this activity currently would contribute to the Council Outcomes

The activity will contribute to the achievement of the Council Outcomes as follows:

| Council Outcome | The District Leadership activity... |
|----------------------------|--|
| A prosperous district | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through strong community leadership, helps create an environment that enables our economy to grow. • Encourages sustainable economic growth in sectors that draw on, but do not compromise, our unique natural environment including tourism, aquaculture. |
| A liveable district | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sets direction by promoting planning for the future to identify and promote our community needs. • Provides opportunities to be actively involved in the direction of the district. • Supports initiatives that promote and reflect community responsibility. • Supports a range of community and cultural amenities and opportunities, considering partnership opportunities not only self provision. • Advocates to crime and safety groups. • Advocates for the provision of appropriate health and social development services. |
| A clean and green district | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helps ensure that future development fits sensitively within the Coromandel's unique landscape and coastal environment. • Promotes streamlined development processes. |

The Coromandel Peninsula Blueprint was developed under the guidance of the Political Steering Group comprising representatives of all four partnership agencies. As the role of the Political Steering Group moves to implementation of the Blueprint its role will change. It will be important for the community to continue to be heard in relation to the Blueprint if it is to continue to have widespread political support.

6. Things to be aware of

- At the time of preparing the 2012-2022 Ten Year Plan, the extent to which the 2011 Treaty Settlement will impact on the District Leadership Activity is uncertain. However, the post-Treaty settlement arrangements within Hauraki have the potential to bring new challenges and opportunities to Council: opportunities to build and foster more enduring relationships with a better resourced and focussed Hauraki tribal collective; challenges in terms of new co-governance/co-management frameworks and strategies arising from post settlement legislation that will most likely draw on existing models and experience.

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- As part of the most recent representation review held in 2008/2009 Council considered Māori representation and concluded that no changes be made, but that arrangements to consult with Māori was desirable. A further full review is not required until 2014/2015, however, following completion of the Hauraki Treaty Settlement process, the Council may determine that a representation review, with an emphasis on Māori representation, is desirable sooner than the required six years. However, this could also depend on whether the Council determines to introduce Māori representation for its 2013 triennial elections (required by resolution no later than 23 November 2011).
- The Council, at the commencement of its term in 2010, determined that a priority was to support and grow the District's economic development. Although economic development will come through in more detail in other activities, the District Leadership activity supports economic activity through advocacy, creating an environment for economic and population growth and ensuring that economic opportunities are maximised and sustainable.
- For reasons of financial conveniences, the budget associated with the Council's back scanning project and administration buildings sits within the District Leadership activity.

7. A word from our customers....

- The 2010 community prioritisation survey shows that "having a District Mayor and Councillors" sits 15th out of the 27 activities surveyed. This activity remains a medium priority activity, as determined by the community, when compared to other Council activities.
- In the 2010 communitrack survey, 32% of respondents (residents/non-resident ratepayers) felt very satisfied or satisfied with the way Council involves the public in the decisions it makes.
- The degree of satisfaction/dissatisfaction of Council as the District's leader tends to reflect the issues that the Coromandel Peninsula has faced over the preceding year. High profile and controversial issues, such as mining and the 1080 debate, can negatively influence the activity's performance results.

8. Strengths, weakness, opportunities and threats

- A strength is that representation occurs at the local level with a very small proportion of ratepayers per elected member.
- A strength is that elected member contact details are easily obtained a variety of sources including Customer Services, Council's website, brochures made available in service centres, Council publicity releases.
- A weakness is that Non-Resident ratepayers are required to confirm each triennium that they wish to remain on the Non-Resident Ratepayer Roll. The Electoral Act allows one vote per property for the Non-Resident Ratepayer roll.
- A weakness is that non-residents may be limited in the way they communicate with their elected members, and limited in their ability to attend a Council meeting.
- There is an opportunity to improve communications to non-resident ratepayers.
- There is an opportunity to improve accessibility to elected members and to meetings.
- Through technology, there is an opportunity to enhance public involvement in Council meetings.
- There is a risk that Council decisions are not well understood by our communities.

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9. Proposed levels of service

Staff proposed the following levels of service with regards to the District Leadership activity:

Maintaining levels of service, with a focus on efficiency

This means...

The Council represents the community

- In it's leadership role, the Council continues its involvement in regional and national forums to promote and achieve its priorities and desired outcomes and make efficient use of resources.
- This means increasing awareness of the role of Local Government within the community.
- This means the Council advocates for District and Local needs.

Opportunities are provided for involvement in decision making

- The Council currently meets its statutory obligations in providing opportunities for community involvement in decision making.
- This means it holds regular scheduled Council meetings to make decisions on behalf of the District.

Residents and ratepayers have a strong sense of community

- This means that the community agrees that decisions made by the Council are in the best interests of the community.

Focus on efficiency gains

- Greater efficiencies would be achieved through the ability to video conference into the Council meetings (i.e. staff and the public could video conference in from the local area offices)

10. How is this activity managed?

The District Leadership activity is currently managed by staff. An elections contractor is engaged to assist Council's Electoral Officer in the conduct of the triennial local body elections and any by-election or poll pursuant to the Local Electoral Act 2001 and other relevant enactments.

11. What do we currently spend on this activity?

As a proportion of Council's annual budget for the 2011/2012 year, the District Leadership activity represents approximately 3.35% of total spend.

| 2011/2012 Draft Annual Plan | |
|---|----------------|
| Operating Expenditure (excluding internal interest cost) | \$3.23m |
| Capital Expenditure | \$0.15m |
| Total budgeted spend for District Leadership for 2011/2012 | \$3.38m |
| Total Budgeted spend for Council for 2011/2012 | \$100.97m |
| Total percentage of budget spent on District Leadership | 3.35% |
| 2009-2019 Ten Year Plan | |
| Operating Expenditure (excluding internal interest cost) | \$31.49m |

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| Capital Expenditure | \$2.27 |
| Total budgeted spend for District Leadership for 10 years | \$33.76m |
| Total Budgeted spend for Council for 10 years | \$1,295.64m |
| Total percentage of budget spent on District Leadership | 2.61% |

12. How this activity is funded, and why.

The District Leadership activity is currently funded as follows:

Funding rationale summary as outlined in the 2009-2019 Ten Year Plan

A fundamental principle of local government in New Zealand is the acceptance of the democratic electoral system for the selection of local authority members. Thus the benefits of this activity are generally provided to the community as a whole. The Mayor and Councillors represent the whole community and everyone benefits from the process of democracy.

The funding mechanisms used to fund operating expenditure are:

| General Rates | UAGC | Targeted Rates | Fees & Charges | Grants & Subsidies |
|---------------|---------|----------------|----------------|--------------------|
| | 80-100% | | | |

The funding mechanisms used to fund capital expenditure are:

| Develop. &/or Financial Contribution | Borrowing | Asset Sales | UAGC | Depreciation | General Rates | Targeted Rates | Fees & Charges | Grants & Subsidies | Lump Sum Contribution |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|-------------|------|--------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | | | |

Staff recommend no changes to the funding policy used for this activity.

13. Staff recommendation

- Staff recommend that the Council maintain existing levels of service, with a focus on efficiency gains.
- Staff recommend no changes to the funding policy used for this activity.