
Development of Maori Capacity to Contribute to Decision-Making Processes *(Continued)*

For the year ended 30 June 2006

Specific consultation processes

The Council, in consultation with Te Taumata Runanga, hold specific consultation processes aimed at the Maori community. In 2005 specific processes were held with the Maori communities of the City in relation to the review of the electoral system (in particular the issue of Maori wards), and Community Outcomes for the LTCCP. Further consultation processes, tailored to meet the needs of the Maori communities, will be held as required.

Specialist staff resources and service provision

The Council employs a number of staff with roles focused on assisting the community to participate in and feel comfortable with Council processes, and make use of Council services. These include staff in policy, advisory, liaison and protocol roles focused on issues of interest to or affecting the Maori communities of the City, through to specialist service delivery roles in the Library Service and the arts and culture area. Together these positions make up the Maori Relationships Unit. Maori protocol is an integral part of city-wide events, civic ceremonial protocols, and part of the organisation's culture so that Council processes are more welcoming to Maori citizens. Maori stories are told in interpretation of information associated with Council projects.

In addition to the specialist services, other Council services are aimed in part at improving Maori capacity to participate in decision-making processes. For example, services such as the Learning Centres enable residents to access information and training via the web through local libraries. These services provide access to Maori as part of the wider community.

Role and Structure of Waitakere City Council

For the year ended 30 June 2006

Role of the Council

The Council has overall responsibility and accountability for the proper direction and control of the Council's activities in pursuit of Community Outcomes. This responsibility includes areas of stewardship such as:

- formulating the City's strategic direction in conjunction with the community - the Long Term Council Community Plan (LTCCP);
- determining the services and activities to be undertaken;
- managing principle risks;
- administering various regulations and upholding the law;
- monitoring the delivery of the LTCCP and Annual Plan;
- ensuring the integrity of management control systems;
- safeguarding the public interest;
- ensuring effective succession of elected members; and
- reporting to ratepayers.

Council operations

The Council has appointed a Chief Executive Officer to be in charge of the Council's operations and delegated certain powers of management to that position, as required under Section 42 of the Local Government Act 2002 (see organisation chart on page 140).

Governance system

Independent Election

The Council believes that its democratic election by Waitakere City's citizens ensures that it is able to operate in the best interests of the City.

Council Meetings

Council and committee meetings take place each month. In addition, given the importance of the LTCCP and Annual Plan and the Council's strategic planning for the future, the full Council meets as the Long Term Council Community Plan and Annual Plan Special Committee for these purposes.

The Council holds monthly meetings to monitor management activities and to ensure that the affairs of the Council are being conducted in accordance with legislative mandate and the Council's objectives. The Council also monitors the performance of council organisations and council-controlled organisations (including council-controlled trading organisations).

Council Committees

The Council has set up several standing committees to monitor and assist in the effective discharging of specific responsibilities.

Each standing committee is made up of elected members and Te Taumata Runanga also has appointed members. Each committee meets monthly, with additional meetings held as required.

The Council's standing committees are:

- City Development
- Finance and Operational Performance
- Planning and Regulatory
- Te Taumata Runanga (see also Partnerships section next page)

