

1. EVALUATION OF 2004/05 LONG TERM COUNCIL COMMUNITY PLAN COMMUNITY OUTCOMES PROCESS

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The purpose of this report is to provide an evaluation of the community outcomes process for the 2004/05 Long Term Council Community Plan as requested by the Community Plans Special Committee.

On 2 March 2004, the Community Plans Special Committee requested that staff evaluate on behalf of the Committee, the 2004/05 community outcomes process and advise improvements for 2006/07. The Terms of Reference for this evaluation were determined by the Community Plans Special Committee on 2 March 2004 and include:

1. Identify where and how the 2004/05 process met the purposes set out in Section 91 of the Local Government Act 2002.
2. Identify where and how the 2004/05 process complied with the process set out in Section 91 of the Local Government Act 2002.
3. Identify the specific components of the 2004/05 process perceived to produce positive outcomes or negative outcomes.
4. Advise on improvements in the LTCCP outcome process for 2006/07.

Statutory Requirements of the Local Government Act 2002

The Council is required under Section 93 of the Local Government Act 2002, to produce and regularly update a Long Term Council Community Plan (LTCCP). The LTCCP is a document which describes community outcomes for each Council's district or region and explains what activities the Council will undertake to achieve those outcomes.

Section 91 of the Local Government Act 2002 allows each Council to decide for itself the process that will be used for the identification of community outcomes. However, the Act does specify that the Council must take certain steps before finally deciding on that process, such as identifying other organisations and groups capable of influencing the identification and promotion of the outcomes, seeking agreement of the groups and organisations to the process and, ensuring the public contribute to the identification of the outcomes.

For the 2004/05 year, the Christchurch City Council decided to develop a transitional plan. The Council was not required to use the full process until 2006/07. The Council agreed that the identification of the community outcomes would largely draw on previous research and consultation with the Christchurch community. The Council also decided establish four working groups at staff level, one for each well being area i.e. a Social, Cultural, Economic and Environmental streams.

Evaluation Process

The evaluation involved a review of the background information on the Local Government Act 2002, a review of previous Committee and Council reports in regard to the community outcomes process and detailed interviews with some members of the Community Plans Special Committee and individual staff involved in the community outcomes process.

Main Findings

1. To identify where and how the 2004/05 process met the purposes set out in section 91 of the Local Government Act 2002.

The 2004/05 LTCCP is essentially a 'transitional plan' and the Council did not intend to fully meet the purposes set out in section 91. Therefore, it is not surprising that the information gathered from Committee and Council reports and the feedback from interviews suggests that the purposes set out in section 91 of the Local Government Act 2002 were not fully achieved.

However, there is some indication that these purposes were partially achieved and that the 2004/05 process identified potential steps, methods and resources required to meet the purposes in section 91.

It appears that the 2004/05 process met the purposes of a 'transitional plan'.

2. To identify where and how the 2004/05 process compiled with the process set out in section 91 of the Local Government Act 2002.

As stated above, the 2004/05 LTCCP is a 'transitional plan'. Therefore, it is not surprising that the process used did not follow the full processes set out in section 91 of the local Government Act 2002.

The findings from the evaluation indicate that the social stream did attempt to identify social agencies that were capable of influencing either the identification or the promotion of community outcomes, and seek their agreement to the process and to the relationship of the process to any existing and related plans through the Community Mapping Project. The findings also suggest that although there was no intention to engage the general public in the community outcomes process, some target consultation was undertaken by the social and cultural streams and also by the Mayor through consultation meetings and a pilot website.

3. The Terms of Reference for the evaluation included to identify the specific components of the 2004/05 process perceived to produce positive outcomes or negative outcomes.

Evidence from the review of Committee and Council reports and feedback from interviews, suggest that the positive outcomes from the 2004/05 community outcomes process include:

- The community outcomes process produced a useful document with broad outcomes that are intended to influence Council activities.
- The Community Mapping Project established solid partnerships for future work.
- The engagement process with social agencies, community groups and elected members worked well.
- The review of previous consultation and research provided useful information.
- The input of staff in producing the final document worked well.
- The elected member workshops identified some key challenges for Council.
- The use of existing relationships and networks.

Evidence from the review of Committee and Council reports and feedback from interviews suggest that there were no specific negative outcomes from the 2004/05 community outcomes process as the Council did achieve their expectations of a 'transitional plan'. However, the 2004/05 process also allowed the Council to identify some areas for improvement for the full process required for 2006/07.

4. Advise on improvements in the LTCCP outcome process for 2006/07.

Evidence from the review of Committee and Council reports and feedback from interviews suggest that the improvements in the LTCCP outcome process for 2006/07 include:

- To ensure key agencies involvement in the development and implementation of the process.
- To encourage the involvement of people such as Maori, the public, elected members and Council units throughout the community outcomes process.
- To improve the time frame of the community outcomes process so priorities and objectives can be set within the Council units.
- To establish one area of work at staff level which will integrate the four streams of work.
- To incorporate the community outcomes into Council work, in particular, all Council consultation and documents.

Committee

- Recommendation:**
1. That the Council note that the 2004/05 community outcomes process was successful in developing a transitional plan within the timeframe and consultation limitations.
 2. That the submissions on the 2004/05 plan that provided feedback on the Long Term Council Community Plan process be analysed and noted.

3. That more attention be given to ensure alignment (both governance and management) of Council policies, programmes and budgets to the community outcomes.
4. That the Council adopt strategic priorities and decision-making policies to allow the Council to compare the effectiveness of proposals and address the key challenges.
5. That the Council develop creative ways to ensure that the community can engage in the 2006/07 community outcomes process and discuss outcomes/priorities.
6. That the process for developing community outcomes ensure elected members are appropriately involved.
7. That the Long Term Council Community Plan process be a mechanism for building ongoing relationships (not simply based around the task of developing community outcomes) to ensure that agencies are involved in identifying and implementing community outcomes.