



What we do

This activity covers the functions of:

- Policy development
- Planning implementation
- Quality assurance and performance.

Policy Development

- A core function is developing and maintaining the District Plan, one of the key documents Council has to manage and control land use and subdivision in the district.
- Advocacy on behalf of the community on local, regional and national environmental issues is another core function of this team. This generally translates to providing advice on draft national policy statements, national environmental standards, regional policy statements and regional plans.
- Responding to regional and central government policy proposals where these affect land use and resource management within the district.
- Provision of a duty planning service for the community to help understand how the district Plan may impact on activities on land.
- Provision of strategic policy advice in relation to the environment, land management and subdivision, to elected members of Council.

Planning implementation

- Provide planning advice to customers to determine whether consent is required, and the type of information required for lodgement with Council.
- Processing consents (land use and subdivision).
- Processing Notices of Requirements and outline plans for designated public works or areas of land.

Quality Assurance and Performance

- Monitor and report 'The State of the Environment' within the district every 5 years.
- Monitoring of compliance for conditions of consent.
- Take enforcement actions to ensure compliance is achieved.
- Develop business improvements to optimise the performance of the policy development and planning implementation teams, based on the outcomes of monitoring, compliance and regular reviews of national best practice.

Why we do it

- Administer the District Plan and process consent applications to ensure the quality of the environment is balanced with the need for sustainable economic growth to be enabled in accordance with the aims of the Rotorua Sustainable Economic Growth Strategy.
- To ensure sustainable management of natural and physical resources and to manage adverse effects.
- To guide and enhance the quality of the natural and physical environment as the district develops.

“It’s a microcosm of the best natural features and scenery to be found anywhere in the country”


Major projects

Over the course of the Long-term Plan a number of projects will be undertaken to change levels of service, catch up on deferred works or to provide for additional growth or demands. These projects include:


What is planned?	Why?	Background	Costs	Other options considered
District Plan Review	It is a legal requirement to review the District Plan every 10 years	The review commenced in late 2007. Following extensive consultation with elected members and the public a draft was released in April 2011	The plan will be notified in the first quarter of the 2012/13 financial year (August). Council then has to make decisions on submissions and resolve any appeals to the Environment Court. Council is aiming for an operative date of 2014/15 financial year.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None. It is likely this will be the last full scale review of the District Plan. Legislative amendments encourage a shift to rolling review of plan parts on an 'as-needed' basis.
State of the Environment Report 2012 and 2017	It is a legal requirement to report on the state of the environment every 5 years	The first State of the Environment report was produced in 2002 and again in 2007. Council has recently moved to a web-based output, shifting from the traditional approach of producing hardcopy reports	The majority of the 2012 report will be completed in the 2011/12 period, with regular website updates during 2012/13. The 2017 report will most likely commence 2016/17.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring requirements of the Resource Management Act are being reviewed, with findings expected some time during the 2012 calendar year.
Rotorua Spatial Plan	To meet community requests for a clear vision for how and where the district is going to grow over the next 30 years	There are two main prompts. The first is the spatial planning reforms that began with the establishment of the Auckland 'super city', the other is the raft of comments made on the draft District Plan and the difficulty in being able to clearly see where district growth is being directed	The plan will be completed in 2012/13 in close alignment with the District Plan review process. Subsequent reviews will be linked with the long term planning triennial review milestones at 2015/16 and 2018/19.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spatial planning is a topic of discussion at the local, regional and national levels for areas outside Auckland. Council commits to doing only what is required to meet community expectations and future legal requirements.

Measuring our achievements

Council will measure its achievements towards the objectives by monitoring the following set of performance measures and targets:

Community outcome	How council contributes	Level of service (What we will do)	Performance measure	Performance targets					
				Current performance 2010/11	Data source	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2016 to 2022
 Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By implementation of planning management controls to assist in improving the natural and physical environment, and in achieving environmental respect. By providing a land use planning tool that assists in achieving environmental respect, and providing planning management controls to assist in improving natural and physical environment. 	Timely and consistent processing of resource consent applications.	100% of land use consents processed with statutory timeframe of 20 days. 40% on or before day 10 60% on or before day 15 100% on or before day 20	99%	Ozone job tracking/reports	100%	100%	100%	100%
			100% of subdivision consents processed with statutory timeframe of 20 days. 10% on or before day 10 25% on or before day 15 100% on or before day 20	97%	Ozone job tracking/reports	100%	100%	100%	100%
			Council is ranked within the top 20 for timeliness of consent processing.	New measure	Ministry of Environment biennial survey	Achieved	N/A	Achieved	N/A
			Percentage of customers very/fairly satisfied with the resource consent process.	New measure	Customer survey	Obtain baseline	Net 5% increase on previous year's actual	Net 5% increase on previous year's actual	Net 5% increase on previous year's actual
		Prompt responses to complaints about planning and environmental issues.	100% of complaints responded to within 24 hours of receipt.	100%	Complaints database	100%	100%	100%	100%

Measuring our achievements cont.

Community outcome	How council contributes	Level of service (What we will do)	Performance measure	Performance targets					
				Current performance 2010/11	Data source	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2016 to 2022
 <p>Prosperous Economy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> By implementation of a planning framework that supports the local economy, recognises and provides for quality development, and celebrates and promotes the district's uniqueness. By providing an environmental planning framework that is inclusive for Iwi aspirations, recognises the spiritual and cultural connection of Maori, and recognises and provides for this in policy decisions. 	Develop and maintain a District Plan which follows good city design principles and creates a sustainable environment for people to live, work, play and invest.	Rotorua District Plan kept current, and progressed through notification, hearings, and decision phase.	New measure	District Plan timelines	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved



Issues/Risks/Negative impacts

Potential negative effects associated with undertaking the activity are described below along with actions undertaken to mitigate the effect. Effects from the activity can influence the social, cultural, environmental and economic wellbeing of the community/district. The negative effect could be physical or a perception.

Issue/Risk/Negative impact	Action Plan
Possible judicial review of policy decision-making processes.	Robust legal review and consultation process to form a part of key policy decision making processes
Appeals lodged against decisions to the Environment Court.	As above.
Changes in legislation that will have resultant effects on levels of services provided.	Ensure opportunities are taken to influence regional and national policy making through submission phases, and where necessary appeal provisions.
Expenses associated with the high degree of consultation that must be undertaken for policy development projects.	Continue the move towards electronic and web-based consultation to reduce production costs.

Asset management

There are no significant land or building assets in the planning area.

Activity assumptions used in providing this activity

This activity plan has been prepared in accordance with Council's set of Significant Forecasting Assumptions, in particular the growth assumptions and the impact of legislative change. The other assumption that the activity plan is based on is that there will be a significant increased requirement for consultants and legal advice during the period in which the District Plan goes through notification, decisions, hearings and appeals phases. This affects the 2012/13 to 2014/15 part of the Long-term Plan.



Planning Services - Funding Impact Statement

	Annual Plan	Long-term Plan Budget >>									
	Budget 2011/12 (\$000)	2012/13 (\$000)	2013/14 (\$000)	2014/15 (\$000)	2015/16 (\$000)	2016/17 (\$000)	2017/18 (\$000)	2018/19 (\$000)	2019/20 (\$000)	2020/21 (\$000)	2021/22 (\$000)
General Rates, uniform annual general charges, rates penalties	3,009	2,852	2,971	2,912	2,782	2,831	2,890	2,964	3,051	3,133	3,219
Targeted rates (other than a targeted rate for water supply)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Subsidies and grants for operating purposes	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fees, charges and targeted rates for water supply	355	254	258	352	364	374	375	377	390	403	416
Internal charges and overheads recovered	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Local authorities fuel tax, fines, infringement fees and other receipts	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total operating funding (A)	3,368	3,111	3,234	3,269	3,151	3,210	3,270	3,346	3,446	3,541	3,640
Applications of operating funding											
Payments to staff and suppliers	2,204	1,895	1,955	1,942	1,756	1,813	1,854	1,899	1,960	2,014	2,072
Finance costs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Internal charges and overheads applied	1,164	1,216	1,278	1,327	1,395	1,397	1,415	1,447	1,485	1,527	1,568
Other operating funding applications	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total applications of operating funding (B)	3,368	3,111	3,233	3,269	3,151	3,210	3,269	3,346	3,445	3,541	3,640
Surplus (deficit) of operating funding (A - B)	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-
Sources of capital funding											
Subsidies and grants for capital expenditure	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Development and financial contributions	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Increase (decrease) in debt	-	-	(1)	-	-	-	(1)	-	(1)	-	-
Gross proceeds from sale of assets	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lump sum contributions	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total sources of capital funding (C)	-	-	(1)	-	-	-	(1)	-	(1)	-	-
Applications of capital funding											
Capital expenditure											
- to meet additional demand	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
- to improve the level of service	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
- to replace existing assets	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Increase (decrease) in reserves	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Increase (decrease) in investments	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total applications of capital funding (D)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Surplus (deficit) of capital funding (C - D)	-	-	(1)	-	-	-	(1)	-	(1)	-	-
Funding balance ((A - B) + (C - D))	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0