

Democratic Process

LTP Council Workshop

10 August 2023

The Democratic Process Activity

Governance

- Elections (including Representation review)
- Council Meetings
- Council procedural documents (Standing Orders)
- Elected Member Support
- Chief Executive and Executive leadership team support
- Legal

Strategy, Policy and Engagement

- Strategy and advocacy
 - *Climate Change*
- Corporate planning
 - *SOIs – Economic development*
- Bylaws and policies

Community engagement and activation

- Consultation and engagement
- Grants and funding
- Activation

Strategic priorities and community outcomes

Most relevant strategic priorities:

- Meeting the changing needs of our rangitahi as part of our wider population, which is growing older and more diverse
- Enabling the housing, health, security and social infrastructure our city needs to grow
- Ensuring Council leadership and delivery is credible and effective, building community trust and engagement.

Key issues for the Democratic process activity:

- Changing demography, needs and expectations of population
- Low satisfaction with opportunity to influence decision making – 18%
- Need to grow governance skills and reputation



Current Budget

	Annual Plan 2023/2024 (\$000)	
<u>Operational</u>		
Targeted rates revenue	267	4%
General rates revenue	6,766	95%
Other revenue (excluding capital subsidy revenue)	85	1%
	<u>7,118</u>	
Operational expenditure (excluding depreciation)	7,097	
Depreciation expenditure	21	
	<u>7,118</u>	
<u>Capital</u>		
Capital subsidy revenue	0	
Capital expenditure		
• to improve the level of service	0	
• to replace existing assets	0	
	<u>0</u>	
Staff levels (excludes Casuals and Elected Members):		
FTE	21	
Head Count	22	

Maintaining levels of service

- **Governance**

- *Increased work from Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 requests*
- *Privacy Act issues*
- *Council meetings every week- small Governance team/ tight turn around*
- *Public disconnect with Council Election process*

Maintaining levels of service

- **Community engagement**
- Satisfaction with opportunities to be involved in the democratic process is low – 18/19%, well below the target 50%
- Increased community division is impacting health and safety requirements
- Local Government Reform wants Council to move in a direction of more intensive types of engagement such as participatory democracy, citizens panels and participatory budgeting
- Increased resource is needed to provide more ability to support community korero – 0.5FTE and increased event budget
- Estimated cost \$75,000

Opportunities for cost savings

- Grants and funding:
 - Community wellbeing fund – Council could determine to reduce this fund if necessary – Between \$65,000 and \$165,000
 - Reduction in levels of funding to one or more of the grants to external orgs

Proposals for new or lifted level of service

Welcoming Communities Programme

Council is required to deliver Welcoming Communities for Invercargill – There is no associated Central Government funding

The proportion of the population who are newcomers to the region is increasing (Migrants, refugees, people from other areas of NZ). At least 0.5FTE is needed to enable increased support for newcomers and welcoming initiatives.

Estimated cost approx. \$50,000

Proposals for new or lifted level of service

Climate change

Council has asked for greater focus on climate change. Three areas of investment are suggested:

1. Delivery of Annual Carbon Baseline - \$10,000 first year, increasing over time
2. Internal contestable fund for carbon mitigation actions/ offsetting – \$200,000 annual fund. Option to return unspent funds to reduce future rates or purchase offsets
3. Investment in further modelling to understand impact of coastal inundation - \$ not known at this time. \$75,000 contribution??

Measuring performance

Levels of Service

The overarching goal of the Democratic Process Activity is to support the implementation of the Local Government Act 2002 within the Invercargill district. This Activity underpins the legislative compliance aspects of Council decision-making.

The Democratic Process Activity preserves the character of our city through ensuring that Council's decision-making processes meet community expectations for opportunities to participate. The activity embraces innovation and change and enhances our city through encouraging involvement in activities and events supported by the Community Wellbeing Fund.

KPIs

Percentage of residents survey respondents who are satisfied or greater with the opportunities Council provides for community involvement in decision making (propose reducing baseline)

Number of activities or events supported by the Community Wellbeing Fund

Council levels of GHG emissions declining or offset over time

Maintained or increasing voter participation in elections