Topic: Wellbeing indicators and targets for the LTP 2024-2034

Issue: Whether or not to include targets in the framework for monitoring *Rautaki oranga hapori Community wellbeing strategy*.

The new structure for framing the City's proposed strategic direction will require a set of indicators for monitoring the community wellbeing outcomes. The main purpose of this framework is to help us understand how the city is doing in the four wellbeing goals (see Table 1 below). This information will inform Council decision-making.

Table 1: The 'four wellbeings' (in the Local Government Act) and the goals proposed for the LTP 2024-2034.

Oranga ohaoha Economic wellbeing	Whāinga 1: He tāone auaha, he tāone tiputipu Goal 1: An innovative and growing city
Oranga Ahurea Cultural wellbeing	Whāinga 2: He tāone whakaihiihi, tapatapahi ana Goal 2: A creative and exciting city
Oranga pāpori Social wellbeing	Whāinga 3: He hapori tūhonohono, he hapori haumaru Goal 3: A connected and safe community
Oranga taiao Environmental wellbeing	Whāinga 4: He tāone toitū, he tāone manawaroa Goal 4: A sustainable and resilient city

Alongside the set of indicators, Council could also choose to endorse and monitor a series of targets that relate to the strategic goals. This paper describes three options for elected members to consider.

Excluded from scope: Measuring council operational performance.

Indicators for monitoring wellbeing are not performance indicators of council services or activities. Nevertheless, it is widely acknowledged that the delivery of council services contributes to community wellbeing. Operational indicators are presented in reports to Council (through Committees).

Context: The framework was developed with consideration of the national Living Standards Framework, availability of data, and the relevance of data to our goals.

Wellbeing indicators are available at a national level, with some possible comparison by different population groups in our city (e.g. ethnicity, sex, and age) and with New Zealand as a whole. The Living Standards Framework (LSF) provides a comprehensive series of indicators across 12 domains to inform and advise on progress in living standards. Ngā Tūtohu Aotearoa – Indicators Aotearoa New Zealand provides a holistic view of wellbeing and sustainable development.

We have selected indicators for the framework to help us understand how the city is doing in the four wellbeing goals at a city level. Our proposed indicators below will continue to change and be refined throughout the LTP process.

Table 2: Draft indicators (as at November 2023)

Indicator	Reflects wellbeing category			
	Economic	Cultural	Social	Environmental
Access to green spaces			✓	✓
Active and public transport	✓		✓	✓
Crime victimisation			✓	
Greenhouse gas emissions	✓		✓	✓
Gross domestic product per capita	✓		✓	✓
Highest qualification	✓		✓	
Household crowding	✓		✓	
Housing affordability	✓		✓	
Median annual earning	✓		✓	
Native bird counts				✓
Number of jobs	✓		✓	
Participation in physical activity		✓	✓	
Participation in the arts		✓	✓	
Participation in volunteering work		✓	✓	
People who speak te reo Maori		✓		
Perception of Palmerston North a welcoming and friendly city		✓	✓	
Perception of safety	✓		✓	
Survival of new businesses	✓			
Voter turnout for local elections			✓	
Trust in PNCC*			✓	
Waste to landfill				✓
Waste diverted from landfill				✓
Water quality of the Manawatū River				✓
Youth (15–24 years) not in Employment, Education, or Training	✓		✓	

* While Trust in PNCC is included here in the proposed framework, we note that there are a range of further indicators that focus on the Council rather than the wider community. Staff are considering how these indicators could also be included in Dashboard reporting.

Options: Council could monitor indicators related to the wellbeing goals either with or without specified targets.

Table 3: Overview of options for monitoring community wellbeing

Option 1 – Monitor and report on the indicator framework without any targets.
The Draft indicators are listed in Table 2.
Option 2 – Monitor and report on the indicator framework with a range of specified targets across the strategic goals.
The Draft indicators are listed in Table 2. Should Council wish to endorse a range of targets to further explain the strategic goals, staff have developed seven targets, listed in Table 4 below, for consideration.
Option 3 – Monitor and report on the indicator framework with one target for each strategic goal (status quo, but with revised targets).
The Draft indicators are listed in Table 2. Should Council wish to endorse one target per goal, staff have developed four targets, listed in Table 5 below, for consideration.

Option 1: Monitor and report on the indicator framework without any targets

Description:

The City Dashboard and city wellbeing indicator framework is now well-established. Staff will continue to refine and develop this wellbeing reporting and bring information and analysis of city indicators to Council through a variety of mechanisms. The proposed indicator framework will be included in *Rautaki oranga hapori Community wellbeing strategy* for consultation through the LTP.

Advantages:

Option 1 provides a coherent process for monitoring our city's wellbeing. The four proposed goals provide a comprehensive description of aspirations for the city.

Disadvantages:

While the proposed goals include outcomes and objectives, there would be no quantified expression of these aspirations.

Option 2 – Monitor and report on the indicator framework alongside a range of specified targets across the strategic goals.

Description

As for Option 1, staff will continue to refine and develop wellbeing reporting and bring information and analysis of city indicators to Council through a variety of mechanisms. The proposed indicator framework will be included in *Rautaki oranga hapori Community wellbeing strategy* for consultation through the LTP.

In addition, several targets would be agreed at the city level that:

a) Align with national and regional targets for committing council resources and seeking co-funding from national agencies and programmes. E.g. national greenhouse gas emissions budgets, national waste strategy targets, and regional land transport plan targets for active and public transport.

b) Focus the attention of relevant internal and external stakeholders to achieve a common goal for the city. E.g. participation in physical activity, perception of Palmerston North as a welcoming and friendly city.

If elected members wish to set targets, staff propose they are based on the following S-M-A-R-T criteria:

- Specific – i.e. are outcomes that are relevant to community outcomes / wellbeing.
- Measurable – i.e. there is information available such as census and Annual Residents' Surveys.
- Achievable – i.e. target set is not over-ambitious or aspirational (i.e. stretch targets) and considers resources allocated to achieving them.
- Realistic and relevant – i.e. within reach and meaningful as community outcomes / wellbeing.
- Timely – i.e. defined over a period, such the electoral cycle, regional plan timeframes, or LTP term.

Table 4: Potential targets to reflect the proposed wellbeing goals of the 2024-2034 LTP

Targets	Reflects wellbeing category			
	Economic	Cultural	Social	Environmental
1. **By 2030, 30% of people travel to work and education using active transport, and 10% use public transport*** Explanation: The 2018 Census found that the share for active transport use was 15.2%, and public transport was 4.4%. The 2023 census data is not yet available.	✓		✓	✓
2. **By 2034, there is a 35% reduction in citywide greenhouse gas emissions from our 2016 baseline** Explanation: This proposed target is based on an overall citywide reduction of 36% of greenhouse gas emissions by 2035 in line with national emissions budgets (to meet the 2050 national target). As of the year ending 2022, our citywide emissions were 11.3% higher than our 2016 baseline.	✓		✓	✓
3. **By 2034, there is a 1.6% average annual increase in GDP per capita** Explanation: This proposed target is based on the 20-year average increase in GDP per capita for Palmerston North. The national 20-year average increase for New Zealand was 1.4%. For the year ending June 2023, annual GDP per capita grew by 0.9%.	✓		✓	✓
4. **By 2034, 93% of young people and 75% of adults are physically active** Explanation: This Active NZ Survey measure is defined as 'participation in play, active recreation or sport in the previous seven days. This proposed target is based on the previous New Zealand average over five years for young people, and New Zealand average (+ 2%) for adults. Palmerston North's rates in 2022 were 85% for young persons, and 73% for adults.		✓	✓	
5. **By 2034, 67% of people feel that Palmerston North is a welcoming and friendly city** Explanation: For year 2022/2023, 51% of respondents to the Residents' Survey agree with this statement.		✓	✓	
6. **By 2034, 50% of voters turnout for our local elections** Explanation: For the 2022 local body election in Palmerston North, voter turnout was 37%.			✓	

7.	**By 2030, there is a 30% reduction in waste disposal per capita*** Explanation: The Aotearoa Waste Strategy has set this target for the whole country.			✓

*Note: These targets are based on national and regional targets and so the timeframe proposed is within the timeframe of the LTP rather than 2034.

Advantages

A range of targets would provide a further, quantified, expression of the strategic goals proposed by elected members for the LTP. This option signals that there is not a single indicator for each goal, and that each aspect of wellbeing is complex – i.e. no one indicator captures the 'essence' of economic, cultural, community, or environmental wellbeing.

Disadvantages

Identification of targets could potentially provide an overly simplistic expression of elected members' aspirations. The desciption of the goals include a range of outcomes and objectives, and details would not be captured by targets.

Option 3 – Monitor and report on the indicator framework alongside four targets, one for each strategic goal (status quo, but with revised targets).

This option is to select one target to represent each goal, as in the current LTP strategic framework.

Table 5: Potential targets to reflect the proposed wellbeing goals of the 2024-2034 LTP (one per goal)

Goal 1: By 2034, there is a 1.6% average annual increase in GDP per capita Explanation: This proposed target is based on the 20-year average increase in GDP per capita for Palmerston North. The national 20-year average increase for New Zealand was 1.4%. For year ending June 2023, annual GDP per capita grew by 0.9% for Palmerston North.
Goal 2: By 2030, 93% of young people and 75% of adults are physically active Explanation: This Active NZ Survey measure is defined as 'participation in play, active recreation or sport in the previous seven days. This proposed target is based on the previous New Zealand average over five years for young people, and New Zealand average (+ 2%) for adults. Palmerston North's rates in 2022 were 85% for young persons, and 73% for adults.
Goal 3: By 2034, 67% of people feel that Palmerston North is a welcoming and friendly city Explanation: For year 2022/2023, 51% of respondents to the Residents' Survey agree with this statement.
Goal 4: By 2034, there is a 35% reduction in citywide greenhouse gas emissions from our 2016 baseline Explanation: This proposed target is based on an overall citywide reduction of 36% of greenhouse gas emissions by 2035 in line with national emissions budgets (to meet the 2050 national target). As of the year ending 2022, our citywide emissions were 11.3% higher than our 2016 baseline.

Note: these are a selection of the targets described in Option 2, but reordered by goal.

Advantages

A range of targets would provide a further, quantified, expression of the strategic goals proposed by elected members for the LTP.

Disadvantages

A one-target per goal framework would signal that each goal can be reduced in some way to a 'headline' target. The difficulties of this approach have been experienced and reflected on already by elected members in this LTP process. For example, while the current 'jobs' and 'creative cities'

targets do capture some elements of goals one and two, respectively, they fail to reflect a broader understanding each aspects of wellbeing.

There is no recommendation.

Elected members have had opportunities to discuss goals, indicators and targets at two workshops. Whether or not to include targets as an additional expression of the strategic intent requires a political decision. Staff note that while there are three options described here, there are potentially many other variations that could be selected, including varying the numeric targets, varying the nature of targets themselves, or choosing a different number of targets (other than the no target/ seven targets/ four targets options described here).