

7. Stocktaking Existing Plans and Strategies and Linking to Your LTCCP

Introduction

Your LTCCP links to a variety of other plans and strategies ranging from international, to national (such as the New Zealand Transport Strategy) to your other plans and strategies (recreation strategies, Regional Land Transport Strategies and the like). Once these linkages have been established, plans should be assessed to determine what the status of these plans is and what should be picked up in the LTCCP process. An example of the interlinkages is shown in the table below.

This stocktake process is one of the key things you can do to promote integrated decision-making (the second cardinal virtue).

International Strategies	National Strategies	Regional Strategies	Community & District Strategies	Implementation Strategies / Policies
Kyoto Protocol	NZ Transport Strategy	Regional Land Transport Strategy	Recreation Policies	Asset or Activity Management Plans
	Sustainable Cities and Sustainable Development Action Programme	Regional Council Land Water and Coastal Strategies	District / Urban Growth Strategies	IS Strategies Business Unit Plans
	National Energy Efficiency and Conservation Strategies	Regional Economic Development Strategies	District / City Plans	Public Health Risk Management Plans
	NZ Biodiversity Strategy	Regional Growth Strategies	Arts & Culture Strategy	Water and Sanitary Assessments
	NZ Waste Management Strategy	Civil Defence and Emergency Management	Community Outcomes	Stormwater Catchment Plans
	E – Government Strategy		Existing LTCCP	Reserve Management Plans Organisation Capability and Development Plan

Why is the stocktake and linkage process important?

Establishing the linkages between the planning framework and stocktaking the strategies and plans provides your local authority with a sense of what is relevant and why.

It is important to have a clear sense of the position your local authority has taken on issues of importance. Such issues might include: service levels; future priorities; modes of service delivery; and the elected members' judgement of your local authority's role. Ideally the LTCCP process should engage decision-makers to consider the appropriateness of this suite of strategies in an integrated way. Considering these strategies or positions forms a critical element and challenge for stakeholders and the elected members in the LTCCP process. The LTCCP ultimately reflects the degree to which decision-makers have considered and acted upon this information and supporting analysis.

A stocktake also helps development of the LTCCP by:

- informing the development of community outcomes, associated priorities and indicators of community progress
- highlighting any lessons from other strategies and plans, and
- avoiding duplication (especially where issues have already been consulted on and the intent is to place these in the plan as 'non-negotiables').

How does the stocktake and linkage process relate to the legislation?

There is no legislative requirement to undertake this process. But the stocktake is consistent with the purpose of the LTCCP in terms of providing a basis for integrated decision-making and coordination of the resources of the local authority.

The stocktake process also provides clarity at the outset over those decisions that have been made following quasi-judicial processes (such as the district plan) which the LTCCP on its own cannot change (although subsequent change may be signalled). This makes elected members aware of exactly what decisions they can and cannot make in the LTCCP process.

What's involved in establishing the links between strategies, plans and the LTCCP and doing the stocktake?

1. Identify all your strategies and plans and any external strategies that are relevant.
2. Set all those plans within a framework that shows the linkages between them. There are some very good examples within the 2006 LTCCPs.
3. Establish a template for reviewing the document as part of the stocktake. The template below represents a good starting point.
4. The results of this process should be workshopped with elected members as the results help establish links clearly and inform decisions about scope.

TITLE	QUESTIONS
Objectives	What are the objectives? Do they align with community outcomes and how the elected members sees your local authority promoting the outcomes?
Definable actions	What actions were recommended/adopted as a result of the strategy
Status	Is the strategy still current? What process was used to determine the strategy? In particular was the process quasi-judicial in nature. Who approved the strategy (e.g. was it a previous council)? Does it cover the period of the LTCCP?
Achievement	What actions in the strategy have been completed? What actions remain undone, and how central are they to the achievement of the strategy?
Links to the LTCCP	Does the strategy influence levels of service? Was the strategy incorporated into the previous LTCCP? Why or why not?
Funding/costing	Was costing and timing incorporated into the strategy? Are these still appropriate? Why or why not? Are there linkages to the revenue and financing policy?

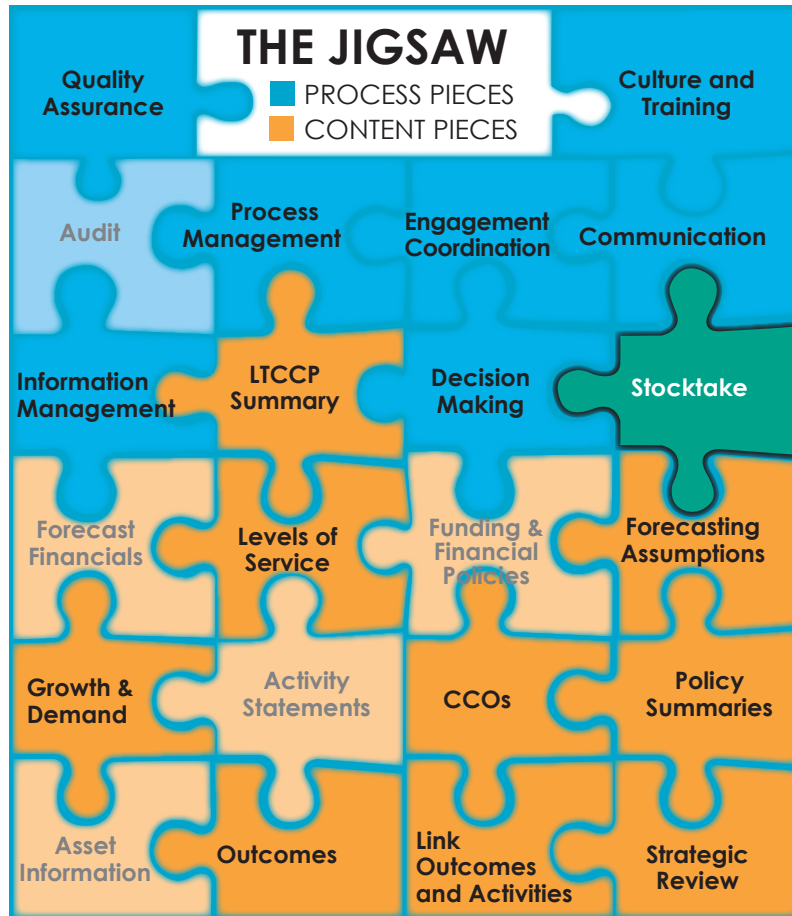
When should this process be done?

The process of establishing a planning framework and taking stock of plans and strategies would ideally be done as part of the initiating the LTCCP process.

Who should do this process?

The process should be conducted by the members of the LTCCP project team or (in smaller local authorities) by someone with the corporate knowledge to be able to identify all the relevant material.

What other processes are linked to the stocktake?



What areas of weakness were identified in the 2006 LTCCPs?

The lack of integrated thinking in some LTCCPs suggests a planning framework was either not clearly articulated or was not used internally.

Inadequate consideration of the relevance of existing information in existing strategies, policies and plans.

What good practice information is available?

There is no single 'right' way to align your planning frameworks. Most local authorities have produced a graphic showing how their plans and policies align.