

12. Strategic Review and Discussion

Introduction

The LTCCP is, or should be, a mechanism for engaging the community in the debate around the issues that are central to promoting their wellbeing. This section discusses what was one of the most overlooked parts of the LTCCP – the identification and discussion of these key issues for the community.

While the identification of these issues will be strongly influenced by the community outcomes process (the community's definition of wellbeing) and the results of the stocktake (how plans all line up). Some local authorities may even combine a review and the stocktake into a single step. But the review goes further in that it allows members to set an overall direction for the local authority and highlight the things that they as a council will be trying to achieve in the LTCCP.

Why is the strategic review and discussion so important?

The strategic review and discussion:

- places the remainder of the plan in its proper context by highlighting the key trends and issues that the local authority faces and why these are important
- helps explain what 'philosophy' your local authority has for managing these issues. For example, some local authorities facing depopulation pressures have based their selection of activities around a need to provide a full range of economic and cultural opportunity to retain and attract people to their communities
- helps the public identify what it is your local authority is actually placing 'on the table' as the basis for engagement
- acts as a pointer to other sections of the plan that may be important, and
- may well be the basis for much of the summary.

How does the strategic review and discussion relate to the legislation?

There is no direct statutory requirement to include such a discussion in the LTCCP. However some of the principles around transparent decision-making are very relevant.

Who should be involved in preparing summaries?

These are decisions that elected members need to make. The actual discussion in the LTCCP should be prepared by the project manager, in consultation with senior managers.

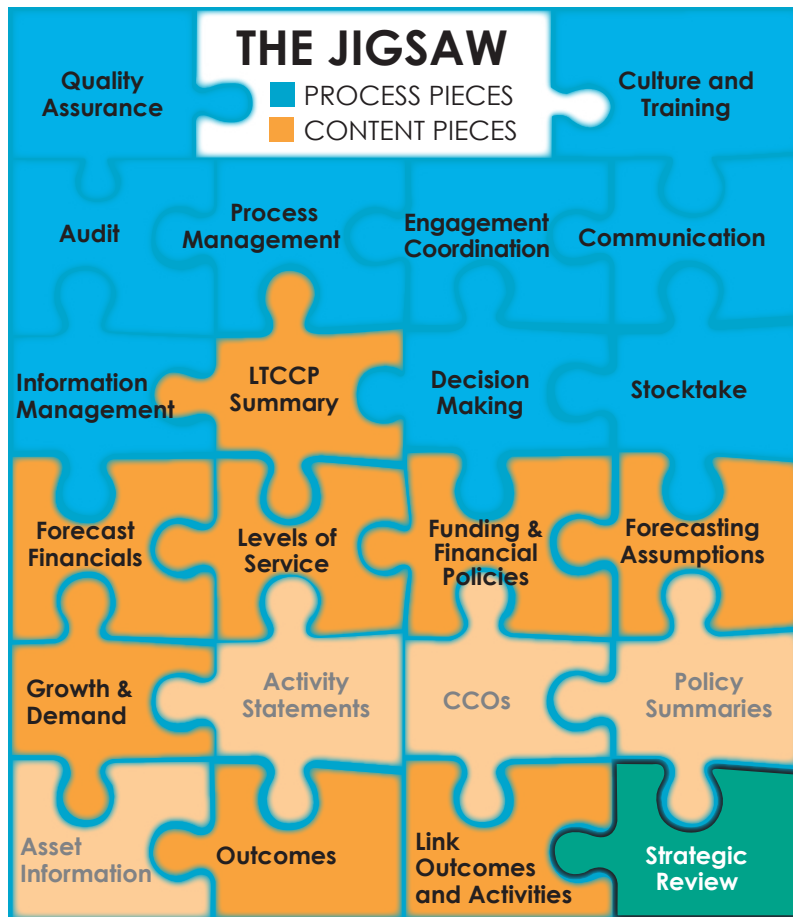
When should this be prepared?

Ideally elected members would have this discussion shortly after taking office and this could be revisited as results of the stocktake and the community outcomes process are coming to hand.

Where should this discussion appear in the LTCCP?

At the front.

What other processes is the strategic review closely linked with?



What were the weaknesses apparent with the 2006 discussions?

Some LTCCPs were missing this context (especially at the statement of proposal stage)

Some appeared to be the thing that was 'done last' and did not emphasise some of the key issues.

What good practice information is available?

SOGM and NAMS, 2007, *Performance Management Frameworks: Your Side of the Deal*