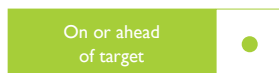


## How we performed against the first year of the Long-Term Plan (LTP) 2012/22

The tables below reflect the progress of our key work during 2012/13. Each action/project is linked to the strategic objectives and priorities set in the LTP. The progress at the end of the financial year against each action/project has been represented by:



### Strategic Objective:

A leaner, more customer focused organisation.

2012/13 Action/project	Background	Progress
<b>PRIORITY 1: Ensure continued quality in the democratic processes by:</b>		

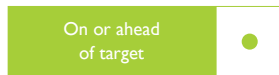
Providing sound and legally correct advice	The Council is under a duty to comply with a wide range of legislation while fulfilling its various functions	●
<p><b>Progress comments:</b> Achievements indicate that high-quality and timely advice from the Legal Team has enabled Council officers to proceed with confidence. The judicious use of external legal advisers has assisted where necessary. Examples: Prosecutions have been successfully undertaken with the High Court granting an injunction in regard to the Kaikohe Hotel. Legally sound advice was provided in respect of the development of the Walls Bay Reserve Management Plan and the acquisition of the Lucy Elizabeth Williams Scenic Reserve.</p>		

Providing support for all Elected Members	Ensuring adequate information is provided to all Elected Members	●
<p><b>Progress comments:</b> In addition to the Council's formal meetings of Council and community boards a variety of workshops have been held to discuss the Council's Sustainable Growth Strategy, Kaitaia Water Supply, Bay of Islands Wastewater Scheme, Butler Road Bypass, Pou Herenga Tai-Coast to Coast Cycle Trail, Economic Development. Discussions have also taken place at both workshops and formal meetings to build stronger relationships with both the forestry and farming Industries, New Zealand Police, Northland Regional Council and New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA).</p>		

2012/13 Action/project	Background	Progress
<b>PRIORITY 2: Encourage community involvement in local government by:</b>		

Supporting the community boards in engaging with their local communities	To highlight the value community boards add to their communities	●
<p><b>Progress comments:</b> Council staff continued to publish regular media releases highlighting the value community boards add to their communities by way of grants allocated to community groups.</p>		

Supporting the community boards in engaging with their local communities	community board monthly meetings	●
<p><b>Progress comments:</b> The community boards continue to travel to various communities across the district to conduct their monthly meetings. Each meeting is advertised and members of the public are invited to speak to raise matters or listen to discussions throughout the meeting. Community boards also actively seek feedback from their communities regarding particular projects such as the Aquatic Feasibility Study.</p>		



2012/13 Action/project	Background	Progress
Keeping residents and ratepayers better informed about what the Council is doing and why	This information is captured through the annual community feedback survey	●
<p><b>Progress comments:</b> The level of community knowledge about Council remains on par with last year with 50% of respondents indicating they know a lot or a fair amount about Council and its activities. Residents aged 60 years and older are more likely to indicate that they know a lot about Council in general, while residents aged between 18 and 39 years are more likely to indicate that they do not know enough.</p>		

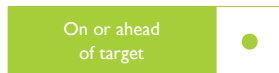
Reviewing the Council's website and the communication tools available to staff	Business case prepared for Far North District Council website and communication tools	●
<p><b>Progress comments:</b> Council staff began scoping a review of website content, as well as cost-effective options for communicating directly with ratepayers to reduce advertising costs. Further work will be done on this in 2013/14 and improvements will be rolled out as part of Council's Annual Plan consultation.</p>		

Providing publicity and encouraging participation in the 2013 triennial elections	Providing potential candidates knowledge on Local Government and Council strategic initiatives.	●
<p><b>Progress comments:</b> Three workshops held providing potential candidates with information relating to Council structure, election process, overview of the district, commitments etc. A total of 42 potential candidates attended the seminars. Council also published a Pre-Election Report about Council's finances and issues facing the organisation, to inform public debate during the pre-election period.</p>		

2012/13 Action/project	Background	Progress
<b>PRIORITY 3: To retain an awareness of developments in Central Government matters by:</b>		

Lobbying for or submitting in respect of changes to legislation affecting or supporting Council functions	Develop submissions from Council with appropriate stakeholders to highlight potential impacts on rural councils, support good initiatives or offer alternate solutions.	●
<p><b>Progress comments:</b> Continue to research The Parliament and agencies (e.g. Department of Conservation, Department of Internal Affairs, New Zealand Transport Agency) websites for changes to legislation, strategies, policies and national standards that will impact on Council.</p>		

Advocating for Government support for local initiatives and Council works and/or services	<p>A unitary authority is a single Local Government body that combines territorial and regional government functions within one geographical area.</p> <p>The Council and Te Taitokerau Iwi Leaders Forum formed a Better Local Government in the Far North Working Group in April 2012 to develop a unitary authority proposal for two unitary authorities in Northland that responds to law reforms aimed at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• localising governance of the Far North</li> <li>• refocusing local government on core business</li> <li>• tightening fiscal controls at councils</li> <li>• streamlining council reorganisation procedures</li> <li>• advancing Māori representation</li> </ul>	●
<p><b>Progress comments:</b> Our Council was the first Council in NZ to submit an application for a unitary authority under the new legislation. Compliance for an application saw a comprehensive document delivered to the Local Government Commission late last year: Council has continued to provide the Commission supplementary information to further support the application. One notable piece of additional information was the survey conducted across Northland that showed an 86% preference for two unitary authorities for Northland if the existing structure was to change.</p>		



2012/13 Action/project	Background	Progress
<b>PRIORITY 4: Ensure that Council secures best value from property holdings and office accommodation by:</b>		
Continuing to identify properties that can be offered to the Office of Treaty Settlements as part of the Crown's commitment to settling Treaty of Waitangi grievances, therefore promoting the development of Māori within the Far North. This process will be subject to appropriate consultation with the Office of Treaty Settlements and will involve the local communities concerned	The Office of Treaty Settlements has suggested a range of Council owned properties that may assist in providing cultural redress for Te Rarawa and Nga Takotou	●
<b>Progress comments:</b> The Council has agreed to transfer six properties to the Crown, at market valuation, for inclusion in the Te Runanga O te Rarawa's Deed of Settlement.		
Continuing to identify properties that are surplus to requirements and can be sold to generate funds for other strategic needs (subject to appropriate consultation where necessary with the local communities concerned)	Properties that can be sold to generate funds for other strategic needs (subject to appropriate consultation where necessary with the local communities concerned)	●
<b>Progress comments:</b> A number of these remain on the market for sale. There is little activity in the market for land parcels at this time.		
Continue to secure an economic return on properties available for lease or rental by commercial or other users.	Where a property is identified as available for lease or rental, the property will be offered to the widest range of potential users to obtain the best commercial return	●
<b>Progress comments:</b> Interest for the use of the buildings has been sought and commercial leases are in place where this has proved possible. The former Council service centre has been developed and now houses the Kaitia Education Campus. Old i-SITEs building requires a change in reserve status before the lease can be completed.		