

The Future for Local Government – Final Report

He piki tūranga, he piki kōtuku

Change and renewal is needed.

Central and local government need to come together to embrace change, and work in a more collaborative and aligned way to address complex challenges and support communities to thrive.

3

Increasing funding

- Central government makes a greater investment in local government through:
 - an annual transfer of revenue
 - significant funding to support local priorities, including place-based agreements
 - any agreed devolution of roles.
- Central government pays rates on Crown property.
- Central government develops a climate change fund.
- Cabinet is required to consider the funding impacts of proposed policy decisions on local government.
- Central government commits funding to support the future transition by:
 - resourcing a transition unit
 - supplementing local government funding to enable hapū/iwi to partner with councils
 - supporting councils to build their capability in Te Tiriti and te ao Māori, and delivering wellbeing.

4

Strengthening local democracy and leadership

- Local government invests in participatory and deliberative democracy.
- Extend the term for local elections.
- Adopt Single Transferable Vote as nationwide method for local elections.
- Lower the threshold for establishment of Māori wards.
- Enable Te Tiriti-based appointments to councils.
- Lower the voting age to 16 for local elections.
- Local and central government co-invest to build leadership capability.

1

Embedding local government's purpose and wellbeing focus

- Provide legislative protection for local government's purpose.
- Introduce new provisions to the Local Government Act (LGA):
 - councils set wellbeing goals each term with communities and hapū/iwi
 - central and local government commit to align wellbeing priorities and investment.

2

System renewal

- Councils lead a re-organisation of local government and a new operating model, with two structural options proposed.
- Establish a dedicated Crown department to facilitate a more effective relationship between local and central government, with a relational-based operating model to align priorities, roles, and funding. It would broker place-based agreements and support research, development, and innovation capability.
- Establish a new local government stewardship institution that provides oversight for a healthy local government system.

5

Growing authentic Te Tiriti-based partnerships

- Introduce new provisions in the LGA that:
 - explicitly recognise local government as a partner to Te Tiriti
 - require councils to develop partnership frameworks with hapū/iwi and Māori
 - require councils to develop their capability and capacity in Te Tiriti and te ao Māori.
- Central government reviews legislation to streamline requirements for local government engagement with Māori.