A REVIEW OF TRIPLE BOTTOM LINE REPORTING AND IMPLEMENTATION

Division Corporate Performance

Presenter Linda Weatherson, Director Corporate Performance

Purpose
To report on the Triple Bottom Line (TBL) program and its implementation. This includes a review of the Sustainability Assessments for Committee Reports (SACR).

Time Frame
There are no specific timeframes associated with this report.

Finance
There are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendation contained in this report.

Legal
No direct legal issues arise from the recommendations contained in the report.

Sustainability
The ‘pursuit of sustainability’ creates opportunities for growth and adaptation in many Council activities. Some of these will challenge accepted methods of delivering services and making decisions. This report directly addresses the Sustainability Assessment element of Council and Committee reports. The SACR process forms part of Council’s broader TBL program which in turn is a central organising principle of City Plan 2010 (refer p 3 of City Plan 2010). This report recommends the continuation and adaptation of the SACR process which will positively benefit Council in terms of its reputation for holistic, transparent and accountable decision making.

Connected and Accessible City
An integrated approach to sustainable development through a decision making process which includes social, economic and environmental considerations will facilitate a connected and accessible city.

Innovative and Vital Business City
An entrepreneurial approach to adapting sustainable development processes and business partnerships are fundamental to sustainable development. The TBL approach to decision making will include innovation.
Environmentally Responsible City

Sustainable development is intrinsically linked to environmental and ecological constraints. The TBL approach seeks to quantify and work within these.

Inclusive and Engaged City

A work-force engaged with the concept and application of sustainability is as important as including the community on the quest for sustainable development. The TBL program is an integral aspect of the journey.

Recommendation

That the Environment, Sustainability and Indigenous Affairs Committee endorse the following actions being undertaken in support of Triple Bottom Line implementation:

• continue to support sustainable development via the Triple Bottom Line approach to reporting and decision making, maintaining the undertaking of sustainability assessments as a mandatory requirement, but no longer requiring a physical attachment with committee reports;

• maintain the paragraph titled ‘Sustainability’ in the Committee Report template;

• enhance Sustainability Assessments for Committee Reports to better meet the requirements of users; and

• note that this decision is being made under delegation by the Committee from the Council and is subject to the referral notice process.

Attachments:
1. Municipal Strategic Statement – Indicators Including Triple Bottom Line Focus
2. Comments from Staff for Sustainability Assessments for Committee Reports
A REVIEW OF TRIPLE BOTTOM LINE REPORTING AND IMPLEMENTATION

Division: Corporate Performance

Presenter: Linda Weatherson, Director Corporate Performance

Purpose

1. To report on the Triple Bottom Line (TBL) program and its implementation. This includes a review of the Sustainability Assessments for Committee Reports (SACR).

Background

2. The July 2004 Finance, Corporate Services and Governance Committee requested an update report on Council’s TBL program. The TBL implementation plan was originally presented to the Committee in November 2000. The implementation plan scheduled 6 projects beginning in November 2000. An update of each of these projects with comments regarding their integration is included in this report.

3. The November 2003 meeting of the Environment, Sustainability and Indigenous Affairs Committee requested a report on how the Sustainability Assessment procedure for Committee reports is progressing. At the 12 February 2004 Environment, Sustainability and Indigenous Affairs Committee, Councillor. Chamberlin moved (and the motion was carried unanimously) that the recommendations contained in the management report, subject to a new paragraph, 35.4 be inserted as follows:

   “to ensure that all reports to Section 86 Committees include a full sustainability assessment as an attachment to the report for a trial period of four months.”

4. Sustainability Assessments for Council reports is one of the scheduled projects of the TBL implementation plan referred to in paragraph above. This report includes a section which reviews in detail the Sustainability Assessment procedure and the mandatory attachment of these to Council reports between February 2004 and June 2004.

5. In March 2003 the position of TBL Coordinator was created to develop the TBL implementation plan, TBL tools and TBL data management. The organisational structure has since changed and the TBL coordinator is now located in the Corporate Performance Division in the Continuous Improvement branch. This structural change is acknowledgement of the TBL approach to reporting and decision making. This report will update the Committee on those elements originally identified in the TBL implementation program. It will include a paragraph titled ‘Continuous Improvement of TBL Implementation’ which will offer a critique of CoM’s approach to TBL reporting and decision making (paragraph 6).
Continuous Improvement for TBL Implementation

6. The City of Melbourne’s definition of sustainability is the simultaneous pursuit of economic prosperity, social equity and environmental quality. The pursuit of this goal creates opportunities for efficiency, growth and adaptation in many council activities. Many of these challenge the ‘business as usual’ approach to the way in which services are delivered, decisions made and how the nature of the business of local government is conceived and pursued.

7. These challenges have an influence on both external activities and internal administration. Changing city demographics demand new responses and sustainability targets demand improved knowledge and data management. For example a key challenge is the use of the language of triple bottom line. The accessibility of the language has been a key success of the program. Staff and Councillors frequently use “social, economic and environmental” criteria in discussions and deliberations.

8. However, there is a growing risk that the language is being “de-coupled” from the meaning and agenda of sustainable development that TBL was designed to serve. For example economic performance is often viewed purely as upfront project costs of a single quarter rather than the long term life cycle costs of benefits that include maintenance, payback periods and employment opportunities felt over decades.

Elements of the TBL Implementation Plan

9. Paragraphs 10 to 28 discuss each element of the TBL Implementation Plan.

The Sustainability Assessment for Council Reports

10. Since February 2004, 84 Sustainability Attachments have been submitted with Committee Reports.

11. The categories of questions are organised under City Plan 2010 themes which in turn recognise Council’s TBL approach to decision making. The current format for consideration of issues relies on a mathematical formula which assigns a value based on responses to the questions for, impact, magnitude of impact and likelihood of impact happening. When the formula recognises a score it prompts the user to write an explanation with particular reference to the strategic directions of City Plan 2010. These encourage users to think beyond their professional domain and into others. Some see value in this and others believe issues outside their professional perspective are irrelevant.

12. The primary benefit appears to be the tool’s capacity to help people consider all aspects of an issue (ie economic, social, cultural and ecological). This aids the development of recommendations and is most useful to planning disciplines such as social, cultural, strategic, health, environmental and project planners.

13. Sustainability Assessments are generally produced after a decision making process, when a committee report is due. To be effective the SACR tool ought to be applied at the initiation of the decision making processes and followed through to Council resolution.

14. There are three primary groups who create Sustainability Assessments:

14.1. the first are people involved in internal and administrative activities who find little value in the SACR as a thinking tool or as a check sheet with City Plan strategic directions;

14.2. the second group are planners. These include designers of open space and the built environment, project planners, strategic planners, social and cultural planners, environmental planners and health planners. This group find value in the SACR but demand more information and resources in order to construct effective Committee reports; and
14.3. the final group are those involved with activities that have an immediacy to their work that may not necessitate long term considerations. As a result they perceive the mandatory requirement of a Sustainability Assessment (in its current form) is an unnecessary corporate procedure. They do however require a prompt which helps them to consider a range of issues when completing the sustainability paragraph of the Committee report template. The SACR has the potential to meet this demand.

15. Readers of the SACR include Councillors. It is important to note that should the SACR be adapted and its continued use encouraged, Councillors are consulted to determine their needs. These could significantly change and improve the way the SACR is developed and used. The SACR was designed to facilitate decision making in the context of Council’s vision for a thriving and sustainable city. Comments recorded in the attachments indicate mixed comprehension of the term sustainability. This is evident when report writers claim a project does not have an impact on society, the environment or the economy. The changes listed in table 1 have the potential to offer value for decision makers early in the process. These changes will improve the development and consistency of policy, policy indicators and other corporate documents.

16. The presence of the tool on Council’s intranet site is technically efficient and has the potential to be adapted to reflect corporate changes and the needs of report writers. These adaptations require very little technical change. Most of the potential can be realised by improving content.

17. While the Sustainability Assessment process was designed to assess the subject of a report to Council and facilitate better informed decision-making; the trial period has shown resistance when applied as a blanket corporate procedure, however there has been acknowledgement of its capacity to assist report writers with their task. As a result the Sustainability Assessment will continue to be completed, however the mandatory requirement for the assessment as a physical attachment to committee reports, will be removed. This will have the added benefit of reducing paper usage. The mandatory requirement for the Sustainability section of Committee reports to be completed will provide important information arising from the assessment tool. The SACR will be enhanced to improve the assessment process and better meet the requirements of users.

18. Consultation occurred with a range of report writers across the organisation on their experience of using the SACR. See Attachment 2 for details of observations gained through this process.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Adaptations to assist the needs of SACR users.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Change</strong></td>
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<td>Glossary</td>
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<td>Docs System</td>
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<td>Tracking</td>
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point of committee report.
Corporate Planning and Reporting

19. *Council Plan 2004-2008* continues the suite of 26 sustainability indicators and targets first established in 2002. *Council Plan 2005–2009* will continue these indicators and subject to the review of *City Plan 2010* may incorporate indicators from that document (see paragraph 23).

20. The sustainability indicators and targets have been reflected in the business planning and corporate reporting management systems. Managers are accountable for these through their Executive Performance Plans.

21. The 2003/2004 Annual Report will indicate continued commitment to Triple Bottom Line reporting. This will be achieved by using the Global Reporting Initiative Guidelines (Public Sector Supplement) in 2004/2005. The GRI approach is built on accountability and transparency in the Social, Economic and Environmental domains. The Public Sector Supplement is in development by an international group which includes Council’s Manager Environmentally Sustainable Development, Robyn Leeson.

Municipal Strategic Statement and City Plan 2010

22. The Municipal Strategic Statement (MSS) has recently been reviewed. The current MSS includes a TBL framework for ‘Monitoring and Review – Triple Bottom Line – moving towards sustainability’ in section 21.09. The section lists 26 land use and community indicators and shows the TBL domain for each. It also illustrates the inter-relationships between the domains. See Attachment 1 for a detailed list.

23. Aspirations for sustainable development articulated in *City Plan 2010* have developed a constructive focus on programs and procedures necessary to deliver sustainable development. It is imperative that these continue to be encouraged in order to protect Council’s reputation for a leading and sustainable organisation. The form and content of the continued approach to sustainable development using TBL principles will be an element of the concurrent review of *City Plan 2010* and *Council Plan 2005 – 2009* to be undertaken by the new Council.

Environmental Risk

24. An internal audit has recognised the value of integrating an environmental management system with a comprehensive integrated risk management system to further facilitate continuous improvement through existing processes, procedures and systems. The environment management system is currently being developed as a part of this integrated risk management system.

External Verification

25. External verification of sustainability indicators are currently reported in Council’s annual report. These are audited by the Auditor General’s office. The 2003-2004 report will be the last year these are audited by the Auditor General’s office and the Integrated Planning Taskforce (IPT) will consider options for future external verification. Conventional auditing processes are not appropriate for sustainability reporting and methods of accounting have improved to accommodate the qualitative nature of socio economic and social data.

26. It is expected that the public sector sustainability guidelines of the Global Reporting Alliance will be used for development of *Council Plan 2005 – 2009*. Criteria for external verification may be included in this document. Transparency is a principle of the GRI guidelines and decisions will be made by the IPT on how this is to be achieved.
At the initiation of the TBL Implementation Plan, it was recommended an external verification group be convened once a year. It was envisaged that this group be represented by external organizations such as the International Council for Local Environment Initiatives (ICLEI), the Australian Conservation Foundation, Municipal Association of Victoria and the Victorian Council of Social Services. The recent development of a Sustainability Reporting Alliance organised by ICLEI A/NZ is a significant opportunity to develop standards for external verification of sustainability. The first meeting of this broadly represented group is to be held by teleconference on July 28 2004.

**Staff Training**

Council staff including the executive management team were offered basic training related to ‘Decision Making for Sustainability’ and training for the use of ‘Sustainability Assessments’. These sessions were offered as part of the Corporate Learning and Development program and were well attended.

The TBL work program for 2004 – 2005 is scheduled to include training and communication opportunities for Council staff. These will be included in:

- the Corporate Learning and Development program;
- Corporate Induction processes;
- Exec Web, a recent innovation available on the Council intranet for executives; and
- an interactive page on Council’s intranet to assist staff to understand environmental and social impacts.

**Successes of the TBL Implementation Program**

To date the TBL implementation plan has developed processes and a general level of awareness of TBL and sustainability. The following programs and services reflect successes of the TBL Implementation plan.

Council House 2 – The approach used to design Council’s iconic ‘green building’ is an exemplary example of sustainable development and the application of a TBL approach. The principle architect began with the premise that “A holistic approach to the design and procurement of a project should result in a building, which can become uniquely embedded in its natural, social and economic environments, like a living system”.

Municipal Public Health Plan (MPHP). - Internal consultation for development of the MPHP was modelled on the TBL framework. Special effort was made to ensure that the ‘whole system’ ie the TBL domains, were represented at the workshop series which began in early 2003. This ensured important links between directorates and established a committed steering group. The current discussion document addressed each of the domains including the natural and built environments in the context of ‘healthy people’. The inclusive and engaged approach will ensure consistency with other Council documents and importantly with other indicators in use, (eg MSS).

TBL Fleet Management.–The TBL approach to vehicle acquisition has delivered strong greenhouse gas abatement. This has been achieved by processing decisions through a set of social, economic and environmental criteria. CO2 emission levels finished at 20.25% under the 2010 Sustainable Energy and Greenhouse Strategy annual predictions. This has been achieved predominately due to the introduction of four 1.5Litre Toyota Echo’s into the fleet.
34. Identifying barriers to sustainable development – Achieving the objectives of the Zero Emissions document has increased the level of engagement between stakeholders including financiers, regulators, policy makers and business. Developing dialogue and partnerships has identified barriers to change and help create solutions. These shared processes have accelerated regulation for energy efficiency of housing. They have assisted the uptake of the Green Star sustainability rating tool for commercial buildings and will prepare the way for Council’s green building policy which is an element of the MSS.

35. Greenhouse Gas Abatement – Council has increased purchase of green power from the planned 20% to a 30%. Council has also achieved 22% of the 30% reduction goal for Council operations.

36. A national TBL conference hosted in Melbourne and sponsored by the City of Melbourne, ICLEI, the Australian Greenhouse Office and Dept Sustainability and Environment is scheduled for August 11 2004. The conference which is an indirect product of the TBL implementation plan aims to set the future agenda for TBL practitioners. The conference will be attended by both Australian and international TBL practitioners.

Relation to Council Policy

City Plan 2010

37. Council formally adopted a TBL program in 1999. Since that time, City Plan 2010 confirms Council’s commitment to sustainability and the use of the triple bottom line across Council’s activities. City Plan 2010 notes that:

‘For Council, triple bottom line accountability means taking responsibility for achieving social, environmental and economic improvements through all of our endeavours and reporting on them openly and transparently…. (Council has) adopted triple bottom line reporting and decision making for its own actions.’ (City Plan 2010, p. 3).

Council Plan 2004 - 2008

38. Council Plan 2004-2008 includes a section about Performance Indicators and Targets which discuss the TBL Framework and the principles and priorities which underpin it. In particular it notes that the City formally adopted the Melbourne Principles for Sustainable Cities on May 2, 2002. Principle 10 states:

“Good urban governance requires robust processes directed towards achieving the transformation of cities to sustainability through continual improvement. While in some areas gains will be incremental, there are also opportunities to make substantial improvements through innovative strategies, programmes and technologies. To manage the continual improvement cycle, it is necessary to use relevant indicators, set targets based on benchmarks and monitor progress against milestones to achieving these targets. This facilitates progress and accountability and ensures effective implementation.”

Consultation

39. The senior and middle management team were interviewed in relation to TBL and sustainable development between April and July 2003. The findings of these interviews have informed this report.
Government Relations

40. The Council Plan 2004-2008 and City Plan 2010 both include sections which state Council’s continuing commitment to a TBL Framework. As these are public documents stakeholders (including other tiers of government) expect the City to develop our strategic planning and decision making process in line with the TBL framework.

Conclusion

41. The TBL Implementation plan has instituted procedures and processes which have accelerated sustainable development. These have influenced staff and stakeholders in the City. Continued support for the TBL approach will ensure Council’s international reputation for being a Sustainable and Thriving City.

Recommendation

42. That the Environment, Sustainability and Indigenous Affairs Committee endorse the following actions being undertaken in support of Triple Bottom Line implementation:

42.1. continue to support sustainable development via the Triple Bottom Line approach to reporting and decision making, maintaining the undertaking of sustainability assessments as a mandatory requirement, but no longer requiring a physical attachment with committee reports;

42.2. maintain the paragraph titled ‘Sustainability’ in the Committee Report template;

42.3. enhance Sustainability Assessments for Committee Reports to better meet the requirements of users; and

42.4. note that this decision is being made under delegation by the Committee from the Council and is subject to the referral notice process.
## Municipal Strategic Statement – Indicators including TBL focus.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What we want to monitor</th>
<th>Indicators</th>
<th>Targets</th>
<th>TBL Focus</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Increase in residential population</td>
<td>% growth in residential population</td>
<td>Increase in the City’s residential population to 70,000 by 2010. To be substantially met within the Docklands, Southbank, Central City and St Kilda Rd areas.</td>
<td>Social and Environmental</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing type diversity</td>
<td>Number of one, two, three + bedroom apartments.</td>
<td>Diversity in housing types</td>
<td>Social</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Residential property median sales price by dwelling types compared to metro</td>
<td>Affordable housing options</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Melbourne</td>
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<td>Number of dwellings managed by social housing providers eg, Office of Housing,</td>
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<td>Inner Housing Trust</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Public/Private Housing stock mix</td>
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<tr>
<td>Availability of Student Housing</td>
<td>Growth in number of student apartments</td>
<td>Increased availability of student housing</td>
<td>Social and Economic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accessible and Adaptable housing</td>
<td>The number of new dwellings applied for / constructed (through planning and</td>
<td>20% of new dwellings in multi unit developments consistent with Australian Standard AS4299.</td>
<td>Social</td>
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<td>building) that comply with Australian Standard AS 4299 Class C or the Housing Access Template.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Appropriate residential amenity standards are incorporated into all new residential developments</td>
<td>Review of noise complaints filed with Council in each Local Area</td>
<td>Management of residential amenity</td>
<td>Social</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Services and Facilities</td>
<td>Extent to which each neighbourhood is provided with the following services and</td>
<td>One Public Library per 12,000 persons Each residence located within 400 metres of a park Child Care centres to meet needs of resident population Medical clinics to meet needs of resident population Supermarket/convenience stores to meet needs of resident population</td>
<td>Social and Environmental</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>facilities: Public libraries Open Space Chid Care Centres Medical Clinics</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Supermarkets/Convenience Store</td>
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<tr>
<td>What we want to monitor</td>
<td>Indicators</td>
<td>Targets</td>
<td>TBL Focus</td>
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<tr>
<td>Consolidation and revitalisation of the Retail Core</td>
<td>Retail floor space and gross sales trends as a % of metropolitan Melbourne total $ spent by developers on retail developments Mix and diversity of retail uses</td>
<td>Increase share of retail floorspace and retail expenditure, compared to rest of metropolitan Melbourne</td>
<td>Economic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support of the dual role of the Lygon Street area by providing for the needs of the local community and its regional/tourist role in providing entertainment activities</td>
<td>Total number/floorspace of restaurants/cafes in Lygon Street, north of Grattan Street and % change</td>
<td>No net increase in restaurants/cafes in Lygon Street, north of Grattan Street</td>
<td>Social and Economic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entertainment function of the Central City</td>
<td>Number, floorspace and location of bars/nightclubs/cafes/other entertainment venues in the Central City/Southbank areas</td>
<td>A prime entertainment centre</td>
<td>Social and Economic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Central City as the primary centre for commerce, professional, business and financial services in the State and a place which can facilitate the growth of innovative business activity</td>
<td>Number and growth of commercial, professional, business and financial services in the Capital City Zone Office floorspace trends in the Capital City Zone Office Vacancy Rates in the Capital City Zone</td>
<td>The Central City as a centre of commerce, professional, business and financial services in the State and an increase growth of innovative business activity</td>
<td>Economic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ongoing operation and establishment of businesses that provide professional business support services to the Capital City in the Mixed Use Zone of North and West Melbourne, Carlton and Southbank</td>
<td>Number and floorspace growth of professional business support services in the Mixed Use Zone of North and West Melbourne, Carlton and Southbank</td>
<td>Growth in professional business support services to the Capital City in the Mixed Use Zone of North and West Melbourne, Carlton and Southbank</td>
<td>Economic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Establishment of service business and industry in the industrial areas of Flemington, Kensington and North and West Melbourne</td>
<td>Number and floorspace growth of service business and industry in the industrial areas of Flemington and Kensington and North and West Melbourne</td>
<td>Growth in service business and industry in the industrial areas of Flemington and Kensington and North and West Melbourne</td>
<td>Economic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What we want to monitor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Office development in the Business zones along St Kilda Road</td>
<td>Number of office refurbishment/redevelopment</td>
<td>Growth in office use and development in the Business zones along St Kilda Road</td>
<td>Economic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Total office floorspace (m²)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Ratio of office to residential floorspace (track changes)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Office vacancy rates</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Attraction and growth of Education, Research and Development (R and D) and Advanced Manufacturing sectors¹</td>
<td>Number and location of Education institutions, R and D and Advance Manufacturing industries in existing clusters</td>
<td>Growth in Education, R and D and Advanced Manufacturing sectors</td>
<td>Economic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Education, R and D, Advance manufacturing floor space</td>
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<td>% employment growth within the sectors</td>
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</table>

¹ (Based on ANZSIC codes as per City Plan 2010 measures)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Weaknesses</th>
<th>Strengths</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Many people take a minimalist view of sustainability. They do not believe it is as an aspect of their professional duties to make judgements in relation to ‘Sustainability’.</td>
<td>Thinking about an issue from perspectives other than their usual. Eg a social issue from an ecological perspective.</td>
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<tr>
<td>When making comments some confusion on what is expected. No clear boundaries on how much licence to take.</td>
<td>The feel and function of the browser interface is technically efficient and user friendly.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The social aspects of the tool do not address the complexity of some social issues. Eg Social equity in relation to community development grants</td>
<td>It helps report writers to develop an appreciation of the ‘whole system’ which in practice is the depth and breadth of Council activities and aspirations.</td>
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<tr>
<td>The formula which calculates impact magnitude and likelihood does not adequately assess social equity issues. A different process is required.</td>
<td>In a situation where it is not mandatory, some people would continue to use the tool when the issue is new to them.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An initial response to the tool is that it may take a long time to complete.</td>
<td>Has potential to be used as a (a) a tool for communicating principles, policies and performance standards, (b) a mechanism for acknowledging and rewarding certain behaviours, (c) recording opportunities for improvement of systems and processes and (d) to assist users to locate evidence and cross check required considerations for sustainability.</td>
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<tr>
<td>The ‘Not Applicable’ choice in the questions converts in the final document as ‘No Impact’ which is not correct and may be misleading to Councillors.</td>
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<td>As a quality check for decision making the City Plan framework is not specific.</td>
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<tr>
<td>The tool has not added value to outcomes. The criteria used has not in practice influenced the decision making process.</td>
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<tr>
<td>No corporate principles to prompt understanding of an issue.</td>
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</table>
FINANCE ATTACHMENT

A REVIEW OF TRIPLE BOTTOM LINE REPORTING AND IMPLEMENTATION

There are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendations contained in this report.

Kerrie Jordan
Acting Manager Finance Services
There are no direct legal implications arising from the recommendation of this report.

Section 3C(1) of the Local Government Act 1989 ("the Act") provides that the primary objective of a Council:

“is to endeavour to achieve the best outcomes for the local community having regard to the long term and cumulative effects of decisions.”

Section 3C(2) of the Act goes on to state that in seeking to achieve its primary objective, a Council must have regard to facilitating objectives, including —

“(a) to promote the social, economic and environmental viability and sustainability of the municipal district;”

Under section 3F of the Act, Council also has the power to do all things necessary and convenient to be done in connection with the achievement of its objectives and performance of its functions.

The recommendation is therefore made in accordance with the Council’s functions and powers as set out in the Act.

Alison Lyon
Manager Legal & Governance