# McGredy Winder 2018 SOLGM Local Government Excellence**®** Awards, Brookfields Emerging Leader of the Year Award, Overseas Manager Exchanges, Scholarships & the NZ Leg of the Australasian Management Challenge

## McGredy Winder SOLGM Local Government Excellence Awards® Supreme Award Winner

***The Winner is: Waikato Regional Council for Kawe Kōrero***

Kawe Kōreroalso won the Capability Group Award for Innovation in Organisation and People Development Award Category. More details can be found on page 3.

Recent Supreme Winners include:

2012 Auckland Tourism Events and Economic Development (ATEED) in partnership with Auckland Council and other Auckland CCOs, Auckland’s Rugby World Cup 2011 Programme

2013 Auckland Council, Draft Unitary Plan

2015 Selwyn District Council, Project Helix

2016 Hamilton City Council, Council Transforms a City Dump

2017 Waimakariri District Council, Draft Waimakariri Residential Red Zone Recovery Plan

(There were no awards in 2014)

## The BERL Collaborative Government Action Award Category Winner

This category recognises outstanding results that have been achieved through local authorities working with other government agencies. This category could include programmes or projects from any area of local government activity, provided there is a demonstrable community benefit, and the approach is transferable to other local authorities.

In previous years this category was known as the Joined Up Local Government Category. The change in title was to recognise that local authorities also partner with central government agencies, and ensure that these types of partnerships were eligible.

This is the third year BERL have sponsored a category in the awards.

***The Winner is: Environment Canterbury on behalf of the North Canterbury Transport Infrastructure Alliance, Kaik*ō*ura Harbour Remediation Project***

### About the Entry:

The November 2016 earthquake resulted in the seabed of Kaikōura’s South Harbour lifting by a metre, rendering the harbour unusable and posing a significant risk to two of the mainstays of the local economy (tourism and fishing). Working with local, regional, and central government, iwi and the community, the Alliance has been able to deliver a restored and improved harbour facility.

### The Judges said:

This was a project that was critical to the future of the Kaikōura community. Environment Canterbury acted as a focal point around which the other partners in the alliance could rally and deliver in an effective blending of regional and local leadership for the benefit of all. This is also a good example of a project transitioning from regional to local control – effective leadership is sometimes about knowing when to step back.

**Contact Person:** Anna Puentener, 021 406 4576

***The 2017 Winner was:***

Kapiti Coast District Council, Getting Mackays to Peka Peka Expressway on the Road

## The Capability Group Award for Innovation in Organisation and People Development Award Category Winner

This category recognises innovative approaches to building an exceptional organisational culture or capability through the application of transformational leadership. Entries in this category might be multi-year programmes or one-off projects but they will involve organisational redesign, human resource management, capability development or related aspects. The approach must be transferable to other local authorities.

This is the first year that Capability Group have sponsored a category in the awards.

***The Winner is: Waikato Regional Council, Kawe Kōrero***

The judges also made a highly commended citation in this category to ***Auckland Council*** for its ***Inclusive Auckland (Diversity and Inclusion) Framework.***

### About the Entry:

Kawe Kōrero is the Waikato Regional Council’s te reo and tikanga Māori app for staff and elected members. Designed and built with the assistance of KIWA digital, the app is a practical tool to support confident engagement with Māori.

### The Judges said:

An understanding of te reo and tikanga is essential to effective partnership and good engagement with Māori, which are fundamental to local government. The app can be used in any situation where employees are engaging with Māori. It is this general application and the focus on the needs of those outside council that saw this entry stand out in this category. Kawe Kōrero has received wide acclaim, and therefore it is a deserved winner of the Capability Group Award for Innovation in Organisation and People Development.

**Contact Person:** Roger Lewis, 021 734 180, roger.lewis@waikatoregion.govt.nz

***The 2017 Winner was:***

Waikato Regional Council, Basic Investigative Skills for Local Government Training Programme

***Highly Commended Citation: Auckland Council, Inclusive Auckland (Diversity and Inclusion) Framework***

### About the Entry:

The Inclusive Auckland Framework is a multi-year programme of initiatives designed to infuse a recognition of the value of diversity and social inclusion into the Council’s programmes, policies and practices.

### The Judges said:

New Zealand is becoming increasingly diverse – one in four kiwis wasn’t born here. Inclusive Auckland is a local solution to an issue that all communities face – ensuring that we as a sector recognise and value diversity as a strength in our community. We commend Auckland for the vision and breadth to the programme, and look forward to seeing more of the results of this work.

## The Local Government Funding Agency - Transforming Service Delivery Award Category Winner

This category is for programmes or projects that result in an exceptional service experience through innovative delivery models or the redesign of business processes or practices. The programme or project can relate to any area of council activity which delivers improved value for money to ratepayers. The approach must be transferable to other local authorities.

This is the third year that the Agency has sponsored a category in the awards.

***The Winner is: Jointly awarded to Whangarei District Council, Trilogy and Wellington City Council, GoShift***

### About the Entries:

Trilogy is an ambitious transformation programme that has helped Whangarei progress the transformation to a digital council. The programme has been delivered on time, within budget and without disruption to business as usual.

GoShift is a partnership between central government and local government to standardise building consent processes and processing. More than 20 local authorities are involved across the country.

### The Judges said:

These are two very different entries that we literally could not separate.

**Trilogy** has shown a real financial benefit for the ratepayers of Whangarei. This was a complete makeover of the Council’s information technology systems. To have brought an IT project of this scale within time and within budget, and with a measurable outcome so quickly has lessons that any organisation whether public or private sector can learn from.

With more than 20 councils involved in the partnership **GoShift** has amply demonstrated its transferability to the wider sector. It is also a shining example of what local authorities can achieve when they work together in cost savings, and alignment and processes for the users.

**Contact People**:

Whangarei: Alan Adcock, General Manager Corporate, 027 333 3992, alan.adcock@wdc.govt.nz

Wellington: Ross McCarthy, Strategic Engagement Manager, GoShift, goshift@wcc.govt.nz

***The 2017 Winner was:***

Christchurch City Council:  Partnership Approvals

## The Giblin Group Award for Innovation in Council - Community Relations Award Category Winner

This award recognises programmes, projects or initiatives that demonstrate outstanding results through innovative means of community engagement or community empowerment. Entries may come from any area of local government activity, but must have community engagement, empowerment, or partnership as a key aspect. Entries may include successful collaboration with private or community organisations. The approach taken must be transferable to other local authorities.

This is the first year that the Giblin Group have sponsored a category in the awards.

***The Winner is: Kaikōura District Council, The Hospo Project – Feeding the Village***

The judges also made a highly commended citation in this category to ***Ashburton District Council***, ***Our Place.***

### About the Entry:

The Hospo project is a practical initiative created to support local business in the wake of the November 2016 earthquake. The project mobilised 22 local businesses and one catering service into a single large catering programme to support the workers at the North Canterbury Transport Infrastructure Recovery Village.

### The Judges said:

The Hospo project is a unique, agile council/community collaboration to support the local economy and community, while meeting the needs of the workforce engaged in the recovery. The Council was able to use the project to provide practical help to local business while providing meaningful, focussed work for them. Those in post-emergency situations could take much from this pragmatic approach.

**Contact person:** Mel Skinner, Economic Recovery, 021 256 4383

***The 2017 Winner was:***

Waimakariri District Council - Draft Waimakariri Residential Red Zone Recovery Plan

***Highly Commended Citation: Ashburton District Council, Our Place***

### About the Entry:

Our Place is the name that Ashburton District Council has given to its programme of pre-engagement to generate consensus on the direction for the LTP. The distinguishing feature of the approach is the use of a Delphi method where the Council takes an approach that is a great deal more open than most engagement, relying on the community to generate and rank ideas.

### The Judges said:

We saw a number of long-term plan themed entries this year. Our Place struck us as the entry that best demonstrated engagement as a two-way discussion, and gave best effect to the principles of the Local Government Act. The ongoing dialogue with the community, and the feedback loops, have provided the Council with a great start to the LTP – we look forward to seeing how this translates into the next stages.

## Better Policy and Regulation Category Award Category Winner

This award recognises the development of robust and effective evidence-based policy or local regulatory initiatives. Any policy, plan or regulatory initiative is eligible for this award. Entrants will be expected to clearly demonstrate their initiative was based on the application of the principles of effective policy or regulatory design and implementation, development of an evidence base and that the initiative is transferable to other local authorities.

Last year this was known as the Innovation in Policy or Regulatory Development Award.

***The Winner is: New Plymouth District Council, Draft Digital District Plan***

### About the Entry:

New Plymouth is one of the first councils in the country to create a working digital district e-plan, just as all local authorities will need to. The plan is delivered in a digital and interactive format that incorporates the National Planning Standards and the new procedural principles of the RMA.

### The Judges said:

New Plymouth is among the first to adopt a working digital district plan. This entry has already demonstrated that it’s transferable, and we expect it will be picked up as more local authorities move their district plan digital. The entry builds on last year’s successful digital entry from the same council and appears to provide a basis for the digital makeover of the resource management function. We look forward to seeing further developments in future years.

**Contact Person:** Juliet Johnson,06 759 6060

***The 2017 Winner was:***

New Plymouth District Council, Waahi Tapu and Archaeological Sites Review

***Highly Commended Citation: Far North District Council, Ngā Kurī Auau O Kaikohe***

### About the Entry:

Ngā Kuri was a targeted community based social marketing project designed to promote responsible dog ownership in two communities with substantial dog control issues. The emphasis on supporting good behaviour is a feature of many cutting edge regulatory programmes.

### The Judges said:

This project shows that excellence doesn’t have to equate with “big”. It’s an excellent example of a community-based solution to a local regulatory problem. The mantra “caring before compliance” struck a chord with us – modern regulation is about working with people to resolve issues.

## The Minister of Local Government’s Award for Innovation in Asset Management

The Minister’s Award recognises procedures, planning or practices that demonstrate innovative approaches to the management of assets. For example this might be an excellent infrastructure strategy or asset plan, an innovative approach to demand management, a new use of technology, or the innovative use or creation of asset related data. The entry must be transferable to other local authorities.

This award is different from the awards that various engineering bodies make – this is not a ‘project of the year’ type award. Indeed a constructed project will not meet these criteria in and of itself.

This is the second year that SOLGM has made an award for asset management, and that this award has been sponsored by the Minister of Local Government.

***The Winner is: Auckland Council, Community Facilities Asset Management Enhancement (CFAME)***

### About the Entry:

CFAME is a multi-year programme for upgrading both the information on the Council’s community facilities assets, and the systems for managing that information. The objective being to support better decision-making.

### The Judges said:

Over recent years local authorities have made progress with the collection and effective use of good information on the condition and performance of assets. The need to collect better information on the condition of assets was a common theme in the first 30 year Infrastructure Strategies. CFAME is a systematic extension of these principles to community facilities turning raw data into a decision-making tool. Undertaken against the background of an internal reorganisation, this is a significant step forward in the sound management of community facilities.

**Contact Person:** Raymond Tan**,** Head of Asset Management Intelligence Support Unit**,** Auckland Council**,** 021 828 726

***Last Year’s Winner was:***

Whanganui District Council, Risk Based Asset Management

## Some Background Information About the Awards

### What are the Awards?

McGredy Winder SOLGM Local Government Excellence® Awards recognise exceptional and innovative projects in local government.

Entries are open to any local authority or council-controlled organisation (or groups of thereof).

This is the fourth year that the Supreme Award has been sponsored by McGredy Winder. Other sponsors this year include:

* the Local Government Funding Agency sponsored the Transforming Service Delivery Category. This is the LGFA’s third year as sponsor of this category
* BERL, as sponsor of the Collaborative Government Action category. This is BERL’s third year as sponsor of the category
* the Department of Internal Affairs sponsored the Minister’s Award for Innovation in Asset Management. This is their second year as sponsor of this category
* the Giblin Group sponsored the Innovation in Council - Community Relations award. This is Giblin Group’s first year as a sponsor
* the Capability Group sponsored the Organisation and People Development award. This is Capability Group’s first year as a sponsor.

### How many entries were received?

SOLGM received 41 entries this year. This is a record level of entries into the awards.

There’s a diverse range of projects across the full range of local authority services – from a harbour remediation to dog control and everything in between.

The following were the entrants in the 2018 McGredy Winder SOLGM Excellence Awards®:

1. Ashburton District Council – Our Place
2. Auckland Council – Community Facilities Asset Management Enhancement (CFAME) Project
3. Auckland Council – Inclusive Auckland (Diversity and Inclusion) Framework
4. Auckland Council – Safeswim
5. Buller District Council – Westport Revitalisation: 7 Day Makeover
6. Christchurch City Council – Building Act Exemptions
7. Christchurch City Council – Landfill Gas Management Group
8. Environment Canterbury – Gold Plated Collaboration: the Concours Project
9. Environment Canterbury – Kaikōura Harbour Remediation Project
10. Environment Canterbury – Tuia: Me Whakarāranga I Te Whakamanawa (Weaving Together with Confidence)
11. Far North District Council – Far North District Plan Review: Lets Plan Together
12. Far North District Council – Ngā Kurī Auau o Kaikohe
13. Gisborne District Council – Titirangi Restoration
14. Gisborne District Council – What’s the Future Tairāwhiti?
15. Horowhenua District Council – LTP Pre-Engagement Campaign
16. Horowhenua District Council – Te Awahou Nieuwe Stroom
17. Hurunui District Council – Waiau Recovery Village
18. Kaikōura District Council – The Hospo Project: Feeding the Village People
19. Kāpiti Coast District Council – Tsunami Army: Helping Kāpiti get Tsunami Ready
20. New Plymouth District Council – Building a Digital District Plan
21. New Plymouth District Council – 10 Focus Area Campaign
22. New Plymouth District Council – Supply Chain Leadership: Enhancing Value
23. Northland Regional Council on behalf of Northland Region, Whangarei District Council and Far North District Council - Councils Growing Together
24. Northland Regional Council – Story Hunters: Harnessing Our Heroes
25. Selwyn District Council – Building Training Camp
26. Tararua District Council – Pahiatua Preservation Project
27. Tauranga City Council on behalf of Waikato LASS – Local Government Contractor Health and Safety Prequalification Scheme
28. Waikato Regional Council – Freshwater Strategy
29. Waikato Regional Council – Graham’s Creek Flood Remediation
30. Waikato Regional Council – Kawe Kōrero
31. Wairoa District Council – The Wairoa Wastewater Stakeholder Group
32. Wellington City Council – GoShift: Simpler, Faster Building Consents
33. Wellington City Council – Leadership Development Programme
34. Wellington City Council – Pathways to Employment
35. Wellington ICT Shared Services – Implementing ICT Shared Services
36. Whakatāne District Council - Murupara Animal Control Service Delivery Partnership
37. Whakatāne District Council – Whakatāne District Recovery Programme - EQC
38. Whakatāne District Council – Whakatāne District Recovery Programme – Liveable Homes Project
39. Whanganui District Council – Transforming WDC: More than Meets the Eye
40. Whangarei District Council – Trilogy
41. Whangarei District Council – Whangarei City Centre Plan

### Who judged them?

The entries were judged by a panel of seven consisting of:

* Peter Winder, Director, McGredy Winder
* Helen Algar, representing IPANZ
* Mark Butcher, Chief Executive, Local Government Funding Agency
* Samantha Gain, President, IPWEA
* Clare Hadley, former President of SOLGM
* Andrea Reeves, Assistant Auditor-General – Local Government
* Helen Wyn, Deputy-Secretary Central/Local Government Partnerships, Department of Internal Affairs

Note:

Mr Butcher declared a conflict of interest in, and did not assess, the three entries from New Plymouth District Council.

Ms Hadley declared a conflict of interest in, and did not assess, the GoShift entry.

### How were entries judged?

All entries were judged on the following criteria:

* *strategic context* – what was the background to the entry, what issue or need drove the entry, and what was the evidence base to support that need?
* *project management* – how well was the project planned and managed? The best entries also told us what process the council(s) involved had put in place for measuring the success
* *relationship management* – how did the council get views from, or resolve the concerns of, people who were interested in or affected by the issue or problem at hand
* *continuous improvement* – what lessons did the council learn, and how is that learning being used across the council and
* *project success* – did the project actually deliver results? While a result for the council itself counted, the best entries demonstrated a result for the community. The best entries also had independent, verifiable evidence of the result. The judges also considered whether the results and the lessons learned were transferrable to the sector. That is to say, that the project is something that other councils could pick up and use, or build on.

### What about the standard of entries?

Competition was close in most categories. The judges could not separate the two leading entries in the Transforming Service Delivery category and made a joint award. Competition was also close in the Council Community Relations and Collaborative Government Action categories.

### How will the lessons from the winners be shared?

Lessons from the winners, and many other entries, will be used to inform development and redevelopment of guides and training for the sector.

For example, several of the entries in the Council - Community Relations category will present at an upcoming event on community engagement.

## Brookfields Emerging Leader of the Year Award

The Brookfields Emerging Leader of the Year Award is presented to an emerging leader, aged 35 or under, who has a proven track record of designing or delivering innovative and successful programmes, projects, processes or practices with an identifiable community impact.

The Award, generously sponsored by Brookfields, is a fully paid trip and provision to attend the ICMA Annual Conference in the US, the largest annual event in the world for local government managers and staff.

This year a number of outstanding applications were received. Judges commented that it was gratifying to see such a positive contribution being made from both a community, and council perspective, at this level. It was clear that the local government sector is a positive environment where people can make a real difference.

### The Judges were:

* Michael Willis, Chief Judge
* Linda O’Reilly, Partner, Brookfields
* Karen Thomas, Chief Executive, SOLGM
* Fiona Purchas, Professional Development Manager, SOLGM

***Winner: Matt Keil, Senior Projects Engineer – Water and Waste Services, Southland District Council***

### The Judges said:

Matt’s strong leadership attitude and mindset came through in his application.

He has a strong technical background, in both the private and public sectors, having led some significant infrastructure projects on time and safely, including pipeline mains renewal, wastewater treatment plant civil upgrades and a three waters project.

In addition to his technical expertise, Matt has demonstrated a commitment to building relationships with peers, ratepayers and stakeholders.

Matt’s application stood out through his commitment to making the council water industry understandable and accessible. Over and above his normal duties, he worked with five Southland schools to raise the profile of the local government water industry, and the local government profession.

Matt presents regularly to his executive team and is well connected in the water industry. He has a strong commitment to professional development and has participated in SOLGM’s LG Accelerated Leadership Development Programmme.

## Overseas Manager Exchanges

Our Overseas Manager Exchange Programmes, sponsored by JLT and Civic Financial Services, provide leadership and development opportunities specifically tailored to the local government environment. They provide managers within the sector the opportunity to focus on their management development and career in local government through a short exchange with a partner manager in another country.

This year’s Overseas Manager Exchange Programme destinations are the United States, British Columbia in Canada, and Australia.

Each exchange involves a hosted visit to the destination country during the time period of our overseas partner’s annual conference, and a reciprocal visit to New Zealand during the time period of the SOLGM Annual Summit in Queenstown on 10 and 11 September 2018.

These exchanges are made possible with the longstanding support of our sponsors; JLT (Canada and Australia) and Civic Financial Services (United States).

The United States judging panel was:

* Michael Willis, Chief Judge
* Ian Brown, Chief Executive, Civic Financial Services
* Karen Thomas, Chief Executive, SOLGM
* Fiona Purchas, Professional Development Manager, SOLGM

The Canada and Australia judging panel was:

* Michael Willis, Chief Judge
* Matthew Riddle, Chief Executive, JLT New Zealand
* Karen Thomas, Chief Executive, SOLGM
* Fiona Purchas, Manager Professional Development, SOLGM

Entries were judged on the quality of applications and a clear indication of how the exchange can benefit the applicant’s own council, a proven track record of creating and delivering initiatives over and beyond the normal scope of their job role, and clear evidence of individual contribution to the sector.

### United States

(Sponsored by Civic Financial Services)

***Winner –******Sheryl Bryant, General Manager, City Future, Palmerston North City Council***

### The Judges said:

Sheryl has a long and extensive history in local government sector, including 26 years with Palmerston North City Council.

She has a deep understanding of the sector and New Zealand issues, including areas of strategy and policy, community engagement and buy-in, managing growth, CBD planning and global connection. She has excellent communication skills and a high level of cultural awareness that will serve her well in an international arena.

In 2006 Sheryl attended the ICMA conference and has demonstrated a continued interest in local government at an international level, with a particular interest in developing a broader perspective of city making.

Sheryl has made a strong contribution to SOLGM over the last 18 years, including time on the SOLGM Executive, as a branch president, and chairing working parties.

Sheryl is committed to her development and we have the utmost confidence of her making the most of this exchange.

### Australia

(Sponsored by JLT)

***Winner – Barbara Whitton, Customer Relationships Manager, Western Bay of Plenty District Council***

### The Judges said:

Barbara submitted a compelling application outlining the clear outcomes she sought from this exchange and demonstrated strong background research to support her application.

She has a long history in the local government sector and is the recipient of numerous qualifications and awards.

Barbara has a high level of experience and expertise in customer service, with strong links to the wider sector, including a clear understanding of council needs and trends.

Barbara has been an active SOLGM member for a number of years and was part of an Australasian Management Challenge winning team in 2013.

### Australia (Queensland)

(Sponsored by JLT)

***Winner: Marianne Cavanagh, Principal Advisor, Corporate, Whanganui District Council***

### The Judges said:

Marianne’s application displayed considerable enthusiasm for gaining an international perspective in local government.

She demonstrated throughout not only what she could gain as an exchange visitor, but also the best experience she could provide as a host.

Marianne has a strong understanding of the need to balance community demands in a tight economic environment. She has wide experience in shared services, and community engagement and empowerment within both small and large councils.

She takes an active role in SOLGM through training offerings.

### British Columbia (Canada)

(Sponsored by JLT)

***Winner – Glenn Young, Utilities Manager, Manawatu District Council***

### The Judges said:

Glenn’s application demonstrated a very clear view of what he could gain and share from this exchange.

He has held several roles within Manawatu District Council, including a key leadership role in supporting shared services.

Glenn is forward thinking, proactive and outcome focused. He has strong links in infrastructure development in New Zealand, and an international perspective will develop this further.

He is involved in a number of professional and community memberships that serve the public good. He has been regular attendee and contributor to SOLGM as a member since 2015.

## The Skills Organisation Melbourne Business School Scholarship: Leading for Strategic Success

***Winner: Steven May, Chief Executive, Wairoa District Council***

### The Judges said:

Steven submitted a well-thought-out application supported by a strong desire for further learning, sharing these learnings, and encouraging others in their development.

He has undertaken a number of different roles in the local government sector, working through the ranks of Waikato District Council, Waitaki District Council, Grey District Council, and Christchurch City Council before taking on the Chief Executive role at Wairoa District Council.

Steven has demonstrated a strong commitment to SOLGM and other professional organisations over many years. While in a third-tier position at Christchurch City Council Steven distinguished himself in the way he led his team through their leadership experience, signing them all up for SOLGM membership.

Steven was the recipient of the LDC Leadership in Practice Scholarship in 2015 and has demonstrated significant return on investment for that experience.

We’re delighted therefore to have selected Steven for this year’s Skills scholarship and to continue to support him on his journey.

## Leadership Development Centre (LDC) Leadership In Practice Scholarship

***Winner: Phillip Hindrup, Transport Services Manager, Horizons Regional Council***

### The Judges said:

Phillip has an excellent understanding of leadership across council boundaries, particularly in relation to impact and change. He has led and influenced a number of major projects, including achieving local government unification around the closure of the Manawatu Gorge. He demonstrated a strong focus on influencing central government organisations and good relationships with councils and other stakeholders.

Phillip has demonstrated commitment to a career in local government but thinks beyond his role. This is evident through him taking steps to influence workforce development by working with Massey University to increase enrolments into the Planning profession. He has shown a commitment to building a strategic regional focus in a range of areas, beyond his own council.

## New Zealand Leg of the Australasian Management Challenge

In March each year SOLGM runs the New Zealand leg of the Management Challenge, Australasia’s premier forum for current and emerging local government leaders. The winners of the New Zealand leg then go on to represent New Zealand at the Australasian Finals. There they compete against the winning teams from the seven Australian states. New Zealand teams have an exceptional record at the finals with two firsts, a second and a third place over the last four years.

Our sister organisation, LGProfessionals Australia administers the Challenge while SOLGM runs the New Zealand leg of the Challenge.

### The 2018 Management Challenge

The New Zealand leg of the Challenge took place at Silverstream Retreat on 13 and 14 March 2018 with 15 council teams taking part. The winning team will compete in the Australasian Finals being held in conjunction with LGProfessionals Australia's National Congress in Canberra on 22- 24 August 2018.

The councils that entered this year were:

Tauranga City Council, New Plymouth District Council, Whakatane District Council, Hauraki District Council, Hastings District Council, Wellington City Council, Otorohanga District Council, Waikato District Council, Bay of Plenty Regional Council, Otago Regional Council, Taupo District Council, Christchurch City Council, Rotorua Lakes Council, Western Bay of Plenty District Council and Auckland Council

### Team Composition

Teams have six members and a mentor. Councils that have taken part in the Challenge for many years will usually have a strategy for selecting their team members. Team members typically come from a variety of departments across the council. This means the team can not only draw on a range of skills and knowledge, it importantly adds to the collaborative experience - some past participants have said they've learned more about their wider council at a Challenge than while at work! We recommend that the team include someone who has communications experience as the day’s tasks usually include at least one where reporting or external communications is a very useful skill.

Team members are usually, though not exclusively, in mid-tier roles. The final selection of team members will depend on each council’s objectives for the Challenge so it's perfectly legitimate to select someone with leadership potential but who is still at the start of their local government career. Conversely very senior managers have taken part and found it a valuable experience.

***Winner: Bay of Plenty Regional Council***

***Last year’s winner was: Tauranga City Council***

### The judges said:

2018 was a hotly contested challenge with a very high calibre of teams. This year 15 teams from across the country competed to win the New Zealand Leg and the right to represent New Zealand in the finals in Canberra in August. A competitive, fun spirit was apparent this year and the high standard of previous years was once again evident. As always there can only be one winner of the Challenge. This year’s winner is Bay of Plenty Regional Council.  An extremely close run second goes to Hastings District Council and third to Otago Regional Council.

The judges were impressed by the calm, business like attitude and well thought through team management of Bay Of Plenty Regional Council. This group produced high quality reports across a number of areas, successfully using evidence based research and information to back up their recommendations. The Silverstream venue once again provided a centralised working space for teams that engendered high levels of energy and focus.

The judges would like to congratulate all of the teams. Every team put 100% effort into every challenge which reflects their commitment to the local government sector. We believe that all the teams would agree that using the Management Challenge as part of a council’s overall training strategy is of significant benefit to the council and the participants.

ENDS.