

## Grey District Council



### The Challenge

Following migration to a new financial system, Grey District Council continued to produce its Annual Plan using a manual spreadsheet based process. Council quickly identified that producing its 10 Year Plan was going to be a much more challenging and complex process and decided to implement an automated system capable of delivering consistent and accurate planning information.

### The Solution

Grey District Council chose to implement the MAGIQ Financial Planning software application to deliver its 10 Year Long Term Plan. The MAGIQ Financial Planning application is designed to provide organisations with a flexible, highly automated application to model and produce their Annual and Long Term Financial Plans.

### The Benefits

A single integrated and fully automated financial planning system provides all team leaders across the organisation with timely access to accurate data, based on a single set of consistent business rules. The overall integrity of the data has improved and business risk has also been reduced with the move to a fully automated system.

### About Grey District Council

**Local Government** industry

**1200** staff members

**194,000** residents

**\$166m** annual expenditure

“Ultimately it came down to selecting a business partner that we were confident would be able to deliver the outcomes we needed in both the short and long term. The MAGIQ Software team demonstrated a real can-do attitude. They really impressed us with their positive outlook.”

Ian Young, Corporate Services Manager

“MAGIQ has provided us with a single integrated and fully automated financial planning system. All of our team leaders are now working in the same system, looking at the same data and can analyse right down to the transaction level if they need to.”

Ian Young, Corporate Services Manager

Grey District Council in New Zealand has invested in the MAGIQ Performance software suite to complete its 10-Year Long-Term Plan.

The Grey District is situated on the West Coast of the South Island, close to the foot of the spectacular Southern Alps. Greymouth is the largest town and commercial centre of the District and has a community of approximately 14,000 people.

MAGIQ Performance is a suite of highly sophisticated and easy to use Budgeting, Financial Planning and Strategic Planning software. The MAGIQ Financial Planning application is designed to provide organisations with a flexible, highly automated application to model and produce both their Annual and Long Term Financial Plans.

According to Ian Young, Corporate Services Manager, Grey District Council, the requirement to produce the 10 Year Long Term Plan was the key driver for implementing the MAGIQ Performance software.

“Since migrating to a new financial system we had previously produced our Annual Plan using a manual spreadsheet based system, however we could see that the 10 Year Plan was going to be a much more challenging and complex process,” said Ian.

Council undertook a detailed evaluation of several vendor products before choosing to implement the MAGIQ Performance Suite, with integration to the Civica Authority finance system.

“Ultimately it came down to selecting a business partner that we were confident would be able to deliver the outcomes we needed in both the short and long term,” said Ian.

“The MAGIQ Software team demonstrated a real can-do attitude. They really impressed us with their positive outlook.”

MAGIQ Performance was implemented in August 2014 and Ian believes the software has significantly improved the accuracy and integrity of Council's financial planning process.

“MAGIQ has provided us with a single integrated and fully automated financial planning system. All of our team leaders are now working in the same system, looking at the same data and can analyse right down to the transaction level if they need to,” he said.

“Spreadsheets are only ever as accurate as the person that designs and maintains them. By establishing a single set of business rules that are applied consistently, we are improving the overall integrity of the data,” he said.

Ian commented that the move away from manual spreadsheets to MAGIQ Performance is also positive from a business risk management perspective.

“Often the knowledge and understanding of spreadsheet systems resides with a single person. If they happen to win Lotto tomorrow and don't come back to work, that knowledge can be lost.”

“On the other hand, MAGIQ Performance is used by more than 200 Councils including more than 20 here in New Zealand. So from a business risk perspective it makes great sense to invest in a system that plenty of people in our industry understand and have skills in.”

Ian can see potential for the MAGIQ Performance and MAGIQ Reporting & Analytics Suites to be used for additional operational reporting across Council.

“In the future we would like to look at reporting across other data sets such as our HR and Payroll data, which would allow us to further leverage our investment in MAGIQ .”



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## About Grey District Council

The Grey District is situated on the West Coast of the South Island, close to the foot of the spectacular Southern Alps. The District has a rich and colourful mining history dating back to early pioneering days in the 1860's. The mining industry continues to play a significant role and successful fishing, agriculture, manufacturing and tourism industries are all important contributors to the local economy.

## About MAGIQ Software

MAGIQ Software is an international software business focused on the delivery of the MAGIQ Cloud Finance and Administration Platform. MAGIQ Software has more than 500 customers throughout Australia, New Zealand, the USA, the UK, Singapore and South Africa. Key markets include Local Government, Health and Community Services, Utilities, Education and Not for Profit. A highly experienced and skilled team of more than 100 staff deliver local support and development from offices in Napier, Melbourne, Sydney, Auckland, Christchurch and Los Angeles.

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