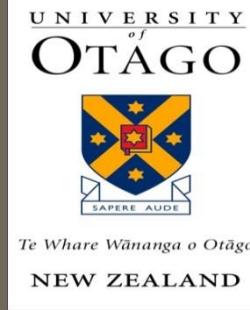


Barriers and enablers to New Zealand City Councils developing food and nutrition policy

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Otago University MDiet Thesis 2014



“We need
to get
good at
this game
quickly”

Background

- Local Authorities have mandate to influence the socio- economic determinants of health
 - Overseas literature – wide range policy options
 - No previous research in New Zealand
 - Explore factors which enable and hinder NZ City Councils to develop and implement food and nutrition policy.



The social determinants of health and wellbeing. How local government can make a difference (Campbell, 2010)

Methods

- Qualitative research- the ‘how’s and the whys’.
- 21 participants
- 12 City Councils & Auckland Council
- Councillors and Council Staff members
- Semi- structured in depth qualitative interviews
- Single case study design
- General inductive approach

Summary of Findings

1. External influences
2. Local political agenda
3. Partnerships and community participation
4. Credible champions

1. External Influences

- National level Government
- Local Government Act
- Case studies/ research & guidelines

“under the previous act you could have easily made a case under the four wellbeing's... the change in purpose has certainly narrowed things and provided a greater focus within certain areas which would be outside of food and nutrition” (CS).

2. Local Political Agenda

- Community advocacy & support
- The City Councils perception of their role
- Councillors (CC) & Council Staff (CS) agendas
- Priorities within council & council resources

“...when the community stands up and says they really want something, it's very hard to ignore that... if we hear their voice and it's really strong it is a brave council to ignore that” (CC).

“I guess it is one of those areas that it would depend on how the elected members see their role... And that could really influence whether or not you are successful in terms of having policies” (CS).

3. Partnerships & Community Participation

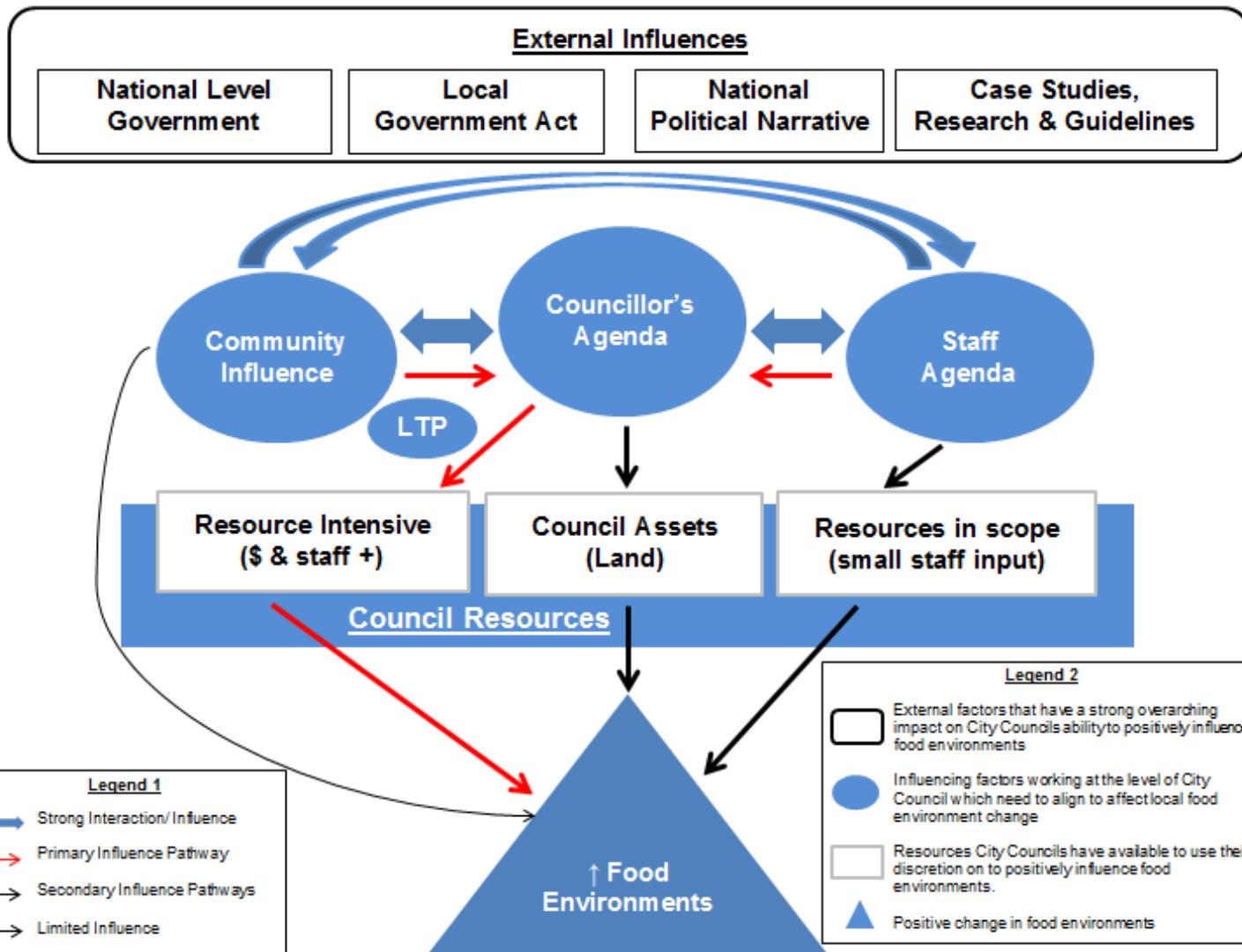
- Informal partnerships
- Formal partnerships (Food Policy Council)
- Proactive relationships

“we worked quite closely with them as we worked through the policy development. We go them to present alongside us in council that just gave it a stronger sort of community buy in perspective to our elected members” (CS).

4. Credible Champions

- Council leader
- Community leader

“I really think it helps to have a political champion, someone in the sphere who has respect and also a certain degree of power to see things through” (CS).



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Map of influence pathways on food environments operating in New Zealand City Councils

Influence Strategies

- Partnerships
- Long term plan & timing
- Widespread awareness
- Local political support
- Research/ case studies
- 'piggy backing' policy
- Credible champion
- Framing
- Community advocacy
- Policy sharing



Conclusions

- NZ City Councils have the capacity to develop food and nutrition policy to positively affect our local food environments
- Widespread awareness and advocacy for food environment issues
- Local political support
- Community advocacy & partnerships
- Credible champions

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