

4. UPDATE ON THE RELOCATION OF CHRISTCHURCH COMMUNITY HOUSE, TE WHAKARURUHAU KI OTAUTAHU

Officer responsible Community Relations Manager	Author Sally Latham, Community Adviser, DDI 941-8883
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The purpose of this report is to inform Councillors about the completed relocation of Christchurch Community House, Te Whakaruruhau ki Otautahi.

BACKGROUND

Christchurch Community House, Te Whakaruruhau ki Otautahi was established in 1991 to provide affordable accommodation for a number of community and social service groups in a central city location. Community House was located at 187 Cashel Street in a building which was leased by the Council and provided rent free to the Community House Tenants' Trust. The Community Trust made an annual donation towards half the rent of this building.

Twenty three community groups operated from this building, and a further 100 groups (approximately) used the meeting facilities and resources on a regular basis. The co-location of community groups facilitates the sharing of resources, reduces costs, improves information sharing and networking, and improves access to services by members of the public. A Tenants' Trust manages the day to day operation of Community House.

In August 2000, the Council resolved to not renew the lease on the existing building and to re-locate Community House to more suitable premises. A number of building options were then investigated by the Property Unit. In September 2001 the Council resolved to confirm its support to relocate Community House to a building to be purchased by The Community Trust at 141 Hereford Street, and to provide a grant for rental costs for this building.

RELOCATION UPDATE

The Community Trust subsequently purchased the former Westpac Bank building at 141 Hereford Street, and undertook renovations and fit-out in consultation with the Community House Tenants' Trust. Community House tenant groups completed their move to the new building over the recent Queen's Birthday weekend (31 May–4 June).

Community House occupies two and a half floors, including the ground floor of the building. The Community House Tenants' Trust leases this space from the Community Trust, and the Council provides a grant to the Tenants' Trust for the rent. The space provides 30 offices, a meeting room and larger conference room with kitchen facilities, and seven interview rooms. While the offices are permanently tenanted, the other facilities are available for hire by outside community groups. The new premises provide disabled access (unlike the previous building) and are more modern, comfortable and functional.

There are currently 21 groups with offices in Community House, and two vacant offices which will be tenanted soon (there is a waiting list). A small number of larger agencies such as Citizens' Advice Bureau occupy more than one office.

Current tenant groups are:

Agender	Al-Anon
Birthright	Canterbury Pacific Safer Community Council
Christchurch Budget Service	Citizens' Advice Bureau
Community Services Trust	Council of Social Services
Cystic Fibrosis Association	DPA
Male Survivors of Sexual Abuse	National Council of Women
Network Waitangi Otautahi	OSCAR Network
Parentline	Plains Exchange and Barter System
Rescare	Safer Christchurch
Tenants' Protection Association	Te Runaka ki Otautahi O Kai Tahu
Volunteering Canterbury	

The new location has been well publicised including features in "The Press" and on a local television channel. There will be an official opening of the new Community House in late July. In the meantime, Councillors are very welcome to visit Community House to view the new facilities at any time.

NATURAL + PEOPLE + ECONOMIC STEP ASSESSMENT

#	CONDITION:	Meets condition ✓✓0*	HOW IT HELPS MEET CONDITION:
The Natural Step			
N1	Reduce non-renewable resource use	0	
N2	Eliminate emission of harmful substances	0	
N3	Protect and restore biodiversity and ecosystems	0	
N4	People needs met fairly and efficiently	NA	NA - See People Step + Economic Step
The People Step			
P1	Basic needs met	✓✓	Community groups are provided with affordable accommodation. Groups assist their clients to meet basic needs.
P2	Full potential developed	✓✓	Community groups work with clients to achieve their full potential. Co-location helps strengthen local groups and networks.
P3	Social capital enhanced	✓✓	Community groups work with clients to improve their personal and social wellbeing, which impacts positively on the community/ society.
P4	Culture and identity protected	✓	A number of community groups work to achieve this with their clients.
P5	Governance and participatory democracy strengthened	✓✓	Community groups work to improve the wellbeing of their clients which empowers and enables them to participate more in society. Tenant groups work together co-operatively in the management and operation of Community House.
The Economic Step			
E1	Effective and efficient use of all resources	✓✓	Through the sharing of resources by community groups, including the building and its facilities.
E2	Job rich local economy	0	
E3	Financial sustainability	✓✓	Tenant groups are sustained financially through rent subsidies. A shared building is a very cost effective way of providing accommodation for a number of groups. Some tenant groups assist their clients to achieve personal financial sustainability eg Budget Advice.

Staff

Recommendation: That the information be received.

Chairman's

Recommendation: That the above recommendation be adopted and that a future Community and Leisure Committee seminar be held at Christchurch Community House.