

3. PACIFIC CAPACITY BUILDING STRATEGY – MILESTONES FOR ACTION

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The purpose of this report is to seek the Community and Leisure Committee's endorsement of proposed "milestones" for action by the Council, as part of an agreed Programme of Action with the Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs.

BACKGROUND

In 2000, the Government, through the Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs, began a new national initiative to build the capacity of Pacific peoples in New Zealand in order to improve their outcomes and well-being. This was in response to the fact that Pacific Peoples in New Zealand generally have some of the poorest outcomes across a range of sectors, including health, employment, income, education, housing, justice and economic development.

The Pacific Capacity Building Strategy was developed on a regional basis. In Christchurch, where the Pacific population comprised 1.9% of the total at the 1996 census, this involved:

- Extensive community consultation where Pacific communities identified their aspirations, priorities, and how those priorities could be met. These aspirations were presented at the Pacific Waves Conference in August 2000;
- A stock-take of what government agencies were already doing to assist Pacific Peoples; and
- The development of a local Programme of Action (POA), in consultation with government departments, which stated what actions and resources those government departments would commit to help achieve the identified outcomes. The POA included measurable and time-framed "milestones".

The first Christchurch Programme of Action was signed off by Cabinet in February 2001. The achievement of milestones in the POA is monitored through six monthly reports from agencies to the Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs. Locally, quarterly meetings are held with senior officials of government departments and the Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs to progress Pacific Capacity Building in the region.

Until now, the nationally proscribed scope of the project did not include local authorities, but targeted government departments in terms of setting and achieving milestones. In Christchurch, however, the local office of the Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs invited the Christchurch City Council to participate in the process from the beginning.

Councillor Carole Anderton, and more recently Councillor Ingrid Stonhill, have represented the Christchurch City Council at the senior officials meetings. The National Office of the Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs has now invited local authorities to participate formally in this process and to develop some agreed milestones for inclusion in the local Programme of Action.

Councillor Stonhill and the Team Leader, Community Services, have met recently with local Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs staff, and have drafted the following milestones for action by the Council. The milestones are all based on priorities that have been identified by the local Pacific community, and are activities in which the Council is currently involved.

DRAFT MILESTONES

The following strategic and community goals are taken from the Ministry's generic Christchurch Programme of Action, and provide the context for the Christchurch City Council's contribution to achieving these outcomes, along with all other partners in the Programme (Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs, other government departments, and the Pacific community):

Strategic Goals: The Council contributes to the following sector goals in the Christchurch Programme of Action (POA):

- **Justice/Social Services** – By 2005, the well-being of Pacific individuals, families and communities will be strengthened through the provision and delivery of appropriate justice/social/and legal services to Pacific peoples in Christchurch.

- **Housing** - By 2001, a Pacific Housing Strategy will be implemented to support Pacific peoples in Christchurch to access affordable housing.
- **Employment/Economic Development** - By July 2001, a Pacific employment strategy will be implemented to increase the employment levels of Pacific peoples in Christchurch.

Community Goals:

Justice/social services sectors:

- The rates of offending and re-offending by Pacific peoples in Christchurch will be reduced.
- Pacific peoples will have access to relevant and appropriate information and will be well informed of their rights and responsibilities.
- All Pacific peoples will receive quality cultural appropriate social services.

Housing:

- Pacific home ownership levels in Christchurch will match regional home ownership levels.
- Pacific peoples in Christchurch will live in affordable and suitable rental accommodation.
- A communication strategy will be implemented to ensure appropriate information on housing policy is disseminated and understood by Pacific peoples in Christchurch.

Employment & economic development sectors:

- There will be appropriate training and employment opportunities made available to Pacific peoples in Christchurch.
- All Pacific peoples will receive culturally appropriate employment services and products from government agencies in Christchurch.
- All Pacific businesses will have opportunities to strengthen their infrastructures and grow their organisational capacity in Christchurch.”

Christchurch City Council Draft Milestones

- By 31 December 2003, the Christchurch City Council and the Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs will finalise a protocol agreement promoting co-operation between the agencies and outlining the role of a Pacific community representative group to provide the Council with advice as required.
- By 31 December 2003, the Christchurch City Council will have consulted with the Community Reference Group to investigate an appropriate communications strategy targeting Pacific peoples in the Christchurch region.
- By 31 December 2003, the Christchurch City Council will ensure that information about available funding has been disseminated to Pacific groups and community.
- By 30 June 2004, the Christchurch City Council, the Canterbury Development Corporation and the Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs Christchurch will have explored a memorandum of understanding promoting co-operation between the agencies to enhance Pacific peoples' social and economic prosperity.
- By 30 June 2004, the Christchurch City Council will have identified and supported at least two joint initiatives targeting the Pacific community and these are to be reported back to the Community and Leisure Committee.
- By 30 June 2004, the Christchurch City Council will have researched options to identify how its Pacific workforce can be supported and developed.
- By 30 June 2004, the Christchurch City Council will ensure that information about its available services eg housing, has been disseminated to Pacific groups and community.
- By 30 June 2004, the Christchurch City Council, in partnership with the Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs, will explore the possibility of increased participation and awareness of Christchurch City Council activities.

CHRISTCHURCH CITY COUNCIL POLICY CONTEXT

The Council's participation in the Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs' Christchurch Programme of Action will contribute to the following outcomes and priorities from the **Social Well-being Policy**:

Outcomes

- Living standards are sufficient to ensure everyone can meet their immediate needs, participate in society, develop their potential and live lives they find fulfilling.
- Economic outcomes generate and distribute sufficient wealth for all.
- All people, no matter what age, race, gender, social and economic position or abilities, have opportunities to contribute to society and develop their potential.
- Resources are fairly distributed between citizens, communities, regions and sectors.
- Cultural diversity is respected.
- People and communities participate in decision-making and political processes.

Priorities

- Reduce barriers to access services and resources.
- Reduce disparity between and reduce multi disadvantage.
- Ensure policies and programmes are responsive to the needs and aspirations of all cultural groups.

Further, the Council's **Community Policy** has the following overarching statement:

“The Christchurch City Council will support communities to plan, organise and carry out initiatives that reflect their needs and aspirations.

As community development and community governance require that issues of powerlessness and disadvantage are addressed, our first priority is empowering and enabling those who are deprived of power and resources.”

CONCLUSION

The Council has been a part of the planning and monitoring of the Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs' Christchurch Programme of Action since its inception through the participation of Councillors Anderton and Stonhill and Community Relations Unit staff. The Council has now been invited by the Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs to formalise that participation and become part of a partnership of key stakeholders in a project which will address issues of disparity and well-being for Pacific People in Christchurch. This partnership also offers the Council the opportunity to improve and increase consultation with our Pacific community.

Staff

- Recommendation:**
1. That the Community and Leisure Committee endorse the Council's participation in the Christchurch Programme of Action in partnership with the Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs and other key agencies.
 2. That the Community and Leisure Committee endorse the above draft milestones for action by the Council, as part of the Programme of Action.
 3. That the Community Services Team be responsible for co-ordinating and reporting on the Council's milestones.

Chairman's

- Recommendation:** That the above recommendation be adopted.