

## 7. REPORT ON STREET NUMBERING IN COMMERCIAL AREAS

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The purpose of this report is to respond to the Council's decision of May 2003 requesting that the Environmental Services Manager report to the Committee on the continuing problems caused by the absence of street numbering in commercial areas, and on enforcement of the bylaw provision requiring such numbering.

### BACKGROUND

The Christchurch City Council Public Places and Signs Bylaw includes as clause 51 the following:

#### **NUMBERS OF PROPERTIES TO BE DISPLAYED**

1. *The owner or occupier of:*

  - (a) *any area of land on which a building is situated; or*
  - (b) *any building or part of a building; being land or a building to which a number has been allocated by the Council, shall display that number in a position visible from the road.*

2. *Numbers shall be made of non-ferrous metal, plastic or other weather-resistant material of a colour contrasting with the colour of the fixture to which they are attached and shall be not less than 50 millimetres in height.*
3. *Numbers shall be displayed on the post of the principal entrance in the case of a residential property or above the principal entrance doorway in the case of other properties, or on some permanent fixture adjacent to the road and close to such entrance or doorway.*

This clause applies to both business and residential properties and is usually complied with, especially in the case of residential properties, without the need for action by the Council. In the case of the commercial areas however, there are some properties that do not display the street number, or display it in such a manner that it is not readily visible. This creates problems and confusion for persons looking for a particular property or business by its street number. This is compounded if there are a significant number of properties without street numbers in the same block.

### PROPOSAL

The absence of street numbers on commercial properties generates a very small number of complaints and enforcement of this part of the bylaw has been given a low priority in comparison to other matters. It is accepted however, that it is a problem in some areas and that it causes annoyance to both citizens and visitors to the City.

It is proposed to employ, on a short term contract under the existing budget, a person to physically check commercial premises to see if the street number is displayed in a visible position. If it is not, a standard letter will be left with the business setting out the requirements of the bylaw and requesting compliance with clause 51. A follow-up inspection will then be made to ensure the numbers are being displayed.

It is anticipated that undertaking a short, sharp campaign over a period of two to three months will have a significant impact on the amount of premises displaying their street numbers, especially if supported by a publicity programme run at the same time. That Council advise relevant associations in the central business district of this intention.

Initially the campaign will be concentrated on the Central Business District and then extended out to other commercial areas. It is intended to commence the campaign in October and run it through to the end of the year when it will be evaluated to assess its effectiveness.

The Central Business District and Mayoral Forum will be informed of the intention to initiate this proposal.

#### **Chairman's**

**Recommendation:** That the information be received.