

9. MULTICULTURAL CITY UPDATE

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The purpose of this report is to update the Committee on aspects of Multiculturalism in this city.

CULTURAL DIVERSITY STRATEGY

In response to suggestions from this Committee, I have been exploring the value of developing a Cultural Diversity Strategy in association with Mary Richardson, Policy Analyst. The strategy would attempt to identify a strategic direction for the promotion of cultural diversity within the Council and the wider community.

A draft outline will be available at this Committee meeting, with the suggestion that it could go out for wider consultation. I anticipate a quick development, given the policy frameworks already in place including Council's Strategic Objectives, Equal Employment Opportunity, Diversity, Social Wellbeing, and Arts Policy. If the project proceeds, a report on the draft strategy should be available for approval by December 2003.

INTERCULTURAL ASSEMBLY

Plans are underway for the next Intercultural Assembly (ICA) to be hosted by the Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs on 30 October 2003. The Ministry will give a brief history of Pacific Peoples' migration to New Zealand, present their perspective on ethnic diversity, and the evening will include a cultural performance. The date for this ICA will be an appropriate lead-in to Neighbourhood Week, beginning on 1 November 2003.

LONG TERM COUNCIL COMMUNITY PLAN

A stakeholder dialogue hosted jointly by the Ethnic Council, the Human Rights Commission and the Christchurch City Council was held with Ethnic Community leaders on Saturday 20 September 2003.

RECENT AND ONGOING INITIATIVES

City Council and ECan Local Government Education Pack

This new on-line resource, designed to assist tutors of refugee and new migrant groups educate students on the functions and roles of the two councils will be launched on 15 October 2003 at Our City.

'At Home' Display in the Mayor's Lounge

Council staff are co-ordinating a visual display of ten 'at home' spaces that recognises some of the staff from ethnic minority groups employed by the CCC and CDC. This display, to be held in the Mayor's Lounge 17 October - 16 November 2003, will tell stories of these individuals and show symbols of what makes them feel at home in their everyday homes and places. We trust the display will increase cross-cultural understanding, celebrate diversity, and challenge our thinking. A Maori gateway will lead into displays from staff from the following communities: Spanish-speaking, Chinese, Ethiopian, Samoan, Russian, Farsi-speaking, Somali, Kurdish, Filipino and Japanese.

The timing of this display will coincide for its third week with Neighbourhood Week.

Chairman's

Recommendation: That the information be received.