

8. CRIME PREVENTION THROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING AND DESIGN (CPTED) IN CHRISTCHURCH

Officer responsible
Director of Information and Planning

Author
Yu Yi, City Development Group, DDI 941-6391

The purpose of this report is to update the Committee on progress with the review of policy and design guidelines for Crime Prevention Through Environmental Planning and Design (CPTED) in Christchurch, and the proposed consultation process to be followed.

BACKGROUND

The basis of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Planning and Design (CPTED) is that the physical environment can produce behavioural effects that will reduce the incidence and fear of crime, thereby improving the quality of life. CPTED, therefore, involves the application of a range of planning and design principles to an area or site to minimise the potential for that site to facilitate or support criminal behaviour. The concept is also termed 'safe design', 'secured by design', 'designing out crime' or any variation on these. A relationship between the incidence of crime and the structure of the urban environment has been established in several studies over past decades.

The fear of crime is viewed as important as crime itself. This particularly includes the experiences of vulnerable groups, such as women, children, elderly and disabled people. Although fear of crime does not necessarily reflect an actual risk of crime, it is no less real and this is acknowledged in the CPTED approach by planning and designing places to be and feel safer.

In 1994, Christchurch Safer Community Council (Safer Christchurch) published *The Garden City A Safer City - Reducing Crime Through Environmental Planning and Design 1st edition*. The 2nd edition of this guideline was published in 1996. A policy was incorporated into Section 4, Volume 2 of the Christchurch City Plan in 1995: City Identity

"Policy: Public Safety in Design

4.2.7. To encourage public safety in the design and layout of development, particularly of public open space and facilities."

Crime prevention is also reflected in several of the Council's strategic goals and objectives, for example, Council's vision item 6 states:

"6. People are free from the threat of crime or injury."

The strategic goals and objectives of the Council include:

"A3 Contributing to safe and healthy lifestyles by
• *supporting crime reduction and public safety initiatives"*

In April 2002, the Council launched a three-day programme, and a full day workshop promoting CPTED.

A further meeting was also held to discuss how to apply the CPTED principles to different levels in Christchurch on 11 June 2002. The representative from the Crime Prevention Unit, Ministry of Justice, the Coordinator of Safer Christchurch and the Council's urban designer attended the meeting and discussed the opportunities of CPTED work in Christchurch.

In April 2003, a regional wide CPTED working party/forum was launched to share information and to promote a collaborative crime prevention in the Canterbury area. Members include some elected members from Canterbury District Councils, representatives from the New Zealand Police and Neighbourhood Support, Safety Coordinators from different Councils, CPTED specialists and the staff from the different Councils.

IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAMME

A range of implementation measures, as listed below, are needed to apply CPTED in Christchurch. These include:

- (a) Incorporating CPTED principles into the City Plan;
- (b) Council's asset management policies;
- (c) Risk Assessment/Safety Audits of facilities;
- (d) Educational programmes for example General promotion of CPTED principles to elected members, developers, communities and the Council's staff;
- (e) Other initiatives:

These may include:

- Monitoring the effects of Council work programmes in relation to CPTED;
- Monitoring the crime rate and other safety issues raised by police and communities;
- CPTED award (in a partnership with police);
- Incorporating CPTED into Council's major projects with a focus on improving personal safety; eg Central City Revitalisation, Aranui Community Renewal.

PROGRESS UP-TO-DATE AND THE PROCESS FROM HERE

Currently, the work of updating the existing policy document/design guide is in progress. The work that has been done at this stage includes:

- The draft text;
- A brief staff consultation;
- New diagrams and photos.

It is proposed that the draft of the reviewed policy guidelines be circulated to the Crime Prevention through Environmental Design Committee (Chaired by Councillor Stonhill) for feedback. Following that, it is intended to discuss the guidelines with other key stakeholders and technical experts identified by the Crime Prevention through Environmental Design Committee as appropriate. A draft will then be presented to the Urban Planning and Growth Special Committee for its input. Once the feedback from those meetings has been considered the document will be published in a format that is more user friendly than the current version.

Opportunities for incorporating CPTED principles into the City Plan will be assessed after the work of updating the policy and design guidance is completed.

Staff

Recommendation: That the above information be received.

Chairman's

Recommendation: That the draft of the reviewed policy guidelines presented to the Urban Planning and Growth Special Committee for its input, as soon as it is practicable.