

The Chairman reported:

Councillor Harrow has suggested that the City Council should show some leadership in providing assistance for the refugees, as follows:

1. The Council could offer to collect donations from the public at Council offices, service centres and libraries.
2. Elected members could give a lead to the public by making donations themselves. Staff could also be given the opportunity to contribute.
3. The Council could offer to assist appropriate organisations to find accommodation for refugees. The New Zealand Government has decided that our country should provide a haven for about 600 Kosovars until they are able to return to their homeland.

The Committee considered that the most constructive role the Council could play would be in the family reunification area by providing some form of assistance for people displaced by the crisis in the Balkans who have family members resident in Christchurch.

Recommendation: That this Council seek to identify any Christchurch residents who have family members displaced by the tragedy in Kosovo who may be eligible for reuniting in Christchurch, with a view to providing some form of support.