

26. 8. 99

REPORT BY THE MAYOR

1. JADE STADIUM DEVELOPMENT

RR 10566

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Corporate Plan Output: Trading Activity Liaison	

The purpose of this report is to brief and update Councillors on recent discussions between the Board of Jade Stadium Ltd and the major tenants, rugby and cricket.

BACKGROUND

Jade Stadium Ltd was established in 1998 to progress the redevelopment of Jade Stadium. JSL's terms of reference included the preparation of a detailed business plan incorporating future revenue expectations from the major tenants, and also the finalisation of naming rights and other sponsorship agreements to ensure future viability and sustainability of the stadium development. During discussions with both rugby and cricket, it has become increasingly apparent that the two codes are having some difficulty co-existing at the same venue. The advent of professional sport has been accompanied by increasing demands for longer seasons with the inevitable outcome of fixture date clashes.

DISCUSSION

After discussion on the issue of fixture clashes, the Chairman of Jade Stadium Ltd and the Mayor took the initiative of calling a meeting with representatives of rugby and cricket, with the Council also being represented by the Mayor, the Councillor directors of Jade Stadium, and two officers. Discussions were open with both codes explaining fully their respective positions and the current difficulties with date clashes and venue availability. While considerable goodwill exists, and also the willingness to try and find a solution for both parties to co-exist at one venue, the reality is that the clash of fixture dates between summer and winter sport is likely to get worse in future.

There was general agreement that the Jade Stadium Board and the Council need time to absorb and review the information and to look at alternative options and resultant changes to the current project development. Attached to this report is a letter from the Chairman of Jade Stadium outlining the current situation and requesting consent to review the current business plan and prepare an alternative plan for the stadium, based on primarily winter sports.

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At the same time, Council officers, in association with Canterbury and New Zealand Cricket and other interested parties, need to look at alternative venues for hosting first class and international cricket in Christchurch. This work should include both detailed capital and operational requirements associated with the alternatives identified.

All interested parties, including the Council, need full information on the alternatives and financial implications before any final decisions and commitments are made. Clearly the time to take stock and review the alternatives is now. We should also be mindful of the constraints of the current and future capital budgeted in the Annual Plan for stadium development and factor this into any final decision making.

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Recommendation:

1. That the Council agree to Jade Stadium Ltd preparing an alternative business plan based on a dedicated winter sport stadium.
2. That officers and Jade Stadium Ltd be requested to work with cricket officials and other interested parties to identify alternative first class and international cricket venues in Christchurch, and to prepare a detailed business plan incorporating both capital and operational requirements.
3. That both reports come back to the Council for discussion and agreement prior to any final decisions being made.

CONSIDERED THIS 26TH DAY OF AUGUST 1999

MAYOR