

3. GENERAL ENVIRONMENTAL, PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ISSUES

RR 10056

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Corporate Plan Output: Various	

The purpose of this report is to keep members of the Council informed on general environmental, planning and development issues of the City.

Environmental Awards

In September 1996, the Council approved an annual Environmental Award to be established, to be known as the City of Christchurch Environmental Awards.

The Awards were divided into two categories, that of built and natural, with the first recipients of two awards being chosen by an Environmental Awards panel, as established by the Environment Committee, September 1998.

The panel has recently met and considered the criteria to be followed for the 1999 awards. It appears that a further category of services to the environment would be appropriate, in view of the wide range of activities that would fit within the scope of this.

Additionally, through the changes which have taken place to Council Committee membership following the 1998 local government elections, the appointment of a replacement Environment Committee member is seen as desirable. The current membership is Councillor Anna Crighton (Chairman), Councillors Carole Evans and Pat Harrow, Sir Miles Warren, Dr Brian Molloy and John Dryden.

- Recommendation:**
1. That the Environmental Awards criteria be amended by the inclusion of a further category of award, "services to the environment".
 2. That Councillor Barry Corbett, as an Environment Committee member, be appointed to the Awards panel.

Urban 21 – Global Conference on Urban Future

Last month members were advised of details of the world conference on model cities, held in Singapore in April 1999. This conference was one of the four regional conferences which will lead up to a world conference in Berlin in July 2000, on practical practices for cities of the future.

Details of this conference, to be held from 4 to 6 July 2000 in Berlin, have now been received.

A growing world population, economic development and social change have turned the world into an urban world. In the age of globalization, ever more and ever bigger urban agglomerations are spreading throughout the world. Towns and cities are the focus of today's social and ecological problems. These problems include inadequate provision of drinking water and sewage disposal as well as a lack of educational facilities and medical services. Air pollution, the poor quality of drinking water, and noise damage health. However, towns and cities are also associated with opportunities for politicians and experts to solve these problems by combining action at global and local levels. Cities are the essential engines of economic development, enabling a growing number of people to live in a relatively small area with economic and ecological efficiency, in conditions which are compatible with cultural self-expression and human dignity. Towns and cities are places of culture and innovation, of community and tolerance. The city is our common future.

The sustainable development of towns and cities also helps to protect nature and secure peace on our planet. To achieve this, nations and cities must cooperate throughout the world.

Recommendation: That the Chairman and Deputy Chairman be authorised to attend the Urban 21 global conference on the urban future in Berlin, 4-6 July 2000.