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Corporate Plan Output: Across numerous outputs	

The purpose of this report is to provide an update from the Graffiti Working Party.

**BACKGROUND**

On 26 July 1999, research on graffiti as it pertains to Christchurch, was presented to a Christchurch City Councillors’ graffiti seminar.

The seminar covered:

- Graffiti art vs graffiti vandalism
- Origins of graffiti Hip-Hop culture
- Motivations for graffiti vandalism (including the current Christchurch scene)
- Police response
- Problem areas of Christchurch
- Extent of problem in Christchurch
- Current responses to graffiti by Council Units
- Research on approaches elsewhere that have successfully reduced graffiti vandalism.

The seminar concluded with the establishment of a Graffiti Working Party representative of several Council Units, the Police, the Safer Community Council, the social researcher who completed the local graffiti study and a representative involved in graffiti Hip-Hop culture.

**CURRENT SITUATION**

Please see the attached report Graffiti Vandalism: The Current Situation In Christchurch and Potential Counter-Measures (July 1999).

\$50,000 has been approved in the current budget for graffiti vandalism reduction. The Working Party has been investigating how this financial input could be most efficiently and effectively utilised.

**WORKING PARTY ADVICE**

The Working Party believes Christchurch has the potential to become a leader in graffiti vandalism reduction and that the key to this is excellence in the area of strategic co-ordination.

A successful anti-graffiti strategy will involve almost all units of Council. It is therefore vital that one person has the responsibility and the dedicated time to ensure that Council Units have an efficient and co-ordinated approach. The strategy must be driven and integrated across Council.

In addition to excellent co-ordination across Council units, full interagency co-operation is considered essential. A skilful co-ordinator would build co-operation between youth justice, local and state government, business groups, youth and social organisations, public transport providers (CRC and TranzRail), law enforcement, members of the graffiti culture, arts and educational organisations.

Overseas examples of successful graffiti reduction include a balance between reactive measures and measures that address cultural and social aspects of various graffiti cultures (Hip-Hop, Skatie, Gangs). The Queensland Department of Justice Graffiti Reduction Strategy is an excellent model and a copy of this strategy is available from members of the Working Party on request. A fixed term position devoted to co-ordinating graffiti vandalism reduction in Christchurch should provide the opportunity to prevent and remove graffiti through empowerment, education, eradication and enforcement. The co-ordinator would develop a timeline to ensure that specific graffiti reduction measures are introduced into a context that can cope efficiently. The suggested 0800 Graffiti line is an example of such a measure.

The Working Party also suggests that the Council delay making a decision regarding a Bylaw to enable graffiti to be removed from private property. The Working Party believes that should a co-ordinator be appointed the possibility of such a Bylaw will be carefully assessed and elected members and relevant staff kept well informed.

- Recommendation:**
1. That the position of the Graffiti Co-ordinator be created to co-ordinate graffiti removal.
  2. That a graffiti telephone hotline be set up incorporating an 0800 and \* cellphone free line number.
  3. That the report be referred to the Keep Christchurch Beautiful organisation for its comment.
  4. That central government be approached as to whether legislation can be enacted that gives the public and Court the power to prosecute children who are known and proven graffiti artists.
  5. That, subject to copyright approval, the information contained in page 26 of the attachment (Graffiti Vandalism – How To Remove It and Prevent It Happening Again) be publicised in City Scene.
  6. That it be the Council's stated objective to eliminate graffiti in the city.