



27. 9. 2001

**REPORT BY THE MAYOR**

**PART A - MATTERS REQUIRING A COUNCIL DECISION**

**1. CHRISTCHURCH CITY AWARDS – IN RECOGNITION OF COUNCILLOR DAVID CLOSE**

The Mayor reports.

David Close has been a member of the Christchurch City Council since October 1977. The purpose of this report is to seek to acknowledge the contribution which David has made to the City in a manner which I know he would find most fitting and which is consistent with the Council's policy directions.

Over the last 20 years there have been many excellent elected members sit at the table of the Christchurch City Council and its predecessor authorities. I doubt if any from that era, however, would dispute the pre-eminence of the example of public service and of excellence set by David.

I would like this Council to reflect this by establishing a series of Christchurch City Awards, named for the City but established to honour David. The purpose of the awards would be to provide financial assistance to young people in the City, especially those from a background of difficulty in financial or personal circumstances, to undertake a course of tertiary education in a field which potentially opens the door for a career in local government. The City Council would endeavour to find job placements for vocational work for these students and hopefully many of them would move on to permanent employment with the Council following their studies.

I am proposing that up to three new awards would be made each year, one each at the Universities of Canterbury and Lincoln and one at the Christchurch Polytechnic. Each award would be intended to cover tuition fees, currently up to \$6,000 each. Subject to satisfactory performance the award would be continued to enable the completion of a course of tertiary study, up to a maximum of four years.

In discussion with the education institutes I propose the selection committee for the awards comprise:

- The Vice-Chancellor of the institution concerned (or nominee)
- An elected member of the Christchurch City Council
- The City Manager of the Christchurch City Council (or nominee)
- Mr David Close.

Effectively the scheme is a form of cadetship. Over a period of 10-15 years I anticipate that it would not only provide opportunities to able and committed young people who might otherwise not have them but also that it would have a significant impact on the staff resources of the Christchurch City Council. Over that period we might end up with a grouping of between two and three dozen Christchurch people who had been through the City Council's cadetship programme and been trained in local educational institutions.

**Recommendation:** That the scheme as outlined in this report and its appendix be implemented from the academic year 2002 with funding of \$18,000 for the first year from the Council's contingency fund.

**CONSIDERED THIS 27TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2001**

**MAYOR**