

27. 9. 2001

**SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT BY THE
MAYOR AND CITY MANAGER**

PART A - MATTERS REQUIRING A COUNCIL DECISION

1. REVIEW OF COUNCIL STRUCTURES AND PROCESSES

Officer responsible Mayor and City Manager	Author Mike Richardson, DDI 371 1553
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During the last three months there have been a number of discussions on this topic. In particular Councillors Sue Wells and Paddy Austin acted as facilitators of two workshops at which Councillors and Community Board Chairs took a "let's start from square one" approach to what works well and what could work better in terms of our decision-making.

Overall the conclusion can be drawn that our use of Standing Committees and Community Boards is an effective mechanism for many of the decisions which the Council makes and should continue to provide the core of the Council's governance framework. Many elected members feel, however, that there are areas where improvements can be made and these should be considered at the start of the next term of Council. These areas of potential improvement include the following:

- More delegation to Community Boards.
- Better processes for incorporating the views of Community Boards into Standing Committee processes.
- Greater clarity for all as to the types of reports which should go to Standing Committees, the style and leadership with which those meetings are conducted, including some who wish to see greater flexibility in the way Standing Committees are used.
- Having more informed decision-making by establishing small working groups/workshops of staff, elected members and community during the development stage of a project.
- Changes to our style of consultation and participation, particularly to avoid consultation which adds little value but rather to encourage the early engagement of the right people from outside of the Council at the right time.
- Putting the Council in a position to more consistently influence the decisions of other key organisations and decision-makers which have significant impact on the future of Christchurch (that is the community governance approach).

As a group you have also asked for a change in the style of induction process following the next election. It is important that the 25 elected members sitting round the Council table following the election are all involved in shaping the way in which the Council will operate and as part of that able to indicate where each as an individual considers they can best add value to the governance processes. It is therefore our intention that following this election the Mayor and all Councillors be sworn in promptly (during the week of 22-26 October) and work with the City Manager and staff to review the governance framework which can then be put in place at a subsequent Council meeting approximately two weeks after Councillors have been sworn in. To facilitate this there would be a four-day workshop Tuesday 23-Friday 26 October, held in Christchurch, for all the newly-elected City Council members, and the City Manager and appropriate Council staff. The overall theme of the workshop would be "Being Effective as a Council and as Individuals".

Recommendation: That the broad approach outlined in this report be endorsed.

CONSIDERED THIS 27TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2001

MAYOR