

9. COMMUNITY BOARD PLANNING STATEMENTS

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The purpose of this report is to recommend a change to the way Community Board Planning Statements are considered.

BACKGROUND

Each year during July and August, Community Boards seek input from their local communities for the forthcoming Financial Plan. This process which may include community forums, public meetings and liaison with residents' groups, ensures that Community Boards are aware of local issues and changing views. The outcome of this process is a Community Board Planning Statement which is forwarded to unit managers in mid September for use in preparing their Unit budgets.

While Community Board Planning Statements include lists of project proposals, and project substitutions, they may also include recommended policy directions or key issues which the Community Board would like the Council to consider. Typical examples from the 2001/02 Community Board Planning Statements were:

- Library in Riccarton – “the need for more aggressive promotion of the upper Riccarton/Avonhead Library through the Annual Plan process” - (Riccarton/Wigram Community Board)
- Heritage Protection – “advocate for more adequate funding for purchase, renovation, and resale of heritage buildings” - (Spreydon/Heathcote Community Board)
- Undergrounding – “promote an enhanced programme of undergrounding conversion throughout the city” - (Fendalton/Waimairi Community Board)

PROPOSED CHANGE

The current process does not adequately allow for these recommendations to be fully considered at committee level. Forwarding the key issues sections of the Community Board Planning Statements on to the relevant Standing Committee ensures:

- that the Standing Committee is aware of the issue(s);
- that if need be the Standing Committee can respond or add its weight to the identified issue; and
- that the process remains transparent.

Given the moratorium on new capital projects it is likely that the key issues section may be given greater prominence than in the past.

At present Community Boards prepare detailed submissions on key issues as part of the Draft Financial Plan submission process. The proposed change outlined in this report brings this input forward to the planning stage of the process and may reduce the need for a detailed submission at the submission stage of the process. This does not of course mean that Community Boards will be prevented from making a detailed submission once the draft Financial Plan is released.

From a timing point of view the Community Board Planning Statement key issues would need to be completed by the beginning of the September meeting round. This would ensure that the Community Board issues are considered at the same time as Standing Committees prepare their Planning Statements. Standing Committee Planning Statements are prepared in conjunction with the 12 monthly monitoring reports.

- Recommendation:**
1. That the Community Board Planning Statement include a key issues and a projects section.
 2. That the key issues section of the Community Board Planning Statement be considered by Standing Committees at their monitoring meetings.