

4. CATHEDRAL SQUARE REDEVELOPMENT

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Corporate Plan Output: Advice to Council	

The purpose of this report is to give an update on progress on Stage V of the Square redevelopment, and to recommend consultants to review its design.

At its meeting on 23 November 2000, the Council adopted five resolutions relating to Cathedral Square redevelopment. These related to functional requirements/use by area of the Square, a traffic management plan for the Stage V area, and a request for the appointment of appropriate design consultants for Stage V to be recommended to the Council.

A subcommittee was appointed to develop a traffic management plan, and this will be the subject of a later report to the Council. In the meantime work has progressed on the functional requirements issue and identifying appropriate consultants to carry out the work.

In order to develop a statement of functional requirements by area for the Square, it has been necessary to review the earlier reports and decisions of the Council relating to the Square and this work is in progress. It has become apparent that the work of the design consultants will be closely related to the functional requirements. In the interests of efficiency and to move the project forward, it is now proposed that staff and the consultants work together and produce a combined report that sets out both the functional requirements and reviews the design. This review, while in respect of Stage V, must necessarily consider how this stage will relate to the parts of the Square already completed.

Bearing in mind the time constraints with the Stage V area, due to be vacated by the buses at the end of April, we have attempted to progress the issue over the holiday period by identifying appropriate consultants and holding preliminary discussions with them. Following some mayoral and Councillor input, and informal discussion with local architects, approaches were made to Ian Athfield, an eminent Christchurch-born architect and James Lunday, an internationally experienced, planner/urban designer, both of whom have architectural practices in Christchurch. They have agreed to work together on the task.

We believe that the flair and experience of these two professionals, combined with the knowledge and experience of senior Council staff, will bring a fresh and challenging insight to the issue and are confident that they will be able to work well with the Council team to assist in producing an agreed solution to the final chapter of the Cathedral Square design.

- Recommendation:**
1. That Ian Athfield and James Lunday together with the Senior Professional - Project Management and the Central City Policy team leader review the design of Stage V of Cathedral Square.
 2. That this team consult with the Canterbury Branch NZ Institute of Architects Central City Committee.
 3. That the team co-ordinate its proposals and the views of the Traffic Management Subcommittee established at the November 2000 Council meeting.