

2. STATEMENT OF INTENT REGARDING THE COUNCIL'S RELATIONSHIP WITH THE COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY SECTORS

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The purpose of this report is to provide an amendment to the draft Statement of Intent (see attachment) as requested by the Council at its meeting of 24 May 2001.

BACKGROUND

At its meeting of 7 May 2001 the Community Services Committee agreed to develop (and consult the sector on) a Statement of Intent regarding the Council's relationship with the Community and Voluntary sector. It was agreed that the Statement of Intent would be an expression of the Council's commitment to work with the sector for the betterment of society, to nurture and support voluntary activity, and to jointly influence national policy where appropriate. The underlying philosophy behind this proposal for the Statement of Intent is that the community and voluntary sector is fundamental to the development of a democratic, socially inclusive and prosperous society. Voluntary groups, as independent, not-for-profit organisations, bring distinctive value to Christchurch and fulfil a role that is distinct from both the state and the market.

A draft Statement, based on discussion with local voluntary sector groups during the consultation regarding a Compact was agreed in principle. The Committee agreed to seek feedback from the voluntary sector regarding the draft Statement of Intent.

STATEMENT OF INTENT

At its meeting of 24 May 2001 the Council requested that the Statement of Intent include a clause regarding the Council's expectations concerning the accountability for public funds. A suggested clause included in the attached Draft is:

"Expectations

The Council has a responsibility to be publicly accountable for resources. While the Council is committed to reducing undue accountability costs on the sector, it expects voluntary organisations to account for any public funds received in such ways as to command public confidence. This includes meeting reporting and accountability obligations, and evaluation of programme effectiveness."

The consultation process for the Statement of Intent will provide an opportunity to develop and refine the Statement. Although formal consultation has not begun, informal feedback has been extremely positive. For example, the Council of Social Services has supported the proposal in principle and offered to assist with the consultation process.

- Recommendation:**
1. That the Council approve the Draft Statement of Intent, as amended, as an expression of the commitment of the Council to work with the voluntary sector.
 2. That feedback be sought from the community and voluntary sectors regarding the draft Statement of Intent.