

5. ARTS, CULTURE AND HERITAGE COMMITTEE - OUTCOMES, 2001-04

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The purpose of this report is to propose a Statement of Committee Outcomes for adoption and referral to the Council.

CONTEXT

All standing committees have been asked to prepare and report to the Council in February 2002 with a statement of:

- Main outcomes to be achieved over the next year, year 2 and year 3
- What is to be done differently from the past.

Through staff briefings and the Committee's 29 January Seminar meeting, the proposed report below has been prepared. "Outcomes" have been interpreted as being key milestones or achievements for the following activities within the Committee's Terms of Reference:

- Libraries and Information
- Our City
- Heritage Buildings
- Festivals and Events
- Arts Promotion and Planning
- Artworks in Public Places
- Art Gallery
- Multiculturalism

This statement, being the first of its kind represents current thinking and will require review and update as this new Committee progresses its work and circumstances change. It is suggested it be reviewed at least annually.

PROPOSED STATEMENT OF OUTCOMES, 2001-04

Libraries And Information

Christchurch City Libraries is a well-established significant activity of Council. A diverse range of library and information resources and services are provided from a network of service-points, and increasingly electronically. This activity supports the cultural, economic and social well being of Christchurch and its people, focused on meeting resident's needs for knowledge, recreation and information.

A number of specific library outcomes are identified below. In 2002 the Library's Strategic Plan is under review, and there may be other initiatives arising out of the new plan:

- March 2002 – Decision on siting of new Upper Riccarton/Avonhead Library
- July 2002 – Adoption of reviewed Strategic Plan for Libraries and Information Services, including a related Bicultural Plan
- August - October 2002 – Launch of new "gateway" website for online Christchurch and Canterbury information and services
- April 2003 – New South Christchurch Library and Learning Centre opens
- 2003/04 – Review of Library Computer System – replacement within two years
- 2004/05 – Parklands Library opens

Our City

Our City was initiated by Council in 1995 and is about to reach a major milestone with the reopening of the Municipal Chambers building in July 2002 as 'Our City'. This will be a centrally accessible venue where issues and information about the City's environment and physical development, past, present and future, can be displayed, explained and debated. Through exhibitions and events citizens and visitors are better informed and educated about the City's environment, and the exchange of ideas and knowledge about urban development and environmental issues encouraged.

Stage One was completed in Sept. 2001, being the structural upgrading of the building. Stage Two, culminating in the opening in July 2002 will realise the furnishing of the venue and the installation of permanent exhibitions, (3-5 years duration), and the first temporary exhibitions. A manager for the facility, (Jenny May), has recently been appointed. An external Advisory Committee is to be established. A proposed temporary exhibitions and events programme is under development. 2002/03 will be a settling in period, with longer term plans to be developed during this time.

Heritage Buildings

For the benefit of present and future generations, the Council is committed to the retention and conservation of listed heritage buildings, places, objects and streetscapes; and encouraging the sympathetic, adaptive reuse of heritage buildings. It achieves this through:

- Protection of heritage items in the City Plan;
- The ownership and management of selected heritage buildings;
- The provision of heritage incentive funding and heritage covenants; and
- Advocacy, education and advice on heritage items and issues.

Considerable heritage conservation momentum has been generated in recent years, although the Council continues to play a reactive role to secure "threatened" buildings. During 2002-03 it is appropriate to review and update heritage policy and listings. This review will seek to further develop the proactive position of Council in relation to heritage, by generating greater public and developer awareness and commitment to the opportunities for, and benefits of, heritage conservation.

Festivals and Events

The Council produces a large and varied range of events annually and core funds many others. This events programme makes a major contribution to the life of the city and Council's commitment to this is well regarded. Through the Events Advisory Board, (now Festivals and Events Subcommittee) a major review of the programme has been undertaken and recommendations will come before Council aimed at ensuring maximum return on investment, while promoting the long term sustainability of the events sector in Christchurch.

Specific outcomes for this area of activity over the next three years are:

- More strategic funding of festivals and events to achieve the Council's policy outcomes;
- Improve the integration of festivals and events marketing with the marketing of the City through Christchurch and Canterbury Marketing;
- Improve integration between the operation of the Festivals and Events Subcommittee and the Christchurch Events Fund;
- Improve evaluation processes for festivals and events funded by the Council;
- Development of a major garden/lifestyle festival for Christchurch;
- Identify how festivals and events can best promote understanding of Maori and other cultures.

Arts Promotion and Planning

The Council is committed to achieving an enlivened and creative city in which the arts are widely recognised as being essential. It provides wide-ranging community arts advisory services and community outreach from the art gallery. Council administers the Creative Communities Scheme for Christchurch.

Specific outcomes for the next three years are:

- Monitor and maintain an overview of the Council's arts related work, in line with the Arts Policy and Strategy;
- Increase the awareness and integration of the arts into a wide range of the Council's work across all relevant Council business units;
- Complete a survey of arts participation in Christchurch, identifying from the results gaps in arts participation, and the Council's role in helping to promote local arts participation;
- Measure the economic impact of the arts and creative activity on Christchurch;
- Develop a strategy to meet Christchurch's performing arts venue needs;
- Establish mechanisms to discuss arts related issues with Maori and ethnic groups in the City.

Artworks In Public Places

A reviewed Artworks in Public Places Policy is currently being brought to Council. This aims to enhance the City's public spaces by introducing artworks that enhance city and community identity and promote the city as a centre of artistic and cultural excellence.

Specific outcomes that support this aim are:

- Five-year artworks in public places strategy for development;
- Artworks in public places operational procedure development;
- More significant regular budget for developing artworks in public places projects established;
- Means to encourage partnerships with private sector organisations to be more involved in public artworks projects developed.

Art Gallery

The new Christchurch Art Gallery presently under construction is the major focus of current activity. This is scheduled for handover to the Art Gallery Team to begin commissioning in Nov. 2002, in the lead up to the public opening in Apr. 2003. The size, range of facilities and the public profile of the new gallery, as a place for everyone to visit, offers the opportunity for much wider reach into the Christchurch community and beyond in the conservation, display and promotion of the visual arts. Visitor numbers are projected to grow from 250,000 to 400,000 per annum.

The new gallery will enable an exciting events and education programme. Greatly expanded are the proportion of the permanent collection on current display, and the opportunities for temporary local, national and international exhibitions. These are supported by contemporary visitor services. Conservation and curatorial facilities and services are similarly enhanced to support greater gallery use and art appreciation.

Preparations for the new Gallery are guided by a Strategic Plan, which during 2002, will be updated and extended to cover the 2003-06 period. Given the scale of the change from the McDougall Art Gallery and the size of the new facility, a 'bedding in' period for the facility and its operations of approximately two years is anticipated.

Multiculturalism

The Council has indicated a strong commitment to the vision that all people, of whatever background, feel welcome in Christchurch. This requires greater understanding and appreciation of the growing ethnic diversity of the city, while respecting original occupants and meeting the needs of more recent arrivals. This diversity offers rich opportunities for cultural expression that adds to the vibrancy of Christchurch, but requires attention to maintaining its harmony.

The Committee's Multicultural City Subcommittee will continue the initiative of the Mayor's Working Party on Ethnic Relations in developing and promoting strategies and projects for positive inter-cultural relations. Current projects are:

- Establishing in 2002 an "Intercultural Assembly" of key stakeholders in ethnic relations to improve co-ordination and address issues
- The feasibility and establishment of "Everybody's Cultural Centre" as a vibrant cultural focal point for Christchurch.

Recommendation: That the Statement of Arts, Culture and Heritage Committee outcomes be adopted.