

11. CONSENTS FOR THE CHRISTCHURCH WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

The Committee considered a supplementary report by Mr Walter Lewthwaite, City Water and Waste Unit, informing members of the decisions of the Commissioners appointed by Environment Canterbury who had conducted the wastewater consent hearings for the Christchurch Wastewater Treatment Plant.

The report provided background to the consent applied for by the Council in March 2001 to discharge treated wastewater from the Christchurch Wastewater Treatment Plant (CWTP) for a further 15 years subject to substantial improvement in the quality of treatment given. The application had followed five years of investigations and public consultation.

The report provided brief summaries of the decisions released earlier in the day by the Commissioners and provided some brief comment and noted that the Commissioners' decision implied that the alternative solution, given that a consent had been granted for a term of five years only, should be discharge direct to the ocean.

The report noted that staff would respond to the Commissioners in due course by the due date of 24 May and that to protect the Council's position an appeal would be lodged to the Environment Court.

The Committee **decided**:

1. That the Sustainable Transport and Utilities Committee arrange a seminar for all Councillors as soon as possible to brief them on the decisions, including a reminder of the process of reaching the position taken by the Council for the consent applications, reasons for the Commissioners' decisions, implications for Council budgets and rates rises, and options open to the Council from here on.
2. That the Council allow itself sufficient time to consider its position carefully before confirming whether to proceed with appeals and what details to take to appeal.