

1. COLLABORATION FOR THE 2006/07 LONG TERM COUNCIL COMMUNITY PLAN

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The purpose of this report is to:

- Advise the Council of arrangements being proposed by the Canterbury Forum for beneficial collaboration among Councils within the Canterbury Region when engaging with key stakeholders for preparing their Community Outcomes Statements for 2006/07 Long Term Council Community Plans;
- Seek Council approval and representation for participation in the regional process.

BACKGROUND

Members will be aware that each Regional and Territorial Council's Long Term Council Community Plan (LTCCP) prepared under the Local Government Act 2002 must include a statement of community outcomes. The Act in section 91(3) states that a local authority "*may decide for itself the process that it is to use to facilitate the identification of community outcomes ...*". However, there are two steps that must be taken before finally deciding on the process to use:

1. Local authorities must first identify key stakeholders, or, to use the exact words of the Act - "*other organisations and groups capable of influencing either the identification or the promotion of community outcomes*" (section 91(3)(a)(i)).
2. Local authorities must then seek to secure "*the agreement of those organisations and groups to the process, and to the relationship of the process to any existing and related plans*" (section 91(3)(a)(ii)).

In summary, local authorities must:

- First identify key stakeholders, and then
- Engage with them to design the process for identifying community outcomes, and then
- Prepare their community outcome statements using the agreed processes.

The full process for identifying community outcomes as described above must be used for the community outcomes statement for the mandatory LTCCP to be prepared for the 2006/07 financial year. The Act permits the statement of community outcomes for the 2004/05 financial year to be prepared from information that Councils already hold, without going through any engagement processes.

INVOLVEMENT OF THE CANTERBURY FORUM

The Canterbury Forum comprises the Mayors, Chairpersons and Chief Executives of each local authority in the Canterbury Region. It meets quarterly to discuss matters of regional import.

When the Local Government Bill first emerged, the Forum saw value in its member authorities working together on preparing their community outcomes statements, in particular:

- There would be value in having a mechanism for considering matters of mutual interest when developing community outcomes statements among the various authorities;
- Many of the key stakeholders have interests which span the area of more than one authority. There would be advantages in making joint approaches to such stakeholders to save time and effort for both the stakeholders and local authorities.

Following the enactment of the Local Government Act, the Forum developed a proposed project structure to facilitate efficient "multi-lateral" engagement with key stakeholders for those authorities who wish to participate. The proposed project has been given three assignments:

1. Coordinate completing the visioning process begun by Future Path Canterbury. This will be done by the end of December 2003.
2. Coordinate engaging with key stakeholders when the scope of these stakeholders extends across several authorities. Contact with stakeholders could begin as early as October.
3. Devise a communication plan in support of the above.

The project is overseen by a Steering Team comprising elected members and senior managers, convened by Jane Parfitt, Chief Executive Officer of Waimakariri District Council. The Council staff nominee on this Team is Simon Markham. The work is carried out by a technical team comprising staff from participating Councils. The nominee for this team's convener is Rex Harrison. It is intended that a part-time administrator be appointed in September or October 2003 to assist with the administration that will be necessary when engaging with key stakeholders.

STATE OF THE PLAY

The Mayors, Chairs and Chief Executives of Ashburton, Selwyn, Banks Peninsula, Christchurch, Waimakariri, Hurunui, Kaikoura and Environment Canterbury have agreed to the process. Their respective Councils need to give formal confirmation of their intention to participate.

The Steering Team has held an initial first meeting. One issue to emerge is the need for elected member representation from Christchurch City to serve on the team, matching that from other Councils already confirmed. This will be discussed below.

The Technical Team has begun working on the steps required to complete the visioning process, to identify key stakeholders and the process for engaging with them, and to develop a communications plan. Their plans will be submitted to the Steering Team for approval.

COSTING

The visioning process will be completed from existing ECan budgets.

The engagement process is estimated to cost \$70,000 over 18 months - two years. This is made up of a part-time project administrator - up to \$40,000 and communications costs, up to \$30,000. The steering team has proposed the costs be shared as follows:

	Population	Share	Contribution
Kaikoura	3,483	0.9%	600
Hurunui	8,920	2.3%	1,600
Waimakariri	27,880	7.3%	5,100
Christchurch	289,080	75.6%	26,500
ECan			26,500
Banks Peninsula	6,980	1.8%	1,300
Selwyn	21,320	5.6%	3,900
Ashburton	24,710	6.5%	4,500
Totals	382,373		70,000

The Environment Canterbury contribution was arrived at by sharing the total Christchurch contribution (53,000) equally between the two authorities.

If Christchurch confirms its participation, its share of the costs can be met from funds already set aside for preparing its LTCCP.

CONCLUSION

Staff recommend participation in this project. Its key benefit is seen to lie in efficient and effective engagement with stakeholders whose interests and activities span more than one Council's area. It would contribute to bringing the collective influence of all participating councils on those stakeholders. The responsibility for the content of each Council's LTCCP remains their own.

Recommendation:

1. That the Council confirm its participation in the Canterbury Forum's proposed collaborative arrangements for preparing their 2006/07 Long Term Council Community Plans and agree to meet its share of the cost.
2. That the Council nominate Councillor Ingrid Stonhill and the Chair of the Strategy and Finance Committee or his nominee to serve on the Steering Team, noting that it will not always be necessary or practicable for both to attend.