

4. CENTRAL CITY MAYORAL FORUM UPDATE

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The purpose of this report is to update the Council on the recent work of the Central City Mayoral Forum, including changes to its structure, and to request that it adopt changes recommended by the Forum to its terms of reference.

INTRODUCTION

The Central City Mayoral Forum was formed in December 1999, since when it has worked alongside the Council and its officers in the promotion of Central City Revitalisation through the development of a Stage 1 Central City Strategy, (adopted by the Council in 2001), and the identification and implementation of a number of projects identified in the strategy as short term priorities. It has recently undertaken a review of its operation and format in an endeavour to improve its effectiveness in advising and assisting the Council in meeting common goals and objectives for the Central City. It has recognised the importance of improving communication lines with the Council, and intends providing more regular reports on progress.

FORUM STRUCTURE TO DATE

The Forum as originally set up comprised several committees (Strategy and Business, Communications, and Executive), with meetings varying from fortnightly to monthly to "as required" and reporting back to the full Forum which met approximately bi-monthly. There has been no specific reporting arrangement to the Council, other than an early resolution appointing the Strategy and Finance Committee as the appropriate Committee in this regard.

The Central City staff team, reporting through to the CEO, both assists and is assisted by the Forum. While Forum contact with the Council has been limited, in respect of the Turners and Growers project a combined working party was established by the Council, with a Forum member (Sir Miles Warren) appointed as Chairman. More recently a Central City Transport Working Party has been established through the Sustainable Transport and Utilities Committee which includes (among others) representation from the Forum. The Forum has briefed Standing Committee Chairs on central city issues, as well as Community Boards, including a meeting with the Hagley/Ferrymead Community Board. It has recently been asked by Community Boards to update them at approximately six monthly intervals.

FORUM REVIEW

Recently the Forum undertook a self review, facilitated by Gilbert Enoka. As a result the Forum has:

- (a) Updated the "active" list of short term priorities for central city revitalisation from those set out in the Stage 1 Strategy, that it intends to focus on in the near future, including:
 - Formation of a central city retail/business association
 - Development of under-utilised sites and residential conversion programme
 - Greening of central city streets
 - Completion of Turners & Growers site redevelopment planning
 - Fostering art and creative industries in the "creative heart" of the city
 - Promoting positive focus on Cathedral Square
 - Progressing central city precinct definition and evolution
 - Development of the central city transport plan
 - Liverpool Street area development planning, as one of several east side focus priorities
 - Relationship building with Central City residents groups
 - Social impact assessment of central city revitalisation initiatives
 - Central City Strategy Stage 2

The means of achieving these objectives will vary as circumstances dictate, and will range from active participation and leadership by Forum members in projects, to guidance and assistance to relevant Council staff, to identification and encouragement and co-operation with Council Committees responsible.

- (b) Reorganised its committee structure to reflect these priorities and best utilise the voluntary time made available by Forum members. Current members, in addition to the Mayor and Councillors Austin, Crighton and Stewart, are; Richard Ballantyne, Craig Boyce, Vincent Chew, Stephen Collins, John Dryden, Antony Gough, Lani Hagaman, Belle Melzer, John Scott and Sir Miles Warren. Subcommittees to progress priorities and projects arising from them will form and disband as required.
- (c) Recognised the need to progress the central city strategy, to further develop a medium to long term, ie a 10 plus year view of how the central city may be enhanced, and be able to recommend a prioritised programme for implementation.
- (d) Recognised the need for more regular reporting through to the Council and provision of advice through its Standing Committee processes.
- (e) Identified appropriate changes to its terms of reference in light of the above.

PROPOSED CHANGES TO TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Council approved terms of reference for the Forum in June 2000. These have recently been reviewed by the Forum and at its 18 June meeting, the following changes were adopted for recommendation to the Council. While not major they are believed to better reflect the current role of the Forum. Additions proposed are shown underlined, with deletions being lined through.

~~"The Central City Mayoral Forum will be constituted by a group of stakeholders from a range of interests to provide support for the Mayor, Council and the Central City Board to achieve central city revitalisation and advice to the Christchurch City Council to assist it to achieve its central city revitalisation objective.~~

The role of the Forum will be to enhance and promote economic, physical, social and environmental development and growth in the Central City by promoting a creative and prosperous city of design by:

*~~Formulate the development~~ Developing of the Central City Strategy and Concept Plan
Identifying and overcoming impediments to Central City revitalisation
Networking, and understanding and resolving project development complexities with stakeholders
Canvassing new ideas
 Acting as a sounding board for informal feedback on Central City revitalisation
 Providing project advice/feedback
 Introducing joint venture partners
 Promoting central city investment
Developing and promoting a central city marketing strategy
Providing an external, independent, view on central city issues"*

ENHANCED COMMUNICATIONS WITH COUNCIL

In 2002 there was a useful initial meeting between the Forum and Chairpersons of the Council's Standing and Special Committees, as well as the Hagley/Ferrymead Community Board. That meeting recognised the value of such contact and recommended that there be continuing liaison with the various elements of the Council, including the Chairs' group. As indicated above there has also been a recent briefing of Community Boards on central city issues and projects. An update meeting with the Chairs group is proposed, at which the means of enhancing communications will be discussed, along with updates on key issues and projects.

Recommendation: That the Council adopt the revised terms of reference set out above.